



Newsletter

Friday 23rd
October 2026

Holy Ghost Catholic Primary
School

www.holyghost.wandsworth.sch.uk



We have had a very busy week to round off a successful first half-term of the school year. Yesterday, we held the first of our three open days, and I was incredibly proud of how the whole school community rallied together to ensure that the school was looking its very best, showcasing the wonderful opportunities and learning experiences we have on offer for our pupils. I would like to thank all the staff for everything they did, and mention our Year 6 pupils, who meticulously prepared what they were going to say as they guided prospective parents around the school.

A special mention must also go to two of our Year 6 pupils, Olive and Freddie, who spoke during the presentation. They both wrote wonderful speeches detailing their time at Holy Ghost, and we were incredibly proud of the confidence and enthusiasm with which they delivered them.

Our Year 6 pupils, along with all the children across the school, are our greatest ambassadors when it comes to showcasing Holy Ghost to prospective parents. Nurturing well-rounded, confident, happy and inquisitive pupils is at the very heart of what we aim to achieve at Holy Ghost, and yesterday was a wonderful example of this in action.

This term, we have had a particular focus on celebrating pupils who uphold our school values. It was wonderful to gather as a whole school, and to welcome Reception to their first assembly, to celebrate the good behaviour of all pupils, particularly those who have gone above and beyond in upholding our values and demonstrating positive learning behaviours in class. Our winners were:

Reception: *Maria and Benoit*

Year 1: *Kitty and Noah*

Year 2: *Faustine and Francesco*

Year 3: *Max and Ivy*

Year 4: *Alexandrea and Clara*

Year 5: *Orlaith and Dylan*

Year 6: *Marcus and Olive*

Mrs Murphy's Star Pupil: *Mia G in Year 2*

Mr Brading's Star Pupils: *Olive and Freddie Year 6*



We hope all families have a wonderful half term break.

Dojo Points!



Congratulations to all the children who have achieved an exceptional number of Dojo points! Here are just a few of our wonderful Dojo champions! Keep up the amazing work, everyone!



Black History Month

Year 3 have learned about Alma Thomas, the first African American woman to have her art appear in the White House's permanent art collection. They then created artwork inspired by her signature 'colourful mosaic' style of painting.



In Year 2, our BHM focus was on celebration. We learned about black musicians including Ray Charles, Stevie Wonder, Beyonce and Pharell Williams. We also learned about the founder of the Notting Hill carnival, Claudia Jones, and decided to hold our own celebration. We made our own headdresses and fruit kebabs, and danced to our favourite songs that we had learned about - Happy by Pharrell Williams and Billie Jean by Michael Jackson!



Year 6 – As part of our Black History Month learning, Year 6 explored the importance of equality, representation and leadership. The children created informative posters about Kemi Badenoch before imagining themselves as Members of Parliament and developing their own political party manifestos, sharing ideas about how they would make a positive difference in their communities. They also learnt about the role of Parliament and enjoyed an interesting discussion and talk with Mr Brading, which helped deepen their understanding of democracy and how decisions are made in the UK.

Year 1 have been responding to the theme of community through the celebration of black athletic talent! As a class, we considered the contributions of Marcus Rashford, as both an inspiring sportsman and an advocate for fairness, justice and equity through his campaign to end child food poverty and promote reading. We thought about Marcus as a role model in how we can use our talents to foster community locally and in our school. Independently, we researched black sportsmen and women, like Simone Biles, Dina Asher Smith and Bukayo Saka. The children discussed not only their incredible achievements on the sports pitch, but how they used their positions to campaign for what is right. We linked our learning to Catholic Social Teaching values Human Dignity and Distributive Justice, through Luc the Deer and DJ the Dolphin.

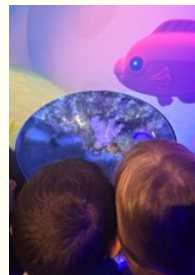
Year 5 investigated Mary Seacole and Alison Bennison and their contribution to medicine. We used our research to produce posters and fact files on these influential women.

Reception—In Reception we have been looking at **belonging**. We read Floella Benjamin's book **Coming to England** and acted out her story using boats and figurines. We also drew the most important thing to us and what we'd like to bring with us if we were moving country. Lastly, we joined in with Dapo Adeola's draw along and he helped us to draw the cat from **Look Up!**



Year 2—Horniman Museum

With the sun shining, Year 2 visited the Horniman Museum this week as part of our current science topic – Animals and Their Habitats. We began by exploring the vivid displays of culture and heritage in the World Gallery before letting off some steam in the Octonauts-inspired exhibition, *Voyage to the Deep*. After refuelling at lunch, we got down to the serious business of investigating how animals are adapted to the environments in which they live. The workshop allowed us to handle many different artefacts, including shark jaws, reindeer antlers, orca teeth and hedgehogs to name a few. What a fantastic day we had!



Year 4—London Zoo

Year 4 visited London Zoo to learn more about animals and the habitats they live in. The children explored the different enclosures and discovered how animals are suited to their environments.



School Chaplains—

Food Bank Drive

Thank you for all of the food donations given for our advent food drive, organised by our school chaplains.



Family Rosary

Thank you to our School Chaplains who lead the family rosary session at Holy Ghost Church this week.



During this Month of the Rosary, the Chaplains lead the younger classes in reciting the Rosary.



