

12th September 2025

THE HOLY FAMILY SCHOOL

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

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It has been a wonderful start to the academic year at Holy Family. It has been a pleasure to welcome our new pupils and families, who are settling in well and becoming familiar with the school environment, routines and the many opportunities our community offers. Pupils across the school have shown enthusiasm and readiness to learn, which has created a purposeful and positive atmosphere in classrooms.

Staff have been impressed by the way pupils are approaching their learning and the effort they are already putting into their work. It is clear that they are motivated and keen to achieve their very best this year.

We are pleased that our Year 5 and Year 6 pupils are now able to use their newly refurbished toilets. These much improved facilities are a welcome addition to the school and have been received very positively.

At the start of term, all pupils have been revisiting our school mission statement: *"As a family we live, love, learn and celebrate with Jesus."* This message is at the heart of all we do, and pupils have been reflecting on what it means in their everyday school life. Alongside this, we have also focused on our school values of family, acceptance, honesty, trust and sharing, which guide the way we learn and grow together as a community.

We have also taken time to reinforce our high expectations for both work and behaviour. Teachers are teaching the behaviour curriculum to ensure that everyone understands what this looks like in practice and how it helps create a calm, respectful learning environment. All our pupils show a clear commitment to meeting these expectations.

Our Start of the Year Mass is on Monday at 2:00pm. Families of pupils from Y1-Y6 are warmly welcome to join us as we begin the year together in prayer.

There is much to look forward to, and together with the support of families, staff, and parish, we are ready for another successful year at Holy Family.

God bless
Mrs Linnane

*'I can do things you cannot, you can do things I cannot;
together we can do great things.'* **St Teresa of Calcutta**



Upcoming Events

September

- 15-18th - Y6 Bikeability Level 3
- 15th – 2pm Welcome Mass ****CHANGE not 16th as previously communicated****
- 23rd – Individual school photos
- 25th – Y3 Egyptian Workshop
- 30th – 1.30pm EYFS Welcome Service

October

- 10th – Y6 trip to Aylesford
- 10th – Wear yellow for YMMHD
- 17th – 9.15am Harvest Mass
- 24th - INSET day

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

Please see our website:
www.holyschool.herts.sch.uk
Facebook:
[TheHolyFamilySchoolWGC](https://www.facebook.com/TheHolyFamilySchoolWGC)
Twitter: [@holyschoolWGC](https://twitter.com/holyschoolWGC)



Stars of the week

Rec	Harry
Year 1	Constantine
Year 2	Immy
Year 3	Elijah
Year 4	Viktor
Year 5	Elise
Year 6	Rio

Nursery

This week the children in nursery have been settling in and getting to know their new classroom. We have been playing games to get to know each other as well as lots of singing and story times. The children have all settled so well!



Reception

Reception class have been getting to know their new classmates and teachers as well as their new indoor and outdoor classrooms! They enjoyed their first Mathematics, PE, Art and RE lessons.



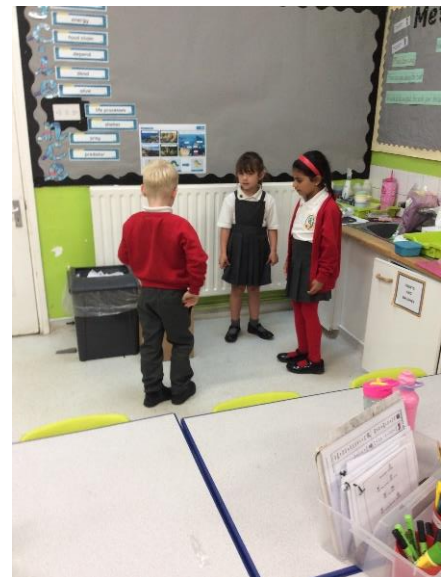
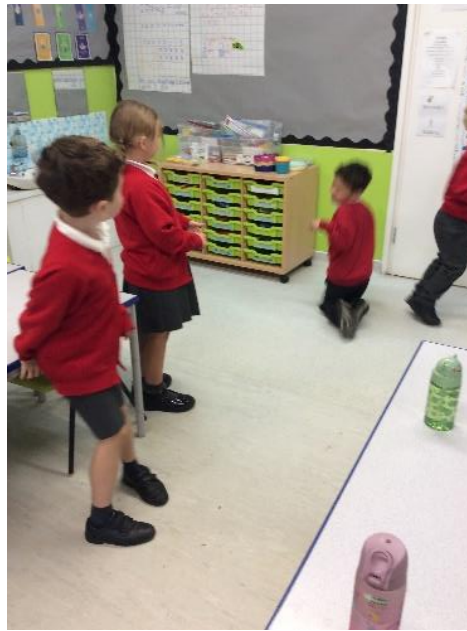
Year 1

