



Newsletter

Friday 11th
September 2026

Holy Ghost Catholic Primary
School

www.holyghost.wandsworth.sch.uk



Dear parents and carers,

Welcome back to our first newsletter of the new school year!

I would like to take this opportunity to say a heartfelt **thank you** to all our families for the incredible generosity shown towards our teaching and support staff at the end of the last school year. We are extremely fortunate to have such a thoughtful and supportive school community. Your kind words, cards and gifts were very much appreciated by everyone, and the kindness and generosity you continue to show our staff means a great deal to us all.



We have had a very successful first week back and have been delighted to welcome our new pupils in Years 4, 5 and 6, as well as our new Reception class. It has been particularly lovely to see our Year 6 pupils supporting the Reception children as they are introduced to the main playground and become familiar with school life.

Today, I had the opportunity to walk around the school and visit our classes. I was very pleased to see pupils settled, engaged in their learning and following their class expectations, including showing respect for their teachers, one another and the learning environment. It has been a positive and encouraging start to the year.

We look forward to welcoming parents and carers of pupils in Years 2, 3 and 4 next week for our New to Year Meetings. These meetings are an important opportunity to hear more about the year ahead and the expectations and routines for your child's year group.

During the meetings, we will also share a number of important dates. Please see the information on **page 3** and make a note of your child's **Reading Support sessions**.

Finally, this Sunday is **Education Sunday**, a special opportunity to celebrate and give thanks for all those involved in education and the important role our school community plays in supporting every child to learn, grow and flourish. If your child attends the 9.30am mass, **we invite them to come in their school uniform to celebrate the links between school and the parish**.



Thank you for your continued support. We look forward to another productive week ahead.

Kind regards,

Mrs Murphy

Arrangements for End of School Day/ Collection of Children

It is essential that secure arrangements are in place to ensure the safe handover of every child from the care of the school to that of the responsible parent or carer.

If there is a change to the collection arrangements of your child, please inform the school office by **12pm on the day, via email/phone call**. Teachers will not release a child to a different adult (even if the adult has previously collected your child) if we have not been notified on the day of a change.

Please also inform us if your child is attending a party / playdate and is being collected by another parent. Notes in Reading Records can often be missed, so **please inform the school office**.

As a school we understand that things happen at short notice causing parents to be delayed, but it is vital you inform the school, and not just the person collecting your child.

Thank you for your support and understanding in this matter.

Pens

Neat, tidy and easy to read handwriting is a valuable life skill and it's important that we learn to write as neatly as possible. As adults we all choose a pen which suits our style best, however when learning to write it's important that we have a pen which enables children to develop better writing control and letter formation.

- **Parker fountain pen** (with blue ink).
- **Berol Handwriting pen** as this is the most affordable option, but disposable.
- **Stabilo Easy Handwriting pen** offers left and right handed options. It is a rollerball and cartridge refills are available.
- **Pilot FriXion Erasable Rollerball** allows children to rub out and correct their work using the rubber attached to the pen

All Pens must be Blue ink.

The pens are available from stationery shops or stationery sections of larger supermarkets.

Class Music Lessons

We are delighted to share that our music lessons for all our classes started this week. Thanks to Wandsworth Music, over the course of the year the children will enjoy playing a variety of musical instruments and singing.

Our Y4 class undertake learning an instrument—the trumpet and this year, the French horn, and we are very much looking forward to hearing the children's progress at the end-of-term music concert.



Before and After School Clubs

Our before and after school clubs start next week, w/c **Monday 14th September**.

If your child is attending a sporty club but does not have PE on that day, **please ensure they bring their school uniform to change into.**

If your child attends a sporty club in the afternoon, they will get changed into their PE kit at the end of the school day.

Please also provide your child with a snack so they have plenty of energy for their club.

Thank you for your support.

Holy Ghost PTA

Thank you to everyone who attended the PTA coffee morning today, where we discussed plans and events for the coming year.

There are lots of exciting PTA events coming up that you can get involved with, including Bags to School, Quiz Night, Christmas Cards and Christmas Trees.

All funds raised by the PTA go directly towards improving our school surroundings and providing valuable resources for our classrooms.

Diary Dates

SEPTEMBER 2026

Tuesday 15th September

- Y4 New School Year Meeting 9am

Wednesday 16th September

- Y2 New School Year Meeting 9am
- Chelsea "Inspire Her" sessions start

Thursday 17th September

- Y3 New School Year Meeting 9am
- Secondary Transfer MS Teams meeting, 5pm

Wednesday 23rd September

- Individual and sibling school photos (morning)

Thursday 24th September

- PTA Bag2School collection

Friday 25th September

- Whole School Mass 9.30am

Tuesday 29th September

- Y6 Class Mass 9.30am

Monday 5th October

- Y5 Viking Workshop

Tuesday 6th October

- Y5 class Mass

Attendance

We place great importance on school attendance and hope you do too.

The weekly attendance figures are as follows.

The winners for this week are

Year 1 with **98.9%**

Our total school attendance this week is **97.9%**



IMPORTANT DATES

Please note the following dates for our New School Year Meetings which will take place in your child's classroom. The meeting will start at **9am** and be approximately 30 minutes. **You are welcome to walk your child into their classroom and wait with them until the meeting starts.**

Tuesday 15th September - Y4

Wednesday 16th September - Y2

Thursday 17th September - Y3

We will hold a meeting from Reception children later in the term once they have settled into their new school routine.

Parent Reading Sessions

This October, we are excited to begin our informative **Family Learning sessions**. This term, we will focus on **Reading** – sharing ways you can support and guide your child's reading at home.

For KS1, we will be exploring how to build phonics skills; whilst in KS2, introduce strategies you can use to encourage your child to become a confident and enthusiastic reader. We anticipate the sessions will be 45-60 minutes in length, starting at **9am in the hall**. The children will join us half way through the session for you to work with them.

Friday 2nd October—Year 2

Friday 9th October—Year 1

Friday 16th October—Year 5+6

Friday 23rd October—Year 3+4

For our new reception parents, we will be sending some Stay and Play dates in November—please keep a look out in your EYFS newsletter.

Science Poster - Autumn 1 term

We are excited to be starting another Science Poster theme this half term, focusing on **scientists from around the world**.

We look forward to seeing the children's creative and inspiring poster creations and learning about the amazing scientists who have helped shape our world



Holy Ghost's Science Poster Theme Autumn 1 Term

Scientists of the World!



"He described plant life, from the cedar of Lebanon to the hyssop that grows out of walls. He also taught about animals and birds, reptiles and fish."

— 1 Kings 4:33



The poster could include:



A chosen famous scientist such as George Washington Carver, Katherine Johnson, Jane Goodall, Gregor Mendel, Michael Faraday, Dorothy Hodgkin, Lord Patrick Vallance, Dr. Maggie Aderin-Pocock, Sir David Attenborough or Louis Pasteur.

Or, why not discover a scientist you have never heard of before?

You could even investigate Solomon and explore the Bible's description of his knowledge of the natural world!

Can you design your poster digitally, create a scientist profile, draw a scientific diagram, make a timeline, include an experiment or investigation, create a fact box, add photographs, use speech bubbles, include graphs or statistics, or even create a 3D model of something connected to your scientist or their discovery!

Remember, a great scientist doesn't simply know the answers — **a great scientist asks great questions.**



"He draws up the drops of water, which distil in mist from his vapour."

— Job 36:27



Please bring in your wonderful science posters no later than the last Monday of the term (19th October), and we will show the rest of the school!

☀ We can't wait to see your chosen scientist poster! ☀

Ms. Zammit, Science and ICT Lead

