



The Holy Family School News Bulletin – 4th July 2025



There will be a newsletter next week, please read this bulletin carefully as there is important information and dates for your diary.

Dates for the Diary

July

- 5th – 12-3pm Party in the Park
- 10th – Welcome morning new nursery/reception parents 9.30am
- 10th – Moving up day - Y6 children visiting their secondary schools
- 11th - 2-3pm OPAL Family Fun afternoon
- 11th - HFFA cake sale Y5/6
- 16th –Y6 Production 1.30pm
- 17th – Leavers’ Mass 1.15pm
- 17th - Leavers Assembly 2.30pm
- 18th – CANCELLED - Toddler Group
- 18th – Choir Concert 9.30-10.30am

18th – School finishes for summer holidays at 1.15pm





Come along to our OPAL Family Fun afternoon!

On **Friday 11th July at 2pm** we would like to invite parents and carers to join us for an **OPAL Family Fun Afternoon**. This will be an opportunity for you to come and see what OPAL looks like at our school and engage in some OPAL play with your child – please join us!

Once play has finished at 3pm children will return to their classroom rooms, parents will be asked to queue at the school gate and children will be dismissed from their classroom at 3.15pm as usual.



Notices from the WGC Parish newsletter:

Fr Norbert has asked us to share these important notices with you from the latest parish newsletter

- **You are welcome to join for the Cardinal's visit to Our Lady's – this Sunday 6th July:**

3pm – Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & confessions with visiting priests

4pm – Cardinal will offer catechesis – reflections on hope and time to consider his words

5pm – Mass - this is for the whole of Hertfordshire (*there will not be 6pm mass at Holy Family on this evening*)

- **Secondary School Transfer:** As we draw closer to the summer holidays, families will start thinking about the next stage of schooling for their children after primary school. Our local Catholic Secondary schools are oversubscribed meaning governors look for the Certificate of Catholic Practice given by the parish priest. Fr Norbert urges families to think about their weekly church-going as this is the main criterion for him issuing the certificate. Furthermore, parents who have considered Baptism and First Holy Communion for a long time and have never got round to it, should seek the next steps for the sake of their children.



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Farewell & thank you Mrs Oudnie!



Last week Mrs Oudnie had her last day with Holy Family - we would like to say a huge thank you to Mrs Oudnie for a wonderful 10 years of dedicated service at Holy Family. Mrs Oudnie has been a cheerful and supportive individual in our school community and we know staff and families will miss her. Thank you Mrs Oudnie and all the best for your next endeavour!

Nursery school meal price change

We have been notified that there will be a price increase for nursery school meals from 1st September 2025.

Nursery meals will increase from £2.58 to £2.61. There are no changes to KS2 meal prices at this stage.

Clubs

Please find below a summary of the clubs running each week THIS half term: **2nd June – 10th July**

	Organised by school 3.15-4.15pm No charge Booked via Arbor & queries to school office	Organised by external providers Check sign up details, times and prices for each club
Mon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rounders Club – Yr4, 5 & 6 Athletics Club – All KS2 (FULL) Computer Club – Yr 1 & 2 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Little voices Rec & KS1 – details here Tetra Sports Football Club for Yr 1 & 2 – details here
Tues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Get Running Club – Y6 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> My (after school) ART club for Y1-Y6 - details here to re-book for the 2nd half of the Summer Term
Weds		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Irish dancing for Y1-Y6 Contact Aislinn on 07716306909 or aislinn_b@hotmail.co.uk Tetra Sports Football Club for all KS2 – details here
Thurs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gardening Club – All KS2 (FULL) 	
Fri	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Photography club has now finished 	

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



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Summer Holidays 2025 SESSIONS FOR NEURODIVERGENT CHILDREN/YOUNG PEOPLE AND SIBLINGS

