



HOLY FAMILY CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Headteacher Mr P.O'Kane

Newsletter 304 Friday 13th May 2016

Last Saturday I felt privileged attending the First Holy Communion Mass in Holy Family Church. I know the First Communicants were very excited and looking forward to their special day. The children all looked fabulous—girls in their dresses; boys in smart suits. The parish choir sang beautifully and it was great to see the church packed with people. If your child has made their First Holy Communion, please help them to maintain their faith by taking them to Sunday Mass.

This week we have seen all the children working hard but in particular Year 6 who have been sitting their SATS tests; I have been very impressed by the maturity with which they have approached the tests. I know that the overwhelming majority of adults in the country (including government ministers) would be unable to score full marks on the Spelling, Punctuation & Grammar test, yet 11 year old children are expected to know all the answers!

On Thursday afternoon, the Year 5 netball team was in action at home in a friendly match against Thundersley Primary School. The game ended as a 6:3 victory for the Holy Family girls. Thank you to Miss Lardner and Mrs Bowers for training the team so well.

This morning Year 1 presented a lovely assembly on the subject of 'Holidays and Holy Days' using beautiful singing and acting. The children performed well and were a credit to Miss Cropper and her LSAs. Well done! They reminded us that in days gone by, Holy Days of Obligation were the only times that the majority of people were excused from work. Many Lords of the Manor would treat their staff to a meal in the manorial home and so Holy Days also came to be known as Feast Days.

Sponsored Bounce

The school's annual sponsored bounce takes place next week Thursday 19th May in the school hall. If you have not yet returned your child's permission slip, please do so, as without this we are unable to let the children bounce. Also, if you are able to help count the bounces then please indicate as such on the reply slip or let the ladies in the school office know. Thank you.

Summer Family Inflatable Day

The staff and I met yesterday, for the first time, to gather some initial thoughts about our family day on 16th July. It was a really productive meeting and we have a number of ideas for activities and stalls. We are, however, very conscious that this isn't something that we can put on without the support of the wider school community and would like to warmly invite parents and parishioners to a further meeting which will be held in the school hall, at 3.30pm, on Friday 20th

May. If you are unable to attend this meeting but have an idea, or would like to volunteer to help in some way, please pop a note into the drop box in the school reception area and Mrs Lewins, Mrs Hunter or I will contact you. If there are any parish stallholders who used to organise a stall for the Development Fund Committee, please get in touch as we would love to share the day with the parish community.

Family Day—Holy Family Church

Tomorrow is Family Day at Holy Family Church to celebrate the Church's anniversary. There will be Mass at 9.00am followed by confessions until 10.00am. Representatives of various parish groups will be on hand in the hall to talk about their work in the parish; there will be entertainment from Jackie Poth and members of the Young Drama Group and Wednesday Players. Mrs Butteriss will be hosting Italian cookery lessons for anyone aged 9+. There will be a sung Mass at 6.00pm, followed by refreshments. Further details from Fr Eduard or the parish office. If you would like to sign up for cookery with Mrs Butteriss or you can help her in any way on the day please email her at: larabutteriss@hotmail.com Please do your best to support Fr Eduard as he tries to bring all in the parish community closer together.

Year 5 Bikeability

Due to circumstances beyond the school's control, the Year 5 Bikeability sessions organised for next half-term have been cancelled. I know many children were looking forward to the Bikeability course and had already brought back their permission slips—I am sorry that you have been disappointed. Hopefully, the Bikeability coordinator will have funding in place to offer us Bikeability sessions in the new academic year.

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: 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.

House Points

Well done to St Joseph's House (yellow team) who were the winners of the house points competition last week with 455 points.

Attendance

RW 92.9% 1C **100%** 2FL 93.3% 3L 96.6% 4H 95.4% 5B 97.6% 6I 98.3%. Well done to Year 6 for best attendance last week. Congratulations to Year 1 who achieved **100%** attendance both last week and this week— fantastic!

Saint of the Week

After the Ascension of Our Lord, the apostles were faced with a difficult choice, namely, who should be chosen to replace Judas as one of the twelve. It had to be someone who had followed Jesus from his baptism by John through to his ascension to heaven and the person

would have to be a witness to the Resurrection. Two men were identified- Barnabas and Matthias, and the apostles drew lots to determine God's will. Matthias was chosen and he was part of the group visited by the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. His feast day is tomorrow.

Midday Assistant

We are looking to appoint two Midday Assistants who enjoy working with children to join our friendly team of midday staff. If you, a family member or friend is interested please contact Maxine Henderson at the school office for further details.

Motto: **Merciful like the Father**

From

Mr P O'Kane
Headteacher

Diary Dates

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| Saturday 14 th May | Family Day—Holy Family Church (Fr Eduard) |
| Thursday 19 th May | Sponsored Bounce for School Funds |
| Friday 20 th May | Italian Cookery, Years 5 & 6 with Mrs Butteriss |
| Tuesday 24 th May | NFER Pilot Tests (Y6) |
| Wednesday 25 th May | School photographer—class photos only. |
| Thursday 26 th May | Reception & KS1 Cross Country Running |
| Friday 27 th May | Crowning of Our Lady |
| Monday 30 th May—Friday 3 rd June | Summer Half-Term Holiday |
| Monday 13 th June | Year 1 Phonics Screening Week |
| Tuesday 14 th June | Meeting for New Parents—Reception 2016/17 |
| Wednesday 15 th June | Year 3 Trip to Layer Marney |
| Thursday 16 th June | Full Governing Body Meeting |
| Monday 20 th June | St Bernard's & St Thomas More Information Session for Year 5 Parents, 3.30pm |
| Wednesday 22 nd June | Sports Morning 9.30 am |

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| Wednesday 22 nd June | Year 6 Deanery Mass 2.00pm |
| Thursday 23 rd June | Catholic Schools Sports KS1 |
| Monday 27 th June | Governors' Finance & Premises Meeting |
| Tuesday 28 th June | Induction Day (1) King John & Appleton |
| Wednesday 29 th June | Year 1 & 2 Trip to Barleylands |
| Wednesday 29 th June | Induction Day (2) King John & Appleton |
| Thursday 30 th June | Induction Day (1) St Bernard's, St Thomas More, Westcliff for Boys & Girls |
| Friday 1 st July | Non-pupil day |
| Friday 1 st July | Induction Day (2) St Bernard's, St Thomas More, Westcliff for Boys & Girls |
| Friday 1 st July | Induction Day Southend High School for Boys & Girls |
| Tuesday 5 th July | Year 5 Day to St Bernard's & St Thomas More |
| Wednesday 6 th July | South Essex Archery Tournament |
| Wednesday 6 th July | St Bernard's Open Evening |
| Thursday 7 th July | Catholic Schools Sports KS2 |
| Thursday 7 th July | St Thomas More Open Evening |
| Monday 11 th July | Reception 2016/17 Induction 1 |
| Tuesday 12 th July | Reception 2016/17 Induction 2 |
| Wednesday 13 th July | BATIC Schools Swimming Gala pm |
| Saturday 16 th July | Inflatable Fun Day (tbc) |
| Friday 22 nd July | Last School Day of the Academic Year |
| Thursday 1 st September | Non-Pupil Day |
| Friday 2 nd September | Non-Pupil Day |
| Monday 5 th September | Children Return to School |

Monday 24th October—Friday 28th October Half-Term Holiday

Thursday 22nd December 2016—Wednesday 4th January 2017 Christmas Holidays

Monday 13th February—Friday 17th February 2017 Half-Term Holiday

Monday 3rd April—Monday 17th April 2017 Easter Holidays