



HOLY NAME

CATHOLIC VOLUNTARY
ACADEMY

Issue 1

Wednesday 2nd September 2026

Headteacher's Welcome

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back to a new academic year. I hope you have had a wonderful summer with your family and had lots of opportunities to spend time together as a family both at home and further afield.

This academic year is a very exciting one for our school community. It is the year when we grow our community from 7 classes to 8 classes. We welcome our nursery children next week when we will officially open our Nursery on Thursday 10th September at 8.40am. You are all welcome to attend this at 8.40am on the playground.

As we begin this new term, there are a number of staff who I would like to introduce to you. Here is a link to our [staff page](#) on the school website so you can begin to put faces to names. We welcome four members of staff who will support our wrap around care facility. This has been incredibly popular and we are almost at capacity on a number of days. Thank you for supporting this venture.

Over the next two days, we welcome 30 new reception children. They have visited school on a number of occasions ready for this week and we are very excited to be supporting them. To our new families, we hope you feel very welcome in our school community and I trust that you will continue in the tradition of being supportive of the ethos and mission here at Holy Name, and work with us to ensure your child will become the best version of themselves.

Over the last year, Mrs Devlin has been working really hard to complete her Forest School qualification. I am delighted to say, that during the summer, she received notification that she has passed and is a fully qualified forest school practitioner – well done Mrs Devlin.

Today we also think about the staff who left us at the end of last year, we wish them every success in their new roles. To our Year 6 children who left in July, whilst they may be nervous about starting a new school, we know they will continue to shine and be the stars that they are. I would also like to say a massive congratulations to them for the outcomes in their national assessments. We firmly believe that these tests do not define their primary school experience, it is, and will always be, who they are as people, but we must recognise the hard work and determination they showed. We are very pleased with the outcome which can be found on our school [website](#).

I wish you a wonderful week ahead with your families. There will be no assembly or newsletter this week. The next newsletter sent out will be on Friday 11th September.

God Bless
Mr J M Gibbons
Headteacher

Building Work



Over the next few weeks, there will be significant building work taking place on the bungalow in order to prepare this for our Year 6 children. The car park will be the base for the contractors, however, to access the back of the bungalow, the builders will be using the playground entrance. Please be vigilant when on the playground as there may be some disruption to the usual procedures.

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Spiritual Reflection - Matt. 18:15-20 (the 23rd Sunday of Ordinary Time, Year A)



Sometimes we make mistakes and occasionally upset one another. The important thing is to overcome we make mistakes and occasionally upset one another. The important thing is to overcome such upsets in a loving way and become friends again. This is also known as reconciliation. such upsets in a loving way and become friends again. This is also known as reconciliation.

This Sunday's Gospel suggests ways of doing this peacefully and calmly. the Gospel, Jesus teaches us that we should always try hard to be reconciled – to heal In the Gospel, Jesus teaches us that we should always try hard to be reconciled – to heal relationships and to try to make friends again. relationships and to try to make friends again. Prayer is an important part of reconciliation. We can ask Jesus, anytime, to bring peace to a situation, and to guide us back to friendship. We can't always undo mistakes if we have done something wrong and upset someone, but we can always learn from our mistakes and try to make amends.

Mission Statement Review

Today, we spoke with the children about our mission statement and reflected on the key message within the statement. We discussed each word and where we are inspired by the Gospel teachings. The children were brilliant at recognising how scripture underpins our mission. The children had an opportunity to share if the school mission statement needs to be adapted to ensure that we are living out the teachings of the church. Finally, the whole school community was invited to add a glass bead into the bowl on the altar. Each bead represents the person who put it there and will remain in there until they leave our school community. It is a wonderful visual that our school belongs to each and each one of us.



Polite Reminders

Towards the end of last academic years, we were having to remind the children regularly about some of our school rules and expectations. They have heard them again today and I have listed them below for your reference.

- **Before and after school** – please do not climb on the climbing frame or play in the Reception garden
- **Snacks** – only healthy snacks are allowed at playtime eg fruits, raisins etc no crisps, sweets or chocolates. **This is extremely important in line with government policy based on allergies and food standards.**
- **Uniform** - our school uniform should be worn with pride. The uniform policy is clearly stated in your new planners and on the school's website
- **Earrings** – these are not permitted for swimming or PE. More information is detailed further on in this newsletter.
- **Parking** – please park in the church car park. It only takes one person to park irresponsibly for the roads to be dangerous. Towards the end of last term, a child was nearly hit by car who had parked on the zig-zag lines.
- **Mobile phones** – Whilst children in Years 5 and 6 are allowed to bring their mobile phone to school **if they are walking home**, these must not be used on the playground or at any after school clubs. Children who are not walking home on their own **do not need to bring their phone to school.**
- **After school clubs** – These start next week, please ensure that balances are paid for clubs. If you need more time to pay, you must discuss this with me. Many clubs have a waiting list and where payments are not received, the place on the club may be given to another child.

