



HOLY FAMILY CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

Kents Hill Road, Benfleet, Essex SS7 5PX
Telephone: 01268 792231 Fax: 01268 759274
Email: admin@holyfamily.essex.sch.uk
www.holyfamily.essex.sch.uk



Headteacher Mr P.O'Kane

Newsletter 318 Monday 7th October 2016

Last Friday our Year 1 class presented a wonderful assembly on the theme of Family, their Come & See RE topic. We again welcomed parents, grandparents and other family members to share in this celebration of learning. Our Year 1 children did not disappoint their audience—one mother told me, at the school gate on Friday evening, that it was an “emotional” event. I’m glad that we have been able to invite parents to Friday assemblies and that you are enjoying seeing your children participate and perform. Thank you to Miss Furby for preparing the children so well and for making use of IT to provide us all with an insight into the types of profound conversations that children have in class—even our very youngest children. On this occasion, we all shared the philosophy of Daniel McGettigan.



On Monday morning I launched Judaism week with what is one of my favourite assemblies of the year. It’s not every day you get to come to work and dance the Hava Nagila! It’s important that we help the children to understand the beliefs held by people of other faiths. It’s especially important for us to understand Judaism as so many of our Christian beliefs and traditions come from the Jewish faith.

The teachers and children have all embraced Judaism week—there has been fantastic work going on across the school, including written tasks, cookery, dance and even a field trip—Years 5 & 6 visited Westcliff Synagogue yesterday with Mrs Mrs Barratt, Mrs Lewins, Miss Fordham and a small army of parent volunteers. Thank you to all the parents that supported this visit by providing transport to and from the synagogue.

שלום

Hebrew word “Shalom”



We are extremely grateful to Mr Greenstein from Westcliff Synagogue for supporting Holy Family School for many years by visiting the school and by arranging visits to the synagogue.

Thank you all so much for your generosity throughout this past week. The Year 6 children have been collecting the CAFOD donations each day in lieu of **HARVEST** Family Fast Day today. The total amount raised was £41.45 which will be sent directly to CAFOD to help families in South America to grow food in greenhouses made of plastic sheeting and recyclable materials such as plastic lemonade bottles. Thanks also for the donations of tinned, packet and dried foods for our **HARVEST** offerings. Mrs Hurley and Mrs Hunter have created a beautiful display for all the donations. These will be given to the families resident at Basildon Women's Refuge.

On Sunday at 10:00 am it is the first of our school/family Masses of the year at Holy Family Church. Fr Eduard has kindly allowed us to celebrate **HARVEST** during Mass. The children will bring home symbolic **HARVEST** work that they will be able to bring to the altar during the offertory. The children will also deliver the readings and prayers of the faithful and lead the singing at Mass. Please do your very best to attend with your children. *Food donations should be brought to school, not Holy Family Church as stated in the Parish Newsletter.*

Winter Uniform

There is now a nip in the air and some people have even turned on their central heating this week—but not me! This means it is now time for all children to start coming to school in their winter uniforms. If you are unsure of what items constitute winter uniform, please look on the school website or speak to the ladies in the school office who will be happy to help. If you are planning to buy a winter coat for your child, please remember that our uniform policy makes it clear that coats worn to school should be plain black or navy. Girls can wear white socks or black or navy tights—no other colours please. Thank you.

Parking

I am aware that there have been a number of incidents related to parking recently. If you have any concerns about the behaviour of other drivers, please contact the police. If you have concerns about parking generally, please contact Castle Point Borough Council, the authority responsible for managing parking in this area, although this may be outsourced to Chelmsford Borough Council.

However, the legalities of parking concern me less than the safety and wellbeing of our children. No child (or parent) should come to school and feel that they are in danger because of inconsiderate, selfish parking by others. Nor should any child have to witness heated disputes between adults. Please, please, please for the sake of our school community, park with care and consideration for our children, our neighbours and other road users. Please note the bus lay-by is **NOT** a parking zone and should not be used as such in the mornings and afternoons. When congestion is at its worst around the school, the bus lay-by is a valuable piece of additional road space that allows traffic to pass safely. If it is filled with parked cars, it only adds to the congestion. Parking is an issue at all schools, not just Holy Family and it can only be resolved if everyone takes responsibility for their own actions.

