

24th October 2025

DoWAT



# THE HOLY FAMILY SCHOOL

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

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As we reach the end of our first half term, there is much to celebrate at Holy Family. The start of this academic year has been filled with warmth, energy, and a real sense of community. Our new pupils and families have settled into school life, quickly embracing our routines and the many opportunities that Holy Family offers. Classrooms across the school are alive with curiosity and determination, and staff have been delighted by the children's enthusiasm and the pride they take in their learning.

Our school mission '*As a family we live, love, learn and celebrate with Jesus,*' has been a guiding focus throughout these first weeks. Pupils have reflected on what this means for the way we learn, play, and treat one another. Our values of family, acceptance, honesty, trust, and sharing continue to shine through daily in the way pupils work together and support one another.

The half term has been enriched with opportunities to grow both spiritually and personally. Our Welcome and Harvest Masses were uplifting occasions of prayer and thanksgiving, while lunchtime rosary prayers have provided peaceful moments for reflection. Topic celebrations across the school have showcased pupils' creativity and love of learning. Beyond the classroom, children have enjoyed a wide range of clubs, sports events, and enrichment activities, developing confidence, teamwork, and new skills.

We were pleased to welcome several visitors this term, all of whom praised the warmth and vibrancy of our school community. Governors also spent a day in school, seeing first-hand the dedication of staff and the joyful learning taking place in every classroom. To end the half term today, staff took part in an inspiring day of formation with Sister Judith Russi, exploring Catholic Social Teaching and continuing our exciting journey to *Build the Kingdom* at Holy Family. As we close this first chapter of the year, I would like to thank our pupils, staff, and families for their commitment, positivity, and faith. I wish all our families a happy, safe, and restful half-term.

**'God loves all of us, without any limits or conditions.'** Pope Leo XIV

God bless, Mrs Linnane

## Upcoming Events

### October

24<sup>th</sup> - INSET day

27<sup>th</sup>-31<sup>st</sup> – Half term  
holiday

### November

3<sup>rd</sup> - Return to school

12<sup>th</sup> – Parents coffee  
morning with SFW

14<sup>th</sup> – Flu Immunisations Rec-Y6

14<sup>th</sup> – Children in Need

17<sup>th</sup> – Y4 trip to Verulamium

25<sup>th</sup> – Y2 Victorian History  
Workshop

**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

Year 1 Evie

Year 2 Rafe

Year 3 Jude

Year 4 Bolu

Year 5 Rafe

Year 6 Antos

## Year 3

This term we have been learning all about the Ancient Egyptians, so in art, we have worked on creating our own Egyptian scrolls. We made our own papyrus paper; planned what Egyptian figures and symbols we were going to use and drew them onto our papyrus paper to make our scroll.



## Year 4

Year 4 have been learning about the story of Joseph in RE and how he demonstrated the theological virtues. We then thought of ways we can show the virtues of faith, hope and charity in our own lives. In maths, we have been focusing on learning multiplication facts and strategies that can help us. We have enjoyed writing a persuasive speech in English and children choose a subject that they felt passionate and inspired by. In PE we have been learning football skills with a focus on dribbling and passing the ball. Year 4 also enjoyed taking part in a fun athletics event at Stanborough school. We have been investigating animals teeth and food chains in our science topic and how the teeth are suited to an animals diet.





## Year 5

In year 5, we have been really busy enjoying our learning. Here are some of the highlights from the last few weeks. In English, we enjoyed writing non-chronologic reports about an amazing chimera that we created. We have also enjoyed reading the book *Cloud Tea Monkeys* by Mal Peet, Elspeth Graham and Juan Wijngaard and have written some amazing descriptive pieces based on this text. We will be choosing our favourite piece of work to publish. In maths, we have been using our equipment to make mathematical models to help us to understand and solve a range of problems. In History, we have been considering if the Vikings were raiders, traders or something else. We have started making our quizzes in computing. We have also been enjoying designing and making pop up books in Design and Technology.



## Year 6

In During our PE lesson, we were trained as Young Leaders. We learnt some new games with Mrs Moxham during our LOTC and PE session. We also had great fun recalling and playing some of the games we remembered from when we were younger. We had two simple rules: we must enjoy it, and they must enjoy it. We ALL really did enjoy being Young Leaders!

In Design & Technology this term we have enjoyed making waistcoats. We learned how to use the backstitch and added buttons to our designs



## Poppy Appeal 2025

From Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> November and leading up to Remembrance Day, our chaplaincy team will be leading a Poppy Appeal at school. Children will have the chance to make a donation and receive a poppy or poppy merchandise (wrist band or keyring). Please note, our suggested donation for children to bring in is £1, unfortunately change cannot be given.

