



# HOLY FAMILY CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Headteacher Mr P.O'Kane

## Newsletter 314 Friday 9<sup>th</sup> September 2016

Welcome back and I hope that you all had a lovely break with your families.

We began this week with a whole school assembly during which we welcomed our new members of staff to school; we have also had a number of new pupils join some classes throughout this week. The oppressive heat and humidity has not made for a pleasant working environment for children and staff, but everyone has endeavoured to do the best that they can.

The school has been a hive of activity throughout the summer break. Mr Smith in particular has worked extremely hard to ensure that furniture is in all the right places; that contractors have carried out their jobs; that the school is clean and tidy. He oversaw the construction of new changing rooms for the swimming pool; new offices for Mrs Hurley and Mr Stockley which should ensure a better environment for parents attending meetings; a new rubber soft-play surface for the adventure playground. Sadly, the adventure play equipment contractors let him down, so despite the fantastic new surface, the adventure playground is still out of bounds.

Fr Eduard joined us on Wednesday morning to celebrate Mass to mark the start of the new school year. Fr Eduard has agreed a schedule of class Masses that parents and parishioners will be welcome to attend. We would also love to see all our families support the Harvest Family Mass and the Remembrance Family Mass. All dates will be in the **diary dates** section of this newsletter.

Mrs Fisher and Mrs Williams have been out of school all week visiting our new reception children and their families at home. I know that next week will bring a mixture of emotions for parents and children as we welcome the new entrants to Holy Family School.

### Meet the Teacher

All parents and carers with children in Years 1—6 are invited to attend short introductory meetings with their child's class teacher. Each meeting will start at 3.30pm and we would ask that children do not attend the meetings—teachers will supervise Holy Family pupils whilst their parents attend the meeting, but cannot supervise siblings who are not pupils here. Please consult the **diary dates** to see when your child's teacher will be meeting parents.

### School Uniform

As the weather is still warm your child can continue to wear summer uniform. You will be notified when summer uniform is no longer allowed to be worn. If you are going to buy a coat for your child for the autumn and winter, please remember that our school uniform policy (which all parents agreed to when they chose to send their child to Holy Family School) clearly states

that plain black or navy coats should be worn at school. Please don't put your child in an awkward situation by sending them to school in red polka dots or combat camouflage or some other colour scheme as they will be asked where their school coat is. Similarly, black trainers are not the same as plain black school shoes. Some children have returned to school in breach of our school uniform policy with regards to hair and hair adornments. If you are unsure of the school's uniform policy, you can view a copy on the school website. Below, is the paragraph about hairstyles:

***Hairstyles should be simple, easily managed and be the child's own natural colour. In the interests of safety and hygiene long hair should be worn tied back. Hair ornaments should be plain and simple such as a hair band or scrunchie and be in one of the school colours (navy, red, yellow or pink/pink gingham in summer). Fancy combs, slides, slips and fashion braids can be dangerous and distract children from their learning and should not be worn; silk flowers and other adornments should not be worn either.*** Thank you for supporting the school's uniform policy. It is no accident that visitors and others always comment on how smart children from Holy Family look when they are representing the school.

### **Reading Books**

Despite our best intentions, the children will not bring home reading books until next week. A number of staff members have been working on cataloguing the reading scheme books according to the requirements of the new national curriculum expectations. This has taken much longer than first envisaged, so please be patient and bear with us. We want to ensure that the reading scheme books also align more closely to the Bug Club electronic books. All our new teachers will have Bug Club training next Wednesday after school. Please remember that reading scheme books may not always be of interest to your child, but it is important that they are exposed to and read books from a wide variety of genres. Reading is much more than speaking the words correctly; children need to learn how to infer from a text, how to access information in non-fiction books, how to interpret poetry and other forms of writing. No school reading scheme should ever be your child's sole source of reading materials. I know that many of you have books at home for your child to enjoy, but don't forget the pleasures of family library visits. We are blessed to have a number of libraries in our locality. Finally, reading should not become an "arms race." It is never helpful to your child to compare their colour/level to that of their peers. Thank you for your patience and for reading with your child at home.

### **Class Assemblies**

Many parents have told us through our parental surveys that they would welcome more opportunities to come into school to share in their child's learning journey. To this end, we are going to extend a welcome to parents for our Friday Class Assemblies. These assemblies take place on Friday mornings at 10.15am. They are presented and performed by a class and may reflect recent topic work; RE work; the liturgical life of the school. Each assembly will last no more than 20 minutes and should not be viewed in the same light as the Christmas productions. As the assemblies are part of our normal weekly routines, all children and staff will be in the hall for each assembly so space for visitors will be limited. Therefore, we politely request that only a maximum of two family members may attend. We also ask that younger siblings or babes in arms do not come, as they can often make noises that drown out the words of the children performing the assembly, much to the annoyance of other parents. They can also be distracting to the children in the hall who are not presenting an assembly. In addition, there will be no room

for prams, pushchairs and buggies. School staff will take some photographs for assessment and recording purposes at each assembly; we will try our best to put one or two of these on the school newsletter and website. Parents will not need to take pictures or make video recordings. At the end of term, we will review this initiative to see if it has been successful. Please check the **diary dates** below to see when your child's class is scheduled to lead a Friday Assembly.

