



# 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

## Newsletter 462 Friday 25<sup>th</sup> September 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

### **A very warm welcome to all our new Nursery and Reception Intake who joined us in Holy Family this week**

We were amazed at how quickly the children settled into their bright, brand new classroom and it was wonderful to see them exploring their new environment with such confidence and making new friends. Next week, the Reception children will attend full time and start their learning journey together as a class. Thank you to Mrs Fisher and her team for preparing the EYFS classroom so beautifully - we look forward to watching each child grow in confidence and knowledge under Mrs Fisher's careful guidance.

If any parent / carer would like to see inside the new classroom, please inform a member of the EYFS team or the school office and we will be happy for you to step inside, in small groups, after school on Fridays. Phase 2 of the EYFS building project will be completed during the October half term – this will include installing the new EYFS playground equipment, replacing the safety railings at the main entrance and landscaping the grounds.

We also extend a big Holy Family welcome to Mrs Davies who joined the EYFS team this week.

### **STAR OF THE WEEK AWARD**

The following children were awarded STAR OF THE WEEK by their teachers for the following reasons:



- Arthur (Y1)** For working hard all week and completing great homework
- Millie (Y2)** For being a ray of sunshine
- Violet (Y3)** For completing extra research at home linked to the Stone Age
- Stanley (Y4)** For working his socks off and trying really hard in all subjects
- Tilly (Y5)** For impeccable manners and always showing respect
- Chloe R (Y6)** For being a great role model to others and promoting our Holy Family ethos
- Chloe L (Y6)** For her thoughtfulness and random acts of kindness

### **Parent Consultations**

We have a non-pupil day scheduled for **Monday 19<sup>th</sup> October 2020**. Teachers will be available throughout the day from 8:30am until 5pm to discuss your child's progress. All meetings will be conducted via zoom, or by phone call. Information about how parents/carers can book their time slots will be available from Monday 28<sup>th</sup> September.

Over the past two weeks, we have assessed every child to identify any specific gaps in their learning and we are constantly adapting our curriculum and providing interventions to serve the needs of each child, ensuring we close any gaps. During the meeting with your child's teacher, you will have an opportunity to discuss your child's strengths and also how you can support your child achieve their autumn term targets.

### **Providing work for children who have to self-isolate**

If your child has to remain at home please encourage them to log onto the White Rose Home Learning website where they will have access to the same maths videos being used in school each day. By doing this, your child's return to school will be seamless – they will not have missed any new learning. Your child will also have access to Bug Club for reading and can use their My Maths and TT Rockstars log-ins. Spelling frame can also be accessed from home. Please keep in regular contact with your child's teacher via Class Dojo if you have any queries.

**Intra-school Daily Mile Destinations competition.**



This week we introduced a new competition in school. Each year group is challenged to travel as far as they can around the world whilst finding out about the different countries they reach. Every time a class completes the daily mile or similar physical activity, they make one jump closer to their next destination. The class which have travelled the furthest by the end of term will win a prize.

Our journey began last Friday and the children have already travelled around **824 Miles** in total.

Cohort	Completed	Current Destination
Year 1	6 daily mile events	Currently making their way to Greenland
Year 2	6 daily mile events	The children have already zoomed past Italy and found out some amazing facts about Stonehenge whilst on their journey
Year 3	6 daily mile events	Currently celebrating with Year 2 as they make their way to Russia.
Year 4	3 daily mile events	Currently stopping off in France to celebrate with a croissant.
Year 5	5 daily mile events	The children have just run past the Leaning Tower of Pisa
Year 6	5 daily mile events	Have arrived in Italy and are currently slurping up some spaghetti, preparing themselves for next week's travels.

**Well done all of you and keep it up!  
A healthy body leads to a healthy mind!**

## **ADMISSIONS - IMPORTANT UPDATE**

If your child is due to start school in September 2021 you will no longer receive a letter from the council inviting you to apply and giving you the relevant opening and closing dates for applications. This is also true if you have a child starting secondary school in September 2021. The onus is on the parent to find out the information themselves - please follow this link for further information: <https://www.essex.gov.uk/admissions-to-essex-schools-for-the-next-school-year>

### **Secondary School Admissions**

The application period for Year 7 secondary admissions for September 2021 opens on **11th September 2020**. Parents should apply online via [www.essex.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.essex.gov.uk/admissions). The statutory national closing date for applications is 31<sup>st</sup> October 2020.

