



# HOLY FAMILY CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Headteacher Mr P.O'Kane

## Newsletter 306 Friday 27<sup>th</sup> May 2016



It was lovely to finish this half-term with the traditional Crowning of Our Lady Service to honour Mary Our Blessed Mother. The service was led by recent First Communicants and children in Year 3 and was a lovely reverent occasion. Thank you to all those who donated flowers for the May Altar; they looked magnificent as always and special thanks to Mrs Gilbert, Mrs Herman, Mrs Hunter, Mrs Impey, and Mrs Murphy for building and decorating the altar earlier today. We would also like to express our sincere thanks to Ellie-Mae Florists for their kind donation of greenery and flowers. It was great to have Fr Eduard join us and bless the crown. I know he is extremely busy and I appreciate the time he has given to us today. The service would not have taken place without the hard work of many members of staff: thank you to Miss Lardner and Miss Murphy for preparing the children; thank you to Mrs Fisher for teaching everyone the hymns and playing the piano; thank you to Mrs Hurley for producing the PowerPoint presentation to accompany today's service. Finally, a huge thank you to all the parents who helped with dresses, veils and suits this afternoon—the children looked fantastic. They have another opportunity to wear their finery tomorrow evening at Holy Family Church.

After the service, Fr Eduard spoke to all the children gathered in the hall. He reminded us that each child is precious to Mary, like a beautiful flower.

Our Year 6 children undertook a SATs test on Tuesday morning. On this occasion, the children were not being tested—it was the test itself. For many years, Holy Family has been one of the schools that the DfE and NFER have asked to trial new tests. The test administrator told me

that some of the questions our pupils answered on Tuesday morning will make it onto SATs papers in the next 3—4 years.

Yesterday morning, an enthusiastic squad of children from Reception Class and KS1 went to St Teresa's Catholic Primary School in Rochford to participate in the inaugural Corpus Christi Dash. The children competed with great gusto and even though they were not placed they had a wonderful time. I have been told by children, parents, grandparents and staff that it was a great event. I hope this will become an annual fixture in the diary.



### **Crowning of Our Lady Holy Family Church**

Fr Eduard will lead a Crowning of Our Lady service at the beginning of 6.00pm Mass on Saturday evening. He would love to involve all the recent First Communicants and invites them all to come to Mass in their Communion dresses and suits. If possible, Mrs Herridge would like to speak to the First Communicants 15 minutes before Mass to explain what they will be doing during the service and later during the Eucharistic Procession.

### **Corpus Christi—Message from Fr Eduard:**

*It is the Solemnity of The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ (Corpus Christi) this weekend and once again at the 6pm Mass we will have a beautiful sung Mass led by Liz Keeble and the Choir. After the Mass we will have a Eucharistic Procession when we will walk a short way along the High Road and return. Once back in the church we will have Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament until 9.45pm. There will be sung Compline (Night Prayer) followed by Benediction. I am hoping that the procession will be joined by the First Holy Communion class, our altar servers and many others from the parish and school, children and adults alike. I am particularly seeking the help of the KSC and other parish groups or individuals to help with marshalling.*

### **Large Adventure Playground**

We received some great news yesterday which mitigated the bad news about the swimming pool. The Secretary of State has approved the governors' bid for grant funding to refurbish the large adventure playground. Now that we know the funding is secure, Mr Smith will be able to put the job out to tender. I am very grateful to Mrs Henderson and Mr Smith for putting the bid together.



### **Thank You Mr Smith**

Mr Smith our wonderful site manager has been working harder than ever to build interactive outdoor play equipment for the children in Reception Class. They love their music station and their water run. They wanted to say a huge “Thank you!” to Mr Smith.

### **Inflatable Fun Day Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> July—Advertising Boards**

Mrs Hunter and Mrs Lewins hosted a meeting last Friday in the school hall. Thank you to everyone who came along and pledged support. Amos Estates have offered to give the school £5.00 for every advertising board they can place on properties in the area. If you would be willing to have an estate agent’s board on your property advertising the event on 16<sup>th</sup> July, please leave your name and address with the ladies in the office or simply drop a note into the drop box. Amos estates have specified that a minimum of 20 properties are required.

### **Morning Gate**

After half-term, Holy Family will be operating a different procedure for the arrival of pupils in the morning. The school gate will still open at 8.40am, and children will be expected to be in class for 8.55am. However, when parents leave their children at the gate, the children will not remain on the playground but will make their way directly to class. This approach is common in many other schools and has been proven to help all children have a better start to the school day. It should also mean there will be less traffic congestion as parents won’t need to wait at the railings until 8.55am each morning. Thank you, in advance, for your cooperation in this matter.

**Class Photographs** On Wednesday morning the photographer was in school to take class photographs. We will receive the proofs after half term.

**School dinners- week beginning 6<sup>th</sup> June-** The menu this week will be week 1

### **Dinner money Arrears**

Please ensure that all dinner money payments are up to date. Dinner money is due the day on which the school dinner is taken. If you are unsure of the amount owed, please contact the school office. Thank you.

