



# HOLY FAMILY CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Headteacher Mr P.O'Kane

## Newsletter 346 Friday 26<sup>th</sup> May 2017

Last Friday morning, Oliver Richards from Year 2 attended the annual Brentwood Catholic Schools Citizenship Awards Ceremony in Brentwood Cathedral with his family and Mrs Gilbert. Oliver was Holy Family's recipient this year, and Bishop Alan presented him with his trophy. The staff nominated Oliver to receive the award in recognition of the positive way in which he has dealt with his current medical and mobility issues. For such a young child, he is an inspiration to us all.



The First Communion Mass on Saturday was a lovely occasion. It was a privilege to be in the congregation to witness all the children receiving the Blessed Sacrament for the first time. Mrs Herridge has asked if the First Communicants could please arrive at Holy Family Church at 5.30pm on Saturday evening to prepare for the parish Crowning of Our Lady service. The children should wear their First Communion clothes.

During Monday's assembly I talked to the children about Mary; I also had the opportunity to present Oliver Richards with his trophy in front of the school community.

Senior staff from St Bernard's and St Thomas More schools met with some of our Year 5 parents on Monday afternoon to talk about Year 7 admission arrangements. Thank you to those parents who came along to meet the visitors.



Wednesday morning's hymn practice was our first whole school gathering in the aftermath of the awful events in Manchester on Monday evening. Sr Jude from the Brentwood Religious Education Service had put together a prayer service that Mrs Lewins was able to use with the children as they prayed for the victims and their families.

Yesterday morning, all pupils, staff and visitors marked an impeccable national one minute's silence at 11.00am on the school playground. We used our Remembrance Cross as a focal point. I know that some families from our school community have friends and relatives in Manchester that have been affected by this recent outrage and we will keep them all in our prayers.



Miss Furby, Mr Lawrence, Mrs Gilbert and Mrs Wade accompanied a team of Reception and KS1 children to St Teresa's Catholic School in Rochford yesterday to compete in a cross-country running event—the ***Pentecost Dash***. I believe that it was a highly competitive affair, but our children were a credit to the school with their behaviour and attitude. A couple of our children came home with medals: Bradley Boateng earned silver in the Year 1 Boys' Race and Abigail Barber received bronze in the Year 2 Girls' Race. Well done to all who took part and represented our school so well. Thank you to parents and other family members who cheered the team on.



There was great excitement in the outdoor area behind the Year 3 classroom yesterday afternoon. Mrs Wheatley and the children were engaged in making their volcanoes “erupt” with baking powder, vinegar and food colouring. Wisely, Mrs Wheatley didn’t feel that this activity should be undertaken in Communion dresses and suits! The children were thoroughly engaged and there was a real sense of awe and wonder.



Miss Furby hosted a Phonics Information Session for parents after school yesterday evening. I am grateful to the parents who took the time to attend and then chatted with Miss Furby and me afterwards.

This afternoon we held our traditional Crowning of Our Lady ceremony to honour Mary Our Blessed Mother. The service was led by the First Communicants from Year 3; it was a lovely reverent occasion. Thank you to all those who donated flowers for the May Altar; they looked magnificent as always and special thanks to Mrs Gilbert, Mrs Herman, Mrs Hunter, Mrs Impey and Mrs Murphy for building and decorating the altar earlier today. I’m sure we will have some lovely photographs for the next newsletter and the school website.

**Enterprise Club** Miss Furby and the Enterprise Club children raised £25.00 this week with their ***Brain Break*** initiative. There will be more exciting projects from the Enterprise Club after half-term.

**Parent, Governor and Staff Association (PGSA)** Everyone should have received a Parentmail this week with information about the new PGSA. There will be an inaugural meeting in the school hall on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> June at 7.00pm. This means that you can come out and participate in two elections: the General Election and the more important PGSA Committee Election. I know that many of you have significant fundraising experience and that many more of you are keen to get involved with fundraising for the school. Do please come along and help to get the PGSA off the ground. The PGSA will need a chairperson, a secretary, a treasurer and other committee members, so think about putting your name forward or one of your friends.

