



## HOLY FAMILY CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Headteacher Mr P.O'Kane

### Newsletter 359 Friday 13<sup>th</sup> October 2017

I had the privilege of attending a conference in London last Friday organised by the Institute of Our Lady of Mercy (the Sisters of Mercy). The sisters are still extremely active in supporting education in the schools they founded (Holy Family, St Joseph's, Canvey and Our Lady of Ransom, Rayleigh are three local examples) in England and around the globe. The keynote speaker was Fr Dermot Donnelly from Newcastle (Dec's brother) who was inspirational and reminded all attendees of the vital importance of Catholic schools and mercy values. He was at his most challenging when he asked us to show love, mercy and forgiveness to those members of our school communities who frequently wrong others through their words and actions. Sometimes things will happen in school, or in life generally that we don't like or approve of, but it's our duty as Christians in a Catholic school to show mercy and forgiveness to an individual, despite any harm or hurt they may have caused us—it's certainly not easy.



Fr Dermot Donnelly



The Mercy Cross

Throughout this week, the children have been learning about Hinduism. Our Catholic RE Scheme of Work (**Come & See**) requires us to teach the children about Judaism each year and one other major world religion. Last year the children learned about Islam; this year is the turn of the Hindu faith. Miss Fordham our RE subject leader arranged the teaching module to coincide with the Hindu (and Sikh) festival of lights—Diwali. The highlight of the week was undoubtedly the opportunity to learn Indian dance from a professional dancer. Thank you to all parents who have sent in voluntary donations to cover Hinduism week costs—there is still time to send in a contribution if you haven't done so already. We finished with a Hinduism week assembly this afternoon. Children from each class had an opportunity to share what they have learned this week.



Donna Longcroft, the dance teacher from the Education Group who led the Bollywood dance sessions commented that she had had a lovely day due to the children's participation and the friendliness of the school.

The response to the Mad Science opportunity has been phenomenal. Lynn from the Mad Science regional office told me that Holy Family School sold out more quickly than any other school that has facilitated a Mad Science club. As so many Holy Family pupils were unable to get a place in the club and were put on a waiting list, from Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> October, Mad Science will run two clubs in Holy Family (at the same time). All the children currently on the waiting list can attend and there is an opportunity for anyone who is not on the waiting list to register.



On Thursday, Tommy from Rock Steady held music workshops for each class throughout the day so that the children could try out various instruments.

If enough children are interested in booking lessons with Rock Steady, they have offered to come into school on Tuesday mornings to provide peripatetic lessons. I know the children were extremely engaged during their workshop sessions.

**Danbury Residential 2018** Thank you to all the Year 6 parents who joined Miss Fordham and I last night for a short meeting about next February's residential trip. Your support is greatly appreciated.

**PGSA** Thank you to everyone who turned out last night for the PGSA meeting. It was lovely to see so many new faces. Tickets for next Thursday's Movie Nights will be on sale after school each day next week. If you can help the PGSA in any way—selling tickets on the playground or volunteering to help with the actual Movie Nights, please leave your name with the ladies in the school office who will pass it on to the PGSA chairman and secretary. In coming weeks, the PGSA will be setting up a FACEBOOK page and possibly a PGSA TWITTER account as well to communicate with parents. Remember to mark the following in your diaries:

**Family Quiz Night** –Saturday 18th November 2017 start time 7.30pm—bring your own drinks and nibbles. £4.00 per adult; £1.00 per child. There will be a raffle during the Quiz Night—first prize 4 X tickets for West Ham v. Chelsea on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> December 2017.

**Christmas Bazaar/Craft Event**—Friday 1st December 2017, 3.15pm—5.15pm ***Volunteers needed to man stalls—many hands make light work!***

During Monday morning's assembly, Mrs Fisher gave an update on the school's free trial of TT Rockstars. Many children seem to be using the app and enjoying it. Mrs Fisher could also see that Holy Family are third in the area for using the app and encouraged the children to improve our school's position by using the app more. If it proves to be popular and has a positive impact on learning times tables, then we will consider signing up on a permanent basis.

**New Football Kit** Mr Lawrence presented the school with new football kits donated by his father, Mr K. Lawrence, workshop manager of ***By Design, Jewellers***, 218 High St, Walthamstow, London, E17 7JH, phone 020 8520 2310. By Design, Jewellers offer the following: **In-house repairs; jewellery redesign; antique jewellery; unredeemed pledge items; large range of second-hand jewellery; Coeur De Lion costume jewellery; silver, gold and diamond jewellery; rings, bracelets, earrings, watches.**

This was an extremely generous donation—I know the girls and boys can't wait to wear the new kits in future matches and tournaments.



