



# HOLY FAMILY CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Headteacher Mr P.O'Kane

## Newsletter 357 Friday 29<sup>th</sup> September 2017

Year 5 presented the first class assembly of the new school year. It was a lively affair, with lots of singing and movement. The Year 5 children explained how we are all different, but equal in the eyes of God. They also reminded us of the horrors that can occur when people decide to treat others harshly just because they are different—the Nazi Holocaust and the treatment of African-Americans were just two of the examples they referred to. Fortunately, Holy Family School is a melting pot for children and their families from a wide range of cultural, ethnic and faith backgrounds. Not only are tolerance and respect core Christian values, they are also British values.



During Monday's assembly we welcomed our new Reception class children to their first whole school assembly. They have settled in well so far. I spoke to all the children about Harvest. Traditionally, at this time of the year, Christians would give thanks for the Harvest gathered in. Although we are no longer living in a rural, agrarian society, it is still important to give thanks to

God for the food that we eat and for the farmers who grow it. We also need to remember to share food with those who are less fortunate than ourselves—it's our Christian duty. On Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> October during 10.00am Mass, the children will be able to bring up gifts of dried, tinned and packaged food to the altar. All the donated items will be given to families currently living in the Basildon Women's Refuge. If, for some reason you are unable to be at 10.00am Mass on Sunday, we will be happy to receive donations of food here in school. There will be a Harvest display table in the school hall where items can be placed—thank you for the donations that have come in already.

At the end of Monday's assembly our new School Councillors and Year 6 House Captains were presented with their badges. This year's House Captains are: St Mary's: Amelia O'Shaughnessy and Dominic Quinn; St John Bosco: Lucy Jo Hoeb and Samuel Aloba; St Thomas More: Lacey McLaughlin and Zach Chittock; St Joseph's: Chloe Strutt and Daniel Kelly. The School Councillors are: RF: Rosie Michaeloudiou and Jenson Hennebery 1F Vincent Essex and Alicja Macleod 2T Niamh Hayden and Bradley Boateng; 3W Millie Pelham and Joe Salter; 4HW Isabelle Brumwell and Samuel Mills; 5LB Issabella Hilz and Dylan Boateng; 6F Vongai Katsande and Joshua Toluwalaju. All families should have received an introductory letter from the School Council yesterday.

The photographers were in school yesterday taking family, individual and class pictures—photograph morning always creates a buzz of excitement amongst the children.

**Year 5 & 6 Mass** Parents, grandparents, family members and parishioners are warmly invited to join Years 5 & 6 for Mass in the school hall on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> October at 9.15am, not 9.30am as is tradition. Fr Eduard has another commitment that morning and he has asked for the earlier start time.

**School Clubs** A number of new clubs are on offer this year in addition to our traditional clubs. A number of external providers are willing to run clubs in Holy Family School, but these will be dependent upon numbers.



**Benfleet Young Drama** Jackie Poth will be relocating this popular club to the school hall after half-term. For the time being, all Benfleet Young Drama members should continue to attend the sessions at St Thomas More Hall, Hadleigh.

**Chess in Schools and Communities** need 20 children to sign up, paying £2.00 per session to make the club viable—please inform the ladies in the school office if you would be willing to commit to chess club. If there are not enough serious expressions of interest, this club will not go ahead.

**SUFC** will operate a multi-sports club on Thursdays at a cost of £3.00 per session. All administration will be done via SUFC—the same arrangement as Wednesday football. The first multi-sport club could take place on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> October—SUFC letters will follow next week.

**Mad Science** will come into school on Monday and present a whole school assembly. The children will see first-hand what is on offer. Mad Science is likely to cost £8.00 per session and the club will only go ahead if there are 12—14 pupils willing to participate. More information will follow after Monday's assembly.

