

22nd November 2024

# THE HOLY FAMILY SCHOOL

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

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Much has already happened this half term, and we are yet to enter the busy season of Advent in December!

This week, I was delighted to share our school's Ofsted report with you. We are immensely proud of our school, and it was pleasing to see Ofsted recognise the hard work and dedication of our staff in enabling our pupils to flourish. Thank you to the many members of our school community who have offered their thanks and congratulations, it is much appreciated. If you are yet to read the report, it is available on our school website [here](#). Please share with friends, family and our local community.

We also celebrated the launch of the much-anticipated **OPAL (Outdoor Play and Learning)** this week. It has been wonderful to see our pupils fully engaged in a variety of creative and enriching play opportunities during their lunchtimes. Watching children of all ages play and learn together with such enthusiasm has been a real highlight. I am sure they have shared their excitement with you at home! Please see some of what our pupils have said about their experiences so far further in the newsletter and follow our Facebook page at

[TheHolyFamilySchoolWGC](#) to see photos of the fun!

Thank you to the parents who attended our first **Subject Showcase** of the year. Subject leaders in reading, RE, history, and geography shared insights into the curriculum and what our pupils will learn during their time at Holy Family. We hope you feel well informed about your children's educational journey. Finally, this morning was our first Enrichment Morning of the year. Pupils came off timetable for part of the morning to engage in extracurricular activities based on the theme of 'Winter.' The fun activities included ice-cream making, fire building and making s'mores, winter bingo, making edible snowballs and much more. As I said to a number of pupils today, I wish I was a pupil at Holy Family! We look forward to many more school events as we begin the season of Advent and prepare for the coming of Christ.

God Bless  
Mrs Linnane

***'Play is the road to childhood happiness and adult brilliance.'***



**Upcoming Events**

**December**

- 3<sup>rd</sup> – Year 4 trip to Verulamium
- 4<sup>th</sup> – Year 1 trip to Aldenham County Park
- 6<sup>th</sup> – HFFA Christmas Fayre
- 10<sup>th</sup> – 2pm Advent Mass

**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](#)

**Twitter:** [@holyfamilyWGC](#)



**Stars of the week**

**Rec**

- Year 1** Daria
- Year 2** Harriet
- Year 3** Maverick
- Year 4** Preston
- Year 5** Rio
- Year 6** Neriah

## Nursery

On the 11th November we made stained glass poppies using collage then put them up in the window to remember the soldiers who helped this country. We thought about how we can remember people who we don't see anymore. We said a prayer to God to give thanks for them.



## Reception

Reception children have created a beautiful poppy wreath to mark Remembrance Day. We have also been praying for people who have passed away, including those who lost their lives in wars.



## Year 1

In Year 1 we started our DT work this week. We experimented with joining fabrics using safety pins, staples and glue. We then thought about which joining technique would be best to use for the puppets we are going to make. The puppets will go with the traditional stories we are going to write this half term. We also learned about the Hindu festival of Raksha Bandhan where sisters tie rakhi around the wrists of their brothers.



## Year 2

Last Tuesday, we were lucky enough to have Mr Cooke from Those History People who came to our school who carried out a Victorian Schools in the past work shop with us. We spent the first part of the morning in a Victorian classroom and had a quick sample of some lessons that Victorian children would have experienced.

Then we spent the 2<sup>nd</sup> part of the morning visiting a Victorian museum looking at variety of different artefacts from the Victorian times including some toys Victorian children would have used and things they would have used at school.



## OPAL

This week we launched OPAL – it has been a huge success! Thank you for all the generous donations. It is an ongoing project and we are still accepting donations. Below are some comments from the children.

