



# HOLY FAMILY CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Headteacher

## Newsletter 367 Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December 2017

We were able to light two purple candles on our Advent wreath during Monday morning's assembly to mark the second Sunday of Advent on 10<sup>th</sup> December. We are all grateful to Mrs Herridge for coming into school to make our Advent Wreath.

We have had such a lovely week in school with the sound of singing and applause during the afternoon performances of our Christmas productions with very complimentary comments from those who attended. We were pleased to welcome parishioners and grandparents to school on Monday and the children delighted them with their fantastic acting and singing; this continued throughout the week. On Tuesday afternoon we were joined by Councillor Brian Wood, Mayor of Castle Point and Councillor Colin Reilly, Leader of Castle Point Council. The mayor was full of praise when he spoke after the shows. Thank you all so much for supporting the children by providing them with the right costume or clothes; thanks also to the KS2 parents who ensured their children were present at Holy Family Church last night. The performance in the church always creates a magical atmosphere and yesterday was no exception. Fr Eduard attended last night's performance in the church and gave us all a blessing to round off the evening. Audience members have been extremely generous this week, giving a fantastic £371.19 which will be donated to **Mission Together** the chosen charity of our School Council. Thank you to the members of the PGSA who ably served tea, coffee and mince pies to our visitors on Monday and to those parents, pupils and past pupils who helped the teachers to dismantle the stage last night and load the van—supplied and driven by Mr Corder, one of our past parents who has helped us on many occasions. Last but not least, I would like to thank all the staff members who have been involved in preparing the children so well while at the same time delivering a very demanding curriculum. This is no mean feat!



Our very youngest children were also performing this week in the Nursery. Annette, Esther and Catherine ensured that those of us lucky enough to attend the Nursery Nativity had a real treat.



Unfortunately, at least one parent has chosen to post photographs on social media that include other people's children. If you have taken pictures, please keep them as personal, family memories—not everyone wants their child's image on Facebook or other platforms. I would hate to ban photography during events and performances as some other schools and institutions have done, but that is an option that needs to be considered.

Year 6 visited Parklands Nursing home this afternoon and entertained the residents with their beautiful carol singing. Afterwards they spent time chatting with some of the residents. I am proud of the children for doing this as it is not always an easy thing for young people to do but it means so much to the elderly residents.

**Christingle Service Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> December** We invite all parents and carers to our Christingle Service in the school hall on Tuesday afternoon at 2.30pm. Instructions on how to make a Christingle were emailed on Wednesday via Parentmail PMX. The children should bring their Christingles to school on Tuesday morning where they will be kept safely in class until just before the service. Thank you.

**Dinner money arrears** Unless all dinner monies have been paid for and there is therefore credit on your child's dinner money account it will not be possible for your child to have a school dinner next week including Christmas Dinner on Wednesday. Thank you.

**Parentpay** It is now possible for parents and carers to pay for the school's annual visit to the Wednesday Players' Pantomime on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> January via Parentpay. This may be accessed

by the Parentmail website or the app. The cost is £12.10 per child covering the cost of the ticket and the coach. Thank you.



### **Brentwood Catholic Children's Society Advent Appeal**

The society would be grateful to receive donations in the box which the children can return to the school office. Thank you for the boxes already returned to the school office—last year BCCS helped over 1500 young people in our diocese, including pupils from our own school.

**Drum lessons** There will be one space for a pupil to start drum lessons with Mr Stevenson at the beginning of the Spring term. The cost is £75.00 for 10 lessons of 15 minutes each term. If your child is interested in learning to play the drums, please contact Mrs Duxbury in the school office. The place will be allocated on a first come first served basis. Thank you.



*The Holy Family*

**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

**Saint of the Week** Yesterday at morning Mass, Fr Eduard told us all that it was the Feast of St John of the Cross. He reminded us all of how important it is to love the cross like St John—it's a symbol that Christ died to save us all. St John of the Cross was a Spanish Carmelite Friar who was involved in establishing monasteries and friaries. He is also regarded as one of the greatest writers in Spanish literature. His two most famous works, *Spiritual Canticle* and *Dark Night of the Soul* are considered masterpieces. He died on 14<sup>th</sup> December 1591.



He was canonised as a saint in 1726 and is considered one of the thirty-six ***Doctors of the Church***—saints of significant importance.

***"In the twilight of life, God will not judge us on our earthly possessions and human successes, but on how well we have loved."*** — San Juan de la Cruz (St. John of the Cross)

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

**Parish Contact Details**

Holy Family Catholic Church, 661 High Road, Benfleet, SS7 6SF

Parish Priest: Fr Eduard Fartan, [eduard.fartan@yahoo.com](mailto:eduard.fartan@yahoo.com)  
[priest@holyfamily-church.org](mailto:priest@holyfamily-church.org)  
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RF 94.8% 1F 97.5% 2T 96.2% 3W 95.2% 4HW 89.8% 5LB 88.3% 6F 97.9% Well done to Year 6 for best attendance last week.

Mr P. O’Kane

Headteacher

**Diary Dates**

Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> December	Christingle service school hall 2.30pm
Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> December	Advent reconciliation service
Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas dinner
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
Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> February 2018	Non-pupil day (TBC)
Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> February—Friday 9 <sup>th</sup> February 2018	Year 6 Danbury Residential