### **Free School Meal Entitlement (FSM) / Pupil Premium Grant (PPG)**

Since 2014, the Pupil Premium Grant has been available to support children from lower income families and enable them to achieve higher academic grades at school. We are able to check eligibility using a simple, secure and confidential online process. Under the PPG arrangement, schools receive funding for every pupil who meets the criteria for free school meals, so it is important for us to ensure that every child that meets the criteria is actually registered at the school. This will allow us to claim much needed money. Other than our office admin, no one will know whether children are on the FSM register or not. If your KS2 child is awarded a Free School Meal entitlement by Essex County Council, the school will also be entitled to apply to the additional Pupil Premium Funding to help support your child in class.

### **FSM for Reception to Year 2**

Children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are automatically entitled to receive a free school meal. Parents with children in these year groups do not have to apply for this entitlement. However, for low income families, schools are entitled to receive additional funding from Essex County Council (known as Pupil Premium) which can be used to support the children in school.

### **FSM for children in Years 3 - 6**

Please register for Free School Meals if you are in receipt of any of the following benefits:

- ✓ Income Support
- ✓ Income based Jobseeker's Allowance
- ✓ Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit
- ✓ and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- ✓ Pension Guarantee Credit
- ✓ Employment and Support Allowance, income related
- ✓ Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act, 1999
- ✓ Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for
- ✓ Working Tax Credit
- ✓ Universal Credit

### **How to Apply**

Go online to [Essex County Council Free School Meals Application](#) or apply over the Telephone by calling 0845 603 2200. Even if your child prefers to bring a packed lunch and does not require a school meal, if your child is entitled to FSMs, please apply as it benefits our school budget and allows us to have additional LSA hours in class to support your child. **Please speak to our school admin team for advice or support with applying for FSMs.**

### **Counselling**

If your child is struggling through a painful experience, or is experiencing anxieties for whatever reason, and you would like any further information on how we could support them, through group play therapy, or individual sessions with a counsellor, please do not hesitate to e-mail me and I will arrange for you to speak to Catherine (our school counsellor) or with an outside agency.

## Clubs

The Breakfast and After School Clubs continue to run very smoothly with numbers attending growing steadily. There are still a limited number of spaces available. Please contact Ms Rita McDowell on **07836 277014**, or e-mail the school office [admin@holyfamily.essex.sch.uk](mailto:admin@holyfamily.essex.sch.uk)

## Useful COVID-19 website links

Stay at home guidance for households with possible coronavirus (COVID-19) infection

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance>

Stay at home: what to do if you or someone you share your home with has coronavirus symptoms

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/906663/20203007 Easy read household isolation v3.1.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/906663/20203007_Easy_read_household_isolation_v3.1.pdf)

Guidance for households with grandparents, parents and children living together where someone is at increased risk or has possible or confirmed coronavirus (COVID-19) infection

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/guidance-for-households-with-grandparents-parents-and-children-living-together-where-someone-is-at-increased-risk-or-has-symptoms-of-coronavirus-cov>

## THANK YOU

We continue to be incredibly impressed with the hard work, commitment and exemplary behaviour of all of our wonderful children. The staff are working so very hard to ensure the children continue to be settled and as a result, Holy Family is thriving.

We are also really impressed with the positive response from parents and carers to our request last week that children bring water to school instead of juice. Thank you also to the vast majority for continuing to follow the Government Guidelines by arriving on time at the end of each day to collect your children and remembering to leave immediately thus avoiding congregating outside the school gates.

I'd like to give one other gentle reminder this week which is that our school uniform policy is for children to wear black shoes (not trainers) and, now that the weather has turned cold, all children should come to school wearing a navy or black winter coat. We are very proud of our Holy Family School uniform, so if you are experiencing financial difficulties and unable to purchase a school coat, please speak to a member of staff and we will do our very best to locate a suitable coat for your child.

## Religious Education

If you have not already explored the following link, please have a look - it will take you to a very short but useful resource to support the prayer life of your child. <https://www.tentenresources.co.uk/parent-newsletter>

### Gospel:

Taken from the Gospel for Sunday 27th September 2020 - Doing the Will of the Father (Matthew 21:28-32)

Jesus said to the chief priests and the elders of the people, 'What is your opinion? A man had two sons. He went and said to the first, "My boy, you go and work in the vineyard today." He answered, "I will not go," but afterwards thought better of it and went. The man then went and said the same thing to the second who answered, "Certainly, sir," but did not go. Which of the two did the father's will?' 'The first' they said. Jesus said to them, 'I tell you solemnly, tax collectors are making their way into the kingdom of God before you. For John came to you, a pattern of true righteousness, but you did not believe him, and yet the tax collectors did. Even after seeing that, you refused to think better of it and believe in him.' **What meaning do you find in this parable for yourself and the relationship you have with the Father?**

Wishing you all a relaxing weekend. Thank you for all you do to support our fantastic school community. We will continue to keep all our school families and friends in our thoughts and prayers.

God Bless,  
Mrs Hurley