

HOLY FAMILY CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Headteacher Mr P.O'Kane

Newsletter 356 Friday 22nd September 2017

The Welcome Picnic/BBQ organised by the PGSA last Saturday was a great success. Everyone that I spoke to had a lovely time; parents were particularly happy that their children could go off and play with their friends in a safe environment. I am extremely grateful to the parents, governors and staff who gave up their time to make this event happen. Special thanks must go to Soulfire who entertained us all with their live music. This event was organised primarily as a social occasion, but it still managed to make a profit of £376.02—half of which will go to the Governors' Fund; half to the PGSA.



Southend United staff have been in school on a regular basis since the start of term. As well as providing football coaching they have been operating a number of programmes in various classes and have been reading with the children. Some of the SUFC coaches led an assembly along with two first team players on Thursday afternoon that was enjoyed by everyone.



Thanks so much to all the parents and grandparents who attended the final round of “Meet the Teacher” meetings. Miss Furby and I are also extremely grateful to the small band of parents and grandparents who attended a Year 1 phonics workshop on Wednesday afternoon. Throughout the year, staff will be running phonics, English and maths sessions for parents—please keep an eye on the newsletter for details.

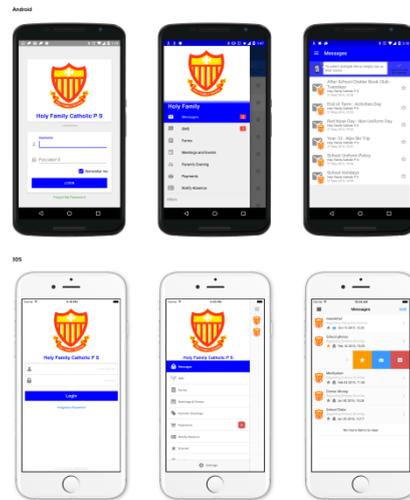
We welcomed back Mr Pethers the ukulele teacher yesterday. He will be working with Year 4 for 10 weeks—his time will be funded by Essex Music Services. The children enjoyed their first lesson and are looking forward to performing for an audience at the end of their series of lessons.



Holy Family Poets I received a wonderful surprise last week. A package arrived containing a poetry book (that I hadn’t ordered). On closer inspection, I found that the book contained poems by four Holy Family Pupils (one is now in Year 7)—the Essex children: Freya, Blake, Ellis and Vinny. They wrote their poems at home and submitted them online. All their poems were about their wonderful mum.



Holy Family School Parentmail App The ladies in the office and Mr Watson have been working extremely hard to iron out any bugs before we go live with our new Parentmail App. A letter will go out to all families—we hope that the new App will be available next week. In the future, all parents will need to download the app in order to receive messages, newsletters etc.



Driving & Parking Although we have just been back at school a few weeks, there have already been complaints about driving and parking at drop-off and pick-up time. It saddens me greatly that a small number of parents who choose to park and drive in a selfish, thoughtless manner create danger for other children and cause unnecessary friction in our school community. In addition, my time and the time of other staff members is taken away from other important work. Please, please, please park and drive in a responsible, courteous manner. The double yellow lines on the corner are there to keep pedestrians safe—so please don't park on them. When the corner is clogged, it's virtually impossible to have a clear line of vision to cross the road. Does there need to be a serious accident in order for the small minority to change their ways? I sincerely hope not. If you do have concerns about the parking and driving of others, please contact the police immediately—I have no authority beyond the school gate.

Reception Class Toys Mrs Fisher would like to remind all parents and children that the toys in the Reception class outdoor area are **NOT** for playing on after school. Already, so early in the term, some of the items in the Reception outdoor area have been broken and damaged. Please keep your children with you when you collect them at 3.15pm each day. Thank you.

School Photographer Next Thursday 28th September the photographer will be in school to take class photographs as well as individual and family portraits. We should like the children to wear their **winter uniform** for these photographs. Thank you.

Echo New Starters Special The photograph of our new Reception class will be published in The Echo on Tuesday 26th September. Copies of the newspaper will be available to purchase in the school office.

Benfleet Young Drama This local drama workshop run by Jackie Poth has a number of vacancies available for children in Reception class upwards. The children learn drama through workshop games and get an opportunity to show off their talents in a production—***Cinderella Rockefeller*** (early 2018). The sessions are held each Tuesday evening, straight from school at

St Thomas More Church Hall, Hadleigh until 5.15pm, but will be relocating to the school hall in the very near future. Further information from Jackie Poth on 07703187143.

