HOLY NAME
CATHOLIC VOLUNTARY ACADEMY

Issue 9 | Friday 6th November 2026

Headteacher's Welcome

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back, I hope you have had a lovely half term break and managed to spend a lot of time together as a family. It has been lovely to see the children this week in school.

It has certainly been a busy half term in school. As you can see, our EYFS area has been completely transformed and the new grass has been installed. We are waiting for the final few resources to come including a large sandpit. Thank you to the EYFS team and Mr Firth for preparing the area so that the work could take place.

Attendance in school is an extremely important element of school life and one that plays a pivotal role in our school's success. Over the last two weeks I have received two pieces of communication from external sources, in the Department for Education, regarding our school's attendance last academic year. The first being from the Fisher Family Trust, who confirmed we are in the top 10% of schools for attendance which is great. The DfE then wrote to me yesterday with a report that compares Holy Name with 20 other similar schools. I am pleased to share that we are the highest-ranking school for attendance and for the lowest rate of persistent absence – thank you for your support

Welcome to Miss Corsaro who has joined our team as a member of support staff. I know you will make her feel very welcome.

Have a wonderful half term.

God Bless
Mr J M Gibbons
Headteacher

Spiritual Reflection - Matthew 25:1-13 (The 32nd Sunday of Ordinary Time)



Wisdom is a gift from God which helps us to see things more clearly and make the right choices in life. God loves us and sent Jesus to help us to grow in wisdom.

Dear Lord Jesus,
please help us to grow in wisdom,
to be kind and loving,
and so one day to share
with you in all the joys of heaven.
Amen.

St Carlo Acutis

This week, you will have received a letter from our CEO, Mr Beardsley, regarding the change of name of our Trust in line with the Bishop's vision. But who is St Carlo? I have attached some information at the end of the newsletter about his life and his devotion to the eucharist.

Otley Old Road,
Leeds, LS16 6NF

0113 2677532
holyname@holynameleeds.co.uk

www.holynameleeds.co.uk
Headteacher: Mr J M Gibbons

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Sports News

We have had a number of sporting events this week. Firstly, our Under 9 football were in action against Newlaithes and St Paul's. They played really well in both games and have been busy collecting points for the league and currently sit 5th in the division. Well done!

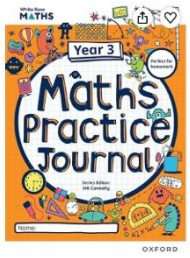
Yesterday, Mrs Harrington accompanied a number of children to Sports Hall Athletics event. She was very impressed with the effort from all the children who all had thoroughly enjoyable time.

Manchester Airport



On Tuesday, our Year 2 children went on a school trip to the museum at Manchester Airport. They had a wonderful time exploring the different jobs you can do in an airport as well as exploring the cockpit of the plane. The children were very impressed with the size of Concorde, a supersonic passenger plane, and learning about how fast the plane could travel.

Supporting Learning at Home



I know our teachers really valued spending time with you all at parents evening before breaking up for half term. It was a chance to discuss the children's settling in to the academic year but also any support they may need for their learning. Whilst we provide a balanced approach to homework, I would like to share with you a home learning book you may want to purchase – **there is no expectation for children to have access to these**. Our Maths scheme is called White Rose Maths and they produce homework books , which are available on Amazon for £5.50 (approx). The book is sequenced in line with what the children are doing in school. If this is something you would be interested in, please search on Amazon for '**White Rose Maths Homework Book Year ***'

Celebration of the Word Intentions

If you would like one of our Celebration of the Word's in school to be said for the intention of a family member or friend, please complete the form attached. The prayers of all our school will be joined together on, or close to the date requested.

