



## HOLY FAMILY CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Diocese of  
Brentwood

Headteacher Mr P.O'Kane

### Newsletter 450 Friday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

#### VE DAY



I hope you were able to mark this special day at home and celebrate with your family whilst at the same time remembering the sacrifices of all those men and women 75 years ago. The staff of Holy Family created their own tribute, which you will find on the Class dojo and, as you walk by our school, you may notice the lovely banners created by some of the children in school last week. Please continue to upload your children's work and photos to our on-line communication system. Here is the finished version of **Oliver and Ronan's Bomber for VE Day**, and in the montage of photos for this week you will find images of cupcakes made by the children as well as various activities completed at home linked to learning about VE Day.

#### Book Recommendation

Soldiers. Sailors. Evacuees. Refugees. All coming home from war in twelve unforgettable stories... On 8th May 1945, World War Two officially ended in the huge celebrations of VE Day. But what happened next? Where did they all go – the soldiers on the move, the refugees, the lost children? In *Home Again*, twelve major writers celebrate the coming of peace through the theme of homecoming. Follow a child evacuee, a rebel fighter, a Bletchley Park codebreaker and an Indian Army soldier...

- Moving and authentic tales about the end of the war
- Each story is followed by a fact file full of details
- Foreword by the Forces Sweetheart Dame Vera Lynn
- Fantastic authors including Bali Rai and Jim Eldridge
- Produced in partnership with The Royal British Legion
- Each copy sold donates 50p to the Royal British Legion



50p per paperback from the sale of *HOME AGAIN* in the UK will be paid to Royal British Legion Trading Limited which gives its taxable profits to The Royal British Legion (Charity no. 219279).

#### Reading Challenge

Juniper Education has created a six-book reading challenge to encourage our children to keep reading at home, to help parents engage with their child's reading and to make choosing a book a little bit easier. The Juniper Reading Challenge has been designed to encourage children to:

- Read widely and often, extending their knowledge of authors and genres
- Write about and discuss what they have read
- Make recommendations to their friends
- Develop their overall reading skills

Further details of how your children can get involved will be sent via Parentmail on Monday.

#### MAY, THE MONTH OF MARY

May is the month of Mary. Please take time to pray part (or all) of the Rosary this month, and help your children to reflect on what we can learn from Mary's example, trusting in and saying 'yes' to God. Sadly, we cannot have our Marian Procession this year, but perhaps you can pick a flower and hold it while praying to Our Lady as we think of her this month. Thank you to the children who sent in photos of their May Altars. I have attached a booklet I received from Mrs Mahon which tells the story of moments in Mary's life.

## **ONLINE SAFETY**

Children are spending more time than ever on the internet right now. 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/>

## **Healthy Schools Award**



It has been great to receive all the photos and videos of children taking part in Mr Holmes' on-line PE lessons. Some of our children are now devising lessons for Mr Holmes to demonstrate. Please ensure children are encouraged to spend time outdoors for exercise every day – regular exercise plays an important part in maintaining our well-being. Here are some more 'Healthy Selfie' photos which were not included last week.



## **Communication**

This week, we continued to make telephone contact with families and are still receiving very positive comments. Please keep in touch at least once a week by leaving a short message on Class dojo to let the teachers know you are all doing well. You may e-mail [senco@holyfamily.essex.sch.uk](mailto:senco@holyfamily.essex.sch.uk) if you are unable to access Class dojo; I will then forward your messages to the teachers.

## **Holy Family Song project**

Mrs Lewins and I would like to thank all the children who sent in contributions for the Song Project. Some encountered difficulties trying to submit their videos, but we appreciate your patience and understanding whilst we tried to resolve the limitations of the technology available to us at this time. Thank you also to Mr & Mrs Poth, Mrs Pamphilon, Mrs McMeekin who will now take on the task of producing the final video for the school.

## **REOPENING SPECULATION**

You may have seen a great deal of speculation in the media with regard to the reopening of schools. I have not yet received any information from the government with regard to school reopening, and await, with you, the updates from the government on Sunday. Please rest assured that whenever school does reopen, safety will be our highest priority and every possible action will be put into place to ensure the health of our children, staff, and all our families. I understand how stressful the uncertainty can be, and please remember we are here if you need us. When I have any information, I will share it with you. In the meantime, we will continue to provide home learning and support, and look forward to hearing from you.

## **Parish Contact Details**

Holy Family Catholic Church, 661 High Road, Benfleet, SS7 6SF [www.holyfamily-church.co.uk](http://www.holyfamily-church.co.uk)

Parish Priest: Fr Eduard Fartan, [eduard.fartan@yahoo.com](mailto:eduard.fartan@yahoo.com)  
[priest@holyfamily-church.org](mailto:priest@holyfamily-church.org)

Parish Secretary: Mrs Clare Dempsey [office@holyfamily-church.org](mailto:office@holyfamily-church.org)

Telephone: 01268 792082 or 01268 799649

We will continue to keep all the families who are going through a difficult time in our prayers. Look after each other, stay safe and healthy and I hope to see you all very soon

God bless,  
Mrs N Hurley

Selection of Photos from this week's Distance Learning

