



Holy Family RC Primary School Newsletter

"Working together as a family, following in the footsteps of Jesus, always giving our best."

Mrs L. Mills, Headteacher- holyfamilyprm@cardiff.gov.uk

Priest in charge: Father Solomon

Weekend Mass times- Saturday 6.00pm, Sunday 9.30am

Telephone: School 029 20565354 Church: 029 20230492

School website address – <https://www.holyfamilyprm.co.uk>

13th December 2024

3rd Sunday of Advent

This weekend marks the **third Sunday of Advent**; the children are learning about the importance of preparing for the arrival of Jesus.



An Advent Prayer to share with your child

In his love Jesus has filled us with joy
As we prepare to celebrate his birthday
So that when he comes
He may find us watching in prayer
Our hearts filled with wonder and praise

The Advent Wreath

Most churches have at the heart of their worship an Advent wreath. The origins of the evergreen wreath are ancient and probably pagan, but there is a symbolism with the wreath and its five candles that is useful in retelling the Christmas story.

The rose-pink candle will be lit this weekend- **The Shepherd's Candle**, symbolising joy.





Christmas Mass Times at Holy Family and St. Mary of the Angels

Holy Family

Christmas Eve Mass 6pm

Christmas Day Mass 9.30am

St Mary of the Angels

Christmas Eve Mass 9pm

Christmas Day Mass 11am



Lateness

This has become a problem again, in all of the Classes. School begins at 8.55am, therefore all children must be on site for that time. It is extremely disruptive when children are late for the following reasons:

1. They miss the vitally important introduction to the day's learning
2. The Teacher must get the Register back out to record the late mark (this stops them from teaching)
3. The Dinner register must be changed (this stops the teacher from teaching)
4. Ms Jenkins/ Mrs Chivers/ Mrs Mills must leave the Office to escort children to their Classroom, particularly if they are in the Foundation Phase. This leaves the Office unstaffed; the telephone and door unanswered and important administration work interrupted.
5. Some children receive additional learning interventions from the Teaching Assistants, these begin at 8.55, your child would then miss these short but very important daily sessions. They cannot be rescheduled as the Teaching Assistants work to very tight timetables.
6. Most importantly they miss out on valuable learning opportunities and, they are often very embarrassed if they are regularly late.



Please make every effort to enable your child to start school at 8.55am. Persistent latecomers are now being referred to the School Attendance Officer and could result in a referral to Social Services.

Attendance

If your child is unwell, please telephone the school the first morning of their absence; we have a dedicated telephone line where you can leave a message. If your child is unwell in the morning but then perks up, please bring them into school, they will then get their afternoon mark.



Attendance Matters

Attendance Percentage	Days at School	Number of Absences		
100%	190	0	Well Done	Best chances of success.
95%	180	10		
90%	171	19	'We are Worried'	Poor Attendance—Less chance of success
85%	161	29		
80%	152	38	'We are Seriously Concerned'	Very Poor Attendance—Serious impact on education and reduces life chances.
75%	143	47		

Applications to Reception Class September 2025

Applications for Reception Class for September 2025 opened on Monday 11th November. You now need to apply online for a place at Holy Family via the Cardiff Council website, School admissions section. The closing date is 13th January 2025. Here is the link to the Cardiff Council website:

<https://www.cardiff.gov.uk/ENG/resident/Schools-and-learning/Schools/Applying-for-a-school-place/Primary-school/Pages/default.aspx>

Please contact the Office if you need any help.

Christmas Lunch

The date for lunch is **Wednesday 18th December**. There will be no alternative option on the menu- **if your child does not like Christmas Lunch, they will need to bring a Packed Lunch.** All children are entitled to a free lunch. You need to order via Parent pay, the last date for ordering is **Friday 13th December**. The school will provide a Christmas Cracker for every child.



MENU	
Main Course	Roast Chicken, Stuffing Ball, Roast Potatoes, Choice of Vegetables, Gravy and Cranberry Sauce
Main Course (Plant-Based)	Plant Based Cutlet, Stuffing Ball, Roast Potatoes, Choice of Vegetables, Gravy and Cranberry Sauce
Dessert	Chocolate Ice Cream Yule Log and Mandarins
Dessert (Plant-Based)	Dairy Free Ice Cream and Mandarins

Christingle Carol Service



This will take place on **Thursday December 19th at 9.30a.m.** Please provide your child with an **Orange**, we will supply the sweets and the ribbon. Oranges need to be in school by **Wednesday 18th December**. There will be limited space for parents to attend, due to our growing number of pupils.



Christmas Disco for all pupils

We are very grateful to Karl who will as usual provide a disco for the children. Each Class will have a Disco session in the Hall on **Friday December 20th**. The children can bring their own personal plate of food for the afternoon of the disco. The children will be provided with drinks. The children do not need to wear school uniform the day of the Disco.