Flu immunisation forms The children brought home Flu immunisation forms this week. Please return your child's form to school by Thursday 13th October **even if they are not having the vaccination**. Thank you.

Holy Family Breakfast and After School Club There are spaces for 7 children on a Tuesday morning and 2 on a Wednesday morning at the Breakfast Club which runs from 7.40am until 8.40am – this includes breakfast. If you would like your child to attend the club, please contact Mrs Davies on 07866825906. Thank you.

Music For Schools

Alan Summers from MFS has been coming to Holy Family for many, many years. He is a music teacher with MFS, a charity that facilitates woodwind and brass music lessons. Alan will be in school on Thursday 10th November to lead an assembly. He will follow up with a meeting for parents on Monday 14th November at 6.00pm in the school hall.

Parental Contact Meetings

This term's meetings will be held on Tuesday 8th November 3.30pm—6.00pm and Thursday 10th November 5.00pm—7.00pm. Appointments letters will be sent out nearer to the time of the meetings.

My Maths For Parents

We would like to invite parents into school on Thursday 13th October to have a demonstration on how My Maths works. The sessions will be in the ICT suite so space will be limited. Therefore, if you would like to attend, please book your slot with the ladies in the office. The first session will begin at 1.30pm; the second slot will begin at 5.30pm. The sessions should last for approximately 40 minutes.



MyMaths.co.uk

Open Morning—Reception Admissions 2017

If you or a friend or family member has a child who will be starting school in September 2017, please come along to our Open Morning on Thursday 10th November, 9.30am—11.45am. The admissions process opens to parents on Monday 14th November and will close on Sunday 15th January 2017. The National Offer Day will be Tuesday 18th April 2017. If you would like to visit the school, but are unable to come on our Open Morning, please call the school office on 01268 792231 to arrange a time to come and have a guided tour from two of our Y6 pupils. Please note that all applications to Holy Family School must be made via Essex County Council, but as a Voluntary-Aided Catholic School, all applicants **must complete a Supplementary Information Form (SIF)** that needs to be returned to the school office—failure to complete a SIF will mean that your child may not be ranked correctly against our oversubscription criteria. You will also need to provide us with your child's birth certificate for the school to verify that your child is eligible for a Reception 2017 school place Catholic families should also provide an original Baptismal Certificate and seek a reference from their Parish Priest.

Christmas Cards—Make a Difference

Brentwood Catholic Children's Society is a children's charity for Essex and East London. BCCS works closely with many families in our diocese; many children and families from our school community have benefitted from the Society's help over the years and continue to do so. Fundraising is vital to the Society and you can help by buying Christmas Cards from BCCS. All profits go directly to BCCS. Order forms are available from the school office. More details can be obtained from BCCS by visiting www.bccs.org.uk



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 2-4pm 20th October; 3rd&17th November; 1st&15th December and Oak Tree Children's Centre, Grovewood Primary School, Grove Road, Rayleigh SS6 8UA. Phone 01268 775910 2-4pm; 17th October; 21st November; 5th December.

Saint of the Week

Today is the feast day of a local Essex saint. Saint Osyth was a martyred nun, also called Osith and Sytha. Known mainly through legends, she was supposedly the daughter of a chieftain of the Mercians in England and Wilburga, daughter of the powerful pagan king Penda of Mercia. Raised in a convent, Osyth desired to become a nun but was married against her will to King Sighere of Essex, by whom she had a son. Eventually, she won his permission to enter a convent, and she established a monastery on land at Chich, Essex, donated by Sighere, where she served as an abbess. She was reputedly slain by Danish raiders and is thus depicted in art as carrying her own head.



St Osyth



The gatehouse at St Osyth's Priory

Attendance RF 99.6% 1F 96.7% 2T 98.3% 3W 92% 4D 98.3 % 97% 6F 97.5%
Well done to our Reception class for best attendance last week.

