



Holy Family Catholic Primary School

Newsletter – Friday 3rd October 2025

*'With Christ at the centre, we live, love and learn together, reaching out to all.
'Only our best is good enough'*

CATHOLIC LIFE UPDATES

I attended the induction mass for Fr Peter McGrail (Our new Parish Priest for St John Vianney and St Mary's) on Wednesday evening and what a joyous occasion it was. It was lovely to see so many of our parishioners at the mass which was celebrated by the Archbishop of Liverpool John Sherrington. A special shout out to Harry Williams in Yr 5 who volunteered to be one of the altar servers. Harry contributes a lot to the parish community, and he gave up his free time on Wednesday to help celebrate a special occasion for Fr Peter McGrail.

Fr Peter Murphy has also joined the parish, and we were delighted to welcome him into our school to celebrate with Yr 6 this week.

Both Fr Peter's will be coming into our school to celebrate class and school masses with our children throughout the school year.

I also caught up with Fr Matthew on Tuesday evening and had a lovely meal with him alongside the headteacher's at St Andrew's and St Marks to celebrate his time as parish priest and thank him for his service over the years now that he has moved on.

Fr Matthew will return to celebrate a Mass to give thanks for the last 9 years of serving the parish of St John Vianney on Wednesday, 8th October, 6:30pm in St Mark's church followed by refreshments in St Mark's Parish Centre. Everyone is welcome to attend.

NATIONAL POETRY DAY

Yesterday, all the classes took part in a range of poetry activities in order to celebrate National Poetry Day. The theme this year was 'Play'. All classes performed their poems at assembly this morning.



ATTENDANCE NEWS

The race continues for our Pizza Party competition for attendance for this term. Remember any class that gets 100% receives 2 green marks that week!

Attendance for this week is as follows:

Green – 97%+, **Yellow** – 94%+, **Red** - 93.9% & below

Class	% score	Rating	Total amount of green won this term
Year 6	100%	Green	4
Year 6/5	97%	Green	3
Year 5	98%	Green	5
Year 4	95%	Yellow	6
Year 3/4	95%	Yellow	2
Year 3	96%	Yellow	2
Year 2	98%	Green	5
Year 1/2	99%	Green	6
Year 1	100%	Green	5
Rec K	98%	Green	5
Rec M	97%	Green	4

PTA CRAZY HAIR DAY

The children arrived at school today with some incredible hairstyles. So many clever ideas! Thank you for bringing any donations to contribute towards the Christmas hamper raffles that we will launch during our Christmas performances. If you have forgotten to send something in today, please send this in on Monday. No problem!

PRAYER AND LITURGY

HOPE UNIVERSITY TRAINEE STUDENT TEACHERS

It was lovely to welcome families into school for our class prayer and liturgy reflection. We are looking forward to inviting more families soon.

Monday 6th Oct – Year 1 Prayer and Liturgy starting at 2:45pm

Tuesday 7th Oct – Year 1/2 Prayer and Liturgy starting at 2:45pm

Monday 13th Oct – Year 2 Prayer and Liturgy starting at 2:45pm

Tuesday 14th Oct – Year 3 Prayer and Liturgy starting at 2:45pm

Please look at the events tab for other classes key dates and times throughout the next month and beyond and also keep an eye on all the events specific to your child's class for the rest of the year.



ONLINE SAFETY NEWSLETTER

Please see below our latest Online Safety newsletter with key information, tips and advice for how to keep your child safe when online.

As you know, we have strong links with Hope University, and we were pleased to welcome another group of final year students who will be gaining valuable experience before qualifying at the end of the year. We welcome Ms Bigwood (Yr1), Mr Misher (Yr1/2), Ms O'Dowd (Yr2), Ms Donaghy (Yr3/4) and Ms McGaughey (Yr5) to our school and hope they enjoy their time with us.



**LIVERPOOL HOPE
UNIVERSITY**

ANNUAL FLU VACCINATION

We have been asked to remind parents that the annual flu vaccination is now due and will take place in school on Tuesday 7th October 2025 for all pupils (Nursery to Yr 6) for those parents who wish their child to have it. This vaccination is recommended to help protect your child against flu. Please locate the message on the app sent out recently for the link for the consent form that needs completing asap. Please see further information below.

Make sure your child is protected from flu

Flu vaccines are now available for children aged **two and three years old** and **all school children**.

✓ Quick and painless nasal flu spray

Remember to complete the consent form to make sure your child does not miss out on their vaccination at school.



It is easy to give consent: scan the QR code or click here
<https://econsent.merseycare.nhs.uk/>



If you would like to know more about the nasal spray vaccination, you can call and speak to the Immunisation team on 0151-351 8805. They will be happy to answer any questions you may have.

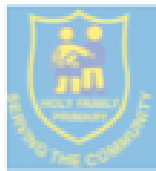
Protect children from flu

The nasal spray flu vaccine is painless and available to all children from nursery up to year 11.
(a porcine gelatine free flu vaccine injection is also available)

Families will receive a link from their child's school requesting an e-consent form is completed.

If you need any support, contact your local immunisation team:
Halton, Knowsley, and St Helens: 0151 351 8805
Liverpool: 0151 295 3833
Sefton: 0151 247 6130

Make sure your email and mobile numbers are up to date with school.



Online Safety Newsletter

Oct 2025

Risks of using AI for mental health

AI chatbots and wellness apps are becoming increasingly popular, which may lead to your child accessing them to support their mental health.

What should I be concerned about?

- The information/advice given may not always be accurate.
- Privacy concerns of how data is collected and used.
- Children may use these apps rather than seeking help from an adult.

What can I do?

