



## **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 290 Friday 15th January 2016**

The highlight of our second week back was the traditional whole school trip to the Wednesday Players' pantomime at the Palace Theatre. The children (and staff!) had a wonderful time and it was especially lovely to see Freddie Macal of Year 5 taking part in his first pantomime.

I am gradually becoming more familiar and settled and also recognising faces around the school- some names are still escaping me but the children are the best teachers!

#### **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.

#### **Reading**

Thank you for reading with your children at home. The monitoring which took place on Monday in school showed that most parents are reading with their children. We consider that reading two pages per night is sufficient to enable you to assist your children with their progress in reading and to develop their understanding. Thank you for your continued support.

#### **Toys**

I have noticed that some children are bringing in small toys to school. Please could you refrain from allowing your children to do this because it generally ends in upset, 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 14<sup>th</sup> – Monday 15<sup>th</sup> 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 16<sup>th</sup> – Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:Harrison@essex.gov.uk) or visit the website [www.essex.gov.uk/music](http://www.essex.gov.uk/music)

## **BATIC Family Sports Clubs**

The Batic Trust are running a sports club for children and family members / guardians. The venue is The Deanes Sports Centre every Saturday from tomorrow to 19<sup>th</sup> March 2016 excluding February half-term. Times: 2-3pm KS1 children and family; 3-4pm KS2 children and family. A maximum of 2 adults to attend per child. There are still places available and you can reserve a place via email by contacting [batictrust@thedeanes.essex.sch.uk](mailto:batictrust@thedeanes.essex.sch.uk) with the following information: name of student, school, year group, contact mobile number, email, number of children/adults attending.

## **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: 28<sup>th</sup> January; 11<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> February; 10<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> March; 21<sup>st</sup> April; 5<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> May; 16<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> June; 14<sup>th</sup> July.

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

## **House Points**

Last week the most house points were won by St Thomas More (red team). Well done to all those children who contributed towards the win!

## **Attendance**

RW 95% 1C 96% 2FL 91.7% 3L 92.8% 4H 98.3% 5B 94.2% 6I 98.3%. Well done to Years 4 and 6 for joint best attendance last week.

## **Saint of the week**

Last Wednesday was the Feast Day of St Hilary of Poitiers, one of the first hymn writers in the Western Church. Although he was not born into a Christian family, as an adult he became convinced by the Christian way of life and belief in Jesus. He devoted a great deal of time to

study and preaching. He died in 367 or 368 and was proclaimed a Doctor of the Church in 1851. He is the Patron Saint against snake bites!

### **Jubilee Year of Mercy 2016**

**Motto: Merciful like the Father**

Bishop Alan and Father Martin Boland warmly welcome to the 6.30pm Mass at Brentwood Cathedral this Sunday, January 17<sup>th</sup> all those who are separated, divorced, remarried or who are experiencing difficulties in their marriage so that they can come and experience spiritual sanctuary, God's joy, compassion and abundant mercy. The Jubilee Door is only useful if it is opened and all are welcomed in. Mercy is a verb an action by God who turns, runs, embraces and raises us up giving hope, light and life to all. Pope Francis is asking us all to take the risk of experiencing God's mercy. Are you?

Wishing you an enjoyable weekend and Father Eduard is looking forward to seeing you at Mass at either Holy Family Church, Benfleet or St Thomas More Church, Hadleigh.

God Bless you all and your families

From

Mrs S Birtles and Mr P O'Kane  
Headteacher

### **Diary Dates**

Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> January	Year 6 Danbury meeting 3.30pm Year 6 classroom
Wednesday 27 <sup>th</sup> January	Young Voices concert O2 Arena years 5 and 6
Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> –Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> February	Year 6 Residential Trip to Danbury
Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> – Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> February	Spring half-term
Tuesday 8 <sup>th</sup> March	Parent contact meetings 3.30pm -6pm
Thursday 10 <sup>th</sup> March	Parent contact meetings 4.30pm - 7.30pm

There is a CALENDAR section on the school website—[www.holyfamily.essex.sch.uk](http://www.holyfamily.essex.sch.uk)