

HOLY FAMILY CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Diocese of
Brentwood

Headteacher Mr P.O'Kane

Newsletter 451 Friday 15th May 2020

Dear Parents/Carers



We hope that you are all safe and well.



From all the photos and messages on Class Dojo, it is clear that some brilliant home learning is taking place. It has been wonderful seeing so many continue to work hard to complete the home learning tasks set by their teachers.

On Tuesday, we celebrated International Nurses Day and also remembered Florence Nightingale, a pioneer of modern nursing, who was born 200 years ago. I received some terrific research about Florence Nightingale from my wonderful Year 2 class this week. Thank you children.

In school, our Key Worker children made some kites and had great fun flying them on the playground. Activities such as food technology, art and science continue to remain

popular at home. One family designed and built a teepee in their garden. On-line learning programs such as My Maths, Bug Club and TT Rockstars are gaining in popularity and children are also finding the BBC Bitesize lessons really useful. Mr Holmes will be uploading some more PE lessons onto Class Dojo within the next few days and Miss Furby has been really busy lately recording stories, phonics lessons and even meditation sessions for KS1 children.

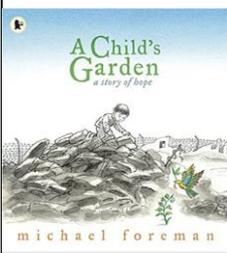
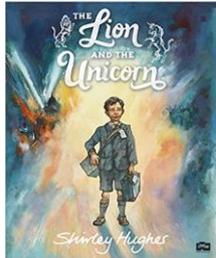
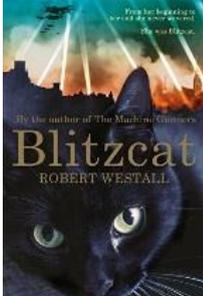
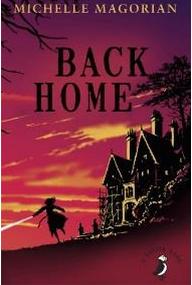
To avoid confusion, could we kindly ask that families have no more than two e-mail addresses attached to their child's Class Dojo.

We understand that everyone's circumstances are different, so we really do appreciate all your support with helping your children access the online learning at home. Keep up the fantastic work you are all doing and if you do require any assistance, then do not hesitate to contact us via the email address: senco@holyfamily.essex.sch.uk and a member of staff will get back to you as soon as possible.

Proposed school reopening

Following the Government announcement of the phased reopening of schools from the 1st June, there has been a great deal of discussion regarding the timing, safety and logistics. There are many areas of concern, the most important being the need to maintain social distancing in order to prevent the possibility of a spread of infection. To socially distance young children is extremely challenging. In order to accommodate all of the children in EYFS, Y1 and Y6, as well as our Key Worker children and those with EHCPs, we have come up with a plan which will enable the children to begin their transition back to school, albeit slowly and within the safest environment that we can create. However, discussions continue to be had at national level and schools are still waiting for further advice. Any arrangements we have made are subject to change, should the government change its position on any return to school. For this reason, I have decided to wait until Monday before sharing our proposals. All I can say with absolute certainty is that we would love a return to normal school life, but as always, the main priority will be the safety and welfare of the children and staff. Once our proposals have been published, you will be able to make a more informed decision about whether you feel it is safe for your child to return to school at this time. Parents in EYFS, Y1 and Y6 will be asked to complete a survey in order for us to gauge the number of children we need to accommodate. Provision for Key Worker children, vulnerable children and children with EHCPs will continue – parents will book in the normal way.

Mrs Monksfield's Book of the Month Recommendations

 <p>EYFS A Child's Garden by Michael Foreman This picture book conveys a strong message in a simply told tale. A boy finds a green shoot in a war-ravaged landscape. He nurtures the vine it becomes until it spreads along the barbed wire fence which separates one part of his land from another. Soldiers try to destroy it but 'Roots are deep and seeds spread', and eventually the boy's vine sprouts new growth and intertwines with a plant tended by a girl on the other side of the fence.</p>	 <p>KS1 The Lion and the Unicorn by Shirley Hughes When Lenny's father goes to fight in the Second World War he gives his son a brass badge with two animals engraved on it: a lion for bravery and a unicorn for courage. Then, Lenny himself must go away, evacuated from his home and family to escape the bombing. Staying in a strange new place, Lenny gathers all his lion bravery, all his unicorn courage, and discovers that magic can happen, even in the most desperate of times</p>
 <p>Lower KS2 Blitzcat by Robert Westall She made her way down the cliff, and on to the beach. At the edge of the waves, she stopped, shaking her wet paws. She knew that somewhere ahead was her person, but far, far away. She miaowed plaintively; stood staring at the moving blur of uncrossable sea. She led the way to safety, out of the blazing hell of blitzed Coventry. People touched her for luck; feared her as an omen of disaster. Wherever she went, she changed lives . . . From her beginning to her end she never wavered. She was the Blitzcat.</p>	 <p>Upper KS2 Back Home by Michelle Magorian Back Home, Michelle Magorian, author of Goodnight Mister Tom, tells the story of Rusty, returning to England after being evacuated to America for five years in the Second World War. After five happy years in America, Rusty must return to England: the place she used to call home. But it doesn't feel like home. Rusty's mother is like a stranger, her little brother doesn't know her and why does the food taste so bad? Rusty just can't get used to the rigid rules and rationing and her strict new boarding school. Lonely and homesick, Rusty makes friends with Lance, another returned evacuee, and her indomitable spirit leads her into a dramatic and devastating rebellion. . .</p>

Daily online learning opportunities

In addition to My Maths, Bug Club, TTRockstars and LEXIA, the following websites are recommended to support children's continued learning at home for the duration of the UK Schools closure period

Regular daily lessons - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize>

Over 180 video lessons each week on National Oak Academy - <https://www.thenational.academy/>

Storytime daily on Monster phonics <http://bit.ly/3cvcgIM>

Change4life - <https://www.nhs.uk/change4life/activities>

Lonely Planet - <https://www.lonelyplanet.com/kids/activities>

Why not visit the Maths Factor website created by Carole Vorderman <https://www.themathsfactor.com/>

Italian cookery lesson

Father Eduard announced yesterday that the parish celebrates the consecration of the church at Holy Family this weekend. Mrs Butteriss is going to lead a virtual Italian cooking lesson which will take place on Saturday 16th of May 2020 at 2pm. Please see the attached flyer for further information. [#BringNonnaBack](#)



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/>

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. 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. Keep sending your photos of the prayer spaces that you have been creating in your homes during the month of May.



Please continue to follow the government advice in terms of restrictions that are in place. It is good to know that some of the restrictions are being slowly lifted so that we can now go out for exercise a little more frequently as long as we conform to the social distancing guidelines.

Parish Contact Details

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Parish Secretary: Mrs Clare Dempsey office@holyfamily-church.org
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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