



# HOLY FAMILY CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Headteacher Mr P.O'Kane

## Newsletter 308 Friday 17<sup>th</sup> June 2016

What a busy week it has been!

A phonics screening inspector called into school on Tuesday morning for an unannounced spot check. I am pleased to say that she was able to give Holy Family a clean bill of health in terms of test administration and probity. She was so zealous in her efforts to check that the papers were stored in locked cupboards that she actually broke the lock on one door! Mrs Hurley, our Assessment Leader (and Deputy Headteacher) was a model of discretion throughout the door damaging debacle!

I am extremely pleased with how the children and staff have applied themselves to undertaking the phonics screening tests. I know everyone involved gave of their best.

On Tuesday afternoon we welcomed the parents of our September 2016 Reception class in to school for an information session. There were a number of "old faces" as well as many "new faces." Sue Simpson from the school nursing team joined us to offer advice and guidance and school staff were on hand to answer any questions. I am extremely grateful to Mrs Fisher, Mrs Wall and Mrs Williams for preparing all the parental information packs.



Year 3 travelled to Layer Marney on Wednesday as part of their history topic on Anglo Saxons. I hear that they had a wonderful day making clay pots and also had an interesting session learning about King Alfred. However, one of the best reports to come back from the trip was a comment from a senior staff member at Layer Marney—she told Miss Lardner that the Year 3 children were one of the best behaved and enthusiastic groups that had visited this year. I made a point of going into Year 3 on Thursday morning to thank them for being such great ambassadors for Holy Family School. Thank you to Miss Lardner for organising the trip and to the staff and parents who helped her.



Last night our full governing body met for their termly meeting. We formally welcomed two new governors—Mrs Loretta Hill and Mrs Maria Peddle. They have joined the governing body at an extremely interesting time. The government is changing how education is structured and provided throughout England and at the same time Bishop Alan is reorganising how our diocese provides Catholic education in line with the changes that the government wants to see. Governors have an awful lot of responsibility and give freely of their time and effort on behalf of the children in our school—we should all be extremely grateful for their dedication and commitment.

### **Mobile Phone & e-Safety Talk**

An increasing amount of my time and that of other staff members is taken up with refereeing disputes between children, and more worryingly, their parents that relate to text messages, postings on social media etc. These events always occur away from school, but the problems are brought into school. Next Tuesday, PC Jane Grieve from Essex Police will be in school to

talk to children about how to appropriately use mobile phones and other technology and how to stay safe. In previous years, this talk has been given to Year 6 children, but as parents buy mobile phones, tablets and other devices for younger children, we feel it is necessary to have Year 5 children involved as well. Please remember, that in this area, you are role-models for your children. If you text and post inappropriately, your children will follow suit.

### **Inflatable Fun Day Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> July—Advertising Boards**

As you are aware, Amos Estates have offered to give the school £5.00 for every advertising board they can place on properties in the area. If you would be willing to have an estate agent's board on your property advertising the event on 16<sup>th</sup> July, please leave your name and address at the office or simply drop a note into the drop box. Thank you to those families who have already done so. Amos estates have specified that a minimum of 20 properties are required.

### **Piano lessons**

There will be four spaces for piano lessons with Mrs Rothwell starting in the Autumn Term 2016. The lessons last 15 minutes and are given during the school day. Fees are £75 for 10 lessons per term payable in advance. If your child is interested in having lessons, please leave their name with the school office.

### **St Bernard's Performing Arts Summer School**

St Bernard's High School is running a Performing Arts Summer School for Year 5 and 6 girls from Monday 25<sup>th</sup> July to Friday 29<sup>th</sup> July. This is the fifth year that the course has been run by the in-house Drama and Dance teachers. The course runs from 9.30am - 3.30pm daily and ends with a showcase on Friday at 4.00pm. The cost for the week is £65.00. Information letters from St Bernard's may be found in the Holy Family 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: 30<sup>th</sup> June; 14<sup>th</sup> July.

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

### **Attendance**

RW 92.7% 1C 96.7% 2FL 94.7% 3L 93.8% 4H 97.3% 5B 96.9% 6I 96.9%. Well done to Year 5 for best attendance last week.

### **Saint of the Week.**

On June 15th we remembered three English Martyrs who were imprisoned during the reign of Henry VIII and eventually left to starve to death at Newgate Prison. They were Thomas Green, Thomas Reding and Thomas Scryven, all members of the Carthusian order of priests. Aren't we lucky that as Catholics in modern England we don't have to go through the same trials and tribulations, but it's worth remembering that there are still parts of the world where people are dying for their faith.

Mr P O'Kane Headteacher

**Diary Dates**

Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> June	St Bernard's & St Thomas More Information Session for Year 5 Parents, 3.30pm
Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup> June	Mobile Phone & e-Safety Talk Yr 5 & 6
Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> June	Sports Morning 9.30 am
Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> June	Year 6 Deanery Mass 2.00pm
Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup> June	Catholic Schools Sports KS1
Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 5 Taster Day—King John School
Monday 27 <sup>th</sup> June	Governors' Finance & Premises Meeting Governors' Personnel Meeting
Tuesday 28 <sup>th</sup> June	Induction Day (1) King John & Appleton
Wednesday 29 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 1 & 2 Trip to Barleylands
Wednesday 29 <sup>th</sup> June	Induction Day (2) King John & Appleton
Thursday 30 <sup>th</sup> June	Early Learning Centre Sports Day 11am
Thursday 30 <sup>th</sup> June	Induction Day (1) St Bernard's, St Thomas More, Westcliff for Boys & Girls
Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> July	Non-pupil day
Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> July	Induction Day (2) St Bernard's, St Thomas More, Westcliff for Boys & Girls
Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> July	Induction Day Southend High School for Boys & Girls
Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> July	Year 5 Day to St Bernard's & St Thomas More
Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup> July	South Essex Archery Tournament
Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup> July	St Bernard's Open Evening

Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> July	Catholic Schools Sports KS2
Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> July	St Thomas More Open Evening
Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> July	Year 4 Trip—Sandford Mill
Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> July	Reception 2016/17 Induction 1
Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup> July	Reception 2016/17 Induction 2
Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup> July	Year 6 Trip—Greenwich
Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup> July	BATIC Schools Swimming Gala pm
Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> July	Road to Rio Dance Day
Saturday 16 <sup>th</sup> July	Inflatable Fun Day (tbc)
Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> July	Last School Day of the Academic Year
Thursday 1 <sup>st</sup> September	Non-Pupil Day
Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> September	Non-Pupil Day
Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> September	Children Return to School
Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup> October	Non-Pupil Day
Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> October	Non-Pupil Day
Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> October—Friday 28 <sup>th</sup> October	Half-Term Holiday
Thursday 22 <sup>nd</sup> December 2016—Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> January 2017	Christmas Holidays
Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> February—Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> February 2017	Half-Term Holiday
Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> April—Monday 17 <sup>th</sup> April 2017	Easter Holidays
Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> May 2017	Public Holiday
Monday 29 <sup>th</sup> May—Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> June 2017	Half-Term Holiday
Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> July 2017	Last Day of the School Year
Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> July 2017	Summer Holidays

***One more non-pupil day will need to be arranged. Schools must set aside 5 each year.***