### **Clubs**

As we have a number of new staff members with a range of skills and experiences, we may see some different after-school clubs on offer this year. A letter will be sent out next week regarding clubs.

**Southend United After School Club** Southend United will continue to run their after school club this term but with a change of day to **Wednesday**. The children brought home letters from Southend United yesterday.

### **School Dinners for Juniors (KS2: Years 3,4,5 & 6)**

A reminder to parents that when your child enters Year 3 or above you are required to pay for school dinners at a cost of £2.20 in advance or on the day. The school spends a considerable amount of money paying our office staff for work involved in chasing up dinner money arrears. This year, we would ask all parents and carers to keep up-to-date with dinner money payments and to not rely on a "chaser" letter from the school office. The school cannot afford to pay for meals for children whose parents have not paid. Until arrears are cleared, children will need to bring a packed lunch to school. However, if you think that your child qualifies for free school meals, all details are available on the Essex County Council website [www.essex.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals](http://www.essex.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals)

### **Dinner Money Envelopes**

We have custom made dinner money envelopes available from the school office at a cost of £1.50 for 50 envelopes.

**Piano lessons** Piano lessons with Mrs Rothwell will begin on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> September.

**Drum Lessons** Drum lessons with Mr Willson will begin on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> September so please could the drum pupils bring in their books and sticks on that day. There are some spaces for lessons for children from Year 1 upwards. The fees are £75.00 per term for 10 lessons of 15 minutes, payable in advance. The lessons take place during school time. If your child is interested in playing, then please contact Mrs Duxbury in the school office.

**PE Kits** Please ensure that your child has a full PE kit in school every day : PE shirt with logo, navy shorts, plimsolls (or trainers) and Holy Family PE sweatshirt for colder days. We will no longer be allowing children to borrow PE clothing from their siblings or friends as this is not hygienic and also wastes valuable PE time at the start of the lesson. We are grateful for your co-operation and understanding in this matter.

**Holy Family ELC** The Early Learning Centre has sessions available in September for children aged 3 and above. Children who turn 3 after 1<sup>st</sup> September can join the setting after their 3<sup>rd</sup> birthday, however, fees are payable until they are eligible for government funding.

The Early Learning Centre and Reception Class work in close partnership and form our Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) classes. This supports our young children to play and learn in an environment that is well resourced, safe and secure. Parents, children and staff see and experience the long-term benefits of attending the ELC. Children become familiar with their future school environment and they form good friendships with their peers and learn to work as a strong group that progress together throughout their primary school life.

It would be beneficial to everyone if families in the school support the ELC to ensure it remains viable for the future. The ELC is open to all so please pass this information to any friends or families who are looking for a setting for their child

**Saint of the Week**. Mother Teresa was canonised and became St Teresa of Calcutta last Sunday, 4<sup>th</sup> September. She was a symbol of love and mercy, not just to the poor and the sick of the streets and the slums, but to people around the world. She was born in the old Ottoman Empire (modern Macedonia) to an Albanian Catholic family. She went to Ireland as a young woman, where she was involved with the Loreto Sisters (the order that provided my secondary education) before she was given permission to establish her own congregation, the Missionaries of Charity. The order she founded now has thousands of members and provides relief and comfort to the poor in 133 countries. There is no doubt that St Teresa of Calcutta is an inspiration to us all.



Mr P O'Kane Headteacher

### **Diary Dates**

|                                     |                                         |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| Monday 12 <sup>th</sup> September   | Year 2 <b>Meet The Teacher</b> , 3.30pm |
| Tuesday 13 <sup>th</sup> September  | Year 6 <b>Meet The Teacher</b> , 3.30pm |
| Thursday 15 <sup>th</sup> September | Year 5 <b>Meet The Teacher</b> , 3.30pm |
| Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> September   | Year 4 <b>Meet The Teacher</b> , 3.30pm |

