



# HOLY FAMILY CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Diocese of  
Brentwood

Headteacher Mr P.O'Kane

## Newsletter 448 Friday 24<sup>th</sup> April 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

As the pandemic continues, I hope you are all keeping safe and not finding it too difficult adhering to Government guidelines thus minimising contact with others. It seems really strange to be welcoming you back to the summer term. I know, for many of you, this means the return to juggling your own working from home with that of supporting your children with their school work. I hope that we can make this period of time as manageable and stress-free as possible for you.

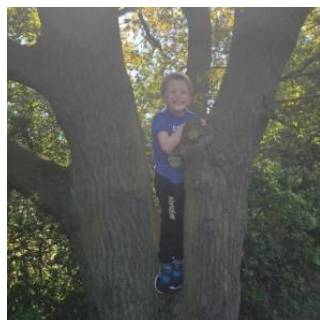
I'd like to begin this week's newsletter by thanking my wonderful colleagues who came to join me on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> April to deep clean the school building and prepare it for re-opening for children of key workers. Our children in school continue to enjoy learning and it is lovely to see how resilient they are in dealing with the very different situation we are currently experiencing.

Teachers will continue to plan sequences of lessons and provide resources to support your children's learning at home and will make links to a wealth of online curriculum resources. Please do not feel your child has to access, or complete all the activities – each child works at their own pace. Learning looks very different at the moment, but we mustn't underestimate some of the other skills that our children are gaining.



Easter Garden -Robyn

Thank you to the fantastic children who have been working hard at home and have sent in their amazing work. It makes us so happy to see what you have been doing so please keep sending your work and photos.



Tree climbing – Logan



Photography skills – Georgia



Cactus pots – Lilly

Children learn in different ways. I know many have been helping with the cooking, making dens and helping in the garden; all of these are valuable learning experiences and as teachers, we love to hear about them. Every week, I will publish examples of children's work in the weekly newsletter. We are currently upgrading our school website so that an increased number of photos can be uploaded – please reassure your children that all the work and photos submitted throughout each week are equally valued and will be published.

Unfortunately, there is a lot for people to worry about these days, but I hope that worrying about your child 'falling behind in their learning' isn't one of them. In addition to learning new skills, they are also having the opportunity to value some of the key worker roles being applauded at the moment rather than the main focus being on celebrity status. Whatever you are able to do each week with your child will be of help and also the times when they are left to be independent are also really worthwhile. It is often from 'boredom' that great ideas come!

Rest assured that when schools do reopen, we will plan to address all gaps in the children's learning, so please just do what you can and we will do the rest when we return.



Yvie designed a stage set for James and the Giant Peach



### The Magical Door

I opened the magical door and saw  
a crystal clear waterfall cascading down the mountainside  
I opened the magical door and saw  
a magical kingdom where the monkeys swung down the  
turrets as they cried  
I opened the magical door and saw  
a dark silhouette emerge from the rising tide  
I opened the magical door and saw  
an avatar like man jumping over the trees as they  
come in his stride  
I opened the magical door and saw  
the great Kraken monster behind the great barrier reef as  
it attempts to hide  
I opened up the magical door and saw  
a little puppy in his cage going to sleep as he sighed.

George (Y6)

Many of our KS 2 children are currently working on their VE Day projects as part of History whilst a number of KS 1 children are researching information about dinosaurs and fossils and using the outdoors to discover more about plants. Logging onto **Class Dojo** is really important - this is where you will discover what each class teacher has planned to keep your children's skills sharp and keep them moving forward. Some children may already have listened to members of staff reading a story every day – I hope to encourage more staff to participate in this, but also to invite some 'guest readers' over the coming weeks who will join us in reading stories to the children. You might see some well-loved members of staff you haven't seen for quite some time.



### Calling You At home

We have a small number of families who are not yet engaging with our teachers which is a worry, but we will continue to do our best to make contact this week.

From next week a member of staff will be phoning each family to ask how things are and to ensure you and your children are managing during this absence. Please ensure they are made aware of any issues so we can signpost the right support as appropriate. We hope that we will be able to phone regularly, but please do not hesitate to contact the school if there is anything that we can help with. Our main school office is unmanned, but please remember if you have any queries you can message you child's class teacher via Class Dojo, email [admin@holyfamily.essex.sch.uk](mailto:admin@holyfamily.essex.sch.uk), or email [senco@holyfamily.essex.sch.uk](mailto:senco@holyfamily.essex.sch.uk).