School uniform labelled

Please ensure all uniform is labelled, particularly Jumpers and Fleece. Thank you.

Sharing success

If your child achieves something we can celebrate, either email a photograph or the child can bring in their certificates, trophies etc. We will publish the good news in the Newsletter.

Diary dates 2024/25

These will be regularly updated:

December

Tuesday 17th December Class 5 and Class 6 visit the National Museum of Wales

Wednesday 18th December Christmas Lunch for the children

Thursday 19th December Christingle Carol Service 9.30am

Friday 20th December Christmas Disco for the children- in the afternoon. School closes for the Christmas holidays 3.30pm

January

Monday 6th January Inset Day school closed to children

Tuesday 7th January children return to school

Monday 13th January closing date for applications for children starting Reception September 2025

Friday 24th January St Dwynwen's Day – children to wear red

February

Tuesday February 11th Safer Internet Day

Thursday 13th February Valentine Disco. Classes 1, 2, and 3 4.15pm-5.15pm. Classes 4, 5 and 6 5.30pm-6.45pm.

Friday 21st February Inset Day. School closed to children. Half term begins

March

Monday 3rd March children return to school after half term

Wednesday 5th March Ash Wednesday Lent begins

Friday 7th March St David's Day Celebrations

Monday 10th March World Book Day

Monday 17th March children in Year 6 attend Llangrannog Residential Centre

Wednesday 19th March children in Year 6 return from Llangrannog Residential Centre

Monday March 24th Swimming course for Year 6 begins - 2weeks

April

Friday 4th April Y6 swimming course finishes

Monday 7th April Class 1, 2 and 3 Palm Sunday Assembly 3pm

Tuesday 8th April Class 4 Last Supper Assembly 3pm

Wednesday 9th April Class 5 The Agony in the Garden and Trial of Jesus Assembly 3pm

Thursday 10th April Class 6 Crucifixion of Jesus Assembly 3pm

Friday 11th April Easter Raffle and school closes for the Easter holidays at 3.30pm

Monday 28th April children return to school after the Easter holidays

Monday 28th April Y5 children attend Manor Adventure Abernant Residential Centre

Wednesday 28th April Y5 children return from Manor Adventure Abernant Residential Centre

May

Monday 5th May school closed for Bank Holiday Monday

Monday 12th May National tests begin for Classes 3-6

Friday 23rd May National tests finish. **School closes for half term 3.30pm**

June

Monday 2nd June school closed to children for an Inset Day

Thursday 19th June Sports Day

Thursday 26th June reserve Sports Day if weather is poor on June 19th

July

Tuesday 8th July Class 5 and 6 Play 2pm

Wednesday 9th July Class 5 and 6 Play 2pm

Thursday 17th July Year 6 Leavers' Mass and Assembly

Monday 21st July Inset Day – school closes for the summer holidays

Inset Days 2024/25

Monday 6th January 2025,

Friday February 21st 2025,

Monday June 2nd 2025

Monday 21st July 2025

Term Dates 2024/25

Term	Term begins	Half Term begins	Half Term ends	Term ends
Autumn Term	Monday 2/9/2024	Monday 28/10/2024	Friday 1/11/2024	Friday 20/12/2024
Spring Term	Monday 6/1/25	Monday 24/2/25	Friday 28/2/25	Friday 11/4/25
Summer Term <small>*5/5/25 May Day Bank Holiday</small>	Monday 28/4/25	Monday 26/5/25	Friday 30/5/25	Monday 21/7/25

Term Dates 2025/26

Term	Term begins	Half Term begins	Half Term ends	Term ends
Autumn Term	Monday 1/9/2025	Monday 27/10/2025	Friday 31/10/2025	Friday 19/12/2025
Spring Term	Monday 5/1/26	Monday 16/2/26	Friday 20/2/26	Friday 27/3/26
Summer Term <small>*4/5/26 May Day Bank Holiday</small>	Monday 13/4/26	Monday 25/5/26	Friday 29/5/26	Monday 20/7/26



Class One



We collected leaves from the playground and made our own Advent wreath.



We have been making advent wreaths out of play-dough and leaves.



Our Nativity Story





Class 2



Penny retold the events of when the angels appeared to the shepherds. Scan the QR code to hear her fabulous account.

Scan with Seesaw to view this work



Harry tells of the singing and dancing shepherds on the hillside. Scan the QR code to hear more.

Scan with Seesaw to view this work



We have been learning about The Visit of the Shepherds to Baby Jesus. We used Seesaw to create a Nativity scene and then recorded ourselves retelling the events.

We also researched famous people in the History of Space travel. We discovered some very interesting facts.