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| Tuesday 20 <sup>th</sup> September                                                      | Year 3 <b>Meet The Teacher</b> , 3.30pm                                |
| Thursday 22 <sup>nd</sup> September                                                     | Year 1 <b>Meet The Teacher</b> , 3.30pm                                |
| <i>There will be no meeting for Reception Class as Mrs Fisher has made home visits.</i> |                                                                        |
| Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> September                                                       | Year 4 Class Assembly, 10.15am                                         |
| Thursday 29 <sup>th</sup> September                                                     | School Photographs                                                     |
| Friday 30 <sup>th</sup> September                                                       | Year 1 Class Assembly, 10.15am                                         |
| Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> October                                                          | World Faith Study Week—Judaism                                         |
| Sunday 9 <sup>th</sup> October                                                          | Harvest Family Mass, Holy Family Church, 10.00am                       |
| Tuesday 11 <sup>th</sup> October                                                        | Full Governing Body Meeting, 6.30pm                                    |
| Wednesday 12 <sup>th</sup> October                                                      | Year 5 & 6 Mass, 9.30am, School Hall<br>(Parents/Parishioners Welcome) |
| Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> October                                                         | Year 6 Girls to Visit St Bernard's School                              |
| Monday 17 <sup>th</sup> October                                                         | Finance & Premises Governors' Meeting, 6.00pm                          |
| Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup> October                                                       | Non-Pupil Day                                                          |
| Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> October                                                         | Non-Pupil Day                                                          |
| Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> October—Friday 28 <sup>th</sup> October                         | Half-Term Holiday                                                      |
| Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> November                                                         | Year 2 Class Assembly, 10.15am                                         |
| Wednesday 9 <sup>th</sup> November                                                      | Year 3 & 4 Mass, 9.30am, School Hall<br>(Parents/Parishioners Welcome) |
| Friday 11 <sup>th</sup> November                                                        | Year 6 Class Assembly, 10.15am                                         |
| Sunday 13 <sup>th</sup> November                                                        | Remembrance Sunday Family Mass, Holy Family Church, 10.00am            |
| Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> November                                                        | Year 5 Class Assembly, 10.15am                                         |
| Friday 25 <sup>th</sup> November                                                        | Year 3 Class Assembly, 10.15am                                         |
| Sunday 27 <sup>th</sup> November                                                        | First Sunday of Advent                                                 |

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| Thursday 1 <sup>st</sup> December                                              | KS2 Children Walk to Holy Family Church for Mass & Rehearse Christmas Presentation    |
| Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> December                                                | Dress Rehearsal Morning for Christmas Presentations                                   |
| Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> December                                                | Christmas Production Afternoon (Elderly of the Parish & Grandparents)                 |
| Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> December                                                | Finance & Premises Governors' Meeting<br>6.00pm                                       |
| Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup> December                                               | Christmas Production Afternoon (Parents & Carers—Limited Tickets)                     |
| Wednesday 7 <sup>th</sup> December                                             | Christmas Production Afternoon (Parents & Carers—Limited Tickets)                     |
| Thursday 8 <sup>th</sup> December                                              | KS2 Children Walk to Holy Family Church for Mass & Rehearse Christmas Presentation    |
| Thursday 8 <sup>th</sup> December                                              | KS2 Children Christmas Performance in Holy Family Church (All KS2 Children to Attend) |
| Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup> December                                            | Advent Reconciliation Service                                                         |
| Thursday 22 <sup>nd</sup> December 2016—Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> January 2017 | Christmas Holidays                                                                    |
| Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> January 2017                                          | First Day of Spring Term                                                              |
| Friday 6 <sup>th</sup> January 2017                                            | Mass for the Epiphany (tbc)                                                           |
| Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> February 2017                                           | Year 6 Danbury Residential Trip                                                       |
| Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> February 2017                                          | Year 6 Return from Danbury                                                            |
| Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> February—Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> February 2017         | Half-Term Holiday                                                                     |
| Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> March                                                | Ash Wednesday—Lent Begins                                                             |
| Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup> March 2017                                            | Hot Cross Run (Catholic Schools' Cross Country Event) (tbc)                           |
| Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> April—Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> April 2017                | Easter Holidays                                                                       |
| Sunday 9 <sup>th</sup> April 2017                                              | Palm (Passion) Sunday—Start of Holy Week                                              |

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|---------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup> April 2017                          | Holy Thursday                |
| Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> April 2017                            | Good Friday                  |
| Sunday 16 <sup>th</sup> April 2017                            | Easter Sunday                |
| Monday 17 <sup>th</sup> April 2017                            | Public Holiday—School Closed |
| Tuesday 18 <sup>th</sup> April 2017                           | First Day of Summer Term     |
| Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> May 2017                               | Public Holiday—School Closed |
| Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> May 2017                               | SATs Week Begins             |
| Monday 29 <sup>th</sup> May- Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> June 2017 | Half-term Holiday            |
| Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup> July 2017                           | Leavers' Mass (tbc)          |
| Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> July 2017                             | Last day of the school year  |
| Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> July 2017                             | Summer Holidays Begin        |

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