



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>

5th December 2025

Catholic Life of the School

2nd Sunday of Advent

This weekend marks the **second 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 second purple candle will be lit this weekend- **The Bethlehem Candle, symbolising faith.**

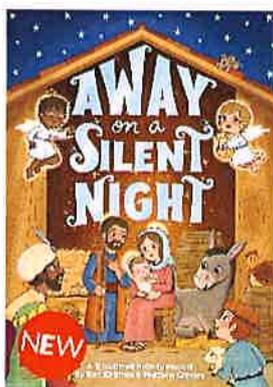




The centre candle is white and is called the **Christ Candle**. It is traditionally lit on Christmas Eve or Day.

Christmas Plays 2025

Class 3 and 4 will perform the Nativity:



Class 5 and 6 will perform their Play in June.

Class 3 and 4 performance dates are: **Wednesday 10th December and Thursday 11th December at 2pm.**

A maximum of 80 tickets will be sold for each performance. We can only allow **80** people in the audience due to fire regulations. All seating as usual will be unreserved. **Tickets for the Plays are £2 each, payable via Parent Pay from Monday 24th November. Your tickets will be sent home with your child. We also keep a list of all tickets sold for fire regulations.**

Christmas dates

Christmas Lunch

The date for lunch is **Wednesday 17th 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, however you need to order via Parent Pay, the last date for ordering is Friday 12th December.** The school will provide a Christmas Cracker for every child.

Menu: Turkey and stuffing, pigs in blankets, roast potatoes, selection of vegetables. Vegetarian option: Plant based cutlet and vegetarian sausage, roast potatoes, selection of vegetables. Dessert: Christmas Cupcake/fruit.



Christingle Carol Service

This will take place on **Thursday December 18th at 9.30a.m.** Please provide your child with an **Orange**, we will supply the raisins and the ribbon. Oranges need to be in school by **Wednesday 17th December**



at the latest but earlier if possible. There will be limited space for parents to attend, due to all the pupils being in the Hall.

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 19th**. Children can bring their own personal plate of food for the afternoon of the disco. The children will be provided with drinks; they do not need to wear school uniform the day of the Disco. School closes for the Christmas holidays on **Friday 19th December**. The children will return to school on **Monday 5th January 2026**.



Applications to Reception Class September 2026

Applications for Reception Class for September 2026 opened on **Monday 10th 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 **Monday 12th 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.

Sickness reporting

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.

Inset days 2025+26

Friday 13th February

Monday 1st June

Monday 20th July

Diary Dates 2025+26- these will be updated regularly

December

Wednesday 10th December Class 3+4 Play

Thursday 11th December Class 3+4 Play

Tuesday 16th December Advent Mass 10.30 in the Hall

Wednesday 17th December Christmas Lunch

Thursday 18th December Christingle Carol Service

Friday 19th December Disco in school during the afternoon

Friday 19th December school closes for the Christmas holidays

January

Monday 5th January children return to school

February

Saturday February 7th children make their first Sacrament of Reconciliation 10am at Holy Family Church

Friday February 13th Inset Day school closed to children

Monday 16th February half term begins

Friday 20th February half term ends

Monday 23rd February children return to school

Friday 27th February- celebrating St David's Day- children to wear traditional costume or red

March

Monday 16th March Y6 Residential visit to Llangrannog

Wednesday 18th March Y6 return from Llangrannog

Monday 23rd March Class 1,2 and 3 present Palm Sunday 3pm

Tuesday 24th March Class 4 present The Last Supper 3pm

Wednesday 25th March Class present The Trial of Jesus and Garden of Gethsemane

Thursday 26th March Class 6 present the Crucifixion

Friday March 27th Easter Raffle

Friday 27th March school closes for the Easter holidays

April

Monday 13th April Children return to school after the Easter holidays

Monday 13th April Year 6 2 week swimming course at Fairwater Leisure begins

Wednesday 29th April **Class 5** Parental Consultation Meeting

Thursday 30th April Classes 1,2, 3, 4 and 6 Parental Consultation Evening

May

Monday 4th May Bank Holiday

Wednesday 6th May **Class 5** Parental Consultation Meeting

Thursday 7th May Classes 1,2, 3, 4 and 6 Parental Consultation Evening

Friday 22nd May school closes for Half term

Monday 25th May half term begins

Friday 29th May half term ends

June

Monday 1st June Inset Day School closed for children

Tuesday 2nd June children return to school after half term

Sunday June 21st children make their First Holy Communion 9.30am at Holy Family Church

