

28th November 2025

DoWAT



THE HOLY FAMILY SCHOOL

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

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As we enter the season of Advent, our school community turns its heart towards preparation, reflection, and joyful anticipation. Advent invites us to pause amid the busyness of daily life and to ready ourselves for the coming of Christ. In this spirit, our Chaplaincy Team embarked on a special pilgrimage to Our Lady's Church as part of the Year of Hope. This moment of prayer and togetherness was a meaningful opportunity for our pupils to deepen their faith and reflect on what hope truly means in their own lives.

Our curriculum enrichment activities have continued to bring learning alive across the school. Year 2 had a wonderful Victorian Day in school, stepping back in time to experience life in the 19th century. The visiting leader spoke very highly of our pupils, praising their enthusiasm, impeccable behaviour, and willingness to immerse themselves fully in the day. Meanwhile, Year 4 enjoyed an inspiring visit to Verulamium in St Albans as part of their work on the Romans. The children were fascinated by the artefacts, mosaics, and stories that helped them better understand this remarkable period of history.

On the sporting front, our football team have made an excellent start to the season, securing two impressive wins at a recent tournament hosted at Monks Walk School. We are incredibly proud of their teamwork, perseverance, and sportsmanship, qualities we value so highly.

It has also been a pleasure to welcome so many prospective parents to our school over the past few weeks. Sharing the warmth, vibrancy, and everyday joy of our community is always a privilege, and we are grateful for the positive feedback we continue to receive. Please do keep sharing our school video and passing on your experiences of our school within the wider community

As we journey through Advent together, may hope guide our steps and may Christ's light shine in all we do.

***'Advent is a time for us to rediscover the beauty of hope and to prepare our hearts for the coming of Jesus.'* Pope Francis**

God bless, Mrs Linnane

Upcoming Events

December

- 1st – 2.30pm Advent Service
- 2nd – Y3 Parent Consultations
- 5th – Cake sale (Y1 to donate cakes)
- 9th – 2.15pm Parent Inclusion Forum – all parents welcome
- 10th – Nativity plays: EYFS (9.30am) & KS1 (1.30pm)
- 12th – HFFA Family Panto

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

Please see our website:
www.holyfamily.herts.sch.uk

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

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



Stars of the week

- | | |
|--------|---------|
| Year 1 | Caleb |
| Year 2 | Vienna |
| Year 3 | Aoife |
| Year 4 | Hugh |
| Year 5 | Preston |
| Year 6 | Alice H |

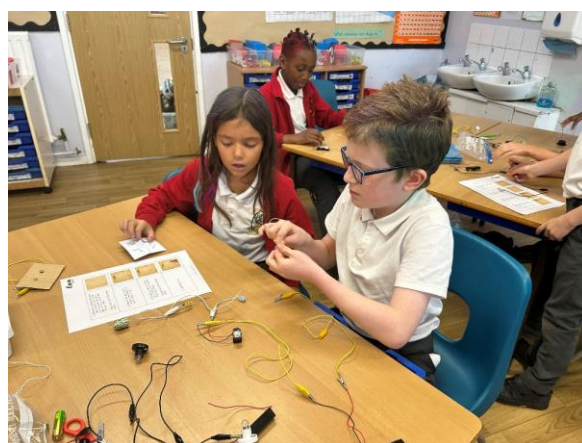
Year 3

We have had a busy start to our Autumn 2 term. In one LOTC session, we created our own self-portraits using natural materials. The children spent time outside foraging for materials such as leaves, acorns, sticks, berries, stones and more to use to create their own portraits. We took all of our foraged findings back to the classroom to compile our pieces of work. The children loved creating these. In another session we were celebrating friendship week by making kindness trees. We started with an empty tree template that was in desperate need of leaves to bring it back to life. The children foraged leaves from around the playground and wrote on them ways in which we can show kindness to other people such as sharing our resources and checking on people if they seem sad. We then filled our trees with kindness leaves. We are looking forward to the Advent season and the wonderful celebrations to come over the next few weeks.



Year 4

Year 4 have been enjoying learning how an electrical circuit works in our science lessons this term. We have been learning about the Roman invasion of Britain in our history lessons and enjoyed going on a school trip to the Verulamium museum in St Albans. Our RE topic this term has been based on prophets and the children have learned about Elijah and John the Baptist. In maths Year 4 have been using multiplication and division facts to solve real life problems.