You may like to talk to your child about the Poppy Appeal and what it symbolises – please see [this link](#) for some useful information.



## Go dotty for Children in Need

It is Children in Need on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> November 2025 - at school we will be marking this day by encouraging children **to wear something dotty or Pudsey Bear** related alongside their usual school uniform **and making a donation towards** the Children in Need Appeal. Rather than bringing cash donations to school, **please use our Children in Need fundraising page [here](#).**

Thank you!



## Parent volunteers needed – could you lead a club?

We have been so fortunate being able to host many wonderful, free after school clubs for children of all ages at our school. To help strengthen our offering, we are wondering if there are any talented and willing parents who could volunteer to run an after school club for half a term?

The club could be focused on anything - from gardening to sewing, woodwork skills to board games or creative writing to languages. All ideas are welcome! This club would run from the start of January until February half term (6 weeks) after school from 3.15pm -4.15pm. If you have any ideas, we would love to hear from you! Please contact the school office on [admin@holyfamily.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@holyfamily.herts.sch.uk)



## New clubs for next half term

Please see a summary below of how school organise and external clubs that will run next half term:

	<b>Organised by school</b> <i>3.15-4.15pm</i> <i>No charge</i> <i>Booked via Arbor &amp; queries to school office</i>	<b>Organised by external providers</b> <i>Check sign up details, times</i> <i>and prices for each club</i>
<b>Mon</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Table Tennis Club – Yr 5 &amp; 6</li> <li>• Times Table Rockstars Club – Yr 3 &amp; 4</li> <li>• Netball Club – Yr 3, 4, 5 &amp; 6</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>		
<b>Weds</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tetra Sports Football Club for all KS2 – details <a href="https://tetrasports.magicbooking.co.uk/">here or https://tetrasports.magicbooking.co.uk/</a></li> </ul>
<b>Thurs</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Drawing Club – Nursery, Reception, Yr 1 &amp; Yr 2</li> <li>• Play Club – Reception &amp; Yr 1</li> <li>• Homework Club – Yr 3, 4, 5 &amp; 6</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@everyonecooks.co.uk">louise@everyonecooks.co.uk</a></li> </ul>
<b>Fri</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Irish dancing for Y1-Y6 Contact Aislinn on 07716 306 909 or <a href="mailto:aislinn_b@hotmail.co.uk">aislinn_b@hotmail.co.uk</a></li> </ul>

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

POTENTIAL  
KIDS

## HALF-TERM Activities



POTENTIALKIDS.ORG.UK/EVENTS

Tuesday

HALLOWEEN FUN



28TH @  
11:12:30  
AGE 4+ £8



POTENTIAL KIDS  
GARDEN

Tuesday

SOFT PLAY SEN  
FUNZONE

28TH @  
19:00-20:45  
AGE 4-12 £8.95



BIRCHWOOD  
LEISURE

Wednesday

FUN RINGS

29TH @  
13:00-14:00  
AGE 6+ £6



(UNDER 8S MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY AN  
ADULT ON SLOPES)

GOSLING  
SPORTS CENTRE

Thursday

TRAMPOLINING

30TH @  
18:00-19:00  
AGE 5+ £6.50



GOSLING  
SPORTS CENTRE

SESSIONS FOR NEURODIVERGENT  
CHILDREN/YOUNG PEOPLE AND SIBLINGS

Saturday

FAMILY  
FOOTBALL

25TH @  
16:00-17:00  
AGE 6+ / FREE



HATFIELD  
LEISURE CENTRE

the galleria



The King's Award  
for Voluntary Service  
The MBE for volunteer groups





THE ZONE is a safe space to grow, connect, and be supported. We empower young people and their families to build confidence, share experiences, and explore self-care through mentoring, coaching, and wellbeing.

#### Our WELLBEING SERVICES

Offer includes:

##### INDIVIDUAL SUPPORT:

Neurodiversity Support & Guidance,  
Mentoring/Coaching

**PARENTS /CARERS:** Parent/Carer Wellbeing

**LEARNING:** Life Skills, Resilience & Self-Care Workshops, Health & Wellbeing Talks

**COMMUNITY DROP-INS**

Unit 55 The Galleria  
Comet Way  
Hatfield, AL10 0XR

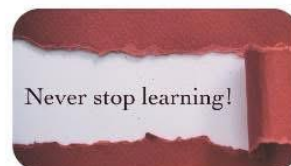


For further information email: [wellbeing@potentialkids.org](mailto:wellbeing@potentialkids.org)

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Registered Charity No. 1182917

## WELLBEING SERVICES

A Safe and Supportive Space for  
Neurodivergent Young People  
and their Families



SCAN FOR ALL OF OUR  
IMPORTANT LINKS





# What Parents & Educators Need to Know about FORTNITE



## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

With over 650 million registered users, Fortnite remains one of the most played and discussed online games globally. Known for its vibrant graphics, fast-paced gameplay, and cultural crossovers with everything from music artists to superhero franchises, the game continues to capture the attention of young people. This guide outlines the risks trusted adults need to know about, including game updates, and offers practical safety tips to help address them.

