



HOLY FAMILY CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Headteacher Mr P.O'Kane

Newsletter 297 Friday 11th March 2016

During Monday morning's assembly, we spoke to the children about the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy which were mentioned in the newsletter last week and how one of the Corporal Works is to feed the hungry. We explained to the children that we would like them to bring in groceries which we can then pass on to the refuge run by Women's Aid in Basildon. I am sure that the children will have told you about this!

Reception: Biscuits

Year 1: Cereals

Year 2: Tinned foods

Year 3: Dried pasta and rice

Year 4: Toiletries eg. soap, shower gel, toothpaste, shampoo

Year 5: Teabags, coffee, hot chocolate

Year 6: Easter Eggs for any children who may be in the refuge

We would like all donations to be in by Friday 18th March. Thank you.

Last Friday, Year 5 went to The Appleton School for a taster day of secondary education. I understand that they really enjoyed themselves, finding it a useful experience.

Thank you to all those parents and carers who attended parent contact meetings this week.

Update from Chair of Governors: An important part of Governor duties is to see the school in operation, helping us to make informed decisions and evaluate progress towards our goals. So, on Wednesday, myself and five other governors spent the day in school. We had an enjoyable and extremely informative day with the children and staff. We spent time in the classrooms observing a variety of lessons, including literacy, art and Italian; attended a school council meeting; ate a school lunch with the children; assessed the premises; and talked to the children at breakfast club and during break. I was lucky enough to see the Year 5 children acting out scenes from Macbeth, it was great to see such enthusiasm and understanding of such a serious play! ***Mrs Andrea Prophet, Chair of Governors***

Parent Governor Election

Thank you to all the parents who took the time to participate in our parent governor election.. Special thanks must go to the candidates who were willing to put themselves forward for election. Polling closed yesterday and this morning the votes were counted by governors. The results were as follows: Mrs Hill 33 votes; Mrs Peddle 29 votes; Mrs Webb 16 votes. Mrs Hill was duly elected as parent governor. Mrs Hill, Mrs Peddle and Mrs Webb would like to thank all parents who voted for them.

Year 3 Robot Factory day

Next Friday 18th March, Year 3 will be having a day building robots. If you have any spare cardboard, cardboard boxes or “crafty bits” then Miss Lardner and Year 3 would be pleased to receive them.

Salvation Army Concert

Mrs Fisher will be accompanying members of our choir to Hadleigh Salvation Army Citadel on Saturday evening. They will be singing as guests of the mayor who was very impressed with a previous performance. The concert starts at 6.30pm, but I know that Mrs Fisher has given full details to all the children that are involved. I am grateful to Mrs Fisher for her continued work with the choir.

Year 3 & 4 Class Mass

Fr Eduard will be in school next Thursday morning to celebrate Mass with Years 3 and 4. Coincidentally, next Thursday will be St Patrick’s Day, so the Mass will be a memorial to him. Mass starts at 9.30am and all parents and parishioners are welcome, even if you don’t wear green!

Easter Eggshibition

In many Christian communities there has been a longstanding tradition of decorating eggs for Easter. A spring chick emerging from an egg reminds us of the risen Christ coming out of the tomb. From simply painting hard-boiled eggs through to the splendour of the Faberge Eggs made for the Romanovs, Easter Eggs have been a reflection of artistry and ingenuity. At Holy Family we have actively encouraged this tradition and each year we ask the children to bring in an eggshibit for our eggshibition. Every child who creates an eggshibit receives a small chocolate egg; one child in each class will receive a larger chocolate egg if their eggshibit is selected by staff. This year’s theme is Rio 2016—Olympics. Eggshibits can be brought into school on Monday 21st March and will be returned on Wednesday 23rd March.

Class teacher appointments

If parents and carers would like to speak to their child’s teacher, please make an appointment at the school office. It is not realistic to expect an impromptu meeting in the mornings as staff are

committed to a number of activities. However, if it is urgent please contact the school office who will assist you. Thank you for your understanding and co-operation in this matter.

School procedure reminder

As a parent, if you have any concerns regarding your child/ren, the first port of call is always to the class teacher because they know and teach your child and have responsibility for them on a daily basis. However, if having met with them (through having made an appropriate appointment) and the issue has not been resolved, the next stage of the process is to request a meeting with the Deputy Head Teacher, Mrs Hurley. If there is still no resolution, then the matter can be referred to the Headteacher, Mrs Birtles, by either party. This procedure is in line with the school's Policy on Behaviour, Discipline and Anti Bullying. Thank you.

Year 6 Leavers—Parents' Meeting

Some mothers in Year 6 have kindly offered to get the ball rolling with regards to organising a party for our Year 6 children at the end of the summer term. There will be a meeting in the Year 6 classroom on Friday 18th March at 3.30pm. All parents and carers with a child in Year 6 are welcome to attend.

