



## **HOLY FAMILY CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL**

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Headteacher Mr P.O'Kane

### **Newsletter 291 Friday 22nd January 2016**

What a cold week it has been! It was good to see the children wrapped up in their warm winter coats.

As part of their Science topic on habitats, Year 5 now have a fishtank in their classroom which will soon be filled with fish. They are also observing a wormery which is kept in the school garage and brought in to the classroom regularly for the children to check on its progress. Photographs to follow next week.

Both netball club for Years 4, 5 and 6 (Monday from 3.15pm until 4.15pm) and football club Years 5 and 6 (Thursday after school from 3.15pm until 4.15pm) have now started. We should be grateful if the children are collected promptly. Thank you.

#### **Chair of Governors update:-**

As you know Holy Family's Governing Body is made up of 7 Foundation Governors appointed by the Bishop (which includes our Parish Priest, Father Eduard), 2 Teaching Staff, 1 Local Authority Governor, and 2 Parent Governors. The Parent Governors are nominated and elected by you, parents of children in the school. In the next week, we will be writing to all parents about a vacancy for a parent governor. Please do consider putting yourself forward, yes the role does take commitment, but it's a great opportunity to take an active part in supporting and contributing to the leadership of the school. We have formal Full Governing Body meetings termly, with more informal focussed discussion sessions also termly. Governors all serve on one or more sub-committees (for example Finance, Personnel, Curriculum), and are linked with Year Group and Subject. I know many of you have had ideas about a range of issues we've been dealing with this year, so this is your chance to put yourself forward. If you are interested and want to find out more please contact me through the school office.

#### **Young Voices O2 Arena**

On Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> January, Years 5 and 6 and several members of staff will be taking part in the Young Voices concert at the O2 Arena in London. Many of their parents will be travelling to watch the children perform. The children have been practising hard and I am sure that they will represent the school well. We wish them all the very best. Unfortunately, I have to attend a meeting on that day otherwise I would have loved to join the children and staff at this wonderful event.

## **School Uniform**

I have noticed that some children are wearing ankle boots such as Kickers to school. I should like to remind parents that boots are not part of our school uniform, unless there is a doctor's note to support the wearing of such boots. Full details of the school uniform are to be found on the school website. Thank you.

## **RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch 30<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> January**

We would like to encourage the children to take part in the Big Garden Birdwatch next weekend and thereby contribute to the world's largest wildlife survey. The children would be required to count birds for an hour and then submit the details of what they have recorded. In 2015 the House Sparrow was the most popular bird. Families can request a pack for free from the website [www.2.rspb.org.uk](http://www.2.rspb.org.uk) Good luck and enjoy!

## **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.

## **Signing Choir**

Today the signing choir performed three songs in assembly to share their skills and gift with the rest of the school. We are grateful to Mrs Clark and Mrs Childs for teaching the children such a fabulous, rewarding and beneficial skill. The signing choir meets every Tuesday lunchtime at 12.30pm in the Year 2 classroom; children from Year 2 and above are welcome to join. There are other lunchtime clubs available to certain year groups such as cross-country and singing.

## **Childline Years 5 and 6**

On Tuesday afternoon, we welcomed the two representatives from Childline into school again as a follow up to the session last week which explained the service to the children. I hear that the children found this an informative and useful session. As a school we consider that it is

important for our children to be aware of the agencies which are available to them should they feel that they need advice or someone to talk to other than a family member.

### **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 14<sup>th</sup> – Monday 15<sup>th</sup> 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 16<sup>th</sup> – Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:Harrison@essex.gov.uk) or visit the website [www.essex.gov.uk/music](http://www.essex.gov.uk/music)

### **School Health**

#### Headlice and sickness

There has been an outbreak of headlice in school so we would ask parents to check their children's hair regularly and treat if required.

There have also been many cases of sickness in school recently. The guidance given to schools on infection control states that children should only return to school 48 hours after the last episode has taken place. We should be grateful if parents would follow these guidelines in order that we may keep a healthy school for children and staff. Thank you for your co-operation in this matter.

#### 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: 28<sup>th</sup> January; 11<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> February; 10<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> March; 21<sup>st</sup> April; 5<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> May; 16<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> June; 14<sup>th</sup> July.

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

### **House Points**

Last week the most house points were awarded to St Mary's (blue team). Well done and thank you to all the children who worked so hard to gain their team points.

## **Attendance**

RW 95.3% 1C 88.3% 2FL 91% 3L **100%** 4H 93.7% 5B 97.7% 6I 88.7%. Well done to Year 3 for fantastic attendance last week.

## **Saint of the week**

Today is the feast day of Blessed William Patenson who is another of those “forgotten” English martyrs who gave their lives during the turbulent Tudor period. Born in Durham, he studied in France before receiving ordination there in 1587. The following year he sailed home and worked to promote the Catholic cause in the dangerous atmosphere of Elizabethan England. Arrested in 1591, he was tried and condemned for being a priest and was executed at Tyburn, now known as Marble Arch in London. During his imprisonment, he converted six other prisoners to the Catholic faith. He was beatified in 1929. We are lucky that people like Blessed William gave their lives to keep the faith alive in England so that we can live, work and study as Catholics today.

## **Jubilee Year of Mercy 2016**

**Motto:** **Merciful like the Father**

On Monday, the children brought home a leaflet detailing the dates of the 6.30pm Sunday Mass at Brentwood Cathedral during the Jubilee Year of Mercy. The next of these Masses is on 14<sup>th</sup> February and is open to all refugees, those enslaved by all forms of human trafficking and those who help and care for them.

Father Eduard came in to school this week to meet myself and Mrs Hurley. He told us how settled he feels now in the Parish and how he enjoys seeing both parents and children at Mass at Holy Family or St Thomas More Church.

God Bless you all and your families

From

Mrs S Birtles and Mr P O’Kane

Headteacher

## **Diary Dates**

Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> January

Monday 8<sup>th</sup> –Friday 12<sup>th</sup> February

Monday 15<sup>th</sup> – Friday 19<sup>th</sup> February

Young Voices concert O2 Arena years 5 and 6

Year 6 Residential Trip to Danbury

Spring half-term

Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> March

Bishop Alan's pastoral visit

Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> March

Parent contact meetings 3.30pm -6pm

Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> March

Parent contact meetings 4.30pm - 7.30pm

Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> March

Hot Cross Run (selected children)

St Thomas More High School

Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.holyfamily.essex.sch.uk)