- Chat to your child regularly about what apps and websites they are using and why.
- Remind them AI is a tool and not a substitute for qualified professionals who provide tailored advice/support.
- Talk to them about how they should fact check information.
- Check age ratings.

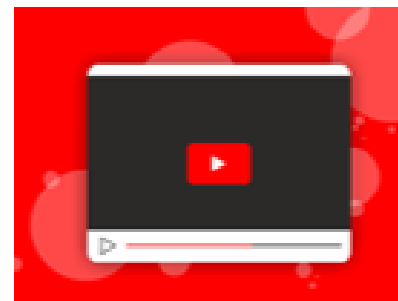
Further information

<https://stigmatafree mentalhealth.com/blog/supporting-youth-mental-health-with-ai-a-guide-for-parents-and-caregivers/>

Would you like to read this newsletter in a different language? You can use the translate tool on our web version: <https://www.knowsleyccs.org.uk/october-2025/>

YouTube

YouTube is one of the most popular platforms, available across many different devices - phones, tablets and Smart TVs etc. YouTube is intended for users over the age of 13, however, younger children can still access YouTube with consent from a parent/ guardian. There are different options available to access YouTube, depending on your child's age:



1. YouTube Kids – a separate app that includes a smaller selection of videos based on the age category you select: Preschool (ages 4 and under), Younger (ages 5–8) or Older (ages 9–12).

2. Supervised accounts – a parent-managed version of YouTube that allows you to control the content your child can access. You can select one of the following options:

- **Explore** - Generally for viewers aged 9+.
- **Explore more** - Generally for viewers aged 13+
- **Most of YouTube** - This setting includes almost everything except for videos marked as 18+.

Find out more: <https://support.google.com/youtube/answer/10315420>

What do I need to be aware of?

Whilst YouTube can be educational and fun, it is important to be aware of the potential risks, such as:

- **Inappropriate content**
- **Excessive Screen time** – particularly due to the autoplay feature.
- **Unwanted contact / cyberbullying** – particularly via comments if your child is sharing videos.
- **Algorithms** – algorithms influence what we see to keep us engaged. This can lead to a user being exposed to large amounts of content about one topic/theme, which may not be helpful if it is negative.
- **Adverts** that may not be aimed at or suitable for your child's age.

What can I do?

- Set up appropriate parental controls.
- Show your child the reporting and blocking tools available.
- Watch YouTube together or supervise use.

Further information

<https://www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/entertainment-search-engines/youtube-app/>

WhatsApp

WhatsApp is incredibly popular with young people and is used for group chats, voice messages and video calls. **Users should be at least 13 years old to use WhatsApp.**

We frequently receive reports of children using WhatsApp inappropriately, such as sharing images to embarrass others, sending hurtful messages, spreading rumours, or excluding people from group chats to make them feel left out. Since WhatsApp lacks parental controls, it is important to think about whether it is really the right platform for your child. For example, you should consider if your child has the critical thinking skills to recognise bullying. Furthermore, do they understand how to manage peer pressure and refrain from joining in on hurtful behaviour?

What should I be aware of if my child is using WhatsApp?

- **Group chats:** Everyone within a group, even if they are not one of your child's contacts, will be able to see all messages within that group. If your child is added to a group with someone that they have previously blocked, that person can still see their messages and send them messages within the group chat.
- **Inappropriate content:** users can be exposed to content that is not suitable for their age.
- **Location sharing:** talk to your child about the potential danger of sharing their location.
- **Chat lock/secret code:** users can lock chats as well as apply a secret code setting so a chat does not appear in the main chat.
- **Screentime due to addictive nature**
- **AI:** WhatsApp includes Meta AI.

What can I do?

- Check privacy settings, for example check who can add them to groups.
- Ensure your child understands that they can leave a chat at any time. Find out more here: <https://faq.whatsapp.com/424124173736394>
- Show your child how to block and report other users. Find out how here: <https://faq.whatsapp.com/1142481766359885/>
- Use parental controls such as screentime controls or do not disturb to reduce alerts.
- Talk about who they are chatting with, encourage them to think carefully about the messages they send and how they might be received by others. Talk about positivity and not saying anything hurtful. Ask them to think about whether they would say what they are messaging, face to face.
- Chat to your child about the groups that they belong to.

Further information

Find out more here:

- <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/zc8vxxg8>
- https://faq.whatsapp.com/773166357950949?helpref=faq_content

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Content as of the date released 01.10.25. The inclusion of any links does not imply any affiliation with or endorsement of the linked websites, documents, or videos; nor are we claiming any ownership or copyright in the content of the linked materials.

Italian Brainrot

Have you heard of Italian Brainrot? It is a viral trend consisting of AI generated characters featuring in memes and videos. It originally started on TikTok but can now be seen on other platforms such as YouTube and Instagram. There are also lots of spinoff content including a game on Roblox.

Whilst the content is generally nonsensical and children will find some of it funny, some content can include inappropriate/offensive language and content that might not be suitable for your child's age.

iOS 26

Apple have released their new operating system – iOS 26. Protect Young Eyes have published an article detailing the changes relating to your child's safety, including content filtering in Safari. Find out more here:

<https://www.protectyouneyes.com/blog-articles/a-parents-guide-to-ios-26>

Managing Digital Spending

Parent Zone have created a guide to help teach your child how to manage their online spending. You can read it here:

<https://parentzone.org.uk/article/managing-digital-spending-guide-parents>

ADHD, Screen Time, and Healthy Boundaries

Bark have created this guide for parents of children with ADHD to support you in helping your child create a healthy relationship with technology. You can access it here:

<https://www.bark.us/blog/adhd-kid-and-tech/>