



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>

12th December 2025



Many congratulations to Mrs Osborn who after a very rigorous recruitment process is now the permanent Deputy Head Teacher of Holy Family School. We are very lucky to have her in this role, her dedication and commitment to Holy Family is outstanding.

Catholic Life of the School

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.



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

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

Holy Family

Christmas Eve **Mass 6pm**

Christmas Day **Mass 9.30am**

St Mary of the Angels

Christmas Eve **Mass 9pm**

Christmas Day **Mass 11am**

St Francis

Christmas Eve **Mass 6pm**

Christmas Day **Mass 9.30am**



Christmas week 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

Tuesday 16th December Advent Mass 10.30 in the Hall

Wednesday 17th December Christmas Lunch

Thursday 18th December Christingle Carol Service 9.30am

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

Wednesday 17th June Sports Day

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

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



Class One



What a busy week in Reception!

We have been completing lots of Christmas activities.



We made Christmas cards and decorations.



We sorted and ordered the presents by size.



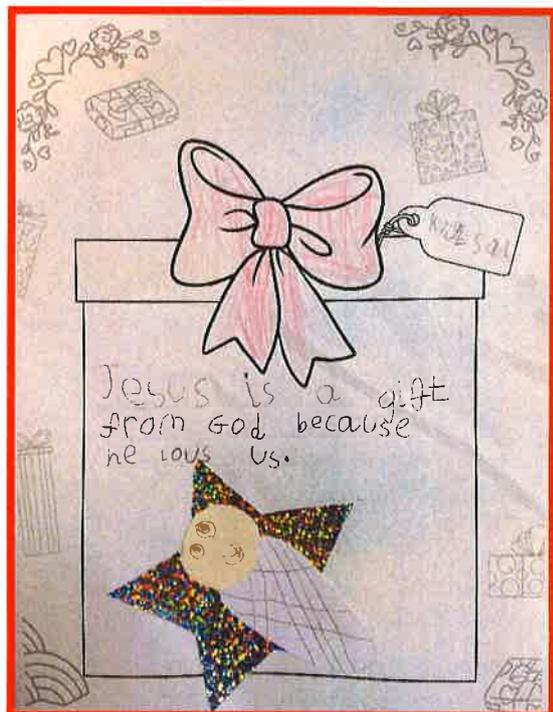
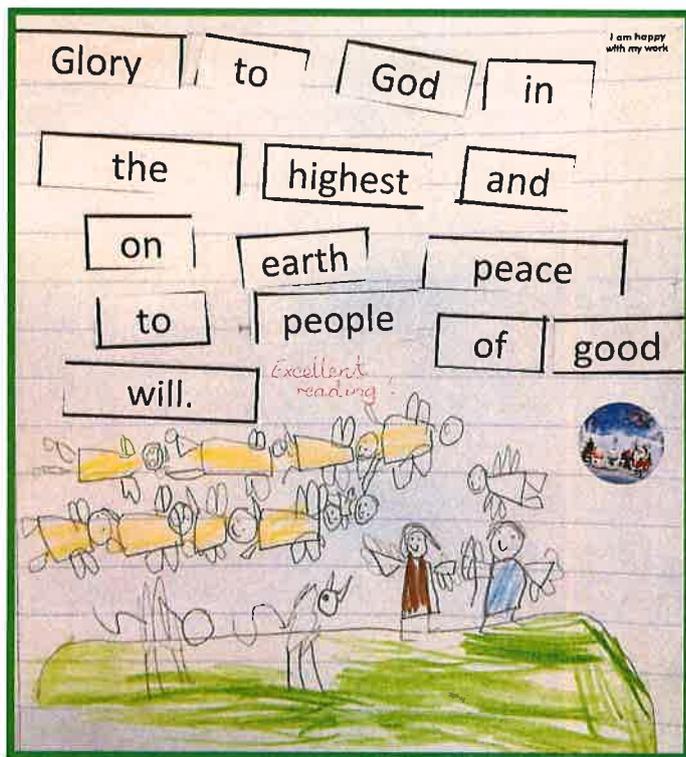
We had great fun learning about more and less and bowling with Santa! We kept score.