### ALWAYS ONLINE

There's no single-player, offline mode in Fortnite; it can only be played online. Internet access can sometimes be an issue when you're out and about, both in terms of connectivity and using up data. You may find that dedicated, young Fortnite players are often less enthusiastic about family time or trips away – such as days out and holidays – than you might expect.

### IN-GAME COSTS

Fortnite is free to download and play, but it does offer various additional purchases – limited-time cosmetic 'skins', music tracks, LEGO items, and battle passes. Children can feel pressured to spend money on V-Bucks – the in-game currency – to avoid missing out, particularly as exclusive items rotate frequently. Some items may not return to the store for years, while Battle Pass rewards are often "gone when they're gone".

### VIRTUAL VIOLENCE

There's no avoiding that Fortnite is about shooting other players to eliminate them from the contest. That said, there's no blood or gore. The violence is rendered in a cartoonish style, and there are frequent comical touches to lighten the mood, such as mini-games and emotes. Guns and other weapons often look and behave realistically, so discretion is advised. Past seasons have introduced characters and references from mature franchises like The Witcher and Halo.

### CROSSPLAY AND PARTY CHAT

Fortnite is popular with many gamers of various ages. Crossplay allows friends to play with each other, regardless of whether they're on an Xbox, PlayStation, Nintendo Switch or PC, while the Party Chat feature allows them to talk to each other during the game. This can put youngsters at risk of exposure to strangers, inappropriate language, and cyberbullying.

### FREQUENT UPDATES

Seasonal releases introduce new map changes, gameplay mechanics, and cosmetics. Ongoing updates can increase screen time and potential for obsession as children try to unlock rewards before the season ends. These regular renewals help to hold players' interest, but also give young gamers plenty of reasons to keep coming back. Seasons often change thematically.

### POP CULTURE REFERENCES

Part of Fortnite's appeal is its ongoing crossovers with other popular franchises, ranging from films and TV shows like Power Rangers and Avatar: The Last Airbender, to comic book characters including Batman. Other collaborations with series, artists, and influencers may expose children to music, language, or ideas that are more suitable for older audiences.

## Advice for Parents & Educators

### DISCUSS SAFE SOCIAL INTERACTION

Talk with children about who they're playing with online. Coordinate play time with the child's friends for socialisation and safety in numbers. Encourage them to avoid private voice chats with strangers and remind them not to share personal information. Use real-life examples to explain potential risks, and remind them that if they see something concerning, they should tell a trusted adult.

### SET SPENDING LIMITS

Fortnite's rotating store is a not-so-subtle mechanism for coaxing players into buying sought-after items before they disappear for weeks or months. This could lead to surprise transactions on bank cards if children are tempted into an impulse purchase. Parents could consider getting a prepaid card for the child or ensuring that purchases require adult authorisation. This can be done through parental settings on a console or account settings in the Epic Games app on PC.

### ENJOY FORTNITE TOGETHER

Fortnite also offers split-screen gameplay, meaning that two people can play simultaneously on the same console or computer. This can be a good option for siblings or for when a child's friends visit, but it also offers an opportunity for parents to do something fun with their child, while making sure they're playing the game safely. Who knows? You might even teach them a thing or two!

### BE WARY OF SCAMS

The immense popularity of Fortnite with younger audiences – that are generally more trusting – means there's no shortage of scammers looking to fraudulently obtain passwords and other personal data through techniques like phishing. As the developers point out on many of Fortnite's loading screens, they never ask for a player's account password outside of the game. Make sure any young player knows this.

### Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is an experienced freelance writer and has been working in the gaming and tech industry for seven years. A regular visitor to the App Store to try out new tools, he's also a parent and therefore understands the importance of online safety. He's also a tech and fitness writer and has been published at sites including IGN, TechRadar, and plenty more.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College



# Dates for the Diary

## October

24<sup>th</sup> – INSET day

27<sup>th</sup>-31<sup>st</sup> – Half term holidays

## November

3<sup>rd</sup> – Return to school

12<sup>th</sup> – 2.30pm Year 5 class mass

14<sup>th</sup> – Flu Immunisations

14<sup>th</sup> – Wear something dotty for Children in Need

17<sup>th</sup> – Y4 trip to Verulamium Museum

25<sup>th</sup> – Y2 Victorian Workshop