'I had a go on a 2 wheel scooter for the first time. It was really good.' **Robyn**

'It made me happy all afternoon.' - **Maverick**

'I was playing with cars, then lego. My playtime was good.' **Christopher**

'I played on both climbing frames. It was very good.' **Lulu**

'It was like the final scene of Matilda where the children were having lots and lots of fun! I have always wanted to go to a school like that!' - **Alice L**

'I liked the music. I was dancing. It was awesome.' **Grace**



## Notices

### Recording an absence

If your child is unable to attend school, please report their absence using the absence line or sending an email to the school office. If you do not report your child's absence and we are unable to contact you, your child will be marked as unauthorised. You must report your child's absence everyday by 9.30am

Absence line – 01707 375518 option 1

[admin@holyfamily.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@holyfamily.herts.sch.uk)

### Sickness and diarrhea

Over the last few week's we have had some cases of sickness and diarrhea and therefore would just like to remind parents that should your child show any signs of developing this illness please keep them home.

To reduce the risk virus spreading extra cleaning has been put in place, particularly on taps, door handles and toilets. Children are always reminded of the importance of washing hands throughout the day, and always before eating. We ask that this message is reinforced at home.

Please keep your child home from school for 48 hours after the last episode for EY, KS1 and 24 hours for KS2.

### Coats

As the weather is now getting colder, please can you ensure that children have a warm coat in school with them every day.



### Parking

We would just like to remind parents to park considerately when collecting and dropping off children. Please do not park across driveways or on the grass verges. Where possible we ask that families walk to school or alternatively use the hard standing carpark at lagoon.

In the winter months and bad weather please allow extra time for your journey to ensure that you arrive safely and on time.



# withYouth

YOUNG PEOPLE'S Digital Wellbeing Services

# Groups

**7 - 12 year olds Group** (Tuesdays at 6pm)

**13+ Group** (Wednesdays at 7pm)

## Topics

- Understanding emotions
- Friendships & Relationships
- Coping strategies
- Self-harm & 5 Ways to Wellbeing
- Abuse & exploitation
- Changes
- Bullying
- How to cope at school
- Homelife
- Identity
- Building confidence & self-esteem











The groups will be running on an 8 week block basis with a capacity of 10/15 young people.

For more information, please email  
[withyouth@hertsmindnetwork.org](mailto:withyouth@hertsmindnetwork.org)  
or call us on **0208 189 8400**



## The Holy Family Catholic Primary School Reverse Advent Calendar



<b>Reverse Advent Calendar 2024</b> 		<b>Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> December</b> <b>Tinned food</b> 	<b>Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December</b> <b>Tea/coffee/sugar</b> 	<b>Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> December</b> <b>Biscuits</b> 
<b>Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> December</b> <b>Breakfast Cereal</b> 	<b>Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December</b> <b>Toothpaste/ Toothbrushes</b> 	<b>Monday 9<sup>th</sup> December</b> <b>Shampoo/ conditioner</b> 	<b>Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> December</b> <b>Deodorants/shower gel</b> 	<b>Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> December</b> <b>Sanitary products</b> 
<b>Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> December</b> <b>Meat &amp; Tuna (tinned)</b> 	<b>Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December</b> <b>Fruit and Veg (tinned)</b> 	<b>Various toiletries Gift sets</b> 	<b>Adult socks and gloves</b> 	<b>NEW bed linen (for single beds); Duvets, Pillows, Towels</b>

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

# Dates for the Diary

## December

- 3<sup>rd</sup> – Year 4 trip to Verulamium
- 4<sup>th</sup> – Year 1 trip to Aldenham County Park
- 6<sup>th</sup> – HFFA Christmas Fayre
- 10<sup>th</sup> – 2pm Advent Mass
- 12<sup>th</sup> – 9.30am EYFS Nativity
- 12<sup>th</sup> – 1.30pm KS1 Nativity
- 17<sup>th</sup> – Christmas lunch and Christmas jumper day
- 18<sup>th</sup> – 5.30pm KS2 Advent Carol service
- 19<sup>th</sup> – 9.15am Christmas Choir concert KS2
- 20<sup>th</sup> – School finishes 1.15pm

