



HOLY SPIRIT CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

LIVE, LOVE, LEARN. TOGETHER WE WILL SOAR TO NEW HEIGHTS

The Fruit of the Holy Spirit

September

Welcome to our new look newsletter called 'The Fruit of Holy Spirit'. This newsletter celebrates the many wonderful events and exciting learning opportunities we have had in Holy Spirit, throughout the month of September. We have had such a fantastic start to the school year and our children and staff continue make me the proudest Headteacher each and every day.

I hope that you enjoy reading it!

Miss Sinead Walsh, Headteacher

Dear God, you are the giver of all good things. I pray to ask you to give me the fruits of the Spirit. Help me to love, be full of joy, peace, and patience. Help me be kind, good, faithful, and gentle. And finally, give me the self control to bear the fruit so others can see. Amen.

Be the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. – Galatians 5:22

On Tuesday 20th September all of our children and staff took part in our school mission day. This was a really special day, where we revisited our school mission statement...



At Holy Spirit,
With Christ as our inspiration,
Our love of one another,
Love of learning
And love of life itself
We will soar to new heights.



As part of the mission day, each class reflected on how they can live our mission statement and school motto out in Holy Spirit, in all that we do ...

Live, Love, Learn.

Together we will soar to new heights.



Each class visited our beautiful Prayer shed and said a prayer asking the Holy Spirit to help them to soar to new heights.

We are truly blessed with our wonderful grounds at Holy Spirit. Throughout the mission day, our children and staff visited our Sensory woods and listened to the wind chimes and birds singing.

This year we have introduced a value that we are going to focus on each month. For September our value was Responsibility. We have encouraged our children and staff to nominate anyone who has lived out this value. It was lovely to have our Values Celebration assembly on Friday. Well done to all of these children and staff for living out the value Responsibility so brilliantly this month! It has been lovely seeing our new student leadership team taking their new role so responsibly this month. They are outstanding role models for everyone at Holy Spirit.



Our value for the month of October is Kindness, already our children are being so kind by sharing what they have with others less fortunate. Our Rainbow donation boxes for Teardrops are filling up brilliantly!



Nursery



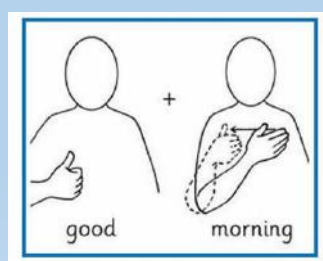
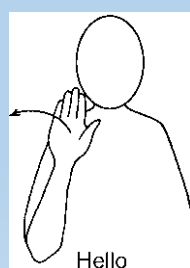
Miss Ashton, Mrs Fitzmaurice and Mrs Jackson are so proud of the boys and girls in Nursery. They have done a superb job of coming into school and settling into their day. We have had five new children join our class, we cannot wait to have even more fun and create wonderful memories with each other this year.



The children have enjoyed exploring our wonderful learning environment and have been working very hard!



The Children in Nursery participate in a Forest School session at least once each week. With a wonderful woodland on the school grounds they are able to access the natural environment in all seasons and weathers, allowing them to develop a relationship with the natural world. They have been busy identifying the different species of trees we have in our outdoor classroom and have particularly enjoyed playing tree tag and hide and seek.

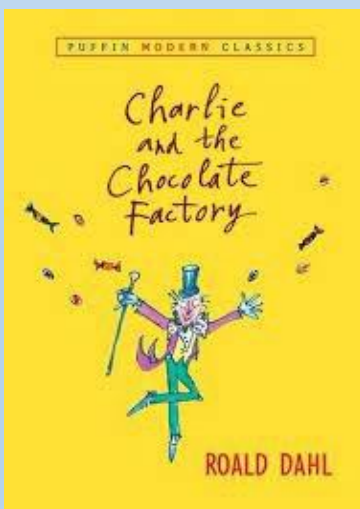


Here are the Makaton signs we have learnt so far!

Reception



Reception have settled extremely well into school life.
Here is some of the exciting things they have been up to



To celebrate Roald Dahl Day, the children in Reception listened to part of the story, Charlie and the Chocolate Factory.

They then made their own golden ticket and Wonker bar wrapper. Finally, they melted chocolate and made their own chocolate bar creations.



