



HOLY FAMILY CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Headteacher Mr P.O'Kane

Newsletter 293 Friday 5th February 2016

On Monday morning Year 6 and four members of staff (Mr Watson, Miss Lardner, Mrs Hunter and Mr Lawrence) will set off for their residential trip to Danbury. I know that the children are very excited about the prospect and all the activities on offer; I have spoken to them about representing Holy Family School when they are not on school premises and I am sure that they will meet all the challenges ahead of them. We wish them a wonderful time and look forward to hearing all about it after the half-term holiday.

I hope that you will all take the opportunity to have a look at the new painting of The Holy Family which Mr Smith has put up in the school lobby. It will be a lovely reminder to visitors to our school that they are entering the Holy Family School Community.

Football Club and Netball Club

There will be no netball club after school this Monday 8th February or Football Club on Thursday 11th February as both Miss Lardner and Mr Watson will be at Danbury. Thank you.

Monday 22nd February

The first day after the half term break will be a non-pupil day for staff training.

Dinner Money Arrears

We should like to remind parents and carers that dinner money is due on the day on which your child has the meal. Despite reminder letters having been issued, there are unfortunately still some parents who owe dinner money. Please therefore ensure that your child's dinner money payments are up to date. A detailed statement of account is available from the office at any time. Thank you.

Collecting your child

If someone other than the usual person is collecting your child it is imperative that you inform the class teacher at the beginning of the day. If circumstances change later in the day, please contact the school office in order that the class teacher is made aware. Thank you for your support in this matter.

BBC Radio 2 500 words competition

As some of you may be aware, BBC Radio 2 is running their annual 500 words competition where children between the age of 5 and 13 are invited to submit a short story on any topic. There are two age categories: 5-9 and 10-13 with gold, silver and bronze prizes awarded in each category. The competition website www.bbc.co.uk/children's/activities has some handy tips for writers and is a mine of information. There are some wonderful writers at Holy Family School and how amazing would it be if one of our pupils were to be placed in the competition. The deadline is **7.00pm on Thursday 25th February** so come on budding Holy Family authors get writing over the half –term break! We would love to read any entries which are submitted. Good luck.

King John School Multi-sport Activity Camp Years 5 and 6

King John School has organised a multi-sport activity camp during the February half term holiday on Monday 15th and Tuesday 16th February. The camp offers an opportunity for children to participate in a variety of sports (four or five each day) especially some which they will take part in at secondary school. Such camps can also help with the transition to secondary school where children can see what is expected of them. The cost of the camp is £24.00 and it will run from 9.30am- 3.15pm each day. The children will be supervised by a Physical Education teacher at all times.

Copies of the booking form are available in the Holy Family School foyer. Any queries should be directed to Mrs Leigh Cann at the King John School PE Department on 01702 558284

Can you be caught reading?

Reading is such a key skill for our children and is a primary focus in school. With this in mind, we are striving to promote the importance and fun reading can have. So, we would like parents and carers to photograph their child being caught reading in unusual places. While some places may seem amusing at home please bear in mind we would like to use these in a school display. Remember Bishop Alan is visiting shortly! Staff are joining in this venture and this should make for a very enjoyable display. Please send photographs in to school via your child/children.

I look forward to seeing them.

Safeguarding

**** Lay Members required for the Essex Safeguarding Children and Adult Boards ****

Have you got what it takes to make a difference to Safeguarding in Essex?

If you are involved in your community, want to promote the welfare of children, young people or adults, and are happy to be the voice of service users in meetings, then this could be the opportunity for you!

Both the Essex Safeguarding Children and Adult Boards are looking to appoint volunteer Lay Members from April 2016, for a period of 2 years, with a review after 1 year.

If you are interested in becoming involved in this interesting opportunity, then please have a look at our school website where you will find more information.

Raising Boys Club

The school is planning to pilot a 'Raising Boys Club' and we are looking for eight parents to volunteer as part of this pilot scheme. If you are interested in this opportunity, please leave your name at the school office. Parents and carers should ideally represent children from consecutive year groups so this will be taken in to account when selecting the participants. Thank you for your understanding in this matter.

Choir Workshops

Essex Music Services is running two Choir Workshops during February half-term. The Show Choir Workshop will take place on Sunday 14th – Monday 15th February. The cost is £20 for the two days with the option to bring a friend or sibling for free. The second Workshop is the opportunity to join the Essex Youth Choir for a day from Tuesday 16th – Thursday 18th February. The workshops are to take place in Colchester but it would be lovely if some of our fantastic singers could take part perhaps taking advantage of the "free place" offer. For further information please contact Elizabeth Harrison on 03330 131252 or Elizabeth.
Harrison@essex.gov.uk or visit the website www.essex.gov.uk/music

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: 11th and 25th February; 10th and 24th March; 21st April; 5th and 19th May; 16th and 30th June; 14th July.

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

Team Points

St John Bosco (green team) was triumphant in last week's house points competition. However, they were only ahead of the next team by 6 points so I explained how that extra effort by one or two children could make a difference to their team's total.

Attendance

RW 88.3% 1C 95.3% 2FL 91% 3L 97.6% 4H 96% 5B 97.7% 6I 89.7%. Well done to Year 5 for best attendance (by 0.1% again!) last week.

Saint of the week

Today is the feast day of St Agatha. She suffered a particularly heinous martyrdom at the hands of a high ranking Sicilian official, Quintian. There has long been a tradition of blessing loaves and bells on her feast day.

Calling All Dads, Uncles, Grandads or Carpenters!

The Early Learning Centre is in desperate need of some tender loving care with regard to its outside provision. Would anybody have the skills and time to come in and speak with Annette Cole with a view to updating and offering support and advice on how to improve this area?

Thank you in anticipation.

Jubilee Year of Mercy 2016

Motto: Merciful like the Father

God Bless you all and your families and I wish you a restful weekend.

From

Mrs S Birtles and Mr P O'Kane

Headteacher

Diary Dates

Monday 8th –Friday 12th February

Monday 15th – Friday 19th February

Thursday 22nd February

Year 6 Residential Trip to Danbury

Spring half-term

Non-pupil day

Wednesday 2nd March

Tuesday 8th March

Thursday 10th March

Tuesday 22nd March

Bishop Alan's pastoral visit

Parent contact meetings 3.30pm - 6pm

Parent contact meetings 4.30pm - 7.30pm

Hot Cross Run (selected children)

St Thomas More High School

Thursday 24th March

Easter Presentation 2pm in the school hall parents
and parishioners welcome

There is a CALENDAR section on the school website—www.holyfamily.essex.sch.uk