



HOLY FAMILY CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Headteacher Mr P.O'Kane

Newsletter 292 Friday 29th January 2016

During Monday's assembly I explained to the children that, every few weeks, I would be inviting two children (chosen at random by their position in the register) to have tea with me in the afternoon. The children should bring three of their school books with them to show me and then tell me all about their learning. In the afternoon, I therefore had a lovely time talking to the selected junior children whilst they drank juice and ate cake and I enjoyed my Earl Grey tea. I am looking forward to talking to some of the infant children this Monday.

I am pleased to report that the Year 5 fish tank is now filled with some fantastic fish. Mr Slade has chosen temperate fish such as White Cloud Mountain Minnows and a couple of Ruby Nerite Snails (to keep the algae down) which are small enough to swim in shoals to give the impression of a proper aquatic habitat. He has also used real plants, natural gravel and wood to reinforce this idea. Mr Slade's intention is that the fish tank represents "a little of the wild indoors". I am looking forward to seeing Year 5's science work linking to this topic.



Chair of Governors update:-

As you know Holy Family's Governing Body is made up of 7 Foundation Governors appointed by the Bishop (which includes our Parish Priest, Father Eduard), 2 Teaching Staff, 1 Local Authority Governor, and 2 Parent Governors. The Parent Governors are nominated and elected by you, parents of children in the school. In the next week, we will be writing to all parents about a vacancy for a parent governor. Please do consider putting yourself forward, yes the role does take commitment, but it's a great opportunity to take an active part in supporting and contributing to the leadership of the school. We have formal Full Governing Body meetings termly, with more informal focussed discussion sessions also termly. Governors all serve on one or more sub-committees (for example Finance, Personnel, Curriculum), and are linked with Year

Group and Subject. I know many of you have had ideas about a range of issues we've been dealing with this year, so this is your chance to put yourself forward. If you are interested and want to find out more please contact me through the school office.

Young Voices O2 Arena

On Wednesday Years 5 and 6 accompanied by seven members of staff travelled to London to perform in the Young Voices concert at the O2 Arena. The children were very excited and really enjoyed the experience despite the fact that it was a long and tiring day for all. I am extremely grateful to all the children and staff involved in the Young Voices concert - they were all excellent ambassadors for our school. Thanks too, to all the parents and family members who supported the children and especially Mrs Fisher for her excellent organisation of the whole day.

King John School Multi-sport Activity Camp Years 5 and 6

King John School has organised a multi-sport activity camp during the February half term holiday on Monday 15th and Tuesday 16th February. The camp offers an opportunity for children to participate in a variety of sports (four or five each day) especially some which they will take part in at secondary school. Such camps can also help with the transition to secondary school where children can see what is expected of them. The cost of the camp is £24.00 and it will run from 9.30am- 3.15pm each day. The children will be supervised by a Physical Education teacher at all times.

Copies of the booking form are available in the Holy Family School foyer. Any queries should be directed to Mrs Leigh Cann at the King John School PE Department on 01702 558284

Can you be caught reading?

Reading is such a key skill for our children and is a primary focus in school. With this in mind, we are striving to promote the importance and fun reading can have. So, we would like parents and carers to photograph their child being caught reading in unusual places. While some places may seem amusing at home please bear in mind we would like to use these in a school display. Remember Bishop Allan is visiting shortly! Staff are joining in this venture and this should make for a very enjoyable display. Please send photographs in to school via your child/children.

I look forward to seeing them.

RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch 30th to 31st January

We would like to encourage the children to take part in the Big Garden Birdwatch this weekend and thereby contribute to the world's largest wildlife survey. The children would be required to count birds for an hour and then submit the details of what they have recorded. In 2015 the House Sparrow was the most popular bird. Families can request a pack for free from the website www.2.rspb.org.uk Good luck and enjoy!

Safeguarding

**** Lay Members required for the Essex Safeguarding Children and Adult Boards ****

Have you got what it takes to make a difference to Safeguarding in Essex?

If you are involved in your community, want to promote the welfare of children, young people or adults, and are happy to be the voice of service users in meetings, then this could be the opportunity for you!

Both the Essex Safeguarding Children and Adult Boards are looking to appoint volunteer Lay Members from April 2016, for a period of 2 years, with a review after 1 year.

If you are interested in becoming involved in this interesting opportunity, then please have a look at our school website where you will find more information.