### Free School Meal Vouchers

FSM vouchers (to the value of £15) continue to be emailed directly to families who are eligible for Free School Meals. The Department for Education voucher scheme issues e-codes which can then be exchanged for e-gift cards. These can be redeemed at a selection of six major stores. Due to the unprecedented volume of requests at the moment there are still some issues with the Edenred website, the company administering the vouchers on behalf of the Government. In many cases the e-codes cannot be activated until up to 72 hours after they have been issued, but since last week many families have successfully accessed their vouchers. Please get in touch if you still haven't managed to access your vouchers.

### New entitlement to Free School Meals

If parents lose their income, it is possible that you may find your child is eligible for Free School Meals. The families of every eligible pupil are currently receiving £15 of food vouchers each week. Please take up this opportunity if you are entitled to it. The link is: <https://www.gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals>

**Supporting SEN Children** This guidance has just been released by the DfE for parents of children with SEND and contains lots of useful links to websites, activities and advice.

[https://www.gov.uk/guidance/help-children-with-send-continue-their-education-during-coronavirus-covid-19?utm\\_source=2e5b55a3-a70c-4ef9-9d11-f63b6d452437&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm\\_content=immediate](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/help-children-with-send-continue-their-education-during-coronavirus-covid-19?utm_source=2e5b55a3-a70c-4ef9-9d11-f63b6d452437&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_content=immediate)

Last term, we introduced Mrs Monksfield’s Book of the Month. Mrs Monksfield is our English subject leader.

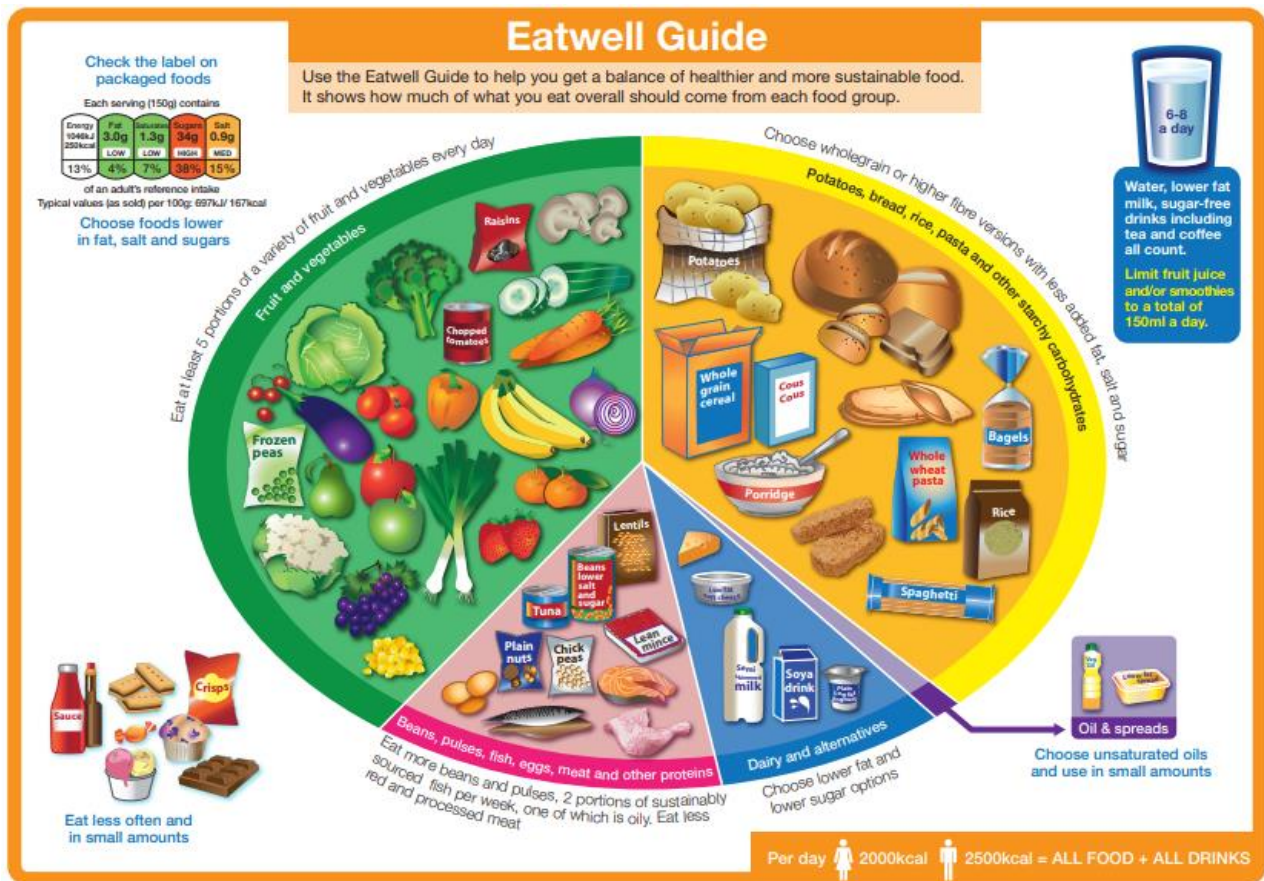
### April Book of the Month – Autism Awareness Month

