



HOLY FAMILY CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Headteacher Mr P.O'Kane

Newsletter 300 Friday 15th April 2016

Welcome back! I hope that you all had a lovely break over the Easter period with your families. As I have been walking around the school, I have been impressed with how well the children have settled back in to their schoolwork after the holidays. We look forward to a term of hard work and assessments but also one of fun with all the sporting activities in which the school takes part.

Before Easter, we were overwhelmed by your generosity shown towards the families who currently reside at Basildon's Women's Aid Refuge. I have been told by a number of parishioners who took the donations to the refuge that staff and residents wept openly with raw emotion upon sight of all the donations of food and other items. As a community, we really did **"Feed the Hungry"**—one of our Corporal Works of Mercy in this the Year of Mercy.

I received a lovely thank you card from the refuge—the front cover was drawn by one of the children who live there.



To: Peter O'Kane/Mrs Birtles and all at
Holy Family Catholic Primary School

On behalf of the staff,
residents and children
at Basildon Women's Aid,
thank you for your
kind and generous
Food donations.

Best wishes from staff and
residents at BWA

Our sincere thanks for your kind donation for the families at the
Refuge.

Thank you for your kind support.

Jessica

Jessica Barclay-Lambert
Chief Executive Officer

an by a
resident at
Women's Aid

Basildon Women's Aid
3 Box St, Basildon, Essex SS14 0ND

Our next Corporal Work of Mercy will be to **"Give Water to the Thirsty."** We hope to do this by donating money to CAFOD's clean water campaign. £25.00 will pay for a latrine and pump repair tools in a village; £73.00 will pay for technical pump maintenance training for village women; £123.00 will pay for a brand new pump to be installed. As next Saturday, 23rd April is St George's Day, we would like to invite all children to come to school dressed in red and white next Friday. If your child would like to participate in this non-uniform day, we would ask for a donation that will go to CAFOD to **"Give Water to the Thirsty."** We will of course have a special St George's Day assembly—I have never missed singing Jerusalem in honour of the Patron Saint in all the years I have been in England. As the England football team have

qualified for the Euro Championship finals, I expect to see lots of England shirts! Let's see if we can raise enough money for at least one pump.

RW, Y1 & Y2 Mass

Fr Eduard will be in school on Wednesday morning to celebrate Mass with all our younger children. Parents, grandparents and parishioners are all welcome to attend. Mass is scheduled to begin at 9.30am.

Summer Uniform

It was lovely to see most of the children in their summer uniform although the weather is anything but summery as I write this newsletter. I have told all the children that they can wear summer or winter uniform for the time being. When the weather does eventually get better, I will let you know when everyone will wear summer uniform.

Boys White school polo shirt; grey shorts or trousers (not black); grey socks; black shoes; school jumper; navy blazer with school badge.

The polo shirts are available from the Tesco Embroidery Service – please put your orders in soon as last year they were very busy!

Girls Pink gingham dress; school cardigan; white socks; black shoes; navy blazer with school badge.

Girls in years 5 and 6 may wear a short-sleeved pink checked blouse with a navy skirt.

School Clubs

Staff members are currently sorting out which clubs they will run for the summer term. Once all details have been confirmed I will send out a letter.

Foster a Frog

Mr Slade and Year 5 have been nurturing tadpoles for the last few weeks and expect to have a significant number of frogs very soon. Mr Slade is looking for volunteers who could take some frogs home and release them into the wild—perhaps you have a pond in your own garden or maybe you live near to a watercourse. Ideally the release site should not have any frogs living there already. This is a wonderful opportunity for children of all ages to get back to nature.

School Dinner Menu

Details of the new school dinner menu for the Summer Term, details are to be found on the school website or in the school foyer.

BATIC Trust Performing Arts Club

The BATIC Trust is creating a Performing Arts Club which will start in April 2016. The classes will involve a mixture of dance, drama and singing. They will take place on Tuesday (at The Deanes School) and Friday (Kents Hill Infant School) evenings 5pm-6.30pm. The cost is £35 per 7 weeks. In order to reserve a place, please collect a form from the school foyer.

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: 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.

Attendance

RW 95.4% 1C 88.4% 2FL 86.3% 3L 93.5% 4H 98.8% 5B 86.5% 6I 92.5%. Well done to Year 4 for best attendance during the last week of the Spring Term.

Saint of the week

We celebrate the Feast Day of St Bernadette tomorrow. As a young woman, she was visited by Our Lady, leading ultimately to Bernadette's miraculous revelation of healing waters at Lourdes. Many Catholics and people of other faiths have been drawn to Lourdes ever since. Lourdes is a place of great healing - not just in the physical sense. Visitors leave Lourdes with a sense of serenity and an inner strength that helps them to cope with their ailments. Bernadette died on 16th April 1879 aged just 35 years.

Midday Assistant

We are looking to appoint a Midday Assistant who enjoys working with children to join our friendly team of midday staff. If you, a family member or friend is interested please contact Maxine Henderson at the school office for further details.

Motto:

Merciful like the Father

From

Mr P O'Kane
Headteacher

Diary Dates

Monday 31st May – Friday 3rd June

Half term

Final Training Day for Academic Year 2015/16

The final training day for staff will be on Friday 1st July 2016.

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

We are aware that the school website is not fully up to date. This issue is being addressed and we are grateful for your continued patience and perseverance—the technician will be coming into school to remedy our problems very soon.