



HOLY FAMILY CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Diocese of
Brentwood

Headteacher Mr P.O'Kane

Newsletter 438 Thursday 19th December 2019

Thank you to all the parents and grandparents who came into school last Friday afternoon to help with the craft activities in the school hall. Thanks also to Miss Furby for ensuring everything was ready for the craft afternoon. I'm told it was very enjoyable.



We have had a really lovely few days before breaking up for the Christmas holidays. As always we finished the term this afternoon with our traditional singing of carols around the Christmas tree. At lunchtime we all enjoyed a wonderful Christmas dinner prepared by Mrs Willis and her assistants. Just before lunch, Miss Furby and the Enterprise Club members drew the raffle they had organised. Alfie McMeekin was the lucky winner of a fabulous hamper full of treats. Well done Arthur!

ASSISI
CATHOLIC
TRUST

*'Start doing what's necessary
then do what's possible
and suddenly you are doing the impossible'*



Fr Eduard joined us in school yesterday morning to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation. We held a solemn prayerful service for all the children that helped them to make their spiritual Advent preparations for Christmas. After the service, Fr Eduard made himself available for individual confessions. We are always grateful to Fr Eduard for the time that he gives to the school.



We held our Christingle service yesterday afternoon which was, as always, a beautiful affair. Thank you to all of you for providing your child with a Christingle. When all the candles were lit during the liturgy, there was a tangible sense of awe and wonder in the assembly hall. It was lovely to see so many parents and grandparents joining in with this service of light that is celebrated by many Christians around the world as part of their Advent preparations for Christmas.



On Tuesday afternoon the PGSA held their Christmas discos which I understand were a great success socially and financially. DJ Jamie kept the children on the dance floor and an amazing £349.20 was raised for PGSA funds that will be spent on the children of our school. Thank you to all those involved in the PGSA who spend a lot of their time organising lovely events for the children. If you would like to join their merry band they are always keen to welcome new members!

A very special visitor dropped into school yesterday and met up with some members of the PGSA to distribute chocolate reindeers to all the children. We are extremely grateful to Santa Claus for giving up so much of his precious time to be with us, especially during his busiest time of year. I was pleased to see that he enjoyed a well-earned mug of tea in his grotto before heading back to the North Pole. Thanks also to the PGSA for buying the reindeer treats for all our pupils.

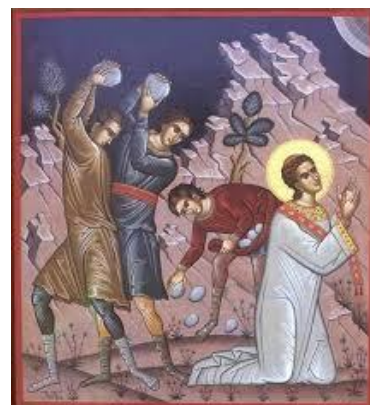
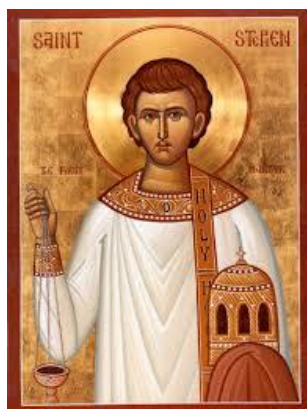
100% Attendance We held our half-termly 100% attendance draw this afternoon before we sang our carols. The lucky winner and recipient of the £10.00 prize was Aaliyana Reid from Year 2.

Staffing Today we said our goodbyes to Mrs Cole, Mrs McGovern, Mrs Williams, Mrs Clark, Mrs Bradford, Mrs Hogan and Mrs James. We also said, “Farewell for now,” to Miss Tranah as she will begin her maternity leave in January. We were very pleased to welcome back Mrs Moss on Tuesday—she has returned to work following a period of maternity leave.

Music lessons 2020 start dates Piano lessons -Tuesday 7th January; Drum lessons – Wednesday 15th January.

Reception Admissions September 2020 The admissions round for September 2020 opened on Monday 11th November 2019. Essex County Council will not send out letters, but advise all parents seeking places to visit the website www.essex.gov.uk/admissions where there is a copy of the Primary Education in Essex 2020/21 booklet and the Schools Admissions Policies Directories contain details of all admission policies.