Marsh Farm Easter Bonnet Competition

Echo Newspapers have advised us that they have launched an Easter Bonnet competition in conjunction with Marsh Farm in Chelmsford. All children between the ages of 2 and 10 are being asked to create an Easter Bonnet. The winner will be awarded a family ticket for 4 people to Marsh Farm over the Easter holiday. In order to enter just email a photograph of the child in their Easter Bonnet to competitions@nqe.com On 16th March the selected finalists will be printed and the winner chosen by a public vote.

The Importance of Reading

Information and further evidence of the importance of reading has been highlighted recently in the publication of *The Life Project*. This project began in 1946 and is an extraordinarily detailed and exhaustive study of the lives so far of tens of thousands of Britons. What has been learned is that reading and its importance in our lives should not be underestimated as this skill is a life enhancer and impacts positively on all aspects of education, including maths. Another key finding was shown to be the importance of regular set bedtimes and sleep patterns (10/11 hours of sleep per night for primary age children) and how this leads to and promotes good behaviour. Being loved and raised in a supportive and warm environment was another positive attribute.

Healthy Eating

The meeting we held on Tuesday concerning healthy eating and wellbeing etc was very positive and thank you to all those who attended and expressed their opinions.

Cross country

There will be cross country twice a week now on **Wednesday and Friday lunchtimes** until the Hot Cross Run day for the juniors on Tuesday 22nd March. Please ensure that the children have their cross country clothes in school for both days. Thank you.

Sport Relief Mile

On Sunday 20th March at Woodside Park, Manor Road, Benfleet there will be an opportunity to take part in The Benfleet Mile for Sport Relief. Details of how to apply may be found at sportrelief.com Happy running!

Consultation

There is a consultation regarding the proposal to establish an Enhanced Provision for children with Autistic Spectrum Disorders at Merrylands Primary School Basildon on 15th March. Further details may be found on the school website.

Study day with Father Nicholas King SJ

Father Nicholas King, well-known biblical scholar, will lead a study day at the Catholic Church of Christ the Eternal High Priest, Gidea Park, RM2 6DH tomorrow from 10.30am until 3pm. The topic of the day will be "The Helplessness of God". Biblical texts will be explored to help us reflect on leadership and authority in the Church. The day is free, and tea and coffee will be provided. Please bring a packed lunch. It is essential to book your place and this should be done by email to GPstudydays@gmail.com Copies of the flyer associated with the study day are in the school foyer.

School Health

Drop- in service

Any parents with health and developmental concerns about their children may drop in to the Central Canvey Primary Care Centre, Long Road, Canvey Island SS8 OJA. They are able to perform hearing tests and no appointment is necessary.

The drop-in clinic dates are: 24th March; 21st April; 5th and 19th May; 16th and 30th June; 14th July.

For more in-depth problems please contact the clinic directly on 01268 686041 for an appointment with the school nurse.

Team Points

St Joseph's (yellow team) were the winners of the house points competition again last week.

Attendance

RW 87% 1C 96.7% 2FL 95.7% 3L 95.2% 4H 89% 5B 92.6% 6I 97%. Well done to Year 6 for best attendance last week.

Saint of the week

Yesterday was the Feast Day of St John Ogilvie, a Scottish noble and convert to Catholicism. John was so keen to spread the Catholic faith that he joined the Jesuits and returned to Calvinist Scotland to bring people back to the faith. He was betrayed to the authorities and was hanged in Glasgow in 1615 at the age of 36.

Jubilee Year of Mercy 2016

On Sunday 13th March, the community at Brentwood Cathedral welcomes LGBT men and women and their families to Mass at 6.30pm.

Motto: Merciful like the Father

From

Mrs S Birtles and Mr P O'Kane
Headteacher

Diary Dates

Saturday 12 th March Mayor's Proms	School Choir singing at The Salvation Army
Thursday 17 th March	Year 3 /4 Mass 9.30am school hall. Parents and parishioners welcome.
Friday 18 th March	Infant Music Festival 9.45am (Year 2) The Paddocks, Canvey Island Year 3 robot factory day
Monday 21 st March	Eggshibition entries in school
Tuesday 22 nd March	Hot cross run p.m. (selected junior children) St Thomas More High School
Thursday 24 th March	Year 4 Easter Presentation 2pm in the school hall parents and parishioners welcome
Friday 25 th March – Sunday 10 th April	Easter holidays

Final Training Day for Academic Year 2015/16

The final training day for staff will be on Friday 1st July 2016.

There is a calendar section on the school website—www.holyfamily.essex.sch.uk