Wednesday 17th June Sports Day

Wednesday 24th June Sports Day if the weather is poor on the previous date

July

Monday 6th July Class 5 and 6 Play

Tuesday 7th July Class 5 and 6 Play

Tuesday 14th July Year 6 Leavers' Assembly

Friday 17th July school closes for the summer holidays

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

Term Dates 2026/27

Term	Term begins	Half Term begins	Half Term ends	Term ends
Autumn Term	Tuesday 1/9/2026	Monday 26/10/2026	Friday 30/10/2026	Friday 18/12/2026
Spring Term	Monday 4/1/27	Monday 8/2/27	Friday 12/2/27	Friday 19/3/27
Summer Term <small>* May Day Bank Holiday 3/5/27</small>	Monday 5/4/27	Monday 31/5/27	Friday 4/6/27	Tuesday 20/7/27



AT FITZALAN HIGH SCHOOL

LECKWITH ROAD, CARDIFF, CF11 8AP

STARTING SATURDAY 10TH JANUARY 2026

(NEW PLAYERS CAN JOIN AT ANYTIME DURING THE YEAR (PROVIDING PLACES ARE AVAILABLE))



Group 1	9:00am – 10:00am	Ages 4 - 6
Group 2	10:00am – 11:00am	Ages 7 - 8
Group 3	11:00am – 12:00pm	Ages 9 - 12

Dear Parents,

I am delighted to inform you that following the success of previous year's courses we are expanding the football coaching programme for the season. **The course will run on a weekly basis EVERY SATURDAY** during school term times.

All of our courses are run by **F.A. QUALIFIED COACHES INCLUDING FORMER CARDIFF CITY & INTERNATIONAL FOOTBALLER TONY CAPALDI**. All of our coaches have been **DBS/CRB police checked**. The course is open to **boys and girls** aged between 4 and 12. All abilities are catered for with total beginners introduced through **fun and confidence building** practices. The course is tightly structured to ensure all aspects of football skills are developed.

At the end of the term (usually 10-15 weeks) every child will receive a merit **trophy** and course **certificate**, with chances to win extra trophies including penalty shoot out, american shoot out and champions league competitions.

The cost of the course is £7.50 per week, which is payable every four weeks (£30) with the first payment due on week one. Parents are welcome to stay and watch however the club is fully supervised so children may be left in our care. **We have the use of excellent facilities with the course held indoors in the large sports hall.**

**TO BOOK A PLACE ON TO THE COURSE PLEASE TEXT
FITZALAN + CHILD'S NAME & AGE + GROUP NUMBER
and receive confirmation by text**

07856 315 637

Tony Capaldi (Head Coach) Steven Nugent (Course Co-ordinator)



Foundation Phase Nativity 2025
Come to the Manger!



Well done to all the children who took part in the Foundation Phase Nativity.

You were all amazing!

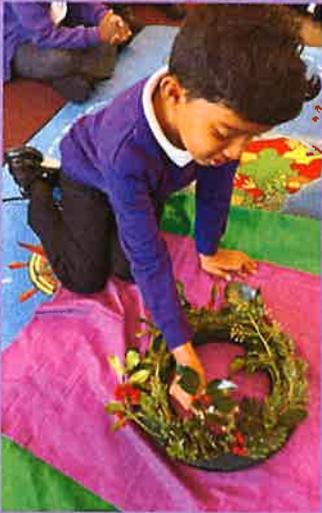




CLASS THREE



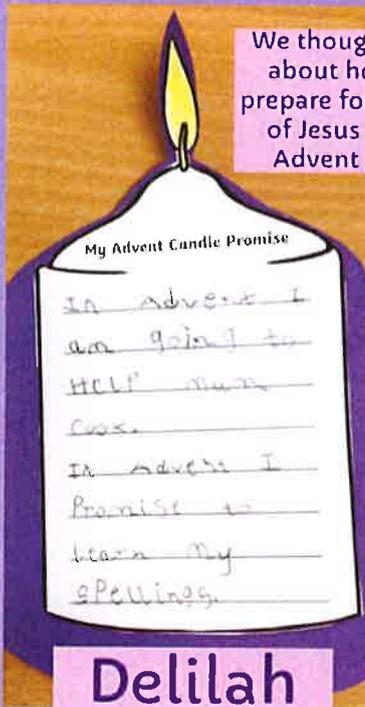
This week in Class Three we have been learning all about the season of Advent.



