



# HOLY FAMILY CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Diocese of  
Brentwood

Acting Headteacher: Mrs N.Hurley

## Newsletter 466 Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2020

Dear Parents & Carers,

**WELL DONE** everyone for making it to the last day of this half term. I would like to thank all parents and carers for your ongoing support for our school in these challenging times, and for the many messages of thanks and appreciation for the work of the team throughout the half term. This means a great deal to us all at a time where our working practices have changed rapidly and significantly, and where we are always thinking about vulnerable families and friends.



**THANK YOU** for the very positive response we had to our request to wear face coverings when coming to drop off and collect the children. It was very pleasing to see so many adults supporting our request. At a time where infection rates are rising again, following the safety rules helps to protect all of us and our families.

Even though the children will be on half term holiday next week, we ask that if any parent, carer or pupil has a positive test for COVID-19 during this time, you inform the school. The reason for this is we may need to let other families know so they can self-isolate. Please be assured we would never inform parents which family or person received a positive result. Please keep in touch by using my [senco@holyfamily.essex.sch.uk](mailto:senco@holyfamily.essex.sch.uk) e-mail as I will monitor this daily. During half term, our new IT infrastructure will be installed, the EYFS setting should be completed, new safety railings installed outside the main entrance and the main school hall refurbished. It's going to be a hive of activity within these four walls!

I hope this half term brings you all a chance to rest, recover and reflect. We look forward to seeing the children back in school energised and ready to learn wearing their **Winter Uniform** on **Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2020**.

### STARS OF THE WEEK AWARD

The following children were awarded STAR OF THE WEEK by their teachers for the following reasons:



**Charlie (Y1)** For always being so polite and helpful and for working hard in class.  
**Samuel (Y2)** For always working very hard and trying his best.  
**Tommy (Y3)** For excellent work using column addition  
**Elsie (Y4)** for her terrific work ethic and her attitude to learning  
**Salomea (Y5)** for her brilliant attitude towards learning and her beautiful manners.  
**Gayatri (Y6)** for her persistence and constant hard work

### Some examples of wonderful learning taking place in school this week:

Our thanks to Miss Furby for organising for all the children in EYFS, Y1, Y2 and Y3 to have the opportunity to take part in a wonderful **drama workshop** this week. The children really enjoyed the experience and the drama teacher commented on their brilliant listening skills and their ability to follow instructions.

**Year 1** have been finding out about Baptism in RE. One of the highlights for me this week has been observing a Y1 'Dough Disco' phonics sessions with Mrs Lewins.

**Year 2** children have published their own books using the amazing stories they have written and finished their art work based around the book The Storm Whale.



**Year 3** children went hunting for food this week using the Stone Age weapons they made. Miss Furby has been really creative in delivering the Stone Age topic this half term - every week I look forward to finding out what the Y3 children have been up to as they travel back in time to the Stone Age.



**Year 4:** Mr Graves, who taught the class for the past two weeks, asked me to pass on his thanks to the children for their amazing work and for making him feel so welcome in Holy Family. I read some of the children's Time Travel stories and was very impressed with the standard of their writing. Mrs Castle will be back with us after half term.

**Year 5:** had a visit from Mr Hart who witnessed an assembly about this Sunday's Gospel linked with Black History month. In science, the children carried out an exciting experiment with Skittles. They also wrote a suspense story and edited their work. Art work has been about perspective and they have also been writing and reading sentences in French.



**Year 6** children continued their research about the war and showed great resilience and maturity throughout the week as they experienced their first KS2 SATS type assessment.

## ATTENDANCE

Please note, holidays should not be booked during term time. Unauthorised absence can have a detrimental effect on your child's educational journey. Even in these difficult times, we still aim to keep our school attendance at **96% overall**.

Group	% Attendance
Year 1	91.7%
Year 2	94.6%
Year 3	93.5%
Year 4	95.5%
Year 5	95.8%
Year 6	86.7%
<b>Overall %</b>	<b>92.8%</b>

## ADMISSIONS - IMPORTANT UPDATE

If your child is due to start school in September 2021 you will no longer receive a letter from the council inviting you to apply and giving you the relevant opening and closing dates for applications. - please follow this link for further information: <https://www.essex.gov.uk/admissions-to-essex-schools-for-the-next-school-year>

## SEPT 2021 OPEN MORNINGS

Due to the current situation of limiting the number of visitors in school, this year we are planning something a little different. After half term, there will be a short information video available for parents about the school and the process of application. We are also working on producing a virtual tour of the school mainly delivered by the children.

## Secondary School Admissions

The application period for Year 7 secondary admissions for September 2021 opens on **11th September 2020**. Parents should apply online via [www.essex.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.essex.gov.uk/admissions). The statutory national closing date for applications is 31<sup>st</sup> October 2020.

## **Counselling**

If your child is struggling through a painful experience, or is experiencing anxieties for whatever reason, and you would like any further information on how we could support them, through group play therapy, or individual sessions with a counsellor, please do not hesitate to e-mail me and I will arrange for you to speak to Catherine (our school counsellor) or with an outside agency.

## **Useful COVID-19 website links**

Stay at home guidance for households with possible coronavirus (COVID-19) infection

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance>

New restrictions for areas in HIGH ALERT

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/local-covid-alert-high>

Stay at home: what to do if you or someone you share your home with has coronavirus symptoms

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/906663/20203007\\_Easy\\_read\\_household\\_isolation\\_v3.1.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/906663/20203007_Easy_read_household_isolation_v3.1.pdf)

Guidance for households with grandparents, parents and children living together where someone is at increased risk or has possible or confirmed coronavirus (COVID-19) infection

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/guidance-for-households-with-grandparents-parents-and-children-living-together-where-someone-is-at-increased-risk-or-has-symptoms-of-coronavirus-cov>

Please follow the link to an open letter to parents and carers from Essex police

<https://www.essex.gov.uk/news/essex-county-council-open-letter-to-parents-and-carers>

## **Religious Education**

### **Ten:Ten Parent Newsletter – October**

Please find a link below to the very short but useful newsletter for this month which will help you to support the prayer life of your child <https://www.tentenresources.co.uk/parent-newsletter>

## **And Finally ...**

Thank you for always being such a supportive, wonderful school community. I have been privileged to lead and organise our school since January, but am looking forward to returning to my role as Deputy Headteacher after half term and having the chance to work with Mr Craft. Thank you to every single member of staff – your support has been invaluable and very much appreciated. You have been magnificent throughout the last eight weeks, doing such a fantastic job of helping the children to feel safe and happy and always going the extra mile. Nothing has ever been too much – **THANK YOU!**

***Make the most of the half term break everyone, however restricted it may be, and be ready to begin all over again on Monday 2nd November.***

God bless,  
Mrs Hurley