The children have been learning how to 'check in' and express how they are feeling. Each child has their own personalised peg doll which they can move within the wooden house depending on their mood.



The children have been taking part in their daily Squiggle whilst you Wiggle activities. Squiggle uses neurological and physiological movements to create marks. It gets the children moving, bopping and mark making in a fun and engaging way. Feel free to try this at home...<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ptFAL-eSvxU>

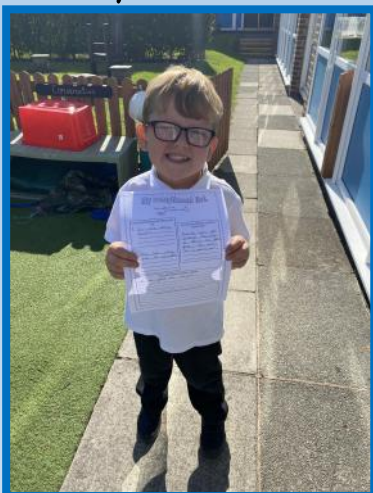
Year 1



New Goals



Compliments



What a great start to Year 1.
We have all been busy with
our new learning and we
have loved every minute of
it!



Responsibility



Achieving



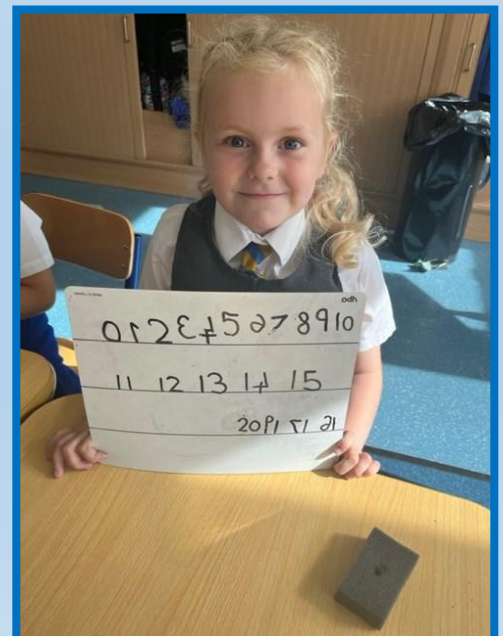
Living out our mission



Learn something new every day



We are AMAZING



Year 2



This is our fantastic Year 2 class for 2022-2023!

We have had a fantastic first few weeks in Year 2. Everyone has been working so hard and we have started the year really well. We have been learning about place value in maths, writing a factfile about Neil Armstrong in English, investigating everyday materials in Science and learning all about 'new beginnings' in RE. We hope you enjoy looking through some photographs of some of our learning below:

These photographs are from our Neil Armstrong session on the 12th September. We learnt all about his life and what he achieved



These photographs are from our whole school Mission Day on the 20th September. We reflected on our school mission statement, what our inspirations are and prayed for others



These photographs are from our second art lesson of our topic all about animal art. We created some fantastic silhouettes of different African animals:



Year 3



Year 3 have had a very busy start to their academic year. We have worked very hard and have transitioned well into KS2. Year 3 teachers are very proud of how well you have all worked so far and we are excited to share your learning with everyone throughout the year

Mission Day 2022

Year 3 really enjoyed their activities for our Mission Day. We had some peaceful reflection time, thinking of others, nature, love of life itself.



Science in Year 3

Year 3 are learning about rocks and their formations. We investigated different rock types by observing their features.



Discover features of rocks.

Fun Friday

We made cakes for our Fun Friday!

We then sold them for our mission day. We made yummy rice krispie cakes and everyone had a go at making them and a go at tasting them too!

Your child can have so much fun on a Fun Friday afternoon as long as their behaviour is great all week!

You can do it Year 3!



Cave Art in History



Year 3 created some fabulous Cave Art pictures in History. They pretended to be cavemen underneath their desks with just a torch to light the way. They replicated some fabulous cave art of animals, humans and weapons using pastels and charcoals. Great Work!



Progressive Sports

Year 3 have been enjoying their Monday Progressive Sports Sessions. They have been learning how to pass the ball and catch the ball in their rugby skills sessions. Well done Year 3 you have made so much progress in PE!

