



## HOLY FAMILY CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

Kents Hill Road, Benfleet, Essex SS7 5PX  
Telephone: 01268 792231 Fax: 01268 759274  
Email: admin@holyfamily.essex.sch.uk  
www.holyfamily.essex.sch.uk



Diocese of  
*Brentwood*

Headteacher Mr P.O'Kane

### Newsletter 446 Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers



I trust you are all well and continue to follow the advice which will keep us safe.

It has certainly been a very different week for all of us, and what a week! The sense of community and the support has been phenomenal.

Before I share the week's news, I would like to say **THANK YOU** to the amazing staff of Holy Family School who have had to adapt to a completely new way of working within a very short period of time. A few of us are in school every day, some work on a rota basis and some have to remain at home for various reasons, but we are in constant communication with each other through our new What's App and share so many ideas to ensure that there is plenty for the children to do. All of the staff, including myself, have suddenly become upskilled in IT thanks to Mr Holmes' enthusiasm and his endless patience helping us all – home/school communication has increased significantly and we are all enjoying the daily interaction with the children and their parents using Class Dojo. Reading your messages and seeing the work from the children currently participating online is brilliant and gives us all a real boost – **THANK YOU**. I know that some families have focussed on physical activities instead of screen time, which is just as valuable in these difficult times. Children will continue to need lots of reassurance, so it is very important that you take the time to listen to their worries as they adjust to new routines and a less structured day. If you have not already done so, I hope that you will get in touch with either myself, or my colleagues, at some point over the next few weeks to let us know you are alright. In these uncertain times, please know that school staff are more than willing to help in any way we can.



The majority of our children have remained at home and have logged into Class Dojo every morning, waiting for their teachers to upload the work planned for them throughout the day – I imagine some are probably more eager than others! Thank you so much children for your terrific response to the tasks. We have loved receiving



images of your work. Please continue to keep in touch - we may not be together in a physical sense, but this is a lovely way for our school family to continue as one. We've had many fantastic examples of work submitted by the children and their parents/carers and so many stories about their exciting activities (baking, gardening, scavenger hunts, bug hunts, art and craft, sporting activities, junk modelling, etc). We've had stories of children taking the time to make cards and write letters to people in care homes. Some children ring their grandparents and read to them.

In Year 4, Niamh has composed her own Quarantine song and many children have designed great sets for a future James and the Giant Peach play. I have therefore changed the format of my letter this week so that it is more of a celebration, an opportunity to share some of the lovely photos we have received. Please don't be too disappointed if your work has not appeared in the attached selection. Each piece of work, each message and each photo is equally valued and will appear in my next newsletter.

Even though the numbers have been few, the children of our 'Key Workers' have adapted very well to new routines. Although it is very different in school at the moment, they have been wonderful and have smiled all day long, joining in sporting activities, art and craft activities, as well as completing the on-line work given to them by their class teachers. **THANK YOU.**

A special **THANK YOU** to Mr Mahon, Mrs Willis and Mrs O'Connor for working so hard to make sure that our school is as clean and safe as it can be for all of us. Our new site manager will hopefully be joining us after the Easter holidays, so I'd like to take this opportunity to say a special thank you to Mr Mahon for helping us out over the past few weeks.

This weekend, staff need to relax. We would ask that you do not message your teachers as they too need a rest. **THANK YOU** parents and carers for really supporting your children with the activities that we have set for them. **THANK YOU** also for all the kind messages of support throughout the week. You are all superstars!

Finally, to all of our Key Worker parents/carers - we really appreciate all that you are doing to keep us safe! **THANK YOU.** We will continue to keep you and your colleagues in our prayers.

**Children's activity:**

Why not design a picture to show how our school is still strong as a community even though we are not all together. Please submit a photo of your artwork for next week's newsletter.

**Useful websites:** Please see the attached list collated from suggestions made by staff

**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 miss your children's smiles and their many stories. We miss their energy, their creativity and the spirit they bring to the classroom. Stay safe and healthy. Keep in touch via Class Dojo and we look forward to communicating with you all next week.

God bless,

Mrs N Hurley

Interim Acting Headteacher