

HOLY FAMILY CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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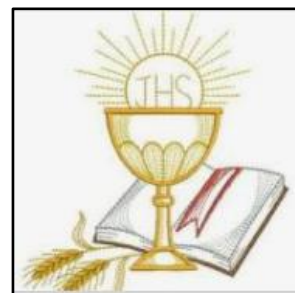
Diocese of
Brentwood

Acting Headteacher: Mrs N.Hurley

Newsletter 465 Friday 16th October 2020

Congratulations to the following children who made their First Holy Communion on Saturday 17.10.2020

Alicja	Antonio	Elsie	Isabella	Jamie
Milly	Olivia	Pearse	Roman	Sam C
Sam S	Simon	Tia	Vinnie	



Even though numbers invited to attend this special Mass had to be limited (in line with Government policy) it was a beautiful celebration. Our thanks to Fr Eduard for celebrating the Mass and to Mrs Herridge, Catherine, Imelda, Mrs Hart and Mrs Prophet for preparing the children to receive the Sacrament and for the excellent organisation on the day.

It is hard to believe we have only one more week to go until half term. All the children and staff have worked extremely hard. The half term break is definitely needed and well-deserved. Speaking on behalf of all my colleagues and our Governors, we would like to thank all our school families for being so supportive since September. During this very challenging time, we continually rely on your support in so many ways: ensuring your children are in school and on time; being organised so that the office staff do not need to mix bubbles by travelling around the school delivering forgotten items; keeping your children at home when they are unwell, and following all of the guidelines to keep our school community safe.

With the significant rise in confirmed cases, both nationally and locally, there is a greater chance that people in our school community may come in contact with someone who tested positive for COVID. From Tuesday 20th October, we will therefore introduce an extra safety measure. **We ask that all adults now wear a mask when dropping off and collecting the children. Please inform childminders, grandparents or other relatives who collect your child of this new guidance.** Likewise, if you need to come into the main school foyer, we also ask that you wear a face covering. Please continue to follow the guidance:

- Aim to keep a 2m distance from anyone who is not part of your household (2m plus if you are exempt from wearing a face covering)
- Do not come to school, or send your child into school, if anyone in your household is experiencing symptoms. Book a test immediately, or self-isolate for 14 days, and let us know so we can monitor bubbles across the school.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/local-covid-alert-high>

We can keep ourselves, and all our community safe by remembering, **Hands, Face, Space**

NEW INTERIM HEADTEACHER

By now, I'm sure everyone has heard the very positive news that Mr. Daniel Craft will take up his post and commence his new responsibilities for the leadership and management of our school on Monday 2nd November 2020. We are looking forward to welcoming him into our school community.

STARS OF THE WEEK AWARD

The following children were awarded STAR OF THE WEEK by their teachers for the following reasons:



- Irotioluwa (EYFS)** for always coming in with a smile and being a great friend
- Robyn (Y1)** Always being positive and helpful and for wonderful contributions in class.
- Daisy (Y2)** Daisy for trying so hard in class and being an absolute star.
- Zachary (Y3)** for always trying his best and making Miss Furby smile every day
- Kenzi (Y4)** for her thoughtfulness and kindness to others
- Massimo (Y5)** For being a very thoughtful and extremely helpful member of the class.
- Lilia (Y6)** for excellent work in maths this week, especially in problem solving and reasoning.

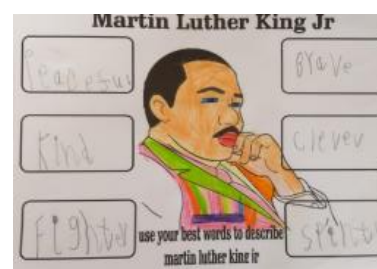
School Photos

School photos were sent home with the children on Friday 16th. If you are not ordering online and returning the order form to school, please note that the order by date on the proof card is 19th October 2020 but this has been extended until Wednesday 21st October 2020.

Some examples of wonderful learning taking place in school this week:



Year 1: have talked about Martin Luther King for Black Lives Matters and generated a list of words to describe him. They also looked at Wassily Kandinsky and used his work 'Squares with Concentric Circles' as inspiration for their art work.



