



## HOLY FAMILY CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Diocese of  
*Brentwood*

Headteacher Mr P.O'Kane

### Newsletter 434 Friday 8<sup>th</sup> November 2019

Many wonderful things have occurred in school, before and after half-term.

Throughout October, the children were given opportunities to celebrate and learn about Black History Month in a variety of ways. One of the highlights for the children was the African Dance Day led by Darren from Dance Days. Darren had previously led a Chinese Dance workshop in our school, but the children have told me that they enjoyed this African Dance workshop even more. Thank you to Miss Furby and the Enterprise Club members for fundraising to support this event.

Year 1 presented a fantastic assembly on the theme of Autumn. Their performance included singing, drama, musical instruments and a firework dance. Well done Year 1 and thank you.

Dexter from the Jermaine Defoe Foundation came into school during our recent non-pupil day. Thanks to your kindness, he was extremely pleased to be collecting over 50 shoe boxes that will go to children living in the Holy Family Children's in St Lucia.

Thanks also for your generosity towards the recent CAFOD appeal. Just over £67.00 was raised that will pay for clean water facilities for two families.

The teachers were pleased to meet with so many parents and carers during the course of the parental contact evenings. Our children are truly blessed to have parents that are so engaged and supportive of their education. Thank you all for your attendance.

As we are now in the month of November, the school will help the children to mark this special month of remembrance—remembrance of the war dead; remembrance of those in our own families that have passed away. Although All Saints Day and All Souls Day occurred during the half-term break, Fr Eduard came into school on Monday to celebrate Mass with us. He reminded us all that there are many saints and good people that have died and gone to heaven that we do not know the names of, unlike the famous saints with their own feast days.

I have talked to the children about remembrance during my assemblies and this morning our Year 6 pupils presented a solemn and reverent assembly of remembrance to their parents, grandparents and the pupils from other classes.

Thank you to everyone who has come into school throughout this week to help make poppies for a special display that will be installed at Holy Family Church, Benfleet. Mrs Hurley's vision of a cascade of poppies will be a poignant visual tribute to the fallen. Please do your best to come along to support the Remembrance Sunday Family Mass at 10.00 am this Sunday in Holy Family Church, Benfleet. After Mass there will be a two minutes silence to commemorate the war dead. There will also be an opportunity to have a cup of tea or coffee in the parish hall.

We will mark Armistice Day with all the children and staff on Monday by holding a one minute silence at 11.00 am. Our Year 6 pupils have been selling poppies and other commemorative items on behalf of the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal. Thank you for supporting this worthy cause.



**Times Table Challenge** Miss Furby would like to say a huge, "Thank you!" to everyone who sponsored the children for the recent times table challenge. So far, £576.20 has been sent into school—absolutely fantastic! Miss Furby is also pleased to report that the sales of ice poles and sausage rolls have generated profits of £74.00 that the Enterprise Club will use for the benefit of all the children in the school.

**Holy Family Open Day** We will hold our annual Open Day on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> November for all parents interested in applying for a place for their child in September 2020. The morning session will run from 9.30—11.30 am and the afternoon session will be at 1.30—2.30 pm. Please do tell your friends and family to come along and find out more about our school. There is a myth in the wider community that non-Catholic children cannot apply to come to Holy Family School—that is simply not true. We welcome children from all faith backgrounds and none.

**Reception Admissions September 2020** The admissions round for September 2020 will open on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2019. Essex County Council will not send out letters, but advise all parents seeking places to visit the website [www.essex.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.essex.gov.uk/admissions) where there is a copy of the Primary Education in Essex 2020/21 booklet and the Schools Admissions Policies Directories contain details of all admission policies.

**BBC Children in Need Day** Next Friday is the annual BBC Children in Need Day. The children can wear their Pudsey Bear themed items to school, or their own clothes instead of school uniform. We will ask the children for donations in lieu of wearing their uniform. All monies raised on the day will go to the BBC Children in Need Appeal.



**School Uniform** All children should be wearing their winter uniforms at school, which includes a school tie. At this time of the year, children should also wear a coat to school which should be plain navy blue or black. The school community is rightly proud of our smart, neat uniform and I would like to thank the overwhelming majority of parents and pupils that support our uniform policy.

This is our winter uniform list:

**BOYS - WINTER:**

Grey Trousers or Shorts (not black)  
Black Shoes (not trainers)  
Grey Socks  
School Tie\*  
Jumper\*  
White Shirt  
Plain Navy or Plain Black Coat or Jacket \*\*

**GIRLS - WINTER:**

Navy Skirt or Pinafore  
Black Shoes (not trainers)  
White Socks or Black/Navy Tights  
School Tie\*  
Cardigan\*  
Plain Navy or Plain Black Coat or Jacket \*\*

\* Jumpers, cardigans and ties can be purchased from Penn UK, Kents Hill Road, Benfleet.

\*\* Plain navy or black winter coats can be purchased from a wide variety of shops and online retailers—they should not have prominent logos or branding.

Children may wear a wristwatch, but no other jewellery is permissible, such as earrings or studs.

If you have any queries about the school uniform please do not hesitate to speak to the ladies in the office who will be happy to advise you.

