



# HOLY FAMILY CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Headteacher Mr P.O'Kane

## Newsletter 323 Friday 18<sup>th</sup> November 2016

Fr Eduard led us all in a collective act of remembrance last Sunday morning as part of 10.00am Family Mass. He reminded us all of the sacrifice that servicemen and women made so that we can live freely. He also told us how respected the British war dead are in other European nations such as France, before sharing an anecdote about a member of his own family who had served in WW1. At the end of Mass, Fr Eduard told us that the future that past generations fought and died for will only be guaranteed if we continue to follow the Christian faith—in church, at home and in our schools. Thank you to the children and families that attended Mass—it was lovely to see the children offer their thoughts and prayers on poppies during the offertory.

As this week was designated anti-bullying week, I took the opportunity to remind the children how to stay safe and healthy at home, at school, in the neighbourhood and in other situations during Monday's assembly. Keeping Safe isn't just about "stranger danger." As usual, I was very impressed by the maturity and understanding of our pupils. I was ably assisted in some role play by Issabella Hilz and Flynn Handley. Year 5 furthered our understanding by performing an anti-bullying assembly to the whole school this morning—more details and pictures on next week's newsletter.

On Monday afternoon, Mrs Fisher, Miss Furby and Mrs Hurley welcomed parents to Phonics information sessions for those with children in the Early Years Foundation Stage and KS1. We hope that parents found this helpful and are grateful to those that attended.

We have had lots of sporting success lately which has continued this week with two fantastic netball and football results. The football team were in action against Montgomerie in an away match and won 6-1. Thank you to Mr Watson and Mr Lawrence for training the team. On Wednesday the netball team won at Woodham Ley with an amazing 14-0 score line. Thank you to Mrs Bewers for her superb training too.





Mr Lawrence and Miss Furby have been facilitating Holy Family pupils' attendance at a range of sporting activities held at Deanes School each Tuesday. This week dodge ball was the sport in focus. Thank you to the parents who helped with transport. I know the children enjoyed participating.






### **Section 48 RE Inspection**

The school will be inspected under Section 48 next Wednesday. The inspection will focus solely on the teaching of RE and the ethos and Catholicity of the school. All families should have received a letter and questionnaire earlier this week. Thank you to all the parents who have returned their responses already—all papers will be treated confidentially and will be passed to the inspector on Wednesday morning.

The children also had an opportunity to share their views with the inspector. They too completed questionnaires. Their responses were overwhelming positive as can be seen below:

Reception class and Years 1 & 2 completed a 5 question survey—adults read the questions, but the children recorded their own answers.

<i>(Please tick)</i> ✓			
I enjoy RE lessons, assemblies, hymn practice and when Fr Eduard comes in for Mass.	88%		
I am making good progress in Religious Education because the teaching is good at school.	93%		
I have the opportunity to discuss my understanding of being a Catholic and my knowledge of different faiths.	81%		
Holy Family is a good Catholic School.	95%		
What do you think makes Holy Family, as a Catholic school, different from other schools?.			

Children in Years 3—6 completed a survey very similar to the parental survey.

<i>(Please tick)</i> ✓	<i>strongly agree</i>	<i>agree</i>	<i>disagree</i>	<i>strongly disagree</i>	<i>don't know</i>
I enjoy collective worship and being active in the religious life of the school.	9	8%			
I am making good progress in Religious Education because the teaching is good at school.	9	8%			
I am being guided well in my spiritual, social and moral development	9	3%			
I have the opportunity to discuss my understanding of being a Catholic and my knowledge of different faiths.	9	4%			
The school leadership supports the Catholic ethos of the school well.	9	7%			
Holy Family is a good Catholic School.	9	7%			
In the view of all of the above, what do you think makes Holy Family, as a Catholic school, different from other schools?.					

In addition to the ticked boxes, the children wrote some wonderful comments.



### **Operation Christmas Child/Love in a Box**

Thank you so much for your generosity. An amazing 100 filled shoe boxes were donated by the children and parents of our school community. Miss Furby and some children will be going to visit the distribution centre very soon to see what happens to the shoe boxes after they leave Holy Family.