Date	Sessions	Time
29 th Tue	Fun in the garden 4+ Garden Cooking	11.00-12.30
31 st Thur	Gosling - FUN RINGS 8+yrs	17.30-18.30
AUGUST		
1 st Fri	Pony Morning at Danecroft Stables 6-11yrs	10.00-12.00
2 nd Sat	Lee Valley White Water Center Water Wipe Out 8+yrs	10.30- 11.45
5 th Tue	Fun in the garden 4+ Water Fight	11.00-12.30
7 th Thur	Gosling - FUN RINGS 8+yrs	16.00-17.00
8 th Fri	Inflatables 8+ Hatfield Leisure Centre	17.00-18.00
12 th Tue	Fun in the Garden 4+ Mad Science	11.00-12.30
15 th Fri	Pony Morning at Danecroft Stables 6-11yrs	10.00 - 12.00
16 th Sat	Lee Valley White Water Center TBC 8yrs+	TBC
19 th Tue	Fun in the Garden 4+ Photo Scavenger Hunt	11.00-12.30
21 st Thu	Gosling - FUN RINGS 8+yrs	16.00-17.00
26 th Tue	Fun in the Garden 4+ Bushcraft	11.00-12.30
30 th Sat	Lee Valley White Water Center Water Wipe Out 8yrs+	10.30-11.45

For further information on any of our Activities or Educational Services please email us at info@potentialkids.org

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At The National College, our WakeUpWednesday guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. Formerly delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit nationalcollege.com.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about APPLE IPADS

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Tablets remain a staple of children's digital lives – and Apple's iPad is by far the most popular model. According to Ofcom, over half of younger children regularly use a tablet to play games, watch online content or access apps. With their broad functionality, iPads can be helpful tools, but without supervision, they may expose children to risks ranging from inappropriate content to screen overuse.

COSTLY TO REPAIR

Unlike some child-friendly tablets, the iPad is not built for rough handling. Its slim design and high cost mean that a drop or spill can result in a costly repair. If a child is using the device regularly, a sturdy case and screen protector are strongly recommended to help prevent accidental damage.

DATA PRIVACY

While Apple is known for strong privacy protections, a recent study found that many iOS apps aimed at children still share personal data. Over 40% of the tested apps sent at least one piece of user information to third parties, raising concerns about advertising and analytics being targeted at underage users.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

The App Store and Safari browser provide almost unrestricted access to online material. Children may stumble upon age-inappropriate content, whether through apps, advertisements or online searches. Even recommended content algorithms can surface unsuitable material.

BYPASSING RESTRICTIONS

Siri – Apple's voice assistant – can potentially override restrictions, especially with the newer text-based commands introduced through Apple Intelligence. Without safeguards in place, children may inadvertently access inappropriate topics simply by asking a question, bypassing certain filters previously set by adults.

SCREEN ADDICTION

iPads can be highly immersive, and excessive screen time may affect a child's emotional and behavioural development. Signs of overuse might include mood swings, irritability, and difficulty focusing on non-digital activities.

REDUCED ATTENTION & COGNITIVE IMPACT

Prolonged use of tablets has been linked with reduced memory, slower processing speeds and difficulties in concentrating. Research shows that children who spend excessive time gaming or consuming media on tablets may struggle with language development and executive functioning over time.

Advice for Parents & Educators

ENABLE FAMILY SHARING

Family Sharing allows you to create a dedicated Apple ID for your child and manage their activity. You can approve purchases, control what content they can access, and set time limits – all done remotely from your own device. It's a simple but powerful way to maintain oversight.

FILTER APPS, WEBSITES & IN-APP PURCHASES

Parental controls in iOS let you block explicit content in Safari, restrict app downloads, and manage in-app purchase permissions. You can also filter websites automatically to prevent access to adult material and disable the installation of certain app types completely.

USE SCREEN TIME FEATURES EFFECTIVELY

Tools like Downtime and App Limits can reduce device overuse. Downtime allows you to block access during key times – such as before bed or during homework – while App Limits sets daily time caps on specific games or apps. Alerts help children anticipate when their time is almost up.

PREVENT UNAPPROVED SPENDING

Children can accidentally (or intentionally) make purchases within apps. Activating Ask to Buy under Family Sharing ensures you receive a notification to approve any app or in-app purchase. This stops surprise charges and allows you to discuss purchases together before they're made.

Meet Our Expert

Carly Page is a seasoned technology journalist with over a decade of experience. Formerly a senior cybersecurity reporter at TechCrunch, Carly now writes for publications including WIRED, Forbes, TechRadar, and Tes. With a deep understanding of online safety, she brings a valuable perspective to parenting in the digital age.



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