



HOLY FAMILY CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Diocese of
Brentwood

Headteacher Mr P.O'Kane

Newsletter 443 Friday 28th February 2020

Welcome back. I hope that you all had a relaxing half term break with your families.

On Tuesday, as is Holy Family tradition, we held a Pancake Assembly which was ably led by Mrs Lewins assisted by Miss Wade. As usual it was very entertaining and there was great excitement when the pancakes were tossed! After the assembly every child was given a piece of pancake to taste.



On Wednesday we welcomed Father Eduard into school for a more solemn occasion – the service of the blessing and distribution of the ashes. We are all

so proud of how the children behave and how they are always so reverent and respectful on these occasions. Thank you Mrs Mahon for helping me organise the Service and to the parishioners who joined us in school for the Service. Both Shrove Tuesday and Ash Wednesday are very important days this week and mark the beginning of Lent. The children will learn more about the Lenten Season in Assemblies over the coming weeks. We hope you can help them to have a meaningful Lenten experience by encouraging them to be more prayerful, to think of others, and to perhaps make some small sacrifice such as giving up sweets or a particular treat.

Every year our pupils support CAFOD's Lent Appeal, so in our next school assembly, the children will learn about how CAFOD is supporting people in the Amazon area who are standing up for their rights and defending their land. In the Rainforest Region, an area more than the size of a football field is being lost every minute. On Monday, your child will be given a small envelope in which to make a donation to



support CAFOD. With your donations, struggling communities can be reached and lives transformed.

Father Eduard returned to school today to visit Year 3 for a question and answer session which he found very informative and enjoyable as did the children! We are grateful to Father for the time he devotes to our school.

Library Walks

This morning Year 1 and Year 4 walked to South Benfleet Library to start our celebrations of Book Week. Thank you to all the volunteers who accompanied the children and staff. Due to the heavy rain, unfortunately we had to cancel Year 2's visit to the library, but we will reschedule it for before the end of term. Thank you Miss Furby for liaising with the local library.



Mrs Monksfield's February Books of the Month :

These books all celebrate the theme of love.

	<p style="text-align: center;">EYFS</p> <p style="text-align: center;">So Much by Trish Cooke and Helen Oxenbury Walker</p> <p>Mum and baby are home alone when - DING DONG! - Auntie and then Uncle and Nannie and Gran-Gran and the cousins come to visit. And they all want to hug and kiss and squeeze and eat the baby right up ... because everybody loves the baby SO MUCH!</p> <p>A special 25th anniversary edition of a multiple award-winning story, So Much is a celebration of family life. Helen Oxenbury's characteristically warm, funny illustrations, paired with Trish Cooke's rhythmic, cumulative story capture the joy of being a baby in a large extended family - a baby who knows that he is absolutely, utterly adored.</p>		<p style="text-align: center;">KS1</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Love is My Favourite Thing by Emma Chichester Clark</p> <p>Plum has lots of favourite things: catching sticks, her bear, her bed – but really LOVE is her absolute favourite thing. She loves her family, and they love her. But trouble loves Plum too; sometimes she just can't help doing slightly naughty things.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Will everyone still love Plum then?</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">Lower KS2</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Hug Me by Simona Ciraolo</p> <p>Ever feel like you need a hug, a really big hug from someone? That's how Felipe the young cactus feels, but his family just isn't the touchy-feely kind. Cactuses can be quite prickly sometimes you know . . . and so can Felipe. But he'll be darned if this one pointy issue will hold him back, so one day Felipe sets off on his own to find a friend and just maybe, that long awaited hug. ...an endearing tale of friendship, beautifully illustrated with buoyant wit and the perfect story to share.</p>		<p style="text-align: center;">Upper KS2</p> <p style="text-align: center;">A Most improper Magick: The Unladylike adventures of Kat Stephenson</p> <p>A 21st-century take on Jane Austen's world, entertainingly viewed through the eyes of a 12-year-old heroine who discovers she has inherited her mother's magical abilities. Kat is the youngest in the family, and her mother's death after Kat's birth gives her a feeling of independence and rebelliousness and encourages her to experiment with her own magic. Burgis successfully produces an excellent adventure story, filled with humour. A unique take on family and relationships with strong appeal for confident readers.</p>

World Book Day 5th March

To celebrate World Book Day, the children are invited to come to school on Thursday dressed as a favourite book character. Please do not feel costumes have to be shop bought – it is always fun making costumes from items of clothing already in the home. Grant Strong, a visiting author, has been invited into school to hold workshops with each class on Monday 2nd March. Teachers have also planned exciting book-related activities throughout the week to enrich the curriculum.



PGSA update

A special thank you to the PGSA Committee and volunteers who work tirelessly to raise much needed funds for our school. As a result of all their fundraising efforts, our school was recently able to purchase over £1,500 worth of new books. These books will be integrated into our current reading scheme and will benefit all the children.



