

HOLY FAMILY CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Diocese of
Brentwood

Headteacher Mr P.O'Kane

Newsletter 406 Friday 14th December 2018

What a wonderful week of Christmas Productions we have had culminating in the KS2 performance at Holy Family Church yesterday evening. We were pleased to welcome parishioners and grandparents to school on Monday and the children delighted them with their fantastic acting and singing; this continued throughout the week. On Wednesday afternoon we were joined by Councillor Clive Walter, the Mayor of Castle Point and Councillor Colin Riley, Deputy Mayor. Thank you so much for supporting the children by providing costumes and props; thanks also for your amazing generosity when we held collections after the performances. This year an incredible £318.29 was raised which will be shared equally between the Brentwood Catholic Children's Society and HARP—Southend's Homeless Charity.



Thank you to the members of the PGSA who ably served tea, coffee and mince pies to our visitors on Monday and to those parents, pupils and past pupils who helped the teachers to dismantle the stage last night and load the van supplied and driven by Mr Corder, one of our past parents who has helped us on many occasions. Last but not least, I would like to thank all the staff members who have been involved in preparing the children so well.

In the fading light of Monday afternoon, our mixed netball team took on Kents Hill Juniors in an exciting match which resulted in a 9-3 win for Holy Family. Thank you to Mrs Bewers for all her fantastic training of the team.

On Wednesday morning our Nursery class performed their Nativity to their parents and grandparents. As always, there were lots of very proud mummies and daddies in attendance.

As if the week couldn't get any better, we were notified that our 2018 KS2 SATs results have been formally published by the Department for Education. Holy Family School is one of the top performing schools in the area, with 90% of pupils reaching the required standard in Reading, Writing and Maths. The Echo newspaper has posted the following articles online.

<https://www.echo-news.co.uk/news/17296610.primary-school-league-tables-here-are-the-best-and-worst-performing-schools-in-southend-basildon-and-castle-point/>

<https://www.echo-news.co.uk/news/17296938.primary-school-league-tables-for-southend-basildon-and-castle-point/>



Brentwood Catholic Children's Society Advent Appeal

The society would be grateful to receive donations in the Advent candle appeal boxes which the children brought home earlier this week. Thank you for the boxes already returned to the school office. In the past BCCS has helped over 1500 young people in our diocese, including pupils from our own school.



Christmas Hats/Jumpers on Christmas Dinner Day You will have received a message on Parentmail regarding our tradition of wearing a Christmas jumper and/or a Christmas hat on Christmas dinner day. If your child would like to take part they should wear normal school uniform but substitute their school jumpers or cardigans with a Christmas jumper.

Early collection of pupils We have found that a trend has developed recently of some children being collected regularly before the end of the school day varying from 2.30pm or even earlier. We understand that there may be the odd occasion when medical appointments can only be obtained during schools hours but it is disruptive to the child's education to take them out before 3pm. Obviously, the school has no issue when there is a real family emergency or suchlike, but increased convenience for parents or carers is not a good reason to take your child out of school early. Thank you for your co-operation in this regard.

Christingle Service Our annual Christingle Service will take place this Monday 17th December at 9.30am. This is a beautiful service of light that is celebrated by many Christians around the world as part of their Advent preparations for Christmas. Instructions on how your child (and you) can make a Christingle have been sent out via PMX Parentmail. Parents and carers are welcome to attend our Christingle Service.



Christmas Dinner Wednesday 19th December If your child would like a Christmas dinner on the last day of term, please order via the Parentmail App. Thank you to all those parents and carers who have already paid and ordered. There will obviously be no payment for KS1 children but the meal still has to be ordered. For KS2 children, please pay via the events payment option on the App. Please look in PAYMENTS-SHOP-EVENTS. The deadline for orders is 17th December and we regret that we are unable to provide any meals on the day which have not been ordered.

The Christmas dinner must be paid for separately from the online school dinner payments.

Mrs Monksfield We are pleased to let you know that Mrs Monksfield and her husband welcomed baby Tobias James on December 4th weighing 8lb 4oz. Everyone is doing well!

Tyler Witherall A few weeks ago, I had the privilege of speaking with Tyler's mother, Amy. I told her that a number of children and parents had asked me about a lasting memorial to Tyler. We paid a visit to Tyler's tree outside the Years 3 & 4 classroom and we discussed ideas. Amy would love to see a seating area created around Tyler's tree that children could sit on during lunch and break-times. We would also commission a plaque for the seat in memory of Tyler. If you would like to contribute to this

memorial in remembrance of Tyler, please use the Parent Pay account that will be live on Monday afternoon.