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 researching and writing a biography about an inspirational person. In maths, we have been moving from the concrete, to the pictorial, then to formal methods for addition and subtraction. We are now moving onto multiplication. In Geography, we have been learning about the Alps and have made wonderful informative posters. We have learnt about databases in computing and have created our own and added data to them. We also enjoyed taking part in an archery competition and having crazy hair on Crazy Hair Day.



Year 6

During our Year 6 archery competition, Mrs Moxham came in and we took part in several archery challenges. We collected our best scores and added them together.

In RE, Year 6 explored the story of Miriam from Exodus by acting out two scenes: one showing Miriam's real role in protecting baby Moses, and another imagining what might have happened without her. Through this, we discovered how important Miriam was in God's plan, and how her courage helped shape the future of her people.



Reverse advent calendar

Donations for our reverse Advent calendar can be sent into school from **Monday 1st December to Friday 12th December**. These items will be added to our Advent boxes and shared with local charities.

We understand that many families may be facing financial pressures at this time, and there is absolutely no expectation to donate. Any contributions, however small, will be gratefully received.

Thank you for your kindness and continued support.

Reverse Advent Calendar 2025				
		Monday 1st December Tinned food 	Tuesday 2nd December Tea/coffee/sugar 	Wednesday 3rd December Biscuits 
Thursday 4th December Breakfast Cereal 	Friday 5th December Toothpaste/ Toothbrushes 	Monday 8th December Shampoo/ conditioner 	Tuesday 9th December Deodorants/shower gel 	Wednesday 10th December Sanitary products 
Thursday 11th December Meat & Tuna (tinned) 	Friday 12th December Fruit and Veg (tinned) 	Various toiletries Gift sets 	Adult socks and gloves 	NEW bed linen (for single beds); Duvets, Pillows, Towels

Nativity Tickets for EYFS & KS1

Parents of children in Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 will have received an email today with guidance on how to request tickets for the Nativity plays taking place on the 10th December.

Due to a maximum seating capacity in our school hall, we can allocate up to 2 seats per family. Please see the email for full guidance on how to request tickets in the *Arbor School Shop* and what to do if you would like to request additional seats. We kindly ask that you only request the number of seats you will use to ensure fairness for all families.

Thank you for your cooperation and support.



Reminder: 2027/ 2028 Admissions policy – Consultation period

Holy Family School is consulting on the proposed admissions arrangements for the **school year 2027/28** and is seeking responses from parent/carers, schools and community groups.

The proposed change is to include the following new category in our Admissions Policy 2027/2028. This category would applied to the admissions oversubscription criteria.

1. The employment of a parent or legal guardian as a member of staff at the school at the time of application will increase the priority of an application within each category so that the application will be placed at the top of the category in which the application is made after children in (i) and (ii) above.

Please see our [2025/2026 Admissions Policy](#) for reference.

The consultation period runs until **7 December 2025**. Please send your comments regarding the proposals to the school direct at admin@holyfamily.herts.sch.uk.

School uniform reminder

Please be reminded of our school uniform guidelines [here](#) and note that despite the colder weather, children are still expected to:

- wear sensible, smart black school shoes to school – not trainers
- wear grey not white socks for boys
- wear sensible trousers – some girls are wearing very wide leg style, grey trousers which are proving to be a trip hazard especially during outdoor play



You are invited! 9th Dec @ 2.15pm Our Inclusion Parent Forum

After the success of the Inclusion Forums for parents that ran last year, we warmly welcome all families to join **Mrs Linnane** and **Mrs Micklethwaite** in school for our autumn term, conversation about **Inclusion at Holy Family**. This is taking place on **Tuesday 9th December 2025 at 2:15pm**

This will be an opportunity to:

- Hear updates on all areas related to inclusion to ensure **every child feels they belong**

- Discuss Hertfordshire's new '**Ordinarily Available Provision**' document and what this means for ALL children at The Holy Family Catholic Primary School
- Share your invaluable feedback and experiences
- Ask questions in a supportive, informal space

Tea, coffee and biscuits provided. Please join us for the full session or for as long as you can stay.

Thank you & farewell Mrs Jewell

Last Friday was Mrs Jewell's last week at Holy Family - we would like to say a big thank you to Mrs Jewell for over two years of dedication to our school. Mrs Jewell has been a warm and inspiring individual in our school community and we know staff and families will miss her kindness and care. Thank you Mrs Jewell!



