



## 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 372 Friday 26<sup>th</sup> January 2018

I was pleased to be able to give out attendance wristbands to all the children who have had 100% attendance since our return to school after Christmas. The children were excited to receive them, especially as the names of all the recipients will go into a draw for a prize of £10.00 at the end of this half-term. All the children in school have the opportunity to be awarded a wristband for the period Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> January—Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> February (Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> February is a non-pupil day) and earn another entry in the prize draw.

Mrs Wall and Year 3 welcomed Stephen Parker into school on Monday morning. Mr Parker is an officer with Essex County Fire & Rescue Service and he worked with Year 3 on the topic of fire safety in the home.

This morning, Year 5 presented a moving assembly to mark Holocaust Memorial Day (tomorrow). It's important that the awful horrors of WW2 and the concentration camps are not forgotten—we don't want the children of today repeating the mistakes of the past. Thank you to those parents and carers who were able to come into school this morning to attend the assembly.

**Assisi Catholic Trust** In line with current Diocesan Policy, the Catholic schools in South East Essex have now sought approval from the Department for Education to form a Multi-Academy Trust (MAT) based on the Deanery model approved by the Diocese of Brentwood. We are delighted to inform you that the Academy Order for the MAT has been issued and nine schools in the South East Essex Deanery will be joining together to form the **Assisi Catholic Trust** (after St. Francis of Assisi) over this academic year.

The aim of the Trust is to secure strong Catholic education for the benefit of children in South East Essex and we will continue to build upon our successful historical working partnerships in carrying out formal consultations with all key stakeholders within our Deanery as we move through the academy conversion process throughout the rest of this academic year.

The schools who have applied to join together as the Assisi Catholic Trust are:

Holy Family Catholic Primary School	Our Lady of Ransom Catholic Primary School
Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Primary School	Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School
St George's Catholic Primary School	St Helen's Catholic Primary School
St Joseph's Catholic Primary School	St Teresa's Catholic Primary School
St Thomas More High School	

**PGSA** Thank you to everyone that has volunteered to help run the KS1 disco party after school on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> February. The Strictly Come Dancing evening will be held on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> February (adults only please) at 7.30pm. Full details are on the Holy Family PGSA Facebook page.

**CAVS Volunteers Needed** Do you have parenting experience to share? Could you use that knowledge to help a family get their lives back on track? Castle Point Association of Voluntary Services (CAVS) Family Mentoring Service is looking for empathetic, reliable and approachable volunteers to support families with children and young adults aged 0—19 years with a variety of needs in Castle Point. Full training and support will be provided. For more information on joining the CAVS Family Mentoring Service team, call 01268 638405 or email: [volunteering@castlepointavs.org.uk](mailto:volunteering@castlepointavs.org.uk)

**World Book Day** This year, World Book Day will take place on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> March. Miss Furby would love to see everyone dust off their Book Week costumes and wear them to school on this special day.



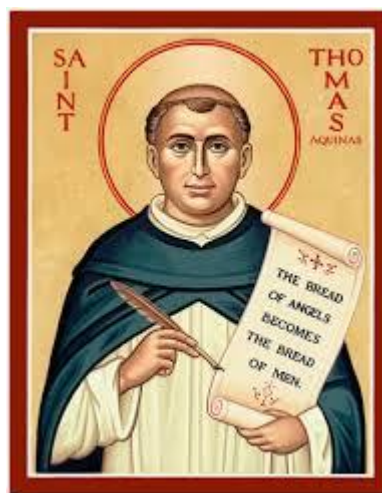
**Prayer to the Holy Family** Jesus, Mary and Joseph, in you we contemplate the splendour of true love; to you we turn with trust. Holy Family of Nazareth, grant that our families too may be places of communion and prayer, authentic schools of the Gospel and small domestic churches. Holy Family of Nazareth, 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



*The Holy Family*

**Thought for the Week** “All the darkness in the world cannot extinguish the light of a single candle.” St Francis of Assisi

**Saint of the week** Sunday is the Feast Day of Saint Thomas Aquinas, an Italian Dominican friar and priest. He is still regarded as one of the greatest philosophers ever to have lived and his major work **Summa Theologiae** still underpins the teachings of the Catholic Church today. Christians sometimes give the unfortunate impression that they are opposed to progress and new thinking. Modern secularists love to portray Christians and other people of faith as backward looking. Thomas Aquinas was anything but reactionary. He lived at a time of intense philosophical, social and political ferment, but he was able to use the new learning and thinking of his age to promote a deeper understanding of the faith. Saint Thomas Aquinas is considered the role model for all those wishing to study for the priesthood.



### **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)  
[office@holyfamily-church.org](mailto:office@holyfamily-church.org)

Parish Secretary: Mrs Julie Herridge,

Telephone: 01268 792082 or 01268 799649

N2 70.8% RF 87.4% 1F 96.5% 2T 88% 3W 83% 4HW 88.4% 5LB 95.9% 6F 98.3%. Well done to Year 6 for best attendance last week.

Mr P. O’Kane

Headteacher

### **Diary Dates**

Monday 29<sup>th</sup> January

Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> February

Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> February

Monday 5<sup>th</sup> February—Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February

Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> February

Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> February

Young Voices concert o2 Arena Y5 & Y6

Active Phonics Workshop, Year 1 Parents,  
9.05am

Non-pupil day

Year 6 Danbury Residential

Reception Class Assembly, 10.15am

Reception Class Superhero Day

Thursday 8 <sup>th</sup> February	PGSA Infants Disco Party
Monday 12 <sup>th</sup> February—Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> February	Half-term Holiday
Wednesday 14 <sup>th</sup> February	Ash Wednesday—Beginning of Lent
Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> February	Year 6 Class Assembly, 10.15am
Saturday 24 <sup>th</sup> February	PGSA Strictly Dance Evening (adults only)
Thursday 1 <sup>st</sup> March	World Book Day
Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> March	Year 1 Class Assembly, 10.15am
Thursday 8 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 3 Class Assembly, 10.15am
Tuesday 13 <sup>th</sup> March	Parental Contact Evening, 3.30—6.00pm
Thursday 15 <sup>th</sup> March	Parental Contact Evening, 5.00—7.30pm
Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> March	Year 2 Class Assembly, 10.15am
Sunday 25 <sup>th</sup> March	Palm (Passion) Sunday
Thursday 29 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 4 Solemn Easter Presentation, 2.15pm
Thursday 29 <sup>th</sup> March	Holy Thursday
Friday 30 <sup>th</sup> March	Good Friday (School Closed)
Sunday 1 <sup>st</sup> April	Easter Sunday
Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> April	Public Holiday (School Closed)
Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> April—Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> April	Easter Holidays
Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> April	First Day of Summer Term
Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> May	Public Holiday (School Closed)
Monday 14 <sup>th</sup> May 2018	Beginning of SATs Week
Monday 28 <sup>th</sup> May—Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> June 2018	Half-term Holiday