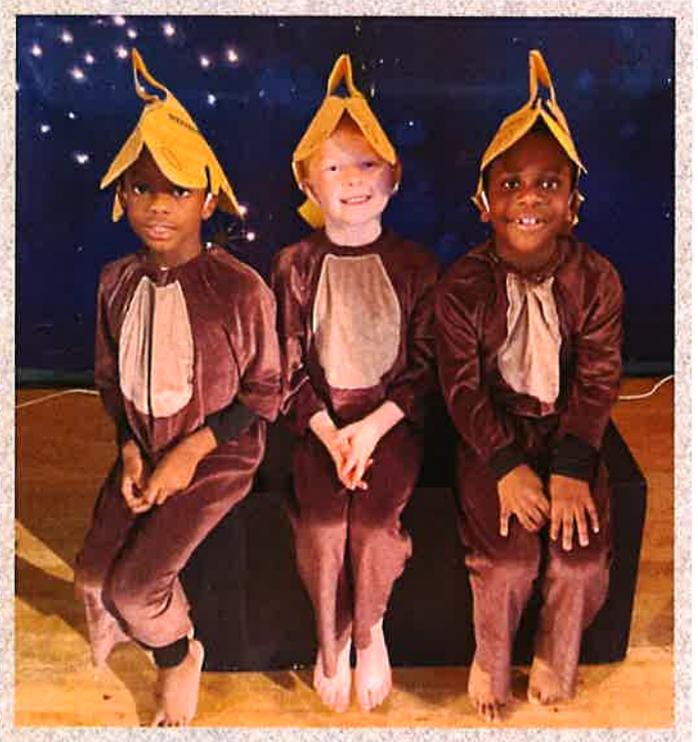
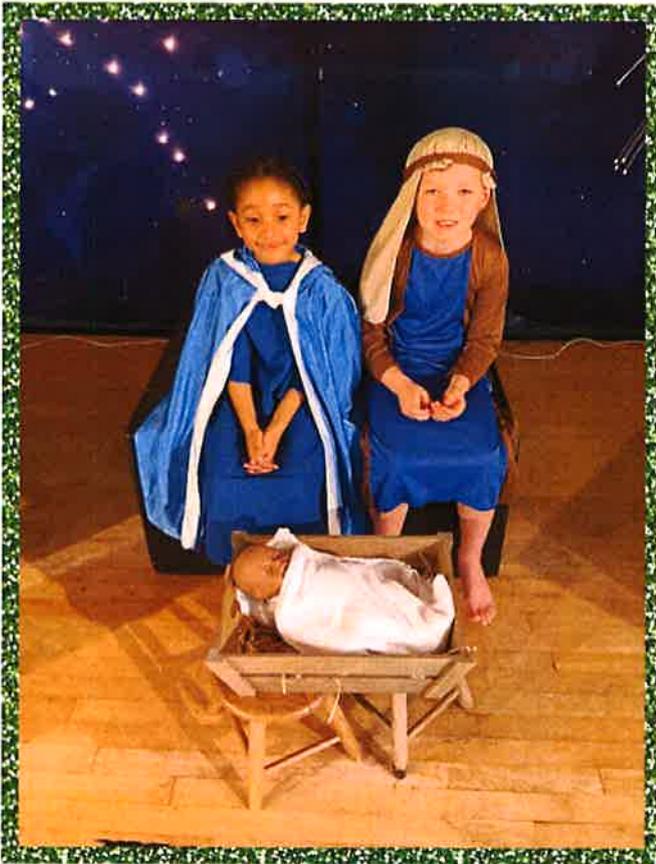
CLASS 2

This week we have been learning more of the Christmas story, including when the Shepherds were visited by the angels and told to go to Bethlehem to see the Baby Jesus. We have also thought how Jesus is a very special gift for all the world sent to earth so God could show how much He loves us all.



Class Three and Four Nativity

This week we performed our Nativity 'Away on a Silent Night'.



The children thoroughly enjoyed singing and performing to the audience.



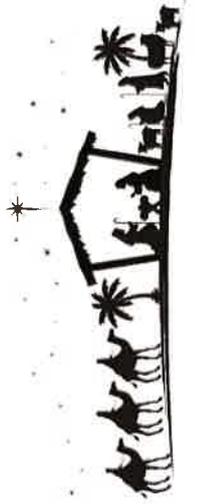


Well done to all the children who took part in the nativity.





M E R R Y
CHRISTMAS
&
HAPPY NEW YEAR



Class 5 Tudors context

Henry VIII - a biography by Elena Abin



“The plain truth is, that he was a most intolerable ruffian, a disgrace to human nature”.

Introduction

What do you think about Henry VIII? Some people think that he was a petrifying King who executed two of his wives by beheading them. Henry VIII was volatile (this means you wouldn't know what mood he was in). King Henry VIII ruled England and Wales for 38 years. He became King at just 17 years old! He had a brother who was expected to be king but sadly his brother died at 15 years old.

Early Life

To begin with, Henry VIII was born on the 28 of June 1491 at Greenwich Place in London. Henry VIII became king in 1509 after his father king Henry VII.

Soon after he married his first wife Cathrine of Aragon (Spanish Princess). He was a very ruthless king. He also was vulnerable around women. He married Cathrine of Aragon just to have a good relationship with Spain. Henry VIII parents were Elizabeth of York and Henry VIII.

Becoming King

Henry VIII was well liked at the start of his reign. Henry VIII was intelligent, tall plus athletic. Also, Henry VIII loved music and wrote many songs. He also loved jousting. One day he got stabbed in his leg in a jousting accident and his leg never healed after the accident. Henry VIII knew many languages e.g. Greek, Spanish, French etc. He also loved horse riding - as you can tell he was a very athletic man. He was a very healthy man at the start of his reign, but when he got older, he got overweight. In addition, he got more bad tempered.

