



Holy Redeemer Church Hall,
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8th September 2026

Autumn 1 Newsletter 2026

Dear Parents/Carers,

We hope you had a fabulous summer break and are feeling relaxed and fully recharged for a busy term ahead! We would like to extend a warm welcome to all our new children and their families.

In the Pre-School – Our Concept - The Power of Three – Patterning & Predictability

This half term, we will explore “The Power of Three” through numbers, stories and play. Children naturally enjoy recognising patterns, and the number three appears frequently in traditional fairy tales.

Through stories such as The Three Little Pigs, Goldilocks and the Three Bears and The Three Billy Goats Gruff, we will help children develop:

- Maths: Counting, sorting, grouping and recognising patterns of three.
- Literacy: Sequencing stories using a beginning, middle and end.
- Personal Development: Understanding persistence and resilience — sometimes we need to try more than once before we succeed!

Through fun, practical activities, we will encourage the children to notice the number three all around them and understand that trying again can lead to success.

Thursday Afternoon Rotation

Every Thursday afternoon, we have a rotation of **Cooking, Forest School, IT and Local Visits**.

For the next four weeks, our local visits will be to **Holyoakwood Park (between Days Lane and Haddon Grove)**, where we will be taking part in some exciting “**fairy orienteering**” activities.

For the following four weeks, our local visits will include trips to the **library**.

If you have already given permission for your child to take part in local trips, we will simply inform you on the day that they are going out for your information.

Clothing, Footwear & Water Bottles

To help your child take part in all activities safely and comfortably, please keep the following in mind:

Footwear:

Children are often climbing, using ride-on toys, or playing in sand and stones. For safety, please ensure they wear **enclosed shoes**. Sandals and flip-flops are not suitable.

Weather-Appropriate Clothing:

We aim to spend as much time as possible in our garden, so please dress your child appropriately for the day's weather. This includes **clearly labelled hats, coats and other outdoor clothing** as needed.

Water Bottles:

Please send your child in with a **clearly labelled bottle filled with water only** each day.

Bookbags vs Rucksacks

To help us manage our limited space and keep belongings organised, we kindly ask that **rucksacks are not brought into pre-school**. They can be difficult to store safely during sessions.

A **bookbag** is much more suitable for your child's work, books and daily items.

- **New bookbags:** £7.50

Books

Each child is provided with a **bookmark**, which is a great learning tool to use when reading with your child at home.

Each week, we will provide your child with a book to enjoy together. We encourage you to talk about the **cover, title and pictures**, as well as reading the story and asking questions or making predictions.

Please keep the bookmark with the book when it is returned, as this makes it much easier for us to change the books each week.

If you need a replacement bookmark, please let us know.

WellComm

WellComm is a screening tool used to help identify speech and language difficulties quickly and easily.

A letter with more information has been added to the **Documents** section on Famly. Please ensure you read this thoroughly and then complete the separate permission request on Famly.

Lucy, our WellComm Lead and SENCo, will be available at all parent coffee mornings to answer questions and provide further information.

Our next coffee morning is:

Tuesday 6th October at 9.15am

Fees

Please note that all fees must be paid **in advance, not in arrears**.

Invoices are issued at the beginning of each month and should be paid by the **1st of the following month**.

All payments must be made via bank transfer to:

Account Name: Holy Redeemer Lamorbey - No.2

Account Number: 00030014

Sort Code: 40-52-40

Snack

We promote a healthy diet and provide the children with a daily selection of fruit, vegetables, cheese, toast, houmous and more at our morning snack bar, available between **10.00am and 10.30am**.

As this service is costly to maintain, we would greatly appreciate any **weekly, monthly or termly donations** to help cover the expense.

Please send any contributions to the same bank account listed above, using the reference **“snack”** when making your transfer.

Lunch

Following recent guidance from the Department for Education, we are encouraged to promote healthy eating for all children bringing a packed lunch.

We recommend including healthier options such as:

- Brown or 50/50 bread
- Chopped fruit
- Natural yoghurt or fromage frais
- Cheese

- Raw vegetables

To support this, we kindly ask that you limit items such as chocolate, crisps and other highly processed foods in your child's lunchbox.

Thank you for your support in helping us promote healthy eating habits.

Famly – Communication & Absence Reporting

Famly is our main platform for communication with parents and carers.

Messaging:

During pre-school sessions, the **manager on duty (Laura, Shelley, Jaime)** will actively monitor their account and should be your main point of contact for urgent messages.

If you have something non-urgent to discuss with your child's key worker, you are welcome to message them directly. However, please **do not expect replies outside of their working hours**. You may receive a response, but this cannot be guaranteed.

Absences:

Please use the **“Holiday”, “Sick” or “Absent”** options in Famly if your child will not be attending.

It is important to **always include a reason in the “Notes” box**. Although the box says that this is optional, we do need to know why your child is absent.

For example:

- *Sick – has a temperature*
- *Absent – family day out at Legoland*

This helps us with safeguarding and record-keeping and ensures that we are aware of any illnesses that may affect other children and staff.

Thank you — this really helps us keep communication clear and consistent!

Extra-Curricular Activities at Pre-School

We are proud to offer a variety of high-quality extra-curricular activities throughout the week, designed to support your child's development in fun and engaging ways.

Sports4Tots – Fridays

Carly from Sports4Tots visits every Friday to deliver structured multi-sport sessions. These focus on developing children's physical and cognitive skills — all while having lots of fun!

Phonics Stars – Wednesdays

Jackie from Phonics Stars Dartford joins us every Wednesday to help children learn letters and sounds through movement, play and dance. We then continue this learning throughout the week through our daily activities.

Baby Ballet – Every Other Tuesday

Maisie from Baby Ballet provides a lovely introduction to ballet, helping children develop balance, coordination and rhythm through creative movement and music.

KidsLingo – Wednesday Afternoons

Daniella teaches basic Spanish through interactive songs, games and storytelling. Young children are naturally very receptive to learning languages, especially when learning is fun and hands-on, so this is a fantastic opportunity for the children.

Voluntary Contributions

These sessions come at a cost to the pre-school and, while we are committed to continuing to provide them, we do rely on your support.

We kindly suggest a **voluntary contribution of £2 per session**, where families are able to contribute, for children attending on **Mondays, Tuesdays (bi-weekly), Wednesdays and Fridays**.

Similar classes could cost £5–£10 per session if attended privately, so your contributions really do help us to continue providing these enriching experiences.

Please transfer any contributions to the usual pre-school bank account, using the reference “**extras**”.

Thank you so much for your support in helping us provide these wonderful opportunities for your children!

Harvest Festival & Remembrance Sunday

We will be collecting **non-perishable food** during the week commencing **5th October** to add to our special pre-school Harvest Festival box.

Rev Mell would also like to remind families that everyone is welcome to attend church every Sunday for the **10.00am service**.

As a pre-school, we will be attending the **Harvest Festival** and **Remembrance Sunday** service to present our food box and lay a wreath respectively. We would love to see you there!

Harvest Festival: Sunday 11th October – 10.00am

Remembrance Service: Sunday 8th November – 10.00am

Term Dates & Important Dates

Our term dates and other important dates can be found in the **Documents** section of Family.

We Value Your Feedback

We always welcome your thoughts, ideas and any questions or concerns you may have about your child's time at pre-school.

Please feel free to get in touch with us via **Famly or email**, or speak directly with your child's key worker or one of the managers. We are always happy to chat.

Your feedback helps us to continue providing the best possible experience for your child.

Kind regards,

Laura H & Shelley
Pre-School Managers
Holy Redeemer Preschool