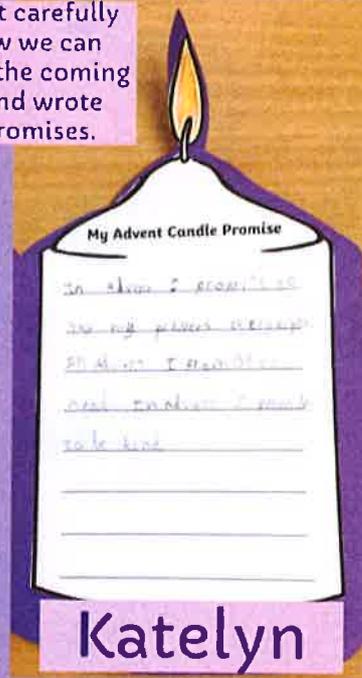
We created our own Advent wreath using evergreen leaves.

We researched how Advent is celebrated around the world.

We thought carefully about how we can prepare for the coming of Jesus and wrote Advent promises.



Delilah



Katelyn

Advent around the World

In Mexico they have a nine day procession from 16th to 24th December where children act the Nativity.



At the end of the night they hit a piñata.

In China beautiful paper lanterns are made and displayed on the houses.



In the Philippines the Christmas season begins in September



Daide



Winnie

Class Four.

WALT: Describe how Christians prepare for the coming of Christ during Advent.



We use a Jesse tree to remind us of Jesus' family tree all the way back to King David.



We make Christingles. This means Christ's light. The orange reminds us that God created the world for us. The candle reminds us that Jesus is the light of the world, and the red ribbon reminds us of Jesus' death.



We count down the days to Christmas with an Advent calendar. We open a window a day.

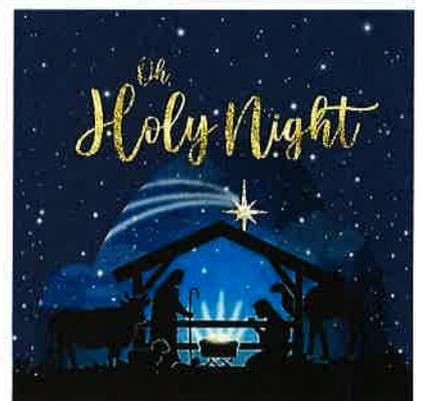


The Advent wreath has 3 purple candles for Hope, Peace and Love. One pink candle for Joy and a white candle to represent Christ. One candle is lit each Sunday during Advent.

The evergreen leaves show that God's love for us will never change.



When we give our gifts to each other it reminds us of the gifts that the three wise men brought to baby Jesus.



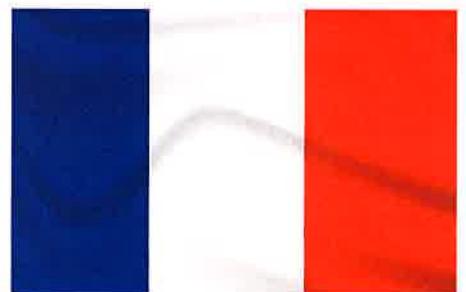
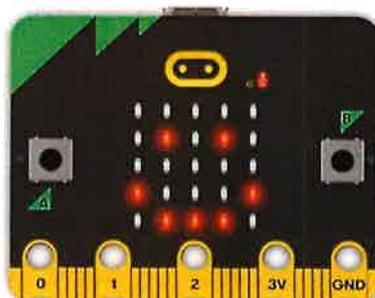
By Nathan Kolawole.