**Mala Dance** will begin after half-term. Mrs Beesley will oversee this club.

Monday	3.15—4.15pm Boys' Football Years 5 & 6 Mr Lawrence & Mr Watson
Monday	3.15—4.15pm Chess Club CSC
Tuesday	12.05—12.30pm Running Club Mrs Bowers & Mr Lawrence
Tuesday	3.15—4.15pm Benfleet Young Drama Jackie Poth (moving to school hall soon)
Tuesday	3.20—4.20pm Mad Science
Wednesday	12.05—1.00pm Southend Lunchtime Club SUFC staff
Wednesday	3.15—4.30pm Southend Football Coaching SUFC staff
Wednesday	3.15—4.15pm Netball Years 4, 5 & 6 Mrs Bowers & Mr Lawrence
Thursday	12.05—1.00pm Southend Lunchtime Club SUFC staff
Thursday	12.05—12.30pm Signing Years 3,4,5 & 6 Mrs Clark
Thursday	3.15—4.20pm Southend Multi-Sports Club SUFC staff
Friday	12.05—12.30pm Choir Years 4, 5 & 6 Mrs Lewins
Friday	3.15—4.15pm Girls' Football Years 5 & 6 Mr Lawrence & Mr Watson
Friday	3.15—4.15pm Mala Dance Mala Dance staff

**Rock Day** Next Wednesday, 4<sup>th</sup> October will give everyone an opportunity to release their inner rock star! Mrs Lewins has booked Rocksteady to lead an assembly. They are a group who run school band clubs—if enough children and families are interested in what they have to offer, we would like to run a band club in Holy Family. In addition, Mrs Fisher has obtained free trial access to Times Tables Rockstars, an internet learning site that promotes learning times tables. She will be launching that with the children on Wednesday as well—she has sent out details to all families.



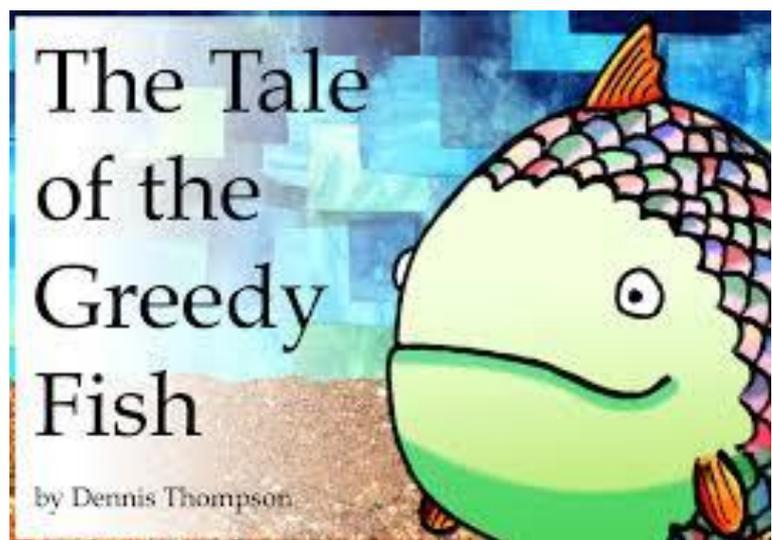
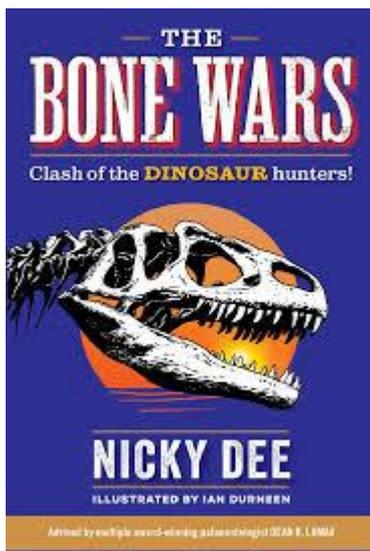
**KS2 Writing Competition** Essex Education Services (EES) are holding a KS2 writing competition. There will be a category for Years 3 & 4 and Years 5 & 6. Miss Furby will coordinate entries from Holy Family School as all entries must be submitted from a school email

address. Children can write about anything, but they have to limit themselves to a maximum of 300 words. All entries must be typed onto an official EES template and emailed to [admin@holysfamily.essex.sch.uk](mailto:admin@holysfamily.essex.sch.uk) Miss Furby will forward all entries on to EES before the closing date of 22<sup>nd</sup> December. A template has been uploaded to the Newsletter section of the school website. Good luck.