Pupil Planners



Once again, our fabulous Friends of Holy Name have purchased Pupil Planners for this academic year. There is a lot of useful information in the planners including term dates, policies etc. There are a few pages that need signing by you as detailed below:

- Home School Agreement – **Page 4 and 5**
- Acceptable Use Policy – **Page 7**
- Swimming – **Page 15** (Year 3 only)

Each week, the pupils will complete a spelling test in the planner, this will allow you to check how successful they have been each week.

The most important part of the planner are the diary pages. Please can I ask that you record every time your child reads at home on the right hand page of each week. Staff will record each time they read in school on the left-hand side. The minimum that they should be reading at home is 3 times per week.

Attendance

Our target for this year is once again 97% - however, I am really looking for this to be as close to 97.5% as possible. Over the summer, I have completed a detailed analysis of attendance and I thought I would share the positives, but also the areas of concern that had an impact on our attendance.

- ✓ Years 2,4 and 5 all had a collective attendance above our school target, with Year 4 (now Year 5) having the highest attendance.
- ✓ Year 5 had no children below 90%.
- ✓ Year 4 and Year 5 had the fewest number of late marks across the year (less than 30 combined).
- ✓ 21 children across school had 100% attendance and 123 children were above our target of 97%.
- ✓ There was no significant different between the attendance of boys and girls
- ✗ There were 579 sessions missed because of holidays – this is an increase of 150 sessions from the previous year.
- ✗ There were 386 occasions where pupils were late to school and 14 of these were after 9.15am and had to be recorded as unauthorised.
- ✗ One class had over 12% of pupils being persistently absent and our overall PA increased to 5% (we were down at 2% earlier in the year)

What is new for attendance this academic year?

In order to promote positive attendance, we will be rewarding children who have achieved our school target level of attendance and above (97%+). These will be three fun activities that take place at the end of every term when you receive your coloured attendance letter. They might range from visitors in school to activities in school. I appreciate that children do get ill and have to be unavoidably off school, there will be plenty of opportunities for the children to attend these sessions if they have a prolonged period of positive attendance.

Attendance will be shared with you at parents evening as this is the mid-point of the autumn and spring terms.

We will reintroduce our weekly 100% stickers that the pupils can wear or stick in their planners – these will be given out on a Monday so that they can wear them all week.

Attendance Reviews will take place in the final week of each month and we will be writing to families as soon as attendance drops below 90%, we will also write to families who have been below 90% to celebrate they are above 90% as well.

Why do we continue to have a positive and proactive approach to attendance?

Attendance is a key factor of positive outcomes for children. Our key aim is for the children to be the best versions of themselves and to build positive attitudes for learning. We want as many children as possible to be rewarded for these achievements and we want to work with families to support with these positive attitudes towards attendance.

Term-time Holidays and May Half Term

When a holiday request is received, this year, you will be invited into a meeting with either myself or Mrs Watson to discuss the request.

We break up in May on **Wednesday 26th May** at 3.20pm. I have put two training days at the end of this half term, rather than one, as it then makes this half term 11 days long. This is a fantastic opportunity to get away and avoid taking a term time holiday.

Our Safeguarding Team

Here at Holy Name, we have an extensive Safeguarding Team who have a wide range of expertise. Our doors are always open and should you feel you need to talk, please come and see us – as I have always said we are here for the entire family and not just the pupils on roll. I am the schools designated safeguarding lead and we have five other deputy designated safeguarding leads.



Mr Gibbons
DSL



Mrs Watson
DDSL



Mr Stewardson
DDSL



Miss Godfrey
DDSL



Mrs Harrington
DDSL



Mrs Flynn
DDSL



Advanced Notice – Sports Day 2027

We have been busy looking at our yearly calendar and have reflected that the final summer term is very busy! There are a lot of activities for the children, which can be hard to keep track of. This year, we will be moving health week to the May half term (the week after SATs). We are aiming for Sports Day to be on **Wednesday 19th May** in the morning. This should hopefully reduce the busy final half term period.

PE Uniform

Thank you to everyone who collected their uniform yesterday. A reminder that labelled PE tops must be ordered by the 15th of each month.

