



HOLY FAMILY CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Headteacher Mr P.O'Kane

Newsletter 338 Friday 17th March 2017



Last Saturday evening, Mrs Fisher, Mrs Hurley and Miss Trigg accompanied our school choir, at the request of the Mayor of Castle Point, to the Salvation Army Citadel in Hadleigh to perform in a **Last Night of the Proms** themed concert. As we would expect, our children were tremendous ambassadors for the school and put on a great performance. One member of the audience was so impressed with their singing that he sought out Mrs Hurley after the concert to tell her how great the Holy Family children had been; he also gave the school a £60.00 donation. I am extremely grateful to Mrs Fisher, Mrs Hurley and Miss Trigg for giving up their own time during the weekend to ensure our choir could participate. I would also like to thank the children and their parents and carers who also gave up some of their weekend.

During Monday morning's assembly, after I spoke to the children about Sunday's Gospel, I was pleased to present prizes to the winners of the World Book Day bookmark competition as follows: Reception : Vinnie; Y1 Isabella; Y2 Freddie; Y3 Samuel; Y4 Leo; Y5 Ella & Lacey; Year 6 Blake .



Thank you to all the parents and carers who attended the Parent Contact meetings this week. We hope that you found them useful and informative especially with the recent Interim Reports forming the basis of the meetings. We are also grateful for the feedback you have given us in recent days—positive and negative. We will continue to work hard to make Holy Family a wonderful school for all your wonderful children. If you took home a parental survey sheet, please return it to school via the drop box opposite the main office.

Year 3 had two special visitors from the local community yesterday. They presented their work on the history of South Benfleet to Mr Day and Mr Coley from the Benfleet Community Archive as a follow on to their visit to the library last month. The session included Power Point presentations; making bridges in D&T; written work on discussion; research homework and concluded with a lively debate on whether a bridge should be built from Benfleet to Canvey. Mr Day and Mr Coley said afterwards they were highly impressed with the standard of work that had been produced by the year 3 children.



Our Year 5 footballers were in action at Kingston Primary School yesterday afternoon playing a friendly. I am grateful to Mr Watson (for coming in on a day when he doesn't officially work) and Mr Lawrence for arranging the fixture and training the squad. Thanks also to parents who provided transport and support.

East African Famine I'm sure you have all been moved by the harrowing images we've recently seen on television that highlight the suffering being endured by people living through the current famine in East Africa. One of our Year 3 pupils, Bethany Webb wrote me a moving letter, asking what we could do to help.

As a Catholic school, we fundraise for CAFOD every Lent. CAFOD is the English Catholic overseas charity that works in partnership with other organisations around the world. CAFOD is part of the Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC) and has staff in place in East Africa at present working to alleviate the effects of the famine.

In assemblies, the staff and I have been reminding the children of the Catholic tradition of "giving up something" during Lent. We have suggested that any money saved by not buying sweets or treats could be donated to CAFOD. The CAFOD bucket is taken around the school each day by some of our older pupils. All of us can help the starving children in East Africa right now by donating to CAFOD—via the CAFOD bucket in school, or online. Next Friday, 24th

March is Red Nose Day, so the children can come to school wearing their red nose and/or red non-uniform clothing. We would hope that those children who choose to wear non-uniform clothing on Red Nose Day will make a donation to the CAFOD bucket in lieu of wearing uniform. In these ways, we can all help just as Bethany asked us to.



Friday
24 March



Act of Kindness I often hear many negative comments about children and the youth of today. However, I received a lovely email yesterday from a Year 1 parent praising an act of kindness by one of our Year 5 pupils, Daniel Kelly. Daniel overheard a Year 1 boy tell his mother that he had no one to play with in the park after school. Daniel went home, got changed and took his football to the park to play with the younger child. They both had a great time! Well done Daniel and thank you to the parent who took the time to contact the school with this lovely story.

Smart Watches I must confess that I still wear an analogue watch and have not succumbed to the modernity of digital or smart watches. A number of children have smart watches and this has highlighted some safeguarding concerns: 1) unauthorised photography of other children could occur 2) unfiltered access to the internet could occur 3) inappropriate communication could occur. For this reason I would ask children to refrain from wearing smart watches to school, or if they do wear a smart watch, to please hand it in at the office each morning for safekeeping. This week, I have had to deal with allegations that a child/children was accessing the internet inappropriately. Thank you for your support in this matter to help keep all our children safe in the digital age.

