



HOLY FAMILY CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Headteacher Mr P.O'Kane

Parent, Governor & Staff Association (PGSA)

24th May 2017

Dear Parents & Carers,

Holy Family School is unique in Benfleet in that it is a Voluntary-Aided Catholic School. This means that we have the freedom to teach the Faith and maintain our Catholic ethos, but it comes at a price! If any major capital projects need to be undertaken, Holy Family does not receive full funding from national or local government—the school governors must pay a minimum of 10% of any costs.

In years gone by, Catholic schools received this funding from their local parishes. However, for myriad reasons, the parish does not have the funding to support the school. The Development Fund, which for many years fundraised for the parish and school is not as active as it once was. In addition to this, Holy Family is facing the budgetary constraints that are affecting schools across the country, meaning that, for the first time in the school's history, we will be setting a deficit budget for 2017/2018.

The time is right to formally launch a new vehicle for fundraising for the school. Last night, governors approved the formation of a **Parent, Governor & Staff Association (PGSA)** that will have a legal status and ultimately charitable status. The **PGSA** will organise the Christmas Bazaar, Summer Fete and other events throughout the year. I know that many of you have got fantastic ideas for fundraising activities and that there is a wealth of fundraising experience in this school community so please come along and help the **PGSA** to be successful and vibrant.

All parents and carers, staff and governors are entitled to be members of the **PGSA** and there will be an inaugural launch meeting on Thursday 8th June at 7.00pm in the school hall. During this meeting, a committee will be established and we can all look forward to organising a successful Family Fun Day on Saturday 15th July.

I hope to see many of you at the meeting on Thursday 7th June—if you can't attend, but would like to be part of the **PGSA**, please leave your details with the ladies in the office.

Yours sincerely,

Peter O'Kane Headteacher