Elsie Marsh We are very proud of Elsie Marsh in Year 2 who will have her hair cut off on December 20th and donate it to The Little Princess Trust. This charity makes wigs for children who have lost their hair whilst receiving treatment for cancer. If you would like to make a donation please use the following link. Thank you.

Virgin Money Giving | Fundraising | Cutting my hair and donating it to charity - Help Elsie change the world! Make a donation now -

https://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/ElsieMarsh/2?utm_source=whatsapp&utm_medium=organic&utm_campaign=fundraiser&utm_term=socialshare&utm_content=fundriasingpage

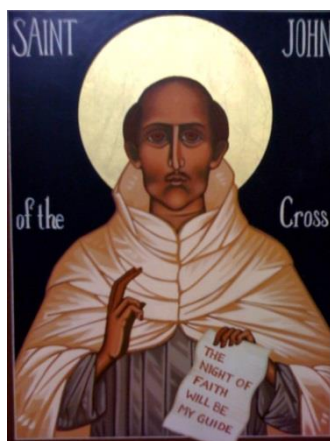
Pantomime Trip Thank you to everyone who has already paid for the annual trip to the Wednesday Players' pantomime at the Palace Theatre, Westcliff on Friday 11th January 2019. Payments can be made in instalments via Parent Pay up until 1st January 2019.



Saint of the week Today is the Feast Day of St John of the Cross. St John loved the cross which is a symbol that Christ died to save us all. John was a Spanish Carmelite Friar who was involved in establishing monasteries and friaries and is also regarded as one of the greatest writers in Spanish literature. His two most famous works, Spiritual Canticle and Dark Night of the Soul are considered masterpieces. He died on 14th December 1591.

He was canonised as a saint in 1726 and is considered one of the thirty-six **Doctors of the Church**—saints of significant importance.

“In the twilight of life, God will not judge us on our earthly possessions and human successes, but on how well we have loved.” — [San Juan de la Cruz](#) (St. John of the Cross)



Thought for the Week “When Christ entered our world, he didn’t come to brighten our Decembers, but to transform our lives.” Rich Miller

Attendance Nursery class 85.9% RF 96.1% 1F 97.8% 2T 93.6% 3W 94.7% 4H 96.7% 5B 95% 6L 96.5%
Well done to Year 1 for best attendance last week.

Parish Contact Details

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Mr P. O’Kane Headteacher

Diary Dates

Monday 17 th December	Christingle Service, 9.30am Parents Welcome
Tuesday 18 th December	Advent Reconciliation Service—Children Only
Wednesday 19 th December	Christmas Dinner/Christmas Hats/Jumpers
Wednesday 19 th December	Last day of Autumn Term
Thursday 20 th December—Wednesday 2 nd January 2019	Christmas Holidays
Thursday 3 rd January 2019	Non pupil day
Friday 4 th January 2019	Non pupil day
Sunday 6 th January 2019	Feast of the Epiphany
Monday 7th January 2019	Children return to school
Friday 11 th January 2019	School trip to Pantomime
Tuesday 15 th January 2019	LGC Meeting, 6.00pm
Thursday 17 th January 2019	Year 3 Assembly, 10.15am
Friday 25 th January 2019	Year 5 Assembly, 10.15am
Wednesday 30 th January	Dance Festival—Miss Furby and selected children
Friday 8 th February 2019	Year 2 Assembly, 10.15am
Monday 11 th February—Friday 15 th	Y6 Danbury Residential Trip
Thursday 14 th February 2019	Reception Class Assembly, 10.15am
Monday 18 th February—Friday 22 nd February	Spring half-term week
Monday 8 th April 2019—Monday 22 nd April	Easter Holidays
Sunday 14 th April 2019	Palm Sunday
Friday 19 th April 2019	Good Friday
Sunday 21 st April 2019	Easter Sunday
Tuesday 22 nd April 2019	Children return to school
Monday 6 th May 2019	Public Holiday—school closed
Monday 13 th May—Friday 17 th May 2019	SATs week
Monday 27 th May—Friday 31 st May 2019	Summer half-term week
Monday 3 rd June 2019	Non pupil day
Wednesday 24 th July 2019	Last day of the school year
Thursday 25 th July 2019	Summer holidays begin