### Year of Mercy-Give Shelter to the Homeless

So far this year, as a school community, we have all embraced the **Year of Mercy** and the **Corporal Works of Mercy**. One of the **Corporal Works of Mercy** is: **Shelter the Homeless**. There are a number of very active charities and groups in Southend and Leigh that provide meals, shelter, clothing and funding for the homeless. One of these is based in Leigh and run by volunteers from Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Parish, some Anglican parishes and New Road Methodist Church. It is called **Serving the Homeless** and raises funds throughout the year that are used to buy food and groceries for the homeless shelters in Southend. **Serving the Homeless** is organising a fun activity for children that will run throughout the summer holidays. The volunteers have created a quiz that requires a walk through various streets in Southend. All the answers to the clues can be seen on the walk. Once a quiz sheet has been completed, it can be sent to **Serving the Homeless** by posting to *Mrs Nina Bridgeman, 31 Esplanade Gardens, Westcliff-on-Sea, Essex, SS9 4HG*.

A £5.00 donation is required for each completed entry. All correctly completed forms will be put into a draw and a winner will be chosen randomly and receive a prize of £25.00. There is a second prize of £15.00 and a third prize of £10.00. A PDF document containing the Walk/Quiz sheet will be sent out via Parentmail; the document will be on the newsletter section of the website; paper copies are available from the entrance corridor.

### St Bernard's Performing Arts Summer School

St Bernard's High School is running a Performing Arts Summer School for Year 5 and 6 girls from Monday 25<sup>th</sup> July to Friday 29<sup>th</sup> July. This is the fifth year that the course has been run by the in-house Drama and Dance teachers. The course runs from 9.30am - 3.30pm daily and ends with a showcase on Friday at 4.00pm. The cost for the week is £65.00. Information letters from St Bernard's may be found in the Holy Family foyer.

### School Health

Drop- in service

Any parents with health and developmental concerns about their children may drop in to the Central Canvey Primary Care Centre, Long Road, Canvey Island SS8 OJA. They are able to perform hearing tests and no appointment is necessary.

The drop-in clinic dates are: 16<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> June; 14<sup>th</sup> July.

For more in-depth problems please contact the clinic directly on 01268 686041 for an appointment with the school nurse.

### Attendance

RW 96.7% 1C 95.7% 2FL 95.7% 3L 90.7% 4H 89.3% 5B 90.4% 6I 95.5%. Well done to Reception class for best attendance last week.

### Saint of the Week

We are coming to the end of May, the month of Mary. Please continue to encourage your children to pray to Mary our blessed mother. Mrs Hurley led a decade of the Rosary during Monday morning's assembly. Yesterday was the Feast of **Corpus Christi** (Body of Christ) in many countries. As Catholics we recognise the real presence of Christ in the Blessed Sacrament. Traditionally, **Corpus Christi** has been celebrated on the Thursday after Trinity Sunday (the first Sunday after Pentecost), but in recent years the bishops of England and Wales have moved the solemnity to the Sunday after the usual Thursday. Please read Fr Eduard's **Corpus Christi** message above.

I wish you a happy and half term break with your families and we look forward to seeing all the children on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> June for the last half term of this academic year.

Mr P O’Kane Headteacher

**Diary Dates**

Saturday 28 <sup>th</sup> May	Corpus Christi Mass, 6.00pm Holy Family Church, followed by Eucharistic Procession
Monday 30 <sup>th</sup> May—Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> June	Summer Half-Term Holiday
Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 1 Phonics Screening Week
Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup> June	Meeting for New Parents—Reception 2016/17
Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup> June	Sample Science SATs (selected Y6)
Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 3 Trip to Layer Marney
Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> June	Full Governing Body Meeting
Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> June	St Bernard’s & St Thomas More Information Session for Year 5 Parents, 3.30pm
Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> June	Sports Morning 9.30 am
Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> June	Year 6 Deanery Mass 2.00pm
Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup> June	Catholic Schools Sports KS1
Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 5 Taster Day—King John School
Monday 27 <sup>th</sup> June	Governors’ Finance & Premises Meeting Governors’ Personnel Meeting
Tuesday 28 <sup>th</sup> June	Induction Day (1) King John & Appleton
Wednesday 29 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 1 & 2 Trip to Barleylands
Wednesday 29 <sup>th</sup> June	Induction Day (2) King John & Appleton
Thursday 30 <sup>th</sup> June	Induction Day (1) St Bernard’s, St Thomas More, Westcliff for Boys & Girls
Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> July	Non-pupil day

Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> July	Induction Day (2) St Bernard's, St Thomas More, Westcliff for Boys & Girls
Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> July	Induction Day Southend High School for Boys & Girls
Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> July	Year 5 Day to St Bernard's & St Thomas More
Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup> July	South Essex Archery Tournament
Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup> July	St Bernard's Open Evening
Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> July	Catholic Schools Sports KS2
Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> July	St Thomas More Open Evening
Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> July	Reception 2016/17 Induction 1
Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup> July	Reception 2016/17 Induction 2
Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup> July	Year 6 Trip—Greenwich
Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup> July	BATIC Schools Swimming Gala pm
Saturday 16 <sup>th</sup> July	Inflatable Fun Day (tbc)
Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> July	Last School Day of the Academic Year
Thursday 1 <sup>st</sup> September	Non-Pupil Day
Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> September	Non-Pupil Day
Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> September	Children Return to School
Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> October—Friday 28 <sup>th</sup> October	Half-Term Holiday
Thursday 22 <sup>nd</sup> December 2016—Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> January 2017	Christmas Holidays
Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> February—Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> February 2017	Half-Term Holiday
Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> April—Monday 17 <sup>th</sup> April 2017	Easter Holidays