Year 6 Parents—Secondary School Admissions 2018 The Essex Local Authority online application system opened on 12th September 2017 and the last day for receipt of applications in paper or electronic forms is Tuesday 31st October 2017. Applications may be made online via www.essex.gov.uk/admissions and last year 98% of parents in Essex applied online. The website also has a copy of the Secondary Education in Essex 2018-2019 booklet. [www.essex.gov.uk/Education-Schools/Schools/Admissions/Documents/secondary Admissions Booklet.pdf](http://www.essex.gov.uk/Education-Schools/Schools/Admissions/Documents/secondary%20Admissions%20Booklet.pdf)

Please check the specific application processes of each secondary school—Catholic secondary schools will require all parents to complete a Supplementary Information Form (SIF) and (where applicable) submit a Priest's Reference Form (PRF—see next newsletter item). Some schools may require your child to take an entrance exam, an aptitude test or undergo an audition for a particular specialism such as drama or dance.

Job 3 A Cantata by Michael Stephens will be performed at Holy Family Church, Benfleet on October 21st at 7.30pm. Tickets are £8 for adults and £5 for concessions. Contact Angela Kelly at angkelly4321@gmail.com

Reception 2018 Admissions—Open Morning & Open Evening The admissions process for Reception Class 2018 begins on Monday 13th November 2017. There will be an Open Morning for all interested prospective parents on Thursday 16th November, 9.30—11.45am. Additionally, parents will have the opportunity to attend an Open Evening that night, 5.30—8.00pm.

Parent Governor Staff Association (PGSA)—Future Events

Movie Night—Thursday 19th October: KS1 - 3.30-5.00pm and KS2 5.30-7.30pm—movies to be confirmed at the next PGSA meeting (all parents are welcome to attend).

Family Quiz Night –Saturday 18th November 2017 start time 7.30pm—bring your own drinks and nibbles

Christmas Bazaar/Craft Event—Friday 1st December 2017 time to be confirmed.

Saint of the Week St Andrew Kim Taegon and St Paul Chong Hasang were the first Korean martyrs for the faith. Andrew was a priest; Paul was a lay assistant. There was a great deal of persecution of Christians in Korea during the 19th Century—over 100 martyrs died for the faith. It's important to remember that the faith we often take for granted is a matter of life and death for many Catholics around the world. Their feast day was celebrated on 20th September.



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 on 01268 686041. The locations are: Little Lions Children's Centre Northwick Park Academy, Third Avenue, Canvey Island, SS8 9SU. Phone 01268 686041 3-4pm 21st September; 5th & 19th October; 9th & 23rd November; 7th December and Oak Tree Children's Centre, Grovewood Primary School, Grove Road, Rayleigh SS6 8UA. Phone 01268 775910 2-4pm 26th September; 10th & 31st October ;14th & 28th November; 12th December.

Attendance 1F 99.6% 2T 98% 3W 95.7% 4HW 93.4% 5LB 98.2% 6F 99% Well done to Years 2,3 and 6 for joint best attendance last week.

Mr P. O'Kane

Headteacher

Diary Dates

Monday 25 th September	Reception class full-time
Thursday 28 th September	School Photographer
Friday 29 th September	Year 2 class assembly 10.15am
Wednesday 4 th October	Phonics Workshop for parents 2.45pm
Wednesday 18 th October	Practical Phonics Workshop
Thursday 19 th October	Year 1 and Reception 9-10am school hall
Friday 20 th October	Spelling Workshop for parents 2.30pm
	Non-pupil day
Monday 23 rd October—Friday 27 th October	Autumn Half-term Break
Friday 3 rd November	Year 1 class assembly 10.15am
Tuesday 7 th November	Parent Contact Evening, 3.30—6.00pm
Thursday 9 th November	Parent Contact Evening, 5.00—7.30pm
Friday 10 th November	Year 6 Remembrance assembly
Thursday 16 th November	Open morning 9.30-11.45am & Open evening 5.30—8.00pm, Reception Admissions September 2018
Friday 17 th November	Year 4 class assembly 10.15am
Friday 22 nd November	Year 3 class assembly 10.15am
Wednesday 20 th December	Last day in school 2017
Thursday 21 st December—Monday 1 st January 2018	Christmas Holidays
Tuesday 2 nd January 2018	Non-pupil day
Wednesday 3 rd January 2018	First day of Spring Term 2018
Monday 5 th February—Friday 9 th February 2018	Year 6 Danbury Residential