Year 4



What a fantastic start to Year 4! All of the children have settled in beautifully and we are so impressed with their attitude to their learning!

Here we are in Science, where we have begun our brand-new topic all about the digestive system, food chains and teeth!

In English, we have been really enjoying Michael Morpurgo's *Why The Whales Came*. We are right in the middle of the story and are all well and truly hooked! We can't wait to find out what happens to Daniel and Gracie in the story.

Our Maths are going really well; we have started the year with Place Value and can already find the value of large numbers up to 10,000!

Here we are enjoying some time in Forest School with Miss Ashton. We had so much fun creating with all of the natural resources we could find around us.





We have had some lovely experiences already this year!

We were invited to the Town Hall to learn all about AR. After walking around town and scanning all the codes we could find, we had fantastic fun watching the Artwork and Dramas created by so many schools around St Helens. In the afternoon, we created our own drawings and then brought them to life on the iPads!

We have also been lucky enough to be visited by AsCreatives for our Humanities topic, Ancient Greece. Zoe from AsCreatives spent the morning teaching us all about Ancient Greek myths and religion. We created our own freeze frames about poor Icarus, who flew too close to the sun and we had to find out who stole Zeus's lightning bolt by solving lots of Maths problems.



Scan these QR codes to see our wonderful learning experiences in video.



Year 5



R.E.

Our first unit in R.E. has been the theme of family; thinking about what 'family' means to us and who is 'family'. We have considered our unique talents and how we can use our personal qualities and talents to support others. We thought carefully about the qualities described by Paul in his letter to the Colossians which ones we already have and which we need to work on. We have reflected on the life of Maximillian Kolbe and how he used his uniqueness, which was inspired by God, to save the lives of hundreds of Jewish refugees during the Second World War. We love the song '10,000 Reasons' that we have just started learning and have attached a video of the class singing along



Maths:

In maths we have started by focusing on place value and our understanding of number. This is a crucially important topic which underpins our grasp of all areas of maths. We are continuing to make sure our recall of our times tables is as quick as possible. Some of us are so quick we can answer 144 questions in 10 minutes; onto division next.

English:

We have begun our learning in English by reading the text 'FarTHER' by Graham Baker-Smith. Set up on top of a cliff, there is a lonely house where a family live. The father is obsessed with the idea of flying, so much so that he ignores his family by trying to chase his dream. One of the first pieces of writing we have completed is describe the house on top of the cliff which has included using relative clauses to add extra information to our sentences. We have also been looking at different ways of punctuating our relative clauses using brackets, dashes and commas.



Science:

Within our science lessons we have had lots of fun learning all about Earth and space which the children have really enjoyed. Within one of our lessons the children were set the task of working as a team to correctly name and order the 8 planets that make up our solar system. They found this difficult at first but after learning a memorable acronym they were able to successfully do it!



History:

Within our History lessons we have travelled back in time to 700AD where we have been learning all about The Vikings and their invasion of Britain. The children have applied their maths skills and produced some amazing timelines detailing all the key events during the Viking era. They have also been using their research skills to find out why the Viking invaded Britain.

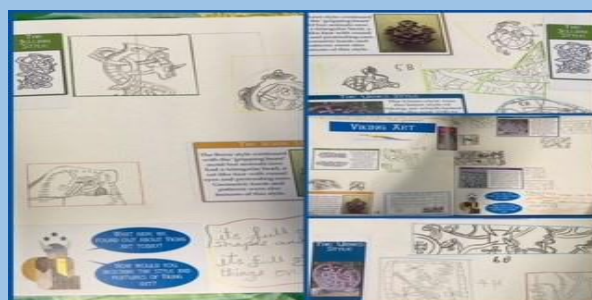
PE:

Within our PE lessons we have been exploring invasion games with our focus being Basketball and Hockey. The children have shown an excellent amount of skill and enjoyment within these lessons.



Art:

Within our Art lessons we have been looking at Viking art. The children have completed some super work where they have been exploring some of the key characteristics and features of Viking life using different art pencils



Year 6



We have had some Victorian artefacts loaned to us from the School's Library Service. We spent some time looking at them last week and imagining how much more challenging life would have been in the Victorian era than it is today.