In Year 1 this week we have been learning about Creation story from the Bible and how God created the world. In our RE lesson we created our own posters and used them to retell the story.



Year 2

We have enjoyed settling into Year 2 life over the last few weeks. In our English lessons this week we have been talking about what it means to be resilient. We spoke about times where we have had to show resilience



Wear Yellow for Young Minds Mental Health Day – Friday 10th October

On Friday 10th October it is Young Minds Mental Health Day. The aim of the day is to raise awareness about mental health amongst young people. As school we will mark this occasion with a themed assembly and by asking the **children to come to school wearing something yellow alongside their usual school uniform** e.g. socks, hairband, t-shirt.



Our Little Library

At the top of our playground we have a community library with a number of books for both adults and children. The books in the library are there for your use. Please feel free to browse the library and make use of any books which are of interest!



Welcome Mass Y1-6 - Monday 15th September

Our start of the year mass for Y1-Y6 will take place in the school hall this Monday at 2-3pm. We warmly welcome families of children in Y1-6 to join us to celebrate the beginning of the new school year.

Please note, our Early Years classes (Nursery and Reception) will celebrate with their own Welcome service on the 30th September at 1.30pm.



Wellies & Raincoats

Please ensure your child has a pair of welly boots in school- the children wear wellies every day during OPAL playtimes and for Learning Outside the Classroom lessons so it is essential they have a pair in school with them. Please can you ensure that **both welly boots have your child's name in them**. As the weather is becoming more unpredictable please also ensure your child comes to school with a **named coat or raincoat** every day.

Parking reminder

Please check your emails for a note from Mrs Linnane today regarding parking outside of school. Where possible, we encourage families to park a little further away from school and walk the last part of the journey. This helps reduce congestion, keeps children safer, and supports our positive relationship with the people who live near our school.

Clubs

Please find below a summary of the clubs which will be running this half term

	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"> Table Tennis Club – Yr 5 & 6 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tetra Sports Football Club for Yr 1 & 2 – details here or https://tetrasports.magicbooking.co.uk/
Tues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Book club – Y4 & 5 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Music club KS2 (book and pay through Arbor)
Weds		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tetra Sports Football Club for all KS2 – details here or https://tetrasports.magicbooking.co.uk/
Thurs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Card games Club – KS1 Maths Reasoning/Problem solving – Yr 5 & 6 Arts and Crafts club – Nursery, Reception, Y1 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Music club KS1 (book and pay through Arbor) Everyone Cooks for Y1-Y6 Contact Louise Penn on 07946 303 213 or louise@everyonecooks.co.uk
Fri	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Board games – KS2 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Irish dancing for Y1-Y6 Contact Aislinn on 07716 306 909 or aislinn_b@hotmail.co.uk Beginning Friday 26th Sept

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

01707 375518

Notices and flyers from the local community which may be of interest

Beezee FAMILIES

Looking for healthy after-school snack ideas?

We've got you covered!

Our free, Beezee Families healthy lifestyle programme can help your family make healthy habits.