Parents and carers Training Course

We have been asked by the Anglian Community Enterprise Company to promote their training course for parents and carers. The course lasts for half a day and is aimed to equip adults with confidence in speaking to their children about sensitive issues such as growing up and developing, both physically and mentally. The aim is to consider the needs of a wide age group from young children to teenagers. The course will take place on 4th February from 9.30am – 2.30pm at the Little Lions Centre, Canvey Island, SS8 9SU. For more information or to book a place on the course, please call 08000224524 and press 1. Alternatively email acelifestyle.shs@nhs.net

Treat your children like children!

A recent article in The Times highlighted research by Dr Leonard Sax, psychologist and author of *The Collapse of Parenting*. The basic premise of the article was that we harm our children by treating them too much like mini adults. It is widely accepted that it is important for children to have clear boundaries and rules for life. Parents often confuse loving their children with treating them as equals and by trying to be their friend. Examples were given of children being given too much choice - even in terms of what vegetables to have for dinner or what time they should go to bed. There is plenty of time for children to be responsible for making decisions when they are older! I imagine that the book would be an interesting read.

Raising Boys Club

The school is planning to pilot a 'Raising Boys Club' and we are looking for eight parents to volunteer as part of this pilot scheme. If you are interested in this opportunity, please leave your name at the school office. Parents and carers should ideally represent children from consecutive year groups so this will be taken in to account when selecting the participants. Thank you for your understanding in this matter.

Choir Workshops

Essex Music Services is running two Choir Workshops during February half-term. The Show Choir Workshop will take place on Sunday 14th – Monday 15th February. The cost is £20 for the two days with the option to bring a friend or sibling for free. The second Workshop is the opportunity to join the Essex Youth Choir for a day from Tuesday 16th – Thursday 18th February.

The workshops are to take place in Colchester but it would be lovely if some of our fantastic singers could take part perhaps taking advantage of the “free place “offer. For further information please contact Elizabeth Harrison on 03330 131252 or Elizabeth.

Harrison@essex.gov.uk or visit the website www.essex.gov.uk/music

School Health

Drop- in service

Any parents with health and developmental concerns about their children may drop in to the Central Canvey Primary Care Centre, Long Road, Canvey Island SS8 OJA. They are able to perform hearing tests and no appointment is necessary.

The drop-in clinic dates are: 11th and 25th February; 10th and 24th March; 21st April; 5th and 19th May; 16th and 30th June; 14th July.

For more in-depth problems please contact the clinic directly on 01268 686041 for an appointment with the school nurse.

Team Points

Last week the most house points were awarded again to St Mary's (blue team). Well done to the blues and let's see if another team can overtake them next week.

Attendance

RW 97.7% 1C 93% 2FL 93.8% 3L 93.1% 4H 95.3% 5B 98.1% 6I 98%. Well done to Year 5 for best attendance (by 0.1%!) last week.

Saint of the week

Saint John Bosco, whose feast day is this Sunday, is one of the patrons of our school and parish. The parish hall is named in his honour, as is the green house team in school. A portrait of him hangs in the entrance foyer of Holy Family Church. John was born in 1815 and died in 1888. Throughout his life he had visionary dreams that made him take certain courses of action. He worked hard to educate poor boys, often incurring the wrath and ridicule of others, but his good works live on today in the Salesian Order that he founded. John was a skilful entertainer and would often use tricks and juggling to attract the attention of the street children in a neighbourhood. Once he had their attention he would proceed to relay the message of the Gospel. The next time you are in Holy Family Church, take a minute to look at the portrait of John Bosco and reflect on the life of a truly great man.

Calling All Dads, Uncles, Grandads or Carpenters!

The Early Learning Centre is in desperate need of some tender loving care with regard to its outside provision. Would anybody have the skills and time to come in and speak with Annette Cole with a view to updating and offering support and advice on how to improve this area?

Thank you in anticipation.

Jubilee Year of Mercy 2016

Motto: Merciful like the Father

God Bless you all and your families and I wish you a restful weekend.

From

Mrs S Birtles and Mr P O'Kane

Headteacher

Diary Dates

Monday 8 th –Friday 12 th February	Year 6 Residential Trip to Danbury
Monday 15 th – Friday 19 th February	Spring half-term
Wednesday 2 nd March	Bishop Alan's pastoral visit
Tuesday 8 th March	Parent contact meetings 3.30pm - 6pm
Thursday 10 th March	Parent contact meetings 4.30pm - 7.30pm
Tuesday 22 nd March	Hot Cross Run (selected children) St Thomas More High School
Thursday 24 th March	Easter Presentation 2pm in the school hall parents and parishioners welcome

There is a CALENDAR section on the school website—www.holyfamily.essex.sch.uk