	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>EYFS</b></p> <p><b>A Friend Like Simon by Kate Gaynot</b></p> <p>When a child with autism joins a mainstream school, many children can find it difficult to understand and cope with a student that is somewhat ‘different’ to them. This story encourages other children to be mindful and patient of the differences that exist and to also appreciate the positive contribution that an autistic child can make to the group.</p>		<p style="text-align: center;"><b>KS 1</b></p> <p><b>My Mouth is a Volcano by Julia Cook</b></p> <p>All of Louis’ thoughts are very important to him. In fact, his thoughts are so important to him that when he has something to say, his words begin to wiggle, and then they do the jiggle, then his tongue pushes all of his important words up against his teeth and he erupts, or interrupts others. His mouth is a volcano! This story takes an empathetic approach to the habit of interrupting and teaches children a witty technique to capture their rambunctious thoughts and words for expression at an appropriate time.</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Lower KS2</b></p> <p><b>The Girl Who Thought In Pictures by Julia Finley Mosca</b></p> <p><i>If you've ever felt different, if you've ever been low, if you don't quite fit in, there's a name you should know</i> Meet Dr. Temple Grandin—one of the world's quirkiest science heroes!</p> <p>When young Temple was diagnosed with autism, no one expected her to talk, let alone become one of the most powerful voices in modern science. Yet, the determined visual thinker did just that. Her unique mind allowed her to connect with animals in a special way, helping her invent ground-breaking improvements for farms around the globe.</p>		<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Upper KS2</b></p> <p><b>A Whole New Ballgame by Phil Bildner</b></p> <p>Rip and Red are best friends whose fifth-grade year is nothing like what they expected. They have a crazy new tattooed teacher named Mr. Acevedo, who doesn't believe in tests or homework and who likes off-the-wall projects. Easy-going Rip is knocked completely out of his comfort zone. And for Red, who has autism and really needs things to be exactly a certain way, the changes are even more of a struggle. But together these two make a great duo who know how to help each other — and find ways to make a difference — in the classroom and on the court.</p>

### ‘Healthy Selfie’ Challenge!

One of our proposed projects for the summer term 2020 was to work towards renewing our Healthy Schools Award. Even though school is temporarily closed, we are introducing a **new weekly challenge** called Healthy Selfie which will can then use as evidence towards becoming a healthy school. It is an opportunity for us all to show off the healthy meals we are preparing and eating at home.

Each week we would like you to send in a selfie of your child making or eating a healthy meal. It could be of your child preparing a delicious sandwich or helping with the evening meal. We would like to see a healthy balance of the main food groups we need from the healthy eating food plate. Every Healthy Selfie we see via the Class Dojo app will be rewarded with 10 Dojos by their class teacher.



### Keeping children in Touch during COVID-19

Some of our wonderful parents (past and present) are currently working on a very exciting project. Once we have confirmed all the details, I will share with you how your children can get involved. I'd like to thank those parents for their enthusiasm and commitment and for giving up their time to undertake this project.

### ONLINE SAFETY

Remote learning can be a great way to continue learning outside the classroom, but please ensure you have filters and parental controls in place to prevent your children stumbling across inappropriate content.

Please also remember, at the moment the emphasis must be on staying safe, maintaining good mental and physical health by exercising, having fun and learning along the way.

### Our Holy Family School Mission Statement:

**'United in God's love, through learning and play, we nurture hearts and minds as we welcome all into our family'.**

### Parish Contact Details

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Let's hope the sun continues to shine for us next week - Have a good week and remember, 'Stay Home, Save Lives'. Enjoy the attached sheet showing a selection of other photos received via Class Dojo

God bless,  
Mrs N Hurley