Mr P O'Kane Headteacher

Diary Dates

Sunday 9 th October	Harvest Family Mass, Holy Family Church, 10.00am
Tuesday 11 th October	Full Governing Body Meeting, 6.30pm
Wednesday 12 th October	Year 5 & 6 Mass, 9.30am, School Hall (Parents/Parishioners Welcome)
Thursday 13 th October	My Maths for Parents 1.30pm & 5.30pm

Friday 14 th October	Year 6 Girls to Visit St Bernard's School
Monday 17 th October	Finance & Premises Governors' Meeting, 6.00pm
Tuesday 18 th October	Year 3 Trip—Layer Marney
Thursday 20 th October	Non-Pupil Day
Friday 21 st October	Non-Pupil Day
Monday 24 th October—Friday 28 th October	Half-Term Holiday
Monday 31 st October	Year 4 Roman Day (in school)
Friday 4 th November	Year 2 Class Assembly, 10.15am
Tuesday 8 th November	Parental Contact Meetings, 3.30—6.00pm
Wednesday 9 th November	Year 3 & 4 Mass, 9.30am, School Hall (Parents/Parishioners Welcome)
Thursday 10 th November	Open Morning 9.30am—11.45am (Reception Admissions September 2017)
Thursday 10 th November	Music For Schools Assembly
Thursday 10 th November	Parental Contact Meetings, 5.00—7.30pm
Friday 11 th November	Year 6 Class Assembly, 10.15am
Sunday 13 th November	Remembrance Sunday Family Mass, Holy Family Church, 10.00am
Monday 14 th November	Music For Schools Parent Meeting, 6.00pm
Friday 18 th November	Year 5 Class Assembly, 10.15am
Friday 25 th November	Year 3 Class Assembly, 10.15am
Sunday 27 th November	First Sunday of Advent
Thursday 1 st December	KS2 Children Walk to Holy Family Church for Mass & Rehearse Christmas Presentation
Friday 2 nd December	Dress Rehearsal Morning for Christmas Presentations

Monday 5 th December	Christmas Production Afternoon (Elderly of the Parish & Grandparents)
Monday 5 th December	Finance & Premises Governors' Meeting 6.00pm
Tuesday 6 th December	Christmas Production Afternoon (Parents & Carers—Limited Tickets)
Wednesday 7 th December	Christmas Production Afternoon (Parents & Carers—Limited Tickets)
Thursday 8 th December	KS2 Children Walk to Holy Family Church for Mass & Rehearse Christmas Presentation
Thursday 8 th December	KS2 Children Christmas Performance in Holy Family Church (All KS2 Children to Attend)
Wednesday 21 st December	Advent Reconciliation Service
Wednesday 21 st December	School Christmas Dinner
Wednesday 21 st December	Christmas Hat Assembly
Thursday 22 nd December 2016—Wednesday 4 th January 2017	Christmas Holidays
Thursday 5 th January 2017	First Day of Spring Term
Wednesday 18 th January 2017	Whole School Theatre Visit (Beauty & The Beast—Wednesday Players, Palace Theatre)
Friday 6 th January 2017	Mass for the Epiphany (tbc)
Monday 6 th February 2017	Year 6 Danbury Residential Trip
Friday 10 th February 2017	Year 6 Return from Danbury
Monday 13 th February—Friday 17 th February 2017	Half-Term Holiday
Wednesday 1 st March	Ash Wednesday—Lent Begins
Tuesday 21 st March 2017	Hot Cross Run (Catholic Schools' Cross Country Event) (tbc)
Monday 3 rd April—Friday 14 th April 2017	Easter Holidays
Sunday 9 th April 2017	Palm (Passion) Sunday—Start of Holy Week

Sunday 16 th April 2017	Easter Sunday
Monday 17 th April 2017	Public Holiday—School Closed
Tuesday 18 th April 2017	First Day of Summer Term
Monday 1 st May 2017	Public Holiday—School Closed
Monday 8 th May 2017	SATs Week Begins
Monday 29 th May- Friday 2 nd June 2017	Half-term Holiday
Thursday 20 th July 2017	Leavers' Mass (tbc)
Friday 21 st July 2017	Last day of the school year
Monday 24 th July 2017	Summer Holidays Begin

There is one more non-pupil day that needs to be set for 2016-2017 academic year