**PGSA**

The PGSA desperately needs confirmed offers of help and support for the Christmas Bazaar on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> November from 1.00—4.00 pm. If there is not enough practical support, it is likely that the Christmas Bazaar will be a significantly smaller event along the lines of a Christmas Fayre. The PGSA has booked an inflatable snow globe for this year's event which will be a new attraction. All the PGSA volunteers are parents, grandparents, carers, staff members and governors who give of their time freely—please do think about joining in to spread the load. The PGSA ladies' shopping night held on Monday evening was, by all accounts, very enjoyable for all those that attended. The PGSA would love to see even more people come along to future events to help build a sense of community and to raise much needed funds for the school. The next scheduled PGSA event is Strictly Holy Family on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> November in the school hall, 4.00—6.00 pm. Come along with your child and receive some professional dance tuition in a fun environment.

**School Nurse** Louise Skelcher, our school nurse, will next be in school on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> November from 2.30-3.30pm to help with any concerns you may have about your child.

**Piano Lessons** There are still spaces for piano lessons at school with Essex Music Services. The lessons take place during the school day and last 15 minutes at a cost of £8.25 per lesson. The children will have 10 lessons each term. If you would like your child to begin lessons please leave their name at the school office. Places will be allocated on a "first come first served basis" with a waiting list after that. Essex Music Services offer tuition vouchers covering 66% of the cost of the fees to low-income families. Information about the vouchers can be found at [tuition.vouchers@essex.gov.uk](mailto:tuition.vouchers@essex.gov.uk)

### Thought for the week

“They shall not grow old, as we that are left grow old;  
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.  
At the going down of the sun and in the morning  
We will remember them.”

An extract from ***For The Fallen*** by Laurence Binyon, 1914



**November Month of Remembrance** Throughout November, Catholics and other Christians will remember and pray for all the deceased family members and friends that are no longer with us. This is the special prayer that we recite for those that have died:

**Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord  
And let perpetual light shine upon them  
May their soul and the souls of all the faithful departed  
Through the mercy of God  
Rest in peace. Amen.**

**Attendance** Nursery class 82.9% RF 94.2% 1F 97.7% 2T 99.6% 3W 94.5% 4LB 98.3% 5H 97.7%  
6M 97.2% Well done to Year 2 for best attendance last week.

### **Parish Contact Details**

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

[www.holyfamily-church.co.uk](http://www.holyfamily-church.co.uk)

Parish Priest: Fr Eduard Fartan,

[eduard.fartan@yahoo.com](mailto:eduard.fartan@yahoo.com)

[priest@holyfamily-church.org](mailto:priest@holyfamily-church.org)

[office@holyfamily-church.org](mailto:office@holyfamily-church.org)

Parish Secretary: Mrs Clare Dempsey

Telephone: 01268 792082 or 01268 799649

Mr P. O’Kane Headteacher

### **Diary Dates**

Sunday 10 <sup>th</sup> November	Remembrance Sunday Family Mass, Holy Family Church, Benfleet 10.00 am
Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> November	Anti-Bullying Week
Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup> November	Online Applications for September 2020 Reception Places Open
Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup> November	Year 4 class assembly 9.15am
Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> November	Open Day (September 2020 Admissions)
Saturday 16 <sup>th</sup> November	PGSA Strictly Holy Family, 4.00—6.00 pm
Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> November	BBC Children in Need Day
Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> November	Year 4 Trip Hadleigh Park
Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> November	Leigh on Sea Music Festival (Choir Only)
Tuesday 26 <sup>th</sup> November	Year 6 Trip Wat Tyler Park (WWII & Evacuation)
Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> November	Children’s Cake Sale & Raffle
Saturday 30 <sup>th</sup> November	PGSA Christmas Bazaar 1.00—4.00 pm
Sunday 1 <sup>st</sup> December	1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent
Friday 6 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Nativity & Concert Dress Rehearsal

Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Nativity & Concert 1.30 pm
Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Nativity & Concert 1.30 pm
Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Nativity & Concert 1.30 pm
Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> December	KS2 Children Walk to Church am
Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> December	KS2 Christmas Concert Holy Family Church 7.00 pm
Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> December	Year 6 carol singing at Parklands Nursing Home
Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> December	Christingle Service 2.30 pm
Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Dinner Day
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> December—Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> January 2020	Christmas Holidays
Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> January 2020	All Pupils Return to School
Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> January 2020	Whole School Pantomime Trip
Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup> January	Online Applications for September 2020 Reception Places Close
Monday 10 <sup>th</sup> February—Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> February 2020	Year 6 Residential Trip <b>tbc</b>
Monday 17 <sup>th</sup> February—Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> February	Spring Half-Term Break
Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> February 2020	All Pupils Return to School
Sunday 5 <sup>th</sup> April 2020	Palm/Passion Sunday—Start of Holy Week
Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> April—Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> April 2020	Easter Holidays
Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup> April 2020	Maundy/Holy Thursday
Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> April 2020	Good Friday
Sunday 12 <sup>th</sup> April 2020	Easter Sunday
Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> April 2020	Pupils Return to School
Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> May 2020	75 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary of VE Day—Public Holiday
Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> May	KS2 (Year 6) SATs Week
Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> May—Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> May 2020	Summer Half-Term Break
Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> June 2020	Non-Pupil Day 4
Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> June 2020	Pupils Return to School
Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup> July 2020	Final School Day of Academic Year
Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> July 2020	Non-Pupil Day 5