Yuri Gagarin was the first man in space.



Valentina Tereshkova was the first woman in space.

Neil Armstrong was the first man on the moon.



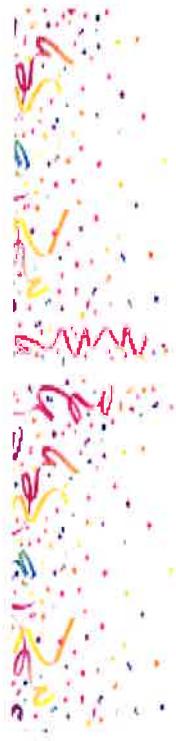


Class 3 and 4 Nativity 2024



This week Classes 3 and 4 performed their Christmas concert 'Bethlehem Ballroom'.



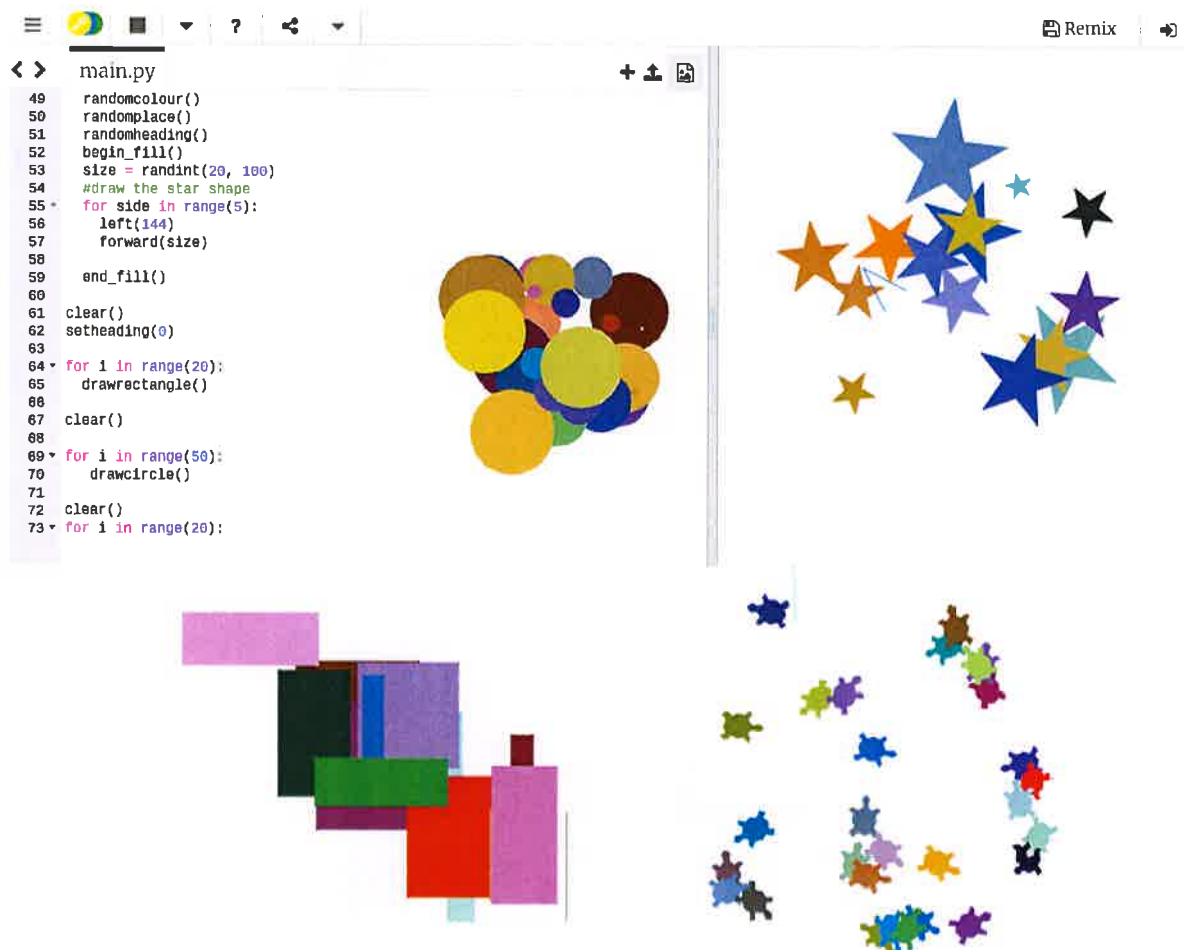
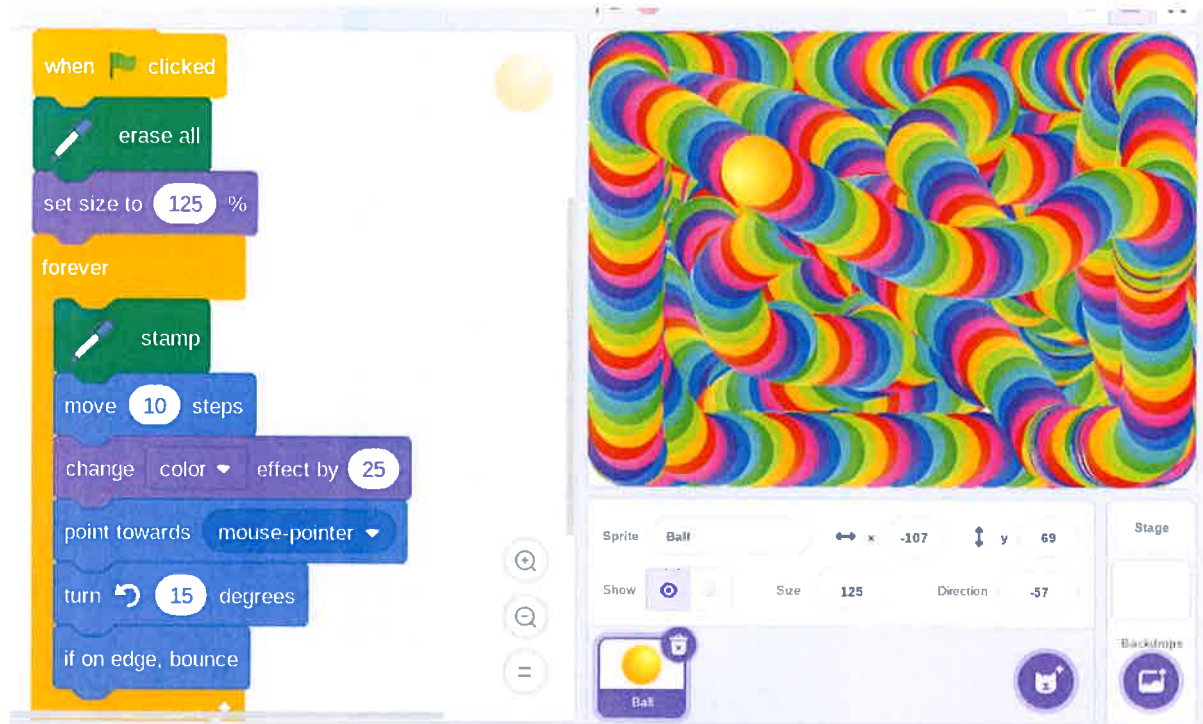