**Phonics Workshop** Parents of Reception class children are warmly invited to attend a phonics workshop on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> October at 2.45pm. Parents and grandparents who attended the Year 1 phonics workshop a few weeks ago found it very useful. Please do your best to attend.

**Library Books** Please could children return all library books which they have borrowed from the school library. Thank you.

**Book Week 2017** A number of authors will be visiting the school as part of our Book Week activities. Nicky Dee writes about dinosaurs. Copies of her books can be pre-ordered using the order form available from the newsletter section of the school website. Dennis Thompson is a Southend author. He has an extended offer to all Holy Family children—copies of his book, ***The Tale of the Greedy Fish*** can be pre-ordered and bought for half their normal retail price-- £3.00 instead of £5.99. Holy Family pupils who order the book will also receive a free bookmark. Order forms can be downloaded from the newsletter section of the website, or are available from the red unit by the main office.



**Samaritan's Purse/Operation Christmas Child (Love in a Box)** Holy Family has a very proud track record of donating filled shoeboxes to this charity—100 boxes were donated last year. The Operation Christmas Child website is packed full of information about the shoebox appeal. The local organiser has advised us that our shoebox deadline for this year is Friday 10<sup>th</sup> November. I know that some families have been gathering items for their shoeboxes throughout the summer and look forward to packing the shoebox as an annual event.



**Job 3** A Cantata by Michael Stephens will be performed at Holy Family Church, Benfleet on October 21<sup>st</sup> at 7.30pm. Tickets are £8 for adults and £5 for concessions. Contact Angela Kelly at [angkelly4321@gmail.com](mailto:angkelly4321@gmail.com)

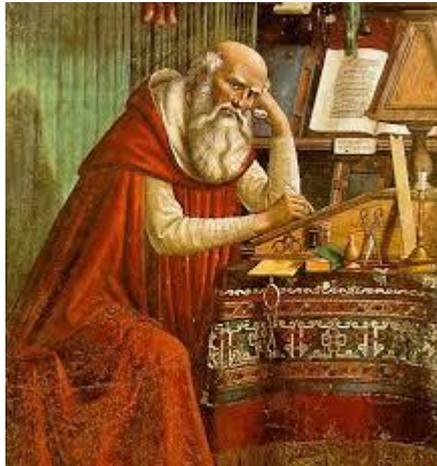
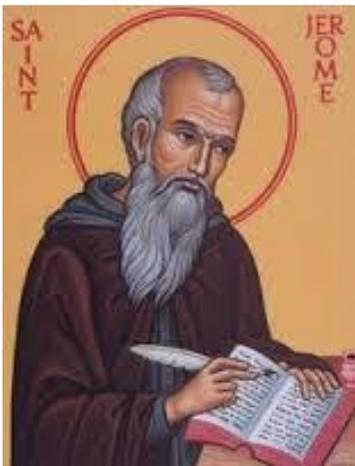
**Reception 2018 Admissions—Open Morning & Open Evening** The admissions process for Reception Class 2018 begins on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> November 2017. There will be an Open Morning for all interested prospective parents on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> November, 9.30—11.45am. Additionally, parents will have the opportunity to attend an Open Evening that night, 5.30—8.00pm.

**Holy Family Parentmail App** Thank you to all those parents and carers who have connected to the new Parentmail App. If you experience any problems please contact the school office or alternatively call Parentmail on 01733 595959. Once all parents are registered we will begin to use the online forms and letters for trips and parents evenings, for example.

