



HOLY FAMILY CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

Kents Hill Road, Benfleet, Essex SS7 5PX
Telephone: 01268 792231 *Fax:* 01268 759274
Email: admin@holyfamily.essex.sch.uk
www.holyfamily.essex.sch.uk

Headteacher Mr P.O'Kane

Newsletter 294 Friday 12th February 2016

On Wednesday afternoon we welcomed Father Eduard into school for distribution of the ashes and to celebrate our Ash Wednesday Mass. We are grateful to Father for the time which he devotes to the school and it was a marvellous way to start the Lenten season. Father Eduard told us that we are called to be better people during this special time in the Church's calendar and he has therefore asked each child and their family to say an extra Hail Mary every day throughout Lent.

Last Monday I enjoyed taking afternoon tea with some KS1 children. We had an enjoyable time discussing the books they had brought to show me. They have clearly learned a great deal and love coming to school.

On Wednesday Mr O'Kane went to Danbury to deliver an Ash Wednesday service to the children and staff. While he was there, he took part in some activities, one being canoeing. All the children had an enjoyable time; they were well fed and well exercised and thoroughly enjoyed the fresh air and outdoor environment. We remembered the Year 6 children and staff at our Mass in school and prayed for them.

Year 6 arrived back from Danbury this afternoon tired but happy. I know that their parents have enjoyed looking at the photographs we have uploaded on to the school website. They can be found in the Gallery, "out and about" section. I would like to thank Mr Watson for sending the photos through on a daily basis. How lucky they have been with the weather this week especially the sun on Thursday.

The children took part in a range of activities including canoeing, climbing and the zip wire. Throughout the week they were excellent ambassadors for our school, demonstrating good behaviour and positive attitudes and growth mindsets. Thank you to all the members of staff: Mr Watson, Miss Lardner, Mrs Hunter and Mr Lawrence for giving their time so generously for the benefit of the children. I hope that the half-term holiday will allow them to recharge their batteries.

Monday 22nd February

The first day after the half term break will be a non-pupil day for staff training. We would ask parents to please bear with us regarding the short notice you were given of this date and we are

grateful for your understanding. This matter has been brought to the attention of the Governors and we hope to agree the final non-pupil day shortly. Parents will then be notified immediately. Rest assured that the four non-pupil days for the next academic year will be set earlier in the Autumn Term, with one being held over in lieu of unforeseen training needs. We have experienced some technical difficulties with updating parts of the school website and offer our apologies for this. We appreciate that it is not always easy to navigate but hope that the problem will be rectified shortly. Please bear with us!

World Book Day Thursday 3rd March

In order to celebrate World Book Day this academic year we will be asking the children to dress up but we would like parents to donate a new book or a second hand book in mint condition. A list of the authors which would be pertinent to the children's learning and development may be found on the school website under the Newsletter section. Thank you for your support.

Parent Governor Election

Just a reminder that the deadline for submission of the nomination forms is **9.30am Tuesday 23rd February 2016**

BBC Radio 2 500 words competition

As some of you may be aware, BBC Radio 2 is running their annual 500 words competition where children between the age of 5 and 13 are invited to submit a short story on any topic. There are two age categories: 5-9 and 10-13 with gold, silver and bronze prizes awarded in each category. The competition website www.bbc.co.uk/children's/activities has some handy tips for writers and is a mine of information. There are some wonderful writers at Holy Family School and how amazing would it be if one of our pupils were to be placed in the competition. The deadline is **7.00pm on Thursday 25th February** so come on budding Holy Family authors get writing over the half-term break! We would love to read any entries which are submitted. Good luck.

Can you be caught reading?

Reading is such a key skill for our children and is a primary focus in school. With this in mind, we are striving to promote the importance and fun reading can have. So, we would like parents and carers to photograph their child being caught reading in unusual places. While some places may seem amusing at home please bear in mind we would like to use these in a school display. Remember Bishop Alan is visiting shortly! Staff are joining in this venture and this should make for a very enjoyable display. Please send photographs in to school via your child/children.

I look forward to seeing them.

Safeguarding

**** Lay Members required for the Essex Safeguarding Children and Adult Boards ****

Have you got what it takes to make a difference to Safeguarding in Essex?

If you are involved in your community, want to promote the welfare of children, young people or adults, and are happy to be the voice of service users in meetings, then this could be the opportunity for you!

Both the Essex Safeguarding Children and Adult Boards are looking to appoint volunteer Lay Members from April 2016, for a period of 2 years, with a review after 1 year.

If you are interested in becoming involved in this interesting opportunity, then please have a look at our school website where you will find more information.

Raising Boys Club

The school is planning to pilot a 'Raising Boys Club' and we are looking for eight parents to volunteer as part of this pilot scheme. If you are interested in this opportunity, please leave your name at the school office. Parents and carers should ideally represent children from consecutive year groups so this will be taken in to account when selecting the participants. Thank you for your understanding in this matter.

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: 25th February; 10th and 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 John Bosco (green team) were the winners for the second week running in last week's house points competition.

Attendance

RW 95.3% 1C 97.7% 2FL 91% 3L 89% 4H 97.7% 5B 94.2% 6I 99.7%. Well done to Year 6 for best attendance last week.

Saint of the week

Yesterday was the Feast day of Our Lady of Lourdes and St Bernadette to whom Our Lady appeared at Lourdes was a perfect example of a merciful person providing a solid link with the

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