Tuck into these healthy snacks:

- Two wholegrain crackers and tzatsiki
- Rice cakes or corn cakes
- Two crackers with a spread of low-fat cream cheese and cherry tomatoes
- Plain or Greek yoghurt and fruit
- 150ml homemade fruit smoothie
- Vegetable sticks (carrot/pepper/cucumber) with hummus
- Fruit kebabs
- Wholegrain toast with a thin layer of peanut butter
- Breadsticks
- Ayran (yoghurt-based drink)
- Baked plantain
- Sebze kebab (grilled vegetable skewers)
- Homemade fruit ice lollies
- Handful of homemade popcorn
- Apple slices with peanut butter.

Want more healthy lifestyle support?
Check out our website to find out how we can help your family.*

Scan here or Click the link

hrt.maximusuk.co.uk

*Our courses are designed for families with children aged 5 and up

Hertfordshire

24-23216

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about CONSPIRACY THEORIES

Conspiracy theories are false or misleading beliefs that explain events as secret plots, often involving powerful groups. While once fringe, they are now more accessible through digital media, online influencers and because of algorithmic recommendations. The DfE guidance document, 'Keeping Children Safe in Education' (KCSIE) explicitly recognises conspiracy theories as potential content risks. This guide will help parents and educators understand the risks, spot the signs, and build children's resilience to conspiracy theories.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

UNDERMINING TRUST

Conspiracy theories can lead children and young people to distrust democratic institutions and British Values, teachers, and even their own families and loved ones. This erosion of trust makes young people more vulnerable to extremist narratives by isolating them from reliable sources of information.

ONLINE ALGORITHM TRAPS

Social media platforms can often recommend sensationalist content. Once a child engages with one conspiracy-themed video or post, algorithms push more of the same, thereby creating an echo chamber that can intensify their beliefs.

MENTAL HEALTH IMPACT

Exposure to frightening conspiracy content, such as global plots, viruses, or government control, can fuel feelings of anxiety, paranoia, or hopelessness. For some young people, it can trigger prolonged distress or obsessive thinking.

GATEWAY TO EXTREMISM

Conspiracy theories can often overlap with extremist ideologies. Narratives that blame specific groups, such as politicians, scientists, or particular ethnic groups, can groom children in ways that foster hate, bigotry, and radicalisation.

CONFLICT WITH PEERS

Belief in conspiracy theories can lead to isolation or conflict at school. Children may struggle with peer relationships if they express these beliefs or become distrustful of others who disagree; sometimes, confrontation can even result in a strengthening of the belief in the conspiracy theory.

ERODED CRITICAL THINKING

Young people influenced by conspiracies may reject evidence-based learning. This risks undermining their academic progress and weakening their ability to think critically, assess risks, or engage in healthy debate.

Advice for Parents & Educators

I WANT TO BELIEVE

CREATE SAFE CONVERSATIONS

Don't mock or dismiss any questions that children and young people ask about conspiracy theories. Instead, create open, judgement-free spaces to talk. This strengthens trust and makes it more likely they will confide in you.

PROMOTE CRITICAL THINKING

Teach young people how to assess information critically. Encourage them to ask appropriate questions, such as: Who is telling me this? What evidence is there? What do other trusted sources say? Use real examples from current media to explain your answers and reasoning.

MONITOR DIGITAL BEHAVIOUR

Be aware of the content children are accessing, especially on platforms such as TikTok, YouTube, or Reddit. Use parental controls, but more importantly, maintain ongoing dialogue about online experiences and influencers.

REINFORCE RELIABLE SOURCES

Point children toward trustworthy and reliable sources of news and information in a variety of formats tailored to the young person's age. Build habits of verifying facts using reliable sources, and teach them how to spot misleading content.

Meet Our Expert

Brendan O'Keeffe is a headteacher and digital education consultant with over a decade of experience in education. As Director of Digital Strategy across multiple schools and an advisor to The National College, he specialises in digital safety, PREVENT, and pastoral care.



The National College

Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/conspiracy-theories>

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Dates for the Diary

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17th – 9.15am Harvest Mass

24th – INSET day

27th-31st – Half term holidays

November

3rd – Return to school