PE Dates

Please find below the PE days for each class. Only Year 3 will be going swimming up until the final half term, when catch up swimming will be provided for children in Years 3-6 in order to achieve 25m. Children must come in PE kit on these days and **must not** be wearing earrings. This is not a school rule, but a rule from the Association for PE. Similarly, if your child has been chosen for a sporting event, they will not be allowed to participate in the event. This has been communicated directly from the organisers of sporting competitions for Leeds.

Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Monday Thursday	Tuesday Thursday	Monday Friday	Monday Wednesday (swimming)	Wednesday Thursday	Tuesday Wednesday	Tuesday Friday

Wrap Around Care

Thank you to everyone who has paid in advance for wrap around provision. If there are any changes required there must be a four week notice period, especially for reductions. Some afternoons are close to the maximum number of children allowed, so not all changes may be possible. For families who have not booked places, the booking form is available on our school website. We are currently working with the Trust to secure a mobile telephone for the wrap around care, this will be shared with families for emergencies only.

Inhalers

Please make sure your child's inhaler and asthma plan has been returned to school for the new academic year.

Communication

A reminder that our primary method of communication will be through email. The school sends the emails via Arbor, but these should go directly to your personal email account and not the app. The app is used for providing consent for trips and activities. Occasionally, we will post announcements on Class Dojo as these will often be leaflets, flyers and activities that may be happening in the local area. Classes have their own Dojo pages for their own class announcements and reminders. If you do need to communicate with a teacher, please can this be through holyname@holynameleeds.co.uk. We ask this is the preferred method of communication as this account is checked daily by at least two members of staff.

Donations

As you are aware, we are running our own wrap around service this year, one activity the children do love is dressing up. If you have any costumes that you no longer want/fit your children, and you would be happy to donate these to school they will be greatly appreciated. We would be grateful of all sizes from early years up to Years 6. These can be donated via the school office.

Year 6 High School Applications

The deadline for applications for secondary schools is 31st October 2026. You can do this by clicking the link [here](#). I would recommend that both our Year 5 children and Year 6 children and families attend as many open days as possible so that you can apply with an informed choice. The dates and times of open days will be on the school's website.

Key Dates

4 th Sept	Whole School Mass	13 th Oct	Year 6 Educational Visit	23 rd Oct	School Closed for INSET Day
8 th Sept	Parliament Trip	16 th Oct	House Cross Country – pupils to wear team colour	2 nd Nov	School Opens Flu Immunisation
25 th Sept	MacMillan Coffee Morning	20 th Oct	Parents Evening Day 1	3 rd Nov	Year 2 Educational Visit
1 st Oct	Guardian Angel Assembly R+Y6 parents	21 st Oct	Parents Evening Day 2	4 th Oct	Open Day – Reception 2027 (9.30 am and 1.30pm)
5 th Oct	World Teachers Day	22 nd Oct	Harvest in Church (followed by GWA)	5 th Oct	Open Day – Reception 2027 (5.00pm)

Next Week's Dinner Menu

MIGHTY MEALS MENU 2026

Great school lunches designed to help young people grow and thrive in everything they do!
Seasonal vegetables are provided with all meals or children can opt out for our 'Pick Your Own' salad bar.

Holy Name Primary

N3 Week TWO

W/C 07/09/26, 28/09/26, 19/10/26, 09/11/26, 30/11/26,
11/01/27, 01/02/27



	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Mains	Margherita Tortilla Pizza (V) Homemade Jacket Wedges	Chicken Pie Mashed Potato	Chicken Tikka Masala Curry Rice	Roast Pork Yorkshire Pudding Roast Potatoes Gravy	Crispy Salmon Fillet or Fish Fingers Tomato Ketchup Chips
Meat Free	Creamy Coconut Chickpea Curry (V) Rice	Vegetarian Sausage (VE) Mashed Potato	Mediterranean Pasta Bake (V)	Vegetarian Grill (VE) Yorkshire Pudding Roast Potatoes Gravy	Vegetarian All Day Breakfast (V)
Spud Station & Deli	Hot Pasta Pot with Homemade Tomato and Basil Sauce (V)	Tuna Mayonnaise Panini Baby Baked Potatoes	Cheese Savoury Wrap (V) Herby Diced Potatoes	Hot Roast Pork Bap (V) Roast Potatoes	Jacket Potato with Baked Beans (VE)
Desserts	Chocolate Sponge with Chocolate Sauce	Apple Flapjack Bite with Fresh Fruit Wedges	Fun Fruit Wednesday	Cheddar Cheese with Crackers & Grapes	Shortbread Cookie with Fresh Fruit Wedges

In addition to hot meals your child can choose:



Filled fresh Soft Bap or Tortilla Wrap with side.



Oven baked Jacket Potato with side.