Please continue to support the PGSA fundraising events in any way you can:

- **19th March - Mother's Day Shopping.** Each child will have an opportunity to purchase a small gift for a loved one – the gift will cost no more than £2.
- **28th March – Race Night Adults £3, Children FREE**
Own a horse £6; be a jockey £3; sponsor a race £20. You do not need to attend the Race Night to be part of the fun! For more information, please speak to Mr & Mrs Caufield, or see the PGSA app.
- **2nd April – Disco** EYFS / KS1 3:15 – 4:15pm
KS2 Disco 4:30 – 5:30pm
- **16th May - PGSA Quiz Night @ 7pm – 10pm in Holy Family Hall**
- **26th June – Summer Fete begins @ 3:15pm**
- **9th July Curry Night (tbc)**



STEM Week Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM).

British Science Week begins on 9th March. If you know someone who would be willing to offer their time and enthusiasm to help bring STEM subjects to life, or demonstrating their value in life and careers, please speak to a member of our Holy Family team.

Families in Focus meeting in school (FiF)

Recently, during a One Plan meeting with a parent, I was introduced to Debra Wood (Family Support Adviser) who is a volunteer with Families in Focus. The FiF volunteers work with families who have a child with SEND (any disability or special need - physical or sensory impairments, learning difficulties, mental health issues or enduring emotional/behavioural difficulties) and gives guidance to parents about educational and welfare issues. Debra has kindly offered to come into school on **Monday 2nd March at 2pm** to chat to parents / carers informally and/or to answer any questions they may have.

Depending on take-up, my aim is to establish a regular support group in Holy Family School where parents/carers could offer each other emotional and practical support, share their feelings, problems and ideas with others in a similar situation and to be listened to without feeling judged. In my role as SENCo, I have met many parents with a wealth of experience who could help and support others. Anyone interested in being part of the Support Group, or who would like to meet with Debra to seek advice about their own child, please come along to the meeting.

Fund raising opportunity One of our parents, Mrs Starling has kindly contacted Jet Wheel Tyre in Church Road Benfleet to register us with their incentive scheme. If parents, staff of the school or parishioners of Holy Family Church mention the school when making a purchase, the school will receive 5% back at the end of the year.

Saint of the week On Sunday it is the Feast Day of St David, the patron saint of Wales. According to tradition, David was the son of King Sant and St Non. He was involved in missionary work and also set up

a number of monasteries and died in Wales in 589 A.D. He was canonised by Pope Callistus II in 1120. His most famous miracle took place when he was preaching outdoors and the ground on which he stood rose up to form a small hill and a white dove (which became his symbol) appeared on his shoulder.

Thought for the Week “Lent is a time for reconsidering our feelings, for letting our eyes be opened to injustice, to open our hearts to those suffering.” Pope Francis

Attendance last week Nursery class 56.2% RF 92.4% 1F 95.8% 2T 91.4% 3W 97.4% 4LB 90.7% 5H 97.3% 6M 87.6% Well done to Year 3 for best attendance last week.

Parish Contact Details

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

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Thank you so much for your continued support. Please continue to keep Mr O’Kane in your prayers. Please remember to book a slot on Parentmail to meet with your child’s class teacher.

Mrs N Hurley
Deputy Headteacher

Diary Dates

Monday 2 nd March	Grant Strong (visiting author)
Monday 2 nd March	Families in Focus meeting @2pm
Wednesday 4 th March	School nurse drop-in 2.30-3.30pm
Thursday 5 th March	World Book Day
Friday 6 th March	Y5 Day at The Appleton School
Friday 6 th March	Y6 Danbury Assembly @10:15am
Friday 13 th March	Y2 Assembly @10:15am
Sunday 15 th March	School Family Mass in Church
Friday 20 th March	Y3 Assembly @ 10:15am
Monday 23 rd March	Infant Music Festival Year 2
Saturday 28 th March	PGSA Race Night
Monday 30 th March	KS1 Craft Afternoon (volunteers needed)
Friday 3 rd April	Y4 Easter Presentation
Thursday 2 nd April	PGSA Children’s Disco
Sunday 5 th April	Palm/Passion Sunday—Start of Holy Week
Monday 6 th April—Friday 17 th April	Easter Holidays
Thursday 9 th April	Maundy/Holy Thursday
Friday 10 th April	Good Friday
Sunday 12 th April	Easter Sunday
Monday 20 th April	Pupils return to school

Friday 8th May

Monday 11th May

Saturday 16th May

Friday 22nd May

Monday 25th May—Friday 29th May

Monday 1st June

Tuesday 2nd June

Thursday 4th June

Friday 26th June

Tuesday 7th July

Wednesday 8th July

Tuesday 21st July

Wednesday 22nd July

75th Anniversary of VE Day—Public Holiday

KS2 (Year 6) SATs Week

Quiz Night (PGSA)

Y3 Crowning of Our Lady

Summer Half-Term Break

Non-Pupil Day 4

Pupils return to school

Y3 & Y5 Mary Poppins Trip

School Summer Fete (PGSA)

KS1 Catholic Sports

KS2 Catholic Sports

Final school day of Academic Year

Non-Pupil Day 5