Our history topic this half-term is The Victorians. We have been learning all about the events and inventions that occurred in this era and we spent some time arranging the events on a timeline – there were a lot of significant

1854 Florence Nightingale becomes a famous nurse and improves health care. 	1876 Alexander Graham Bell invents telephone. 	1841 London to Bristol railway is complete. 
1887 The Gramophone is invented. 	1837 William IV dies and Victoria becomes Queen. 	1870 The Education Act makes schooling available for all children aged 5-12.
1843 Charles Dickens publishes 'A Christmas Carol'. 	1897 Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee - 60 Years as Queen. 	1852 - 1860 The Cholera Pandemic. Thousands die in London because of dirty water.
1856 The Crimean War ends. 250,000 people died. 	1878 Thomas Edison invents the light bulb. 	1840 The first stamp is made. 
1864 It is made illegal for children to work as chimney sweeps. 	1840 Queen Victoria marries Prince Albert. 	1847 It is illegal for children to work more than 63 hours. 
1841 First railway excursion by Thomas Cook. 	1896 Speed limit for cars raised to 14mph. 	1854 The Crimean War began. 
1867 Dr Barnardo opens his first home for children. 	1850 First post boxes were built. 	1891 Education is made compulsory and free to all. 
1888 Football League begins. Preston North End win the league and cup. 	1901 Queen Victoria dies. The Victorian era ends. 	1861 Prince Albert dies of typhoid aged 42. 



We had a lovely day last week celebrating our school mission day, planting bulbs in our wonderful Faith Garden, reflecting on our mission, Love of Life. Sitting in peaceful silence in our Sensory Garden, listening to the sounds of nature around us and thanking God for his wonderful gifts.



Rainforest



We have welcomed everyone back to the Rainforest Camp and we are really excited about the year ahead; we can't wait to share our learning journey with you all!

We're WILD about our learning...

We have had lots of opportunities already this year... every day we have lots of practical activities to keep us busy! We've especially enjoyed our practical activities in the tuff trays.



We LOVE reading!



We have done so much already this term - we have reconnected with Twiggle and shared our school rules with him, played ball games, made bird feeders, made compliment clouds, created some self-portraits using a variety of media, painted animals using just our hands, celebrated our Mission Day, Teaching Assistant's Day and World Peace Day plus much more! more!



PATHS

At Holy Spirit, we place a high priority both on keeping parents informed about PATHS and on encouraging your participation in POTD with your child/ren.

The development of positive feeling about oneself (i.e., good self-esteem) and about one's realistic ability to do things successfully (i.e., good self-confidence) are both extremely important for healthy maturation, as well as for academic achievement. Moreover, these attributes develop slowly and are greatly affected by children's perceptions of their myriad experiences with significant people in their environment. Therefore, the development of healthy self-esteem and self-confidence requires repetitive experiences of a positive and realistic nature.

To promote the development of positive self-esteem of PATHS, we use repetitive experiences of a positive and realistic nature, incorporated into a model, that we call the POTD. The POTD process of complimenting someone continues daily throughout the year. We hope that you will share in their (and our) enjoyment of POTD and give them a compliment at home also. We'd love for you to tweet us some too!



We introduced our PATHS weekly certificates and they've been a big hit! These were our first ever, proud winners. Well done everyone!



Reception and Year 1 met Twigg and his friends, Henrietta, Daphne and Duke. They were so excited and couldn't wait to begin their PATHS learning alongside them. I was also inspired by the PATHS area in EYFS – it looks like such a friendly, calm, and inviting space .



Year 5 have been doing some super PATHS work around our PATHS Golden Rule – 'Treat others how you want to be treated'. We think that's a great rule to live by !



