

8<sup>th</sup> May 2026

DOWAT



# THE HOLY FAMILY SCHOOL

**'As a family we live, love, learn and celebrate with  
Jesus.'**

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As we move into May, it is lovely to see the school community settle into the new month. In our Catholic tradition, May is dedicated to Our Lady, providing us with an opportunity to reflect on Mary's faith and her role as a mother to us all. To mark this, we are holding sessions for prayer and reflection. Pupils are invited to gather to pray the Rosary together every Friday lunchtime, offering them a quiet space during the school day. Additionally, parents and carers to join our Pupil Chaplaincy Team and Key Stage 2 classes to pray the Rosary in the Prayer Garden. These sessions will take place every Friday morning immediately after drop-off, and we would be pleased to have you join us.

It is also a significant time for some of our Y3 children as they reach milestones in their faith journey. I would like to extend my congratulations to those pupils who have already received the Sacrament of First Holy Communion. We continue to keep the children who are preparing to receive the Sacrament over the coming weeks in our thoughts and prayers. We hope this remains a meaningful step in their spiritual lives.

Finally, as we look toward next week, our Year 6 pupils will begin their SATs. Our children have worked hard and have shown great dedication to their studies. While these assessments are a formal part of the school year, I want to remind both the pupils and their families that these tests do not define them. A test score does not capture their kindness, their various talents, or the character they have developed during their time with us. We are proud of the effort they have put in and the young people they have become. Thank you for your continued support and partnership.

*'From Mary, we learn to trust even when all hope seems gone.'* **St John Paul II**

**God bless, Mrs Linnane**

## Upcoming Events

May

- 11<sup>th</sup> May – SATs WEEK (Monday to Thursday)
- 12<sup>th</sup> – Y5 trip to Hampton Court Palace
- 14<sup>th</sup> – 2pm Whole School Ascension Mass
- 18<sup>th</sup> – Y6 Swimming commences  
Walk to School Week
- 3.30pm Y6 Residential meeting for Parents
- 22<sup>nd</sup> - Sports Day  
(EY & KS1 in the morning and KS2 in the afternoon)
- 22nd - Break up for half term at 3.15pm

For regular news, updates and photos about life at our school!

Please see our website:  
[www.holyfamily.herts.sch.uk](http://www.holyfamily.herts.sch.uk)

Facebook:  
[TheHolyFamilySchoolWGC](https://www.facebook.com/TheHolyFamilySchoolWGC)

Twitter:  
[@holyfamilyWGC](https://twitter.com/holyfamilyWGC)

Stars of the Week



Rec -

Year 1 - Audrey

Year 2 - Reece

Year 3 - Nina

Year 4 - Liam

Year 5 - Leo

Year 6 - Emma

## Nursery

This week Nursery have been pond dipping at Forest School. The children had to look closely to find and identify the different pond life. The children used their magnifying glasses to notice how many legs the creatures had, if they had a shell or a tail. Then they had to identify it on their sheet. The children noticed the creatures all moved in different ways, some swam under the water and others skated over the top.



## Reception

Reception children sowed plant and vegetable seeds at the start of the term. They have been observing the changes in their plants and recording them in their plant diaries. They have transferred some seedlings into bigger pots.



## Year 1

In our DT lessons we are learning about how fruit and vegetables are grown and we have been practising the skills needed to make a smoothie.



## Year 2

### Class Liturgy with Father James – May the month of Mary

On Wednesday the 6<sup>th</sup> May 2026, Year 2 held a class Liturgy about Mary our Mother. We heard some scripture about Mary which was then acted out by some children. We then shared some reflections about what we have learnt before Father James blessed us.

Thank you to all who came along to worship with us.



## Could you help with our Careers Afternoon?

We are hosting our third Careers Afternoon on the 12th June and would love to showcase a variety of career paths to our Year 4, 5, and 6 children.

Thank you to those parents who have volunteered for this afternoon already – your input will make a huge difference to this event!

If you are available to come and talk to the children about a current or past career, please register your interest via the school office or complete the form below:

<https://forms.gle/n6r1ziTuUTUUspt6>

Your participation helps make this a fantastic and memorable experience for our pupils!



## Rosary for Parents

The Chaplaincy Team and KS2 classes are leading the Rosary for parents every Friday morning in the Prayer Garden at 8.50am. All parents are warmly invited to join us.



## PARENT COURSES/SUPPORT SESSIONS



### Telephone/Zoom Surgery

13th May 2026  
12-2pm

\* A chance to discuss your concerns with one of our School Family Workers

~ 15 minute time-slot allocated

Please go to this link to book:  
<https://forms.office.com/e/AErSTSp1vP>

or click on the QR code on this page



**UNDERSTANDING ANXIETY IN CHILDREN 2-DAY COURSE**

TO HELP YOU SUPPORT CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE WHO MAY BE EXPERIENCING ANXIETY

**A FREE COURSE FOR PARENTS/CARERS**

- TO UNDERSTAND THE CAUSES OF ANXIETY
- UNDERSTAND PHYSICAL SYMPTOMS AND HOW THEY MAY PRESENT IN CHILDREN
- STRATEGIES TO HELP A CHILD MANAGE THEIR STRESS AND BUILD RESILIENCE

**DATES:** Tuesdays 2nd & 9th June 2026.  
Participants must be able to attend both sessions

**TIME:** 9:30-11:30am

**VENUE:** Online via MSteams

To book a place, please use the QR code or go to: <https://forms.office.com/e/54WCpa4xZ5>

Share with: Facebook | WhatsApp

## **A Fresh Look at School Lunch: Our Tasting Session Success!**



**We are currently in the process of reviewing our school meal provision. As part of our commitment to ensuring our pupils have access to the most nutritious, delicious, and high-quality food possible, we are exploring options with potential new providers.**

### **The Big Taste Test**

Today, we hosted an exciting tasting session in the school hall where our pupils (the most important critics!), parents, school governors and staff took part. One of the prospective catering companies set up an impressive display of the meals they offer, giving our community a real "flavour" of what could be on the menu in the future.