**School Dinner Menu** We will begin with Week 1 after half term.

**Journey in Love** Holy Family School, in common with most schools in our diocese follows a Catholic programme of study for Sex & Relationship Education (SRE) called ***Journey In Love***. The programme was devised by Sr Jude Grodden from the diocese and is approved by the bishop. After half-term, class teachers will be delivering the programme to their pupils. Mr Watson and Mrs Mitchell have uploaded the ***Journey In Love*** materials to each class page so that parents can browse through the content at home.

**PennUK.com** The staff of PennUK (based at Shafers Arcade in Benfleet) have informed us that they are now ready to start taking school uniform orders from Holy Family parents. There will be a transition period during which our school stock of jumpers and cardigans will be available at Penn.

**Saint of the Week** I won't write about a saint this week as next Sunday is the Feast of Pentecost, the birthday of the Church! This is one of the great Christian festivals and will be marked in the school with a special assembly on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> June. Mrs Willis will make birthday cake for the whole school. At Pentecost we recall the coming of the Holy Spirit, filling the apostles with courage to go out into the world and spread the Good News.



**Attendance** Nursery class 82.3% RF 99.7% 1F 99.3% 2T 89.7% 3W 91.4% 4D 98.3%  
5LB 98% 6F 97.7%

Well done to our Reception class for best attendance last week.

**School Health Drop-in service** If you have concerns about your child's health then you can use the Drop-in service where no appointments are necessary. The limit is 15 minutes per child but for more in-depth problems please contact the clinic directly to speak to a member of the school nurse team. The locations are:

Central Canvey Primary Care Centre, Long Road, Canvey Island, SS8 OJA. Phone 01268 686041 from 2-4pm 8<sup>th</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup> June; 6<sup>th</sup> July.

Oak Tree Children's Centre, Grovewood Primary School, Grove Road, Rayleigh, SS6 8UA. Phone 01268 686041 from 2-4pm 13<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup> June; 11<sup>th</sup> July.

Wishing Well Children's Centre, Waterman Primary School, The Boulevard, Rochford, SS4 1QF. Phone 01702 541460 from 2-4pm 5<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> June; 3<sup>rd</sup> July.

Mr P. O'Kane

Headteacher

**Diary Dates**

Monday 29 <sup>th</sup> May- Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> June	Half-term holiday
Sunday 4 <sup>th</sup> June	Pentecost Sunday—Birthday of the Church
Wednesday 7 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 6 to Walsingham House
Thursday 8 <sup>th</sup> June	PGSA Launch, 7.00pm, School Hall
Friday 9 <sup>th</sup> June	EYFS & KS1 Mass, 9.30am, School Hall (Parents & Parishioners Welcome)
Thursday 15 <sup>th</sup> June	Corpus Christi Procession and Adoration, 2.30pm (Parents & Parishioners Welcome)
Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 1 to Marsh Farm
Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> June	School Sports Morning
Monday 26 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 6 Deanery Mass, 11.00am Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Leigh-on-Sea ( <i>date change</i> )
Tuesday 27 <sup>th</sup> & Wednesday 28 <sup>th</sup> June	The Appleton, The Deanes and The King John School Y7 induction days
Thursday 29 <sup>th</sup> June	Feast of Saints Peter & Paul—Mass in School (Children & Staff Only)
Thursday 29 <sup>th</sup> June & Friday 30 <sup>th</sup> June	St Bernard's & St Thomas More Y7 induction days
Friday 30 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 4 class assembly 10.15am
Wednesday 5 <sup>th</sup> July	KS1 Catholic Sports 9.30- 12.00pm St Teresa's
Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup> July	KS2 Catholic Sports 9.30-12.00pm St Thomas More High School
Friday 7 <sup>th</sup> July	Year 1 class assembly 10.15am Year 3 Eucharist Day St Bernard's High School
Monday 10 <sup>th</sup> July	Year 2 trip to Wat Tyler Park
Tuesday 11 <sup>th</sup> July	KS2 District Sports The Deanes School

Friday 14<sup>th</sup> July

Year 2 class assembly 10.15am

Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> July

Family Fun Day

Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> July

Year 6 class assembly 2.30pm

Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> July

Year 6 Leavers' Mass, 7.00pm Holy Family Church

**Non-pupil Days 2017—2018** The following non-pupil days have been approved by the school's governors: Monday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2017, Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> September 2017, Friday 20<sup>th</sup> October 2017, Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2018, and Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February 2018.