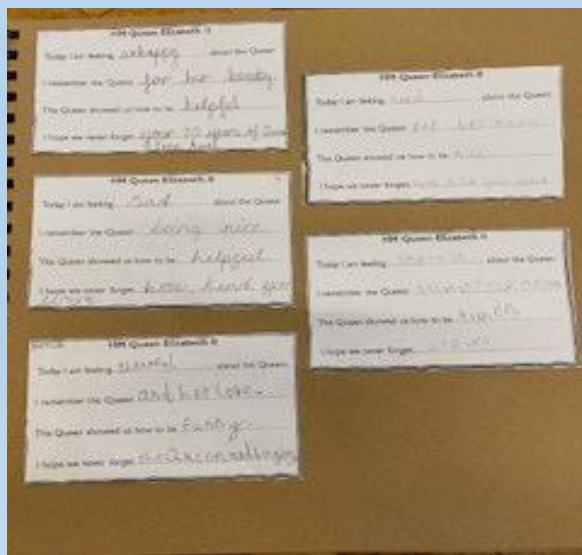
We are a PATHS Model School



Queen Elizabeth II



Following the tragic passing of Queen Elizabeth II, here at Holy Spirit we have been reflecting on the Queen's life and all that she has done for her country. We have created a beautiful book of remembrance and all the children and staff have taken the time to write their own special message giving thanks to the Queen and reflecting on the wonderful things they remember about her and what they will never forget. Each class has also visited our worship area where they have had the chance to say a prayer, reflect and give thanks to the Queen.



Phonics At Home

Phonics is knowing that sounds and letters have a relationship. In other words, it is the link between what we say and what we can read and write. Phonics offers beginning readers the tools they need to sound out words. For example, kids learn that the letter *D* has the sound of /d/ as in *doll*. Down the road, they'll learn how to combine letter sounds together to make words like *dog* or m-a-t' Your child will then learn more sounds and will start blending them too. Then your child will really start to read! They will learn to recognise the different letters or pairs of letters (graphemes) in a word, say the separate sounds slowly, then put them together. For example, they will be taught that the word 'boat' can be separated out into 'b-oa-t' which represents the sounds *bbb-oh-ttt*. They can blend these sounds into the word 'boat'



How do we teach phonics?

- Daily Phonics sessions- these start from the beginning of Nursery
- Phonics throughout the day to review new sounds & graphemes taught
- Lots of opportunities for oral blending- c/oa/t
- Main focus is on word recognition. However, new vocabulary is also given and explained in every lesson.
- Opportunities for writing- new grapheme, words and sentences.

We must use pure sounds when we are pronouncing the sounds and supporting children in reading words. If we mispronounce these sounds we will make reading harder for our children. There are videos for this on our school website where you can hear the correct pronunciation of the sounds. Youtube also play Jolly phonics songs for phase 2 and 3 sounds.

Supporting your child with reading at home

- Children are only reading from books that are entirely decodable
- We only use pure sounds when decoding words (no 'uh' after the sound)
- We want them to practise reading their book 4 times across the week working on these skills: decode fluency expression.



Important Reminders



Homework is given out on a Friday and is due back in school on a Wednesday. It is really important that you bring this back on time so it can be look at and new homework can be stuck in.

Children should be reading at home every night and bookbags should be brought to school each day.

Spellings.

Spelling tests are on a Friday and re-test for children who didn't pass will be on a Monday.

Fun spelling strategies to use at home

Play hangman with a partner, using your words.

Make a word search with your words and list them underneath

Write out the letters in the words with different coloured felt-tips or pencil crayons.

Write out the words on the computer. Use different fonts and different colours for the different letters.



PE Kits

The children have been doing well getting back in the routine of getting themselves changed for PE. I know in Year 1 we are down from 20 minutes to 10 minutes and getting better each week. Please can you ensure your child is wearing the correct PE kit each week. Our PE kit is a coloured polo shirt for the house team that your child is in or a plain white polo shirt with black or blue shorts. Plain blue/navy bottoms and plain hoodie can be brought in and worn on very cold days. These can be bought from any supermarket or shops like Matalan. Children are not to wear their own clothes on PE days .

<u>Autumn Term PE timetable</u> <u>Year 1 – Y6</u>	
<u>Monday</u>	Year 6 – Swimming Year 3 - PE with Progressive Sports Year 4 - PE with Progressive Sports
<u>Tuesday</u>	Year 1 - PE Year 2 – PE Year 5 – PE
<u>Wednesday</u>	Year 6 – PE
<u>Thursday</u>	Year 1 – dance with Miss Jones Year 2 – dance with Miss Jones Year 5 - PE
<u>Friday</u>	Year 3 - PE Year 4 - PE