CODING IN CLASS 5

To complement our French language lessons, class 5 have learned how to program a Micro:bit to play the French song "Frere Jacques". As with all songs, we had to use lots of iteration (loops) and ensure that the beats were correct so that the timing was right. Here are 2 digital leaders showing their finished algorithm playing:



```
when button A is pressed
  set tempo to (bpm) 120
  repeat 2 times
  do
    play tone Middle C for 1 = beat until done
    play tone Middle D for 1 = beat until done
    play tone Middle E for 1 = beat until done
    play tone Middle C for 1 = beat until done
  repeat 2 times
  do
    play tone Middle B for 1 = beat until done
    play tone Middle F for 1 = beat until done
    play tone Middle C for 2 = beat until done
  repeat 2 times
  do
    play tone High C for 1 = beat until done
    play tone High D for 1 = beat until done
    play tone High C for 1 = beat until done
    play tone Middle A# for 1 = beat until done
    play tone Middle A for 2 = beat until done
    play tone Middle B for 1 = beat until done
  repeat 2 times
  do
    play tone Middle D for 2 = beat until done
    play tone Middle C for 2 = beat until done
    play tone Middle B for 2 = beat until done
    rest for 1 = beat
```



Class 6

Elizabeth I



Synopsis

Elizabeth I (1533–1603) was the last and one of the most famous monarchs of the Tudor dynasty, reigning as Queen of England and Ireland for over 44 years, from 1558 until her death. The daughter of King Henry VIII and his second wife, Anne Boleyn, Elizabeth's path to the throne was dramatic and uncertain; she was declared illegitimate after her mother's execution and even imprisoned by her half-sister, Mary I, before becoming queen at the age of 25.

Childhood/Youth

Elizabeth I was born on September 7, 1533, in Greenwich Palace. Her family included her father who was Henry VIII and her mother was Anne Boleyn, Henry VIII's second wife. When Elizabeth was just 2 years old, her mother, Anne Boleyn was accused of committing adultery and plotting against Henry VIII's life and was later executed in the tower of London. Elizabeth, spent much of her childhood in Hatfield house and was given an excellent education. She was fluent in many languages such as French, Italian, Spanish, Latin, and some Greek. She was a good sportswoman, she was extremely intelligent, just like her father. Her life began to slowly improve when Edward VI was born and when Catherine Parr was married to her father Henry VIII. Catherine Parr tried to encourage and support Elizabeth I and Mary I and their lives began to become more successful.

The Reign of Elizabeth I

Elizabeth I, born in 1533, became Queen of England and Ireland in 1558 and reigned until her death in 1603, marking the end of the Tudor dynasty. The daughter of Henry VIII and Anne Boleyn, her early life was marked by political turmoil, including her mother's execution and her own temporary removal from the line of succession. Despite these

challenges, Elizabeth proved to be a shrewd and resilient ruler. She established the Protestant Church of England through the Elizabethan Religious Settlement, strengthened the monarchy, and guided the nation through threats such as the Spanish Armada. Her reign, known as the Elizabethan Era, was a golden age of exploration, literature, and cultural flourishing, with figures like Shakespeare and Marlowe shaping English identity. Choosing never to marry, she became known as the "Virgin Queen," a symbol of independence and authority. Upon her death, she was succeeded by her cousin James VI of Scotland, uniting the crowns and beginning the Stuart dynasty.

Death and Legacy

Elizabeth I died on March 24, 1603, at the age of 69, with the succession passing to James VI of Scotland, who became James I of England. Her legacy includes a period of English prosperity and stability, the firm establishment of Protestantism, and a strong national identity, but also left unresolved issues, particularly in Ireland. Her reign is remembered for its cultural flourishing and the defeat of the Spanish Armada, while her personal life and public image as the "Virgin Queen" remain iconic. "I know that I have the body of a weak and feeble woman, but I have the heart and stomach of a king, and of a king of England too." This quote shows that female monarchs were often seen as weak or unsuitable rulers (partially due to the tumultuous reign of her half-sister Mary I), Elizabeth used this declaration to assert her strength, courage, and resolve to lead her people in battle. She distinguished herself from the symbolic power of the monarchy, aligning herself with the traditional, strong image of a male ruler (her father, Henry VIII) to inspire confidence and loyalty among her troops. Her words were a powerful piece of rhetoric, designed to rally the English forces against a superior Spanish invasion force by demonstrating her personal commitment to defend the realm, even at the risk of her own life. A truly amazing monarch, whose legacy will always be remembered.