### **One school governors reported**

*" I attended the catering procurement session today not quite knowing what to expect. We walked into a beautiful display of food, surrounded by a colourful array of fruit and vegetables. The children were immediately captured and curious to try it. The catering team were clearly passionate about making mealtime fun, as well as nutritionally impactful. Their menu was not only creative and full of variety, it was very well thought out and focused on making mealtime a journey through delicious flavours and ensured that there was something for all eaters. It also prompted continued education for all ages around where food comes from, and were offering opportunities for children to grow their own fruit and vegetables on-site to then be used in their meals. Everything is made from scratch on site, including the bread and the team deliver wholesome ingredients, really promoting the need to move away from ultra-processed meals with minimal nutritional value. Their allergen awareness and nutrition considerations did not hinder the flavours at all. It was a pleasure to see all the children exploring new fruits and vegetables and being excited over healthy meals. The smoothie stand and rainbow salad bar were also a great hit. The star of the show for my daughter were the desserts, which you'd never guess were made using natural sugars from fruit and vegetables!"*

### **What Happens Next?**

Our goal remains to provide meals that are not only balanced and healthy but also something the children genuinely look forward to every day whilst keeping the costs down.

We will keep you updated as we move closer to finalising our plans. Thank you to everyone who took part.

# Could you be a young carer?

If you help look after a friend or family member who needs extra support - you may be a young carer and there's **one easy place to get help.**



## WELCOME

- Be part of a young carers community
- Friendly welcome from the young carers team

### Support for the whole family

- Friendly chats to consider everyone's needs
- Check ins to make sure you're doing ok
- Help as you grow up and move into new stages of life

### A new young carers webpage

- Clear information on what help you can get
- Links to opportunities, activities & wellbeing support
- Designed by young carers for young carers

### Get involved

- Conference designed by young carers, workshops, fun sessions, meeting others
- Opportunities to have your say
- Work with SEND Youth Councils

### Additional support

- Support in your school / college
- Meet other young carers
- If you're eligible for free school meals, you can get discounts with a **Herts Card**
- Free activity camps in school holidays - **HAPpy Camps**



### How to get support

- Ask an adult in your family to help you get in touch
- Speak to your teacher or a trusted member of staff
- Visit the website or call 01992 658469

[www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/youngcarers](http://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/youngcarers)





## Walk to School Week 18<sup>th</sup> - 22<sup>nd</sup> May

It is encouraging to see so many of our families walking, cycling and scootering to school. As next week is walk to school week it would be wonderful to see even more of our families leaving the car at home or even a longer distance from school and walking instead!

## Head Lice

Incidents of head lice have been reported. Please regularly check your child's hair regularly and follow the NHS advice here if you think your child could have head lice please follow the NHS advice below

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/head-lice-and-nits/>

## Socks

Please be reminded that white sports socks or trainer socks should only be worn on PE days.

## School Gate

Parents, or the adult dropping off, are responsible for their children's behaviour before school, including when waiting for the gates to open in the morning. Children should not play by the school gate or near the road. The behaviour expectations outlined in our school behavior policy apply to all pupils when they are wearing their school uniform. Older children who may come to school independently have been reminded of this. Please reiterate this message at home. Many thanks for your support.

## Clubs

Please see a summary below of the school organised and external clubs that are running this half term

	Organised by school 3.15-4.15pm No charge <i>Booked via Arbor &amp; queries to school office</i>	Organised by external providers <i>Check sign up details, times and prices for each club</i>
<b>Mon</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Table Tennis Years Y5/6</li> <li>• Card games – KS1 and Year 3</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tetra Sports Football Club for Yr 1 &amp; 2 – details <a href="https://tetrasports.magicbooking.co.uk/">here or https://tetrasports.magicbooking.co.uk/</a></li> </ul>
<b>Tues</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chess Club – for Y2-Y6 Contact Zahra Jaufarally @ Kings and Queens Chess Club admin@kingsandqueenschess.co.uk 07900 048446 or sign up <a href="#">here</a></li> </ul>
<b>Weds</b>		Tetra Sports Football Club for all KS2 – details <a href="https://tetrasports.magicbooking.co.uk/">here or https://tetrasports.magicbooking.co.uk/</a>
<b>Thurs</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Homework Club – KS1 &amp; KS2</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Everyone Cooks for Y1-Y6 Contact Louise Penn on 07946 303 213 or <a href="mailto:louise@everynecooks.co.uk">louise@everynecooks.co.uk</a></li> </ul>
<b>Fri</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Photography &amp; Video Club Years 4 to 6 6 weeks starting after May half term</li> </ul>	

***All clubs must be booked in advance. Please contact the school office if you have any questions - 01707 375518***

# Dates for the Diary

## May

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12<sup>th</sup> – Y5 trip to Hampton Court Palace

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## June

1<sup>st</sup> June – Y6 Swimming

9<sup>th</sup> June – Parent Inclusion Forum

12<sup>th</sup> June – 1.15-3.15pm Careers Day

15<sup>th</sup> June – Y6 Residential trip (Monday to Wednesday)

Y5 Bikeability Level 2 (Monday to Friday)

19<sup>th</sup> June - Holy Family Day of Culture

24<sup>th</sup> June – EYFS trip to Hertfordshire Zoo

26<sup>th</sup> June – Y4 trip to Tring Museum