Henry's Six Wives

Henry VIII always wanted a son to be the next king, so he married 6 wives to get a son. His 6 wives were:

Class 5 Tudors context

- Catherine of Aragon - she got divorced. She was married to Henry VIII for nearly 24 years 1509 - 1533.
- Anne Boleyn - She was beheaded. Her marriage lasted less than 3 years from 1533 - 1536
- Jane Seymour - She died because of childbed fever. She was married to Henry VIII for 1 year and 5 months 1536 - 1537.
- Anne of Cleves - She got divorced. Her marriage lasted six months from Jan 1540 - July 1540.
- Catherine Howard - She got beheaded. Her marriage with Henry VIII lasted 5 months and 1 year 1540 - 1541.
- Cathrine Parr - She survived. She outlived Henry VIII. She was married to Henry VIII for three and a half years.

Everyone remembers it with a rhyme: "Divorced, beheaded and died. Divorced, beheaded and survived".

The Church of England

Henry VIII wanted to divorce his first wife Cathrine of Aragon, so he asked the Pope and the Pope said no. Then Henry VIII decided the Pope couldn't decide what he was going to do. After that, Henry VIII built the Church of England which is still here today. Henry VIII built the Church of England so he could divorce his wife Cathrine of Aragon. Henry VIII was in charge of the church so the Pope had no control over it.

What sort of person was he?

He was a powerful king who ruled England for 38 years. He was an intelligent man but at the same time he was a complicated man- deep inside he was insecure and wanted to be loved.

Later Years

Henry VIII died after a jousting accident when he got a wound in his leg that never healed. Also, Cathrine Parr -Henry VIII last wife- Catherine Parr was his nurse after he got the wound in his leg. The wound never healed. His reign lasted 38 years.

Fun Facts

He was so fat that the coffin broke.

He owned over 50 places.

He was a musician and was known as *the golden prince*.

MOTHER TERESA

SYNOPSIS

MOTHER TERESA WAS BORN ON 26 AUGUST 1910 SKOPJE, NORTH MACEDONIA. MOTHER TERESA WAS A ROMAN CATHOLIC NUN AND MISSIONARY WHO DEDICATED HER LIFE TO SERVING THE POOR, SICK, AND DYING. BORN IN SKOPJE (THEN THE OTTOMAN EMPIRE), SHE MOVED TO INDIA WHERE SHE FOUNDED THE MISSIONARIES OF CHARITY IN 1950 TO PROVIDE CARE FOR THOSE IN NEED. FOR HER SELFLESS WORK, SHE WAS AWARDED THE NOBEL PEACE PRIZE IN 1979 AND WAS LATER CANONIZED AS SAINT TERESA OF CALCUTTA IN 2016.

IMPACT

MOTHER TERESA'S IMPACT ON THE WORLD IS PRIMARILY THROUGH HER FOUNDING OF THE MISSIONARIES OF CHARITY, AN ORDER OF NUNS DEDICATED TO SERVING THE "POOREST OF THE POOR" THROUGH SOUP KITCHENS, ORPHANAGES, AND HOMES FOR THE SICK AND DYING. HER WORK PROVIDED AID TO MILLIONS, EARNED HER THE NOBEL PEACE PRIZE IN 1979, AND INSPIRED HER GLOBAL ORGANIZATION, WHICH CONTINUES TO ASSIST THE DESTITUTE, SICK, AND MARGINALIZED IN OVER 133 COUNTRIES.



WHY IS MOTHER TERESA A PROTAGONIST?

MOTHER TERESA IS CONSIDERED A PROTAGONIST DUE TO HER ACTIONS AS A HUMANITARIAN WHO DEDICATED HER LIFE TO SERVING THE "POOREST OF THE POOR" AND WAS A GLOBAL ADVOCATE FOR THE MARGINALIZED. HER LIFE IS SEEN AS A STORY OF SERVICE, LEADERSHIP, AND RESILIENCE, WHICH INSPIRED MILLIONS AND LED TO HER BEING CANONIZED AS A SAINT IN THE CATHOLIC CHURCH.



WHAT WE ADMIRE ABOUT MOTHER TERESA

I ADMIRE MOTHER TERESA BECAUSE SHE CONTINUED WORKING AND HELPING THE POOR AROUND THE WORLD EVEN WHEN SHE WAS OLD

AND DID NOT GIVE UP DOING SO. THIS SHOWS THAT SHE HAS DETERMINED AND REALLY WANTS TO HELP THOSE IN NEED. SHE BELIEVED IN THE PRINCIPLES OF CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING. THESE PRINCIPLES REMIND US THAT EVERY PERSON IS CREATED IN GOD'S IMAGE, AND SOCIETY SHOULD SUPPORT THE DIGNITY AND WELL-BEING OF ALL ITS MEMBERS. MOTHER TERESA BELIEVED THAT WE SHOULD ADHERE TO THE COMMON GOOD AND CARE FOR THOSE LIVING IN POVERTY. SHE BELIEVED THAT THE WORLD/CREATION WAS A GIFT FROM GOD AND THAT WE SHOULD PROTECTING CREATION AND EVERYTHING IN IT.



"NOT ALL OF US CAN DO GREAT THINGS, BUT WE CAN DO SMALL THINGS WITH GREAT LOVE. PEACE BEGINS WITH A SMILE AND IF YOU JUDGE PEOPLE, YOU HAVE NO TIME TO LOVE THEM".