



# HOLY FAMILY CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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## Diocese of Brentwood

Headteacher Mr P.O'Kane

### Newsletter 455 Friday 19<sup>th</sup> June 2020

Dear Parents/Carers



It has been another busy week in school with more pupils coming back either in their Class Bubble or Key Worker Groups. Life is gradually returning to some sort of normality in school, but let's not forget that there are many still working on the front line.



Thank you to all parents and carers for confirming your child's place for the remainder of term. We are really pleased that we have been able to accommodate all family requests. Next week we expect to welcome back over 90 different pupils across the week. We are looking forward to having our two EYFS Class Bubble Groups in school for three days: Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. Everyone is working hard in school, but the children are also having fun which is equally important. It is lovely to see them rekindling their friendships and starting to pick up where they left off with their learning. One of the activities introduced this week was decorating stones to make a snake along the railings of our school. The children have called it our 'Unity Snake' and we are inviting all children to decorate their own stone at home to add to the school snake. These are just some of the examples already in place.

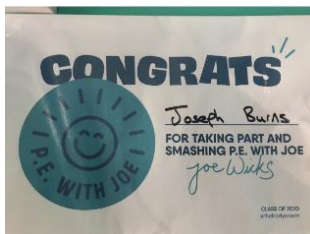


You will have received a Parentmail informing you that from Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> June, the Key Worker children will be with their classmates rather than in mixed age groups. In addition to

teaching their class in school, teachers will continue to provide similar on-line learning tasks for the children who remain at home until the end of term. We want nothing more than to see all the children return to school and we realise many year 2, 3, 4 and 5 parents are disappointed that their children are unable to return at this time. I am sure you understand that because of the social distancing measures it is simply not possible. We do not have the capacity to take any more children due to staffing numbers and limited space, but if the situation changes I will let you know. Please let the teacher know if your child does not have access to technology and we will continue to provide packs of resources which can be collected from the main school foyer.

We are aware that some children are struggling to stay motivated. This is understandable, but it's good to know the majority of pupils are still working hard and continuing to access the work. I often

hear positive comments regarding the efforts being made by the children to complete the home learning activities. Well done children! Please see examples of



activities and achievements for this week in the montage of photographs at the end of the newsletter.



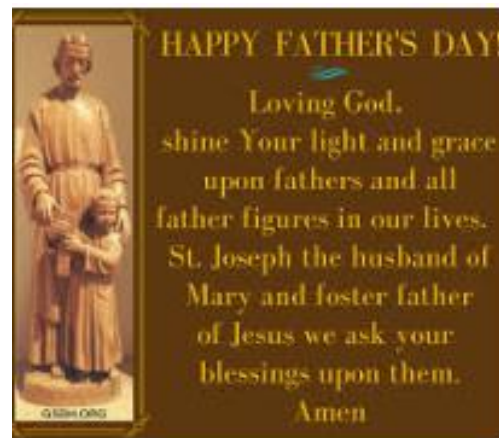
It was announced yesterday that all children are expected back at school in September full time for the new academic year. As yet, I do not have any further details. You may also have heard in the news that a £1bn fund has been set up to help children catch up on learning. Primary schools will be given £325m to spend on one-to-one or group tuition for any pupils who need it. We know that there will be many gaps in our children's learning when they come back to us so we hope that we will be able to use this funding to appropriately support them.

It is hard to believe that we only have four weeks left until the end of term! Please do not hesitate to telephone or email the school if you have any questions, or need support. Thank you for all your kind messages of encouragement to all staff.

We continue to keep all families who are going through a difficult time in our prayers. Take care and stay safe.


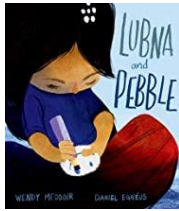
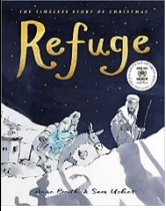
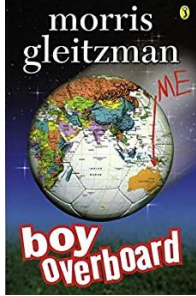
God bless,  
Mrs Hurley

[senco@holyfamily.essex.sch.uk](mailto:senco@holyfamily.essex.sch.uk)



### Mrs Monksfield's Book Recommendations

June Book of the Month – Refugee Week June 15<sup>th</sup> – June 21<sup>st</sup>

 <p><b>EYFS</b> <b>The Suitcase by Chris Naylor-Ballesteros</b> A weary animal arrives in a new place dragging a suitcase behind him. The animals he meets are very curious about its contents. He tells them what is inside but they are sceptical. To say more would give too much away about this important story that demonstrates simply and thoughtfully the necessity of being welcoming to strangers who are missing their home, as it benefits from an element of surprise on first reading. The strength and simplicity of this picture book's message is enhanced by the use of a limited but carefully chosen palette set against white space.</p>	 <p><b>KS1</b> <b>Lubna and the Pebble By Wendy Meddour &amp; Daniel Egnéus</b> Lubna is lonely when she and father arrive in a refugee camp and she uses her imagination to create a friend by drawing a happy face on a pebble with a felt-tip pen. Then Amir arrives and Lubna has a human friend to play with and to whom she can introduce Pebble which becomes important when it is time for Lubna and her father to move on. A picture book in which the expressions on the characters' faces beautifully enhance and complement a story that is told with simplicity yet has emotional depth.</p>
 <p><b>Lower KS2</b> <b>Refuge by Anne Booth &amp; Sam Usher</b> A donkey tells the story of how, led by a man, he carried a woman to Bethlehem where their baby was born and visited by shepherds and kings. A dream of danger sends them on their way until they reach another country where they find refuge. The people in this family are not named, enabling readers to find even more resonance between this simply and touchingly told version of the Christmas story and what is happening to many refugees in the world today.</p>	 <p><b>Upper KS2</b> <b>Boy Overboard by Morris Gleitzman</b> Morris Gleitzman's writing often combines humour and pathos and this novel is no exception. Football mad Jamal and his family have to leave Afghanistan when the authorities discover that his mother has been secretly running a school. Their journey to Australia is fraught with difficulty.</p>

Teachers will continue to upload powerpoints and worksheets as well as recommend useful websites each week. Please continue to log onto: **My Maths, TTRockstars and Bug Club**

Regular daily lessons - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize>

Over 180 video lessons each week on National Oak Academy - <https://www.thenationalacademy/>

Storytime daily on Monster phonics <http://bit.ly/3cvcgIM>

Lonely Planet - <https://www.lonelyplanet.com/kids/activities>

Why not visit the Maths Factor website created by Carole Vorderman <https://www.themathsfactor.com/>

Change4life - <https://www.nhs.uk/change4life/activities>



## **ONLINE SAFETY**

With home learning taking place online and more free time spent on devices, it is so important that children are safe. The NSPCC have information on how to set up parental controls on a range of different devices and apps. Follow the link below for more information.

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/parental-controls/>

## **Parish Contact Details**

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