Saint of the week In popular culture we refer to 26th December as Boxing Day, but for centuries Christians have known it as St Stephen’s Day. Stephen is honoured as the first Christian Martyr. His name means “crown” and he was the first disciple of Jesus to wear the martyr’s crown. Stephen was one of the first deacons in the early Christian Church ordained by the apostles as helpers who looked after the widows and the poor. God worked many miracles through Stephen and he spoke with such wisdom and grace that many were converted to Christianity. Stephen was dragged from the city of Jerusalem to its outskirts where he was stoned to death. He prayed to God to forgive his killers as he was dying. He is a true inspiration to us all.



Thought for the Week “ A child is born to us! A son is given to us! And he will be our ruler. He will be called: Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace.” Isaiah 9: 6

Christmas Mass Details The children and staff have worked hard throughout Advent to prepare for Christ’s birthday at Christmas. You can help your child to give meaning to these Advent preparations by attending one of the Christmas Masses—times below:

Sunday 22nd December is the Fourth Sunday of Advent—normal Sunday Mass times will be observed.

Tuesday 24 th December, 6.00pm	Holy Family Church	Vigil Mass for Christmas
Tuesday 24 th December, 10.30pm	Holy Family Church	Midnight Mass of Christmas
Wednesday 25 th December, 8.30am	St Thomas More, Hadleigh	Christmas Morning Mass

Wednesday 25 th December, 10.00am	Holy Family Church	Christmas Morning Mass
Saturday 28 th December, 6.00pm	Holy Family Church	Feast of the Holy Family
Sunday 29 th December, 8.30am	St Thomas More, Hadleigh	Feast of the Holy Family
Sunday 29 th December, 10.00am	Holy Family Church	Feast of the Holy Family
Saturday 4 th January, 6.00pm	Holy Family Church	Feast of the Epiphany
Sunday 5 th January, 8.30am	St Thomas More, Hadleigh	Feast of the Epiphany
Sunday 5 th January, 10.00am	Holy Family Church	Feast of the Epiphany



On behalf of all the staff and governors, I would like to wish all of you a very happy, holy and peaceful Christmas. I would also like to thank you for the many cards and gifts that we have received over the past few weeks—your generosity is amazing. We look forward to welcoming back all the children on Monday 6th January 2020, the traditional Feast of the Epiphany.

Attendance Nursery class 89.1% RF 94.4% 1F 92.5% 2T 94.2% 3W 90.5% 4LB 89.7% 5H 98% 6M 96.9% Well done to Year 5 for best attendance for the last full week of term.

Parish Contact Details

Holy Family Catholic Church, 661 High Road, Benfleet, SS7 6SF www.holyfamily-church.co.uk

Parish Priest: Fr Eduard Fartan, eduard.fartan@yahoo.com
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office@holyfamily-church.org

Parish Secretary: Mrs Clare Dempsey
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Mr P. O’Kane Headteacher

Diary Dates

Friday 20 th December—Friday 3 rd January 2020	Christmas Holidays
Monday 6 th January 2020	All Pupils Return to School
Friday 10 th January 2020	Whole School Pantomime Trip
Wednesday 15 th January	Online Applications for September 2020 Reception Places Close
Monday 10 th February—Friday 14 th February 2020	Year 6 Residential Trip tbc
Monday 17 th February—Friday 21 st February	Spring Half-Term Break
Monday 24 th February 2020	All Pupils Return to School

Sunday 5 th April 2020	Palm/Passion Sunday—Start of Holy Week
Monday 6 th April—Friday 17 th April 2020	Easter Holidays
Thursday 9 th April 2020	Maundy/Holy Thursday
Friday 10 th April 2020	Good Friday
Sunday 12 th April 2020	Easter Sunday
Monday 20 th April 2020	Pupils Return to School
Friday 8 th May 2020	75 th Anniversary of VE Day—Public Holiday
Monday 11 th May	KS2 (Year 6) SATs Week
Monday 25 th May—Friday 29 th May 2020	Summer Half-Term Break
Monday 1 st June 2020	Non-Pupil Day 4
Tuesday 2 nd June 2020	Pupils Return to School
Tuesday 21 st July 2020	Final School Day of Academic Year
Wednesday 22 nd July 2020	Non-Pupil Day 5