**Flu Immunisation Consent Form** Please return these forms to the school office even if your child will not be receiving the immunisation. Thank you.

**Dinner Money** If you would like your child to have a school dinner, then **please, please** ensure that they have the dinner money on that day or pay in advance. The ladies in the office are having to spend an inordinate amount of time chasing payment for unpaid dinner money. Thank you.

**Saint of the Week** Tomorrow is the Feast Day of St Jerome, known as a “Doctor of the Church,” a reference to the fact that he did so much to set out in a scholarly way the beliefs and traditions of the church in an era of persecution and heresies. He travelled much of the known world, teaching gospel values in a clear way, never afraid to challenge those in a position or power. He was a highly intelligent man and is often portrayed in pictures as a scholar in the desert. There is also a legend that he removed a thorn from a lion’s paw! He died on 30<sup>th</sup> September 420 and is buried under the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem.



**Prayer to the Holy Family** Jesus, Mary and Joseph, in you we contemplate the splendour of true love; to you we turn with trust. Holy Family of Nazareth, grant that our families too may be places of communion and prayer, authentic schools of the Gospel and small domestic churches. Holy Family of Nazareth, may families never again experience violence, rejection and division;

may all who have been hurt or scandalized find ready comfort and healing. Holy Family of Nazareth, make us once more mindful of the sacredness and inviolability of the family and its beauty in God's plan. Jesus, Mary and Joseph, graciously hear our prayer. Amen.



### **Parent Governor Staff Association (PGSA)—Future Events**

**Movie Night**—Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> October: KS1 - 3.30-5.00pm and KS2 5.30-7.30pm—movies to be confirmed at the next PGSA meeting (all parents are welcome to attend).

**Family Quiz Night** –Saturday 18th November 2017 start time 7.30pm—bring your own drinks and nibbles

**Christmas Bazaar/Craft Event**—Friday 1st December 2017 time to be confirmed.

**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 on 01268 686041. The locations are: Little Lions Children's Centre Northwick Park Academy, Third Avenue, Canvey Island, SS8 9SU. Phone 01268 686041 3-4pm 5<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> October; 9<sup>th</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup> November; 7<sup>th</sup> December and Oak Tree Children's Centre, Grovewood Primary School, Grove Road, Rayleigh SS6 8UA. Phone 01268 775910 2-4pm 10<sup>th</sup> & 31<sup>st</sup> October ;14<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> November; 12<sup>th</sup> December.

**Attendance** RF 95.7% 1F 96.3% 2T 93.7% 3W 97.3% 4HW 92.2% 5LB 97.5% 6F 98.3%  
Well done to Year 6 for best attendance last week.

Mr P. O'Kane

Headteacher

### **Diary Dates**

Sunday 1 <sup>st</sup> October	Harvest Mass, Holy Family Church, 10.00am
Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> October	Phonics Workshop for Reception parents 2.45pm
Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> October	Years 5 & 6 Mass, 9.15am
Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> October	Practical Phonics Workshop Year 1 and Reception 9-10am school hall
Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> October	Spelling Workshop for parents 2.30pm
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> October	Non-pupil day
Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> October—Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> October	Autumn Half-term Break

Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> November	Year 1 class assembly 10.15am
Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> November	Parent Contact Evening, 3.30—6.00pm
Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup> November	Parent Contact Evening, 5.00—7.30pm
Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> November	Year 6 Remembrance assembly
Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup> December	Year 6 Singing in nursing home
Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> November	Open morning 9.30-11.45am & Open evening 5.30—8.00pm, Reception Admissions September 2018
Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> November	Year 4 class assembly 10.15am
Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> November	Year 3 class assembly 10.15am
Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> December	Last day in school 2017
Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> December—Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> January 2018 Christmas Holidays	
Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> January 2018	Non-pupil day
Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> January 2018	First day of Spring Term 2018
Monday 29 <sup>th</sup> January 2018	Young Voices concert o2 Arena Y5 & Y6
Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> February—Friday 9 <sup>th</sup> February 2018	Year 6 Danbury Residential