Clubs for this half term

Please see a summary below of the school and external clubs that will run 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 • Times Table Rockstars Club – Yr 3 & 4 • Netball Club – Yr 3, 4, 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		
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"> • Drawing Club – Nursery, Reception, Yr 1 & Yr 2 • Play Club – Reception & Yr 1 • Homework Club – Yr 3, 4, 5 & 6 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MUSIC CLUB FOR KS1 & KS2 – book via Arbor under 'Clubs' £3.40 per child per session • Everyone Cooks for Y1-Y6 Contact Louise Penn on 07946 303 213 or louise@everyonecooks.co.uk
Fri		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Irish dancing for Y1-Y6 Contact Aislinn on 07716 306 909 or aislinn_b@hotmail.co.uk

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



A note from our School Family Worker team:

The community supermarkets are now open to self-referral which may be useful for families you support. Everything in-store is priced under £1, and you can pick up to 20 items per visit.

Open across 8 locations in Hertfordshire. [Find out more: Community Supermarket](#)

**POTENTIAL
KIDS**

For Neurodivergent Children, Young People
Their Siblings and Parents/Carers

DECEMBER ACTIVITIES

Date	Sessions	Time	Venue
1st,15th	Mon Dungeons & Dragons (Full)	12.30-15.30	The Zone@The Galleria
4th	Thur Trampolining Age 5+	17.30-18.30	Gosling Sports Centre
2nd/4th/5th	Tue Thur Fri Christmas Big Give Sustainable Christmas Crafts Bring clothing to decorate and make festive, plus crafting. Competitions and Quizzes .	11.00-2.00 All Welcome 4.30-6 SEN Session	The Zone@The Galleria
6th	Sat Gift Wrapping	11-4	The Zone@The Galleria
6th	Sat Christmas Canal boat Trip	10.30-2.45	Waterways Experiences Hemel Hempstead
11th,18th	Thu Bushcraft/Stem Home Ed Age 4+	10.30-12.00	Potential to Grow Garden
11th	Thur Connect Secondary Age	16.30-18.00	The Zone@The Galleria
12th	Fri Early Years Stay & Play	10.30-12.00	The Zone@The Galleria
12th	Fri Parent /Carer Wellbeing	12.30-14.00	The Zone@The Galleria
12th	Fri Youth Group 16 Plus	18.30-20.30	The Hub@The Galleria
16th	Tue Connect Primary age	16.30-18.00	The Zone@The Galleria
19th	Fri Skateboarding Age 9+	17.30-18.30	Pioneer Club St Albans
20th	Sat PK Christmas party 4-11 years	1-2.30	The Hub@The Galleria
20th	Sat Pk Christmas party 11-15 years	3-4.30	The Hub@The Galleria

To book visit : potentialkids.org.uk/events

For further information email: info@potentialkids.org

the galleria
OUTLET SHOPPING

Hertfordshire
Community
Foundation
Feeling Good Matters

SPORT
ENGLAND



The King's Award
for Voluntary Service



Communication workshop For Mums, Dads & Carers

Online
December 2025
&
January 2026



This 2 hour fully funded workshop is open to all Hertfordshire parents and carers. Join us to learn more about:

- Why communication matters for everyone
- Communication to build and support healthy relationships
- The stress response system and the effects on communication
- The Language of Safety
- Skills and strategies - from learning to practice
- Communication and the Protective Behaviours Process

Thursday
11 December 2025
9.30am—11.30am
or
Monday
19 January 2026
7.00pm—9.00pm



To book your place please use this link or the QR code

<https://forms.office.com/e/dTWHKe8yaM>



Please like us on Facebook for further updates @familiesfeelingSAFE

Funded by
Hertfordshire
County Council



Families Feeling Safe Protective Behaviours Services has been funded through HCC to provide Families Feeling Safe programmes across Hertfordshire. We deliver Protective Behaviours training for professionals and provide programmes and workshops to children and their families. www.familiesfeelingSAFE.co.uk E-mail: enquiries@familiesfeelingSAFE.co.uk

Dates for the Diary

December

- 1st** – 2.30pm Advent Service – parents welcome
- 2nd** – Y3 Parent Consultations
- 5th** – Cake sale (Y1 to bring in cakes)
- 9th** – 2.15pm Inclusion Forum – all parents welcome
- 10th** – Nativity plays: EYFS (9.30am) & KS1 (1.30pm)
- 12th** - HFFA Family Panto
- 16th** – School Christmas lunch – children wear Christmas jumpers
- 17th** – 5.30pm KS2 Advent Service at Holy Family Church
- 18th** – 9.15am KS2 Christmas Choir Concert
- 19th** – school finishes at 1.15pm for Christmas holidays