**Reception 2018 Admissions—Open Morning & Open Evening** The admissions process for Reception Class 2018 begins on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> November 2017. There will be an Open Morning for all interested prospective parents on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> November, 9.30—11.45am. Additionally, parents will have the opportunity to attend an Open Evening that night, 5.30—8.00pm.

**Secondary School (Year 7) Admissions** The statutory closing date for applications for Year 7 places for September 2018 will close on 31<sup>st</sup> October 2017. Please visit [www.essex.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.essex.gov.uk/admissions) for more details.

**Chess Club** If your child is interested in joining the chess club, then please let the office know. At the moment there are insufficient numbers to warrant a club taking place and we require 20 children to sign up. The cost is £2.00 per session.

**October—Month of the Rosary**

Please take time to pray the Rosary with your children throughout October.



***Our Lady of the Rosary***



***A Rosary***



***A Nun Making Rosaries***

**Saint of the Week** Today, 13<sup>th</sup> October is a Feast Day in England for Saint Edward the Confessor one of the most famous English saints. He was King of England from 1042 until his death in 1066. He was noted for being a just and holy ruler, abolishing many of the more odious taxes that existed. He was canonized in 1161 and was buried in St Peter's Abbey, Westminster which he had built during his reign. His tomb is now in Westminster Abbey which was built upon the site of St Peter's. Perhaps the next time you are in London, pop into the Abbey and say a prayer by his tomb.



**Prayer to the Holy Family** Jesus, Mary and Joseph, in you we contemplate the splendour of true love; to you we turn with trust. Holy Family of Nazareth, grant that our families too may be places of communion and prayer, authentic schools of the Gospel and small domestic churches. Holy Family of Nazareth, may families never again experience violence, rejection and division; may all who have been hurt or scandalized find ready comfort and healing. Holy Family of Nazareth, make us once more mindful of the sacredness and inviolability of the family and its beauty in God's plan. Jesus, Mary and Joseph, graciously hear our prayer. Amen.



**Library Books** Please could children return all library books which they have borrowed from the school library. Thank you.

**Pound Coins** The school will no longer accept old style coins. Thank you for your support in this matter.

**School Health Drop-in service** If you have concerns about your child's health then you can use the Drop-in service where no appointments are necessary. The limit is 15 minutes per child but for more in-depth problems please contact the clinic directly to speak to a member of the school nurse team on 01268 686041. The locations are: Little Lions Children's Centre Northwick Park Academy, Third Avenue, Canvey Island, SS8 9SU. Phone 01268 686041 3-4pm 19<sup>th</sup> October; 9<sup>th</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup> November; 7<sup>th</sup> December and Oak Tree Children's Centre, Grovewood

Primary School, Grove Road, Rayleigh SS6 8UA. Phone 01268 775910 2-4pm 31<sup>st</sup> October; 14<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> November; 12<sup>th</sup> December.

**Attendance** Nursery class 94% RF 96.5% 1F 98.5% 2T 95.3% 3W 97.9% 4HW 93.8% 5LB 98.2% 6F 98.3% Well done to Year 1 for best attendance last week.

Mr P. O'Kane

Headteacher

### Diary Dates

|  |   |
|--|---|
| Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> October                                     | Practical Phonics Workshop<br>Year 1 and Reception 9-10am school hall                     |
| Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> October                                      | Reception & KS1 Mass, 9.30am Parents & Parishioners Welcome                               |
| Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> October                                      | Spelling Workshop for parents 2.30pm  |
| Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> October                                      | EYFS & KS1 Movie Night, 3.30—5.00pm   |
| Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> October                                      | KS2 Movie Night, 5.30—7.30pm  |
| Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> October  | Non-pupil day   |
| Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> October—Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> October        | Autumn Half-term Break  |
| Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> November  | Year 1 class assembly 10.15am   |
| Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> November                                       | Parent Contact Evening, 3.30—6.00pm   |
| Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup> November                                      | Parent Contact Evening, 5.00—7.30pm   |
| Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> November                                       | Year 6 Remembrance assembly   |
| Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup> December                                    | Year 6 Singing in nursing home  |
| Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> November                                     | Open morning 9.30-11.45am & Open evening 5.30—8.00pm, Reception Admissions September 2018 |
| Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> November                                       | Year 4 class assembly 10.15am   |
| Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> November                                       | Year 3 class assembly 10.15am   |
| Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> December                                    | Last day in school 2017   |
| Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> December—Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> January 2018 | Christmas Holidays  |
| Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> January 2018                                   | Non-pupil day   |
| Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> January 2018                                 | First day of Spring Term 2018   |
| Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> January 2018                                   | Whole School Pantomime Trip   |
| Monday 29 <sup>th</sup> January 2018                                   | Young Voices concert o2 Arena Y5 & Y6   |
| Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> February—Friday 9 <sup>th</sup> February 2018   | Year 6 Danbury Residential  |