### **Victorian Christmas Fayre**

Mrs Hunter chaired a meeting of parents and staff last night who came together to commit to organising a Dickensian/Victorian Christmas Fayre on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> December, 3.00pm—5.30pm. This event will be in place of the Christmas Bazaar that was traditionally organised by the Parish Development Fund. Please do all you can to support this event and your children. More details to follow next week.



### **Music for Schools Foundation**

Thank you to the children and parents who took the time to come and meet with Alan on Monday evening. The next **Louie Armstrong** could be discovered in Holy Family.

**The Deanes Tennis Club Open Day** The Deanes Tennis Club is holding an open day tomorrow between 2-3.30pm (there are four sessions depending on the age of the child). For more information please visit the club's website [www.deanessportscentre.com](http://www.deanessportscentre.com) or to book please call 01268 741162.

**School Health Drop-in service** If you have concerns about your child's health then you can use the Drop-in service where no appointments are necessary. The limit is 15 minutes per child but for more in-depth problems please contact the clinic directly to speak to a member of the school nurse team. The locations are: Central Canvey Primary Care Centre, Long Road, Canvey Island, SS8 OJA. Phone 01268 686041 2-4pm 1<sup>st</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup> December and Oak Tree Children's Centre, Grovewood Primary School, Grove Road, Rayleigh SS6 8UA. Phone 01268 775910 2-4pm 21<sup>st</sup> November; 5<sup>th</sup> December.

**Saint of the week** On Tuesday it was the Feast Day of St Cecilia, patron saint of musicians. She is regarded as the patroness of music because of a story that she heard heavenly music in her heart when she was married. Throughout her life, Cecilia sought to win converts to the faith, often falling foul of the authorities.

**Thought for the Week: Greater love hath no man than this that a man lay down his life for his friends.** John 15:13

Mr P O' Kane  
Headteacher



### **Diary Dates**

Friday 25 <sup>th</sup> November	Year 3 Class Assembly, 10.15am
Sunday 27 <sup>th</sup> November	First Sunday of Advent
Thursday 1 <sup>st</sup> December	KS2 Children Walk to Holy Family Church for Mass & Rehearse Christmas Production
Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> December	Dress Rehearsal Morning for Christmas Productions
Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> December	Victorian Christmas Fayre
Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Production Afternoon (Elderly of the Parish & Grandparents) 1.30pm
Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> December	Finance & Premises Governors' Meeting 6.00pm
Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Production Afternoon (Parents & Carers—Limited Tickets) 1.30pm
Wednesday 7 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Production Afternoon (Parents & Carers—Limited Tickets) 1.30pm
Thursday 8 <sup>th</sup> December	KS2 Children Walk to Holy Family Church for Mass & Rehearse Christmas Presentation

Thursday 8 <sup>th</sup> December	KS2 Children Christmas Performance in Holy Family Church 7pm (All KS2 Children to Attend)
Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup> December	Advent Reconciliation Service
Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup> December	School Christmas Dinner
Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup> December	Christmas Hat Assembly
Thursday 22 <sup>nd</sup> December 2016—Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> January 2017	Christmas Holidays
Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> January 2017	First Day of Spring Term
Friday 6 <sup>th</sup> January 2017	Mass for the Epiphany (tbc)
Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> January 2017	Whole School Theatre Visit (Beauty & The Beast—Wednesday Players, Palace Theatre)
Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> February 2017	Year 6 Danbury Residential Trip
Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> February 2017	Year 6 Return from Danbury
Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> February—Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> February 2017	Half-Term Holiday
Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> March	Ash Wednesday—Lent Begins
Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup> March 2017	Hot Cross Run (Catholic Schools' Cross Country Event) (tbc)
Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> April—Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> April 2017	Easter Holidays
Sunday 9 <sup>th</sup> April 2017	Palm (Passion) Sunday—Start of Holy Week
Sunday 16 <sup>th</sup> April 2017	Easter Sunday
Tuesday 18 <sup>th</sup> April 2017	First Day of Summer Term
Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> May 2017	SATs Week Begins
Monday 29 <sup>th</sup> May- Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> June 2017	Half-term Holiday
Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup> July 2017	Leavers' Mass (tbc)
Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> July 2017	Last day of the school year
Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> July 2017	Summer Holidays Begin

***One more non-pupil day has to be arranged***