Celebration of the Word Intentions – Fill out form

Certificates

	Headteacher's Award	Maths Marvel	Literacy Legend
Reception	Matin	Roxy	Penny
Year 1	Albie	Clementine	Musa
Year 2	Ronnie	Roxxi	Lillie
Year 3	Ralphie	Austin	Aiyla
Year 4	Renesme	Molly	Emily
Year 5	Esmae	Yahya	Alex
Year 6	Oliver T	Hanna	Denzel

Attendance

Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
93%	96%	97%	97%	97%	99%	97%

House Points

St George	St Andrew	St Patrick	St David
173	219	235	255

Our Safeguarding Team


Mr Gibbons
DSL


Mrs Watson
DDSL


Mr Stewardson
DDSL


Miss Godfrey
DDSL


Mrs Harrington
DDSL


Mrs Flynn
DDSL

Key Dates

3rd Nov	Year 2 Educational Visit	30th Nov	St Andrew's House – wear blue	7th Dec	Rock Steady Concert 2.15pm
4th Nov	Open Day – Reception 2027 (9.30 am and 1.30pm and 5.00pm)	1st-3rd Dec	IEP Reviews	8th Dec	Y3/4 Diocese of Leeds Singing Concert 9.30am
9th Nov	Individual Photos	3rd Dec	Reconciliation Service		
16th Nov	Anti-Bullying Week	4th Dec	Creative RE morning with St Mary's (Y3-6)		
24th Nov	Year 6 Educational Visit				

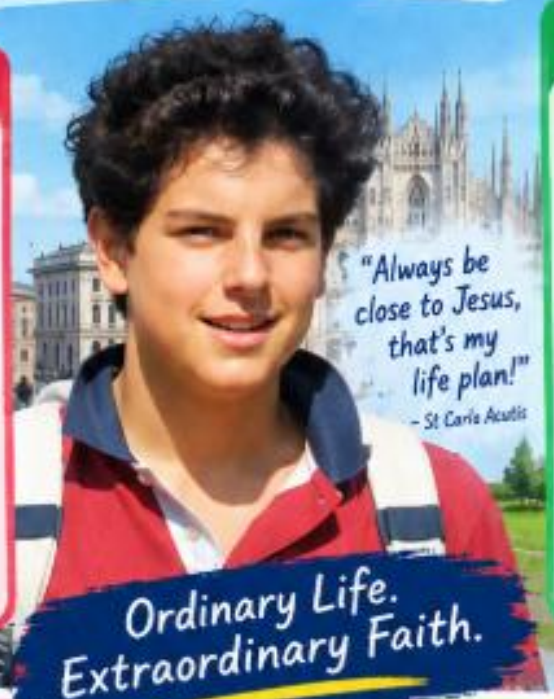
MEET ST CARLO ACUTIS

A MODERN SAINT FOR OUR TIME

"The Eucharist is my highway to Heaven."
– St Carlo Acutis

WHO WAS HE?

- Carlo Acutis was born in London on 3 May 1991 and grew up in Milan, Italy.
- He was an ordinary boy who loved God, his family, friends, football and computers.
- He died on 12 October 2006 aged just 15, after a short illness.
- He was beatified in 2020 and canonised in 2025.



WHAT DID HE DO?

- Used his computer skills to create a website about Eucharistic miracles from around the world.
- Helped and included others, especially those who were lonely or left out.
- Loved football and played for fun with his friends.
- Tried to live a holy life in ordinary, everyday moments.

Ordinary Life. Extraordinary Faith.

FAITH
Loved the Eucharist and went to Mass every day.

KINDNESS
Was a good friend, caring and always thought of others.

TECHNOLOGY
Used the internet for good to share the beauty of our faith.

COURAGE
Stayed close to Jesus even when he was sick. He trusted God completely.

SERVICE
Helped the poor, defended those who were bullied, and looked for ways to make a difference.

"To always be united with Jesus – that is my programme for life."
– St Carlo Acutis

A SAINT FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

- ☑ Shows us that holiness is possible today.
- ☑ Lived a normal life, but with an extraordinary love for God.
- ☑ Inspires us to use our gifts – including technology – to do good.
- ☑ Teaches us to be kind, brave and to put others first.

"Not me, but God!"
– St Carlo Acutis

SMALL THINGS WITH GREAT LOVE

Be like Carlo... Choose goodness, every day!

HEAVEN IS THE GOAL!