Wandsworth in the Cross Country

A huge congratulations to our Year 5 pupil, who participated in the Cross-Country Competition on 13th October at Battersea Athletics Track. We are delighted to share that they qualified to represent the London Borough of Wandsworth in the next Cross-Country Competition! He also met a famous Gladiator!



Place 2 Be Update

Counsellor Claire from Place2Be continues to play a vital role in supporting the wellbeing of our Holy Ghost community. Through one-to-one counselling, the self-referral Place2Talk service, and Parent Partnership sessions, Claire provides a range of nurturing opportunities designed to help children and families flourish.

Friendships is a recurring theme in Place2Talk sessions, with many children talking about the ups and downs of getting along with friends both in and outside of school. While friendships can be a wonderful source of happiness and support, they can also bring challenges as children learn how to manage disagreements, worries and changing social dynamics.

To help support families with these challenges, Place2Be will be offering a parent webinar through our Parent Partnership service. Our first webinar, taking place at the beginning of December, will focus on friendships and will share practical ideas to help parents and carers support their child in building healthy, positive relationships and navigating friendship difficulties with confidence.

In the meantime, if you are looking for advice and support at home, we would highly recommend Parenting Smart, Place2Be's free online resource for parents and carers of primary-aged children. It provides a range of practical tips and guidance on children's emotional wellbeing and behaviour. Parenting Smart offers helpful resources for these moments too, including practical de-escalation strategies and advice on supporting children through worries and big emotions. You can find these resources here:

<https://parentingsmart.place2be.org.uk/article/de-escalation-techniques-with-children>

Wishing you and your families a very happy Half-Term!



Year 6 Class Assembly

Well done to year 6 for their insightful assembly where we journeyed through the different ages comparing crimes and



Punctuality

Please be reminded that **the school gates close promptly at 8:55am**. Any child arriving after this time will be marked as late. Punctuality is extremely important, as it allows children time to settle into class, feel calm and organised, and be ready to learn when lessons begin at **9:00am**. Thank you for your continued support with this.

Diary Dates

2026

Monday 2nd November

- Children return to school

Tuesday 3rd November

- Y2 Class Mass

Wednesday 4th November

- Y5 Southwark Recording
- Y6 Class Trip

Friday 6th November

- PTA Quiz Night

Tuesday 10th November

- Y1 Class Mass
- Y5 Class Trip

Wednesday 11th November

- Y3 Class Trip

Thursday 12th November

- School Open Day—for prospective parents

Tuesday 17th November

- Y6 Class Mass

Wednesday 18th November

- Y6 Class Trip

Saturday 21st November

- Parish Christmas Fair

Tuesday 24th November

- Y5 Class Mass

Thursday 26th November

- Parent-teacher appointments

Monday 30th November

- Y6 Advent Confessions

Tuesday 1st December

- Y4 Class Mass

Friday 4th December

- Rec & Y1 Class Trip

Monday 7th December

- Y5 Advent Confessions

Tuesday 8th December

- Y3 Class Mass

Wednesday 9th December

- KS1 Nativity
- Y3 Winter Sounds Concert



Chelsea Football—Black History Month Community XI

We are delighted to share that **Mr Barton** has been selected for this year's Black History Month Community XI. He was nominated by numerous students due to **"helping ensure everything is fair, making people smile and helping people to play football"**.

Mr Barton has been invited to **Stamford Bridge** for a behind the scenes stadium tour in honour this recognition.

Congratulations!



Attendance

The weekly attendance figures are as follows.

The winners for this week are

Year 1 with **98.67%**

Our total school attendance this week is : **95.63%**

Parent Teacher Appointments—Thursday 26th November

We will be holding our face-to-face parent–teacher appointments on **Thursday 26th November, from 1.00pm to 6.30pm**.

School lessons will finish at **1.05pm**, and all children must be collected at this time. The 10-minute parent–teacher appointments will begin at **1.20pm**.

Further information on how to book your appointment will be shared nearer the time.

Thank you for your cooperation and support. We look forward to meeting with you to discuss your child's progress.

Holy Ghost Parish Information

Mothers' Prayers – Evening Group for Working Mums. A Mothers' Prayers group already meets in the morning, but we would love to explore starting an evening group for working mums who are unable to attend during the day. Mothers' Prayers (www.mothersprayers.org) is a worldwide movement that brings mothers together to pray for their children and families. It is a simple, supportive, and uplifting time of reflection, prayer, and friendship. If you would be interested in joining an evening group, please get in touch. All mothers are warmly welcome. For more information, contact the parish – balham@rcaos.org.uk

PTA Updates

A Huge Thank You to Our Wonderful Parents!

A huge thank you to all our parents for your incredible generosity and support! Your kind donations are greatly appreciated. Our teachers are busy sourcing wonderful materials and resources to enhance their classrooms and create engaging learning environments for all our children. Please look out in the ReachMoreParents newsfeed for updates on this.



Pyjama Day

The children had a wonderful day today coming to school in their pyjamas!



2027-2028 Reception Admissions

If you require Fr Richard to sign a Certificate of Catholic Practice as part of your child's application, we kindly ask that you arrange this with him before the Christmas holiday break, if possible. December is an especially busy time for the Church, so we would appreciate your help in ensuring there is sufficient time for certificates to be signed.

The admissions form and certificate can be found on the school website - <https://www.holyghost.wandsworth.sch.uk/Admissions/>
Please remember that **all applications must be submitted by 15 January 2027.**