Year 2: began writing their stories inspired by The Storm Whale. They have been working on addition and subtraction in maths and have learnt about the discovery of new materials in science with a focus on John McAdam. Did you know his road building method (macadamisation) revolutionised travel in the 19th century and links with modern roads and the use of tarmac? The Year 2 children also enjoyed learning how to play tennis. They have shown great determination in learning new skills.

Year 3: finished their Stone Age stories this week and started to make Stone Age weapons and ornaments. I've seen some of their weapons and they look pretty gruesome!

Year 5: investigated soluble and insoluble materials in science and extended their skills using addition and subtraction. In History, they are currently learning about the Victorians.

Year 6: children have been mastering the use of long division and have also written some very moving War Poems.

All year groups completed their Big Question in RE and started their new RE topic. Please take time to look at the curriculum overviews for each year group posted on our school website.

Very well done to each and every one of the children for the fantastic efforts they have made this week – you should be very proud of yourselves.

Parent Consultations

Our non-pupil day is scheduled for **Monday 19th October 2020**. Teachers will be available throughout the day from 8:30am until 5pm to discuss your child's progress. All meetings will be conducted by phone call.

During the meeting with your child's teacher, you will have an opportunity to discuss your child's strengths and also how you can support your child achieve their autumn term targets. Thank you to everyone who has already booked a slot with the class teachers. **Please let the class teacher know if your child has difficulty accessing any of the on-line learning programs: BUG CLUB, TT Rockstars, My Maths, White Rose Maths.**

Attendance

Please note, holidays should not be booked during term time. Unauthorised absence can have a detrimental effect on your child's educational journey. Even in these difficult times, we still aim to keep our school attendance at **96% overall**.

Group	% Attendance
Year 1	95.2%
Year 2	97.1%
Year 3	92.6%
Year 4	92.8%
Year 5	94.0%
Year 6	90.3%
Overall %	93.5%

ICT Infrastructure Update Project



As mentioned last week, our school is currently in the process of installing new laptops and Chromebooks which means we have limited access to the internet. Please bear with us during the transfer of our IT systems. If there are any urgent messages for teachers, please use admin@holyfamily.essex.sch.uk rather than our Class Dojo communication system.

ADMISSIONS - IMPORTANT UPDATE

If your child is due to start school in September 2021 you will no longer receive a letter from the council inviting you to apply and giving you the relevant opening and closing dates for applications. - please follow this link for further information: <https://www.essex.gov.uk/admissions-to-essex-schools-for-the-next-school-year>

SEPT 2021 OPEN MORNINGS

Due to the current situation of limiting the number of visitors in school, this year we are planning something a little different. After half term, there will be a short information video available for parents about the school and the process of application. We are also working on producing a virtual tour of the school mainly delivered by the children.

Secondary School Admissions

The application period for Year 7 secondary admissions for September 2021 opens on **11th September 2020**. Parents should apply online via www.essex.gov.uk/admissions. The statutory national closing date for applications is 31st October 2020.

Counselling

If your child is struggling through a painful experience, or is experiencing anxieties for whatever reason, and you would like any further information on how we could support them, through group play therapy, or individual sessions with a counsellor, please do not hesitate to e-mail me and I will arrange for you to speak to Catherine (our school counsellor) or with an outside agency.

Useful COVID-19 website links

Stay at home guidance for households with possible coronavirus (COVID-19) infection
<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance>

New restrictions for areas in HIGH ALERT
<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/local-covid-alert-high>

Stay at home: what to do if you or someone you share your home with has coronavirus symptoms
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/906663/20203007_Easy_read_household_isolation_v3.1.pdf

Guidance for households with grandparents, parents and children living together where someone is at increased risk or has possible or confirmed coronavirus (COVID-19) infection
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/guidance-for-households-with-grandparents-parents-and-children-living-together-where-someone-is-at-increased-risk-or-has-symptoms-of-coronavirus-cov>

Please follow the link to an open letter to parents and carers from Essex police
<https://www.essex.gov.uk/news/essex-county-council-open-letter-to-parents-and-carers>

Religious Education

Ten:Ten Parent Newsletter – October

Please find a link below to the very short but useful newsletter for this month which will help you to support the prayer life of your child <https://www.tentenresources.co.uk/parent-newsletter>

God bless and thank you for always being so supportive of our wonderful school community.
Mrs Hurley