*Congratulations
On Your Great Performance*



Art through Programming in class 5

Class 5 have used Scratch and Python to code repeated patterns for our art context "gallery" this week. Here are some examples from Keegan, Esme K and Mason:





Class 6

Vincent Van

Gogh

Childhood:

Vincent Van Gogh was born on 30th March 1853, in Zundert, Netherlands. He lived with his mother, father, his two brothers and three sisters, in The Hague. His father was a bookbinder, so he grew up in an upper middle-class environment.

Adulthood:

Vincent Van Gogh studied theology initially but he then left college and never went back. Van Gogh became inspired by art, following a period of severe depression for nearly a year. He eventually decided to take his family's advice and become an artist. He'd always enjoyed drawing and liked art. But this was still a bit of a stab in the dark, as Vincent was certainly not a natural talent. With his determination to become an artist, in just less than 10 years, he had created approximately 900 paintings and sketches. Art historians believe the first painting of Vincent van Gogh is 'Still Life with Cabbage and Clogs', created some time during November/December in 1881. One of his most famous paintings is 'Starry Night' and his most valuable is 'Orchard with Cypresses.' In 2022, this painting sold for over £100,000,000. Vincent Van Gogh is today one of the most popular of the Post-Impressionist Painters, although he was not widely appreciated during his lifetime. He is now famed for the great vitality of his works which are characterised by expressive and emotive use of brilliant colour and energetic application of paint.

Death and Legacy

Vincent van Gogh died on the 29th July 1890, aged 37. He was buried at Auvers on 30 July 1890. His legacy is a large body of art works: over 850 paintings and almost 1,300 works on paper. His work includes landscapes, still life, portraits, and self-portraits, most of which are characterised by bold colours and dramatic brushwork that contributed to the rise of expressionism in modern art. Van Gogh's work was beginning to gain critical attention before he died. He will be always be remembered by his art masterpieces. His most popular quote ever is, **"I dream my painting, and then I paint my dream."** This famous Van Gogh quote perfectly captures his imaginative approach to art. For Van Gogh, painting was not just a visual exercise but an expression of his deepest dreams and emotions. His paintings and drawings will never die, they will always be admired and he will live on through his amazing art work. He has left behind an incredible legacy.