Year 5 and 6 Girls Summer Uniform As there is a problem sourcing, at a reasonable cost, the pink gingham blouses which the Year 5 and 6 girls wear as part of their summer uniform, it has been agreed by the Governors that the girls could wear a short sleeved, plain white blouse with a reverse collar.

Brentwood Catholic Children's Society Classical Music Concert The Brentwood Catholic Children's Society is hosting an evening of classical music in the beautiful surroundings of Ingatestone Hall on Saturday 6th May at 7.30pm. Come and enjoy an exciting and varied programme with three professional musicians singing duets from some of the best known operas. Tickets are £25 and include prosecco and nibbles. For tickets or further information, please call Libby Phillips on 01268 784544 or email lphillips@bccs.org.uk

Attendance RF 92.8% 1F 96.3% 2T 97.3% 3W 90% 4D 98.7% 5LB 98% 6F 97.3%
Well done to Year 4 for best attendance last week.

Saint of the Week Today is the Feast Day of St Patrick, the Patron Saint of Ireland. Patrick brought the faith to the people of Ireland, despite his own mistreatment at the hands of the Irish when he was young. Thanks to the seeds of faith that he sowed, Irish priests, nuns and monks went throughout the world to take the faith to others. There would be no Holy Family School if it was not for the Sisters of Mercy, founded by Mother Catherine McAuley from Dublin, coming to this part of Essex to provide Catholic education in the best traditions of St Patrick.



St. Patrick



Mother Catherine McAuley



Shamrock

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 from 2-4pm 20th April; 4th & 18th May; 8th & 22nd June; 6th July.

Oak Tree Children's Centre, Grovewood Primary School, Grove Road, Rayleigh, SS6 8UA. Phone 01268 686041 from 2-4pm 21st March; 18th April; 9th & 23rd May; 13th & 27th June; 11th July.

Wishing Well Children's Centre, Waterman Primary School, The Boulevard, Rochford, SS4 1QF. Phone 01702 541460 from 2-4pm 27th March; 24th April ; 15th May; 5th & 19th June; 3rd July.

Mr P. O'Kane

Headteacher

Diary Dates

Saturday 18 th March	First Confession for First Holy Communicants
Tuesday 21 st March	Hot Cross Run (Catholic Schools'KS2 Cross Country Event)
Wednesday 22 nd March	Lenten Reconciliation Service (children only)
Thursday 23 rd March	Year 5 Globe Theatre Trip
Friday 24 th March	Red Nose/Wear Red Non-Uniform Day
Monday 27 th March	Year 1 – Easter Crafts (no siblings due to space) 1.30pm

Tuesday 28 th March	Year 2 – Easter Crafts (no siblings due to space) 1.30pm
Wednesday 29 th March	Reception – Easter Crafts (no siblings due to space) 1.30pm
Thursday 30 th March	Year 4 Model Ukulele Lesson, 10.15am Parents and Carers Welcome
Thursday 30 th March	Year 5 Shakespeare Play 2.00pm Parents and Carers Welcome
Friday 31 st March	Easter Presentation 2.30pm Year 6 Parents and carers welcome
Monday 3 rd April—Friday 14 th April	Easter Holidays
Sunday 9 th April	Palm (Passion) Sunday—Start of Holy Week
Sunday 16 th April	Easter Sunday
Monday 17 th April	Public holiday—school closed
Tuesday 18 th April	First day of summer term
Monday 1 st May	Fundraising day for Tyler—public holiday, school closed
Monday 8 th May	SATs week Begins
Thursday 18 th May	Sponsored Bounce
Saturday 20 th May	First Holy Communion, 11.00am
Friday 26 th May	Crowning of Our Lady service 2.30pm Parents and carers welcome
Monday 29 th May- Friday 2 nd June	Half-term holiday
Tuesday 27 th May	Year 5 Day, St Bernard's & St Thomas More tbc
Tuesday 27 th & Wednesday 28 th June	The Appleton, The Deanes and The King John School Y7 induction days
Thursday 29 th June & Friday 30 th June	St Bernard's & St Thomas More Y7 induction days