



HOLY FAMILY CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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*Diocese of
Brentwood*

Headteacher Mr P.O'Kane

Newsletter 400 Friday 2nd November 2018

Well the cold weather has finally arrived and I reminded the children on Monday of the value of a warm coat and hat in this weather. We would like to see all children dressed in the school's winter uniform from this point onwards. Full details of the winter uniform can be found by following the links on our school website to ABOUT US→PARENTS' INFORMATION→SCHOOL UNIFORM. Thank you to everyone who took the time to engage with the Governors' uniform questionnaire during the parental contact evenings. The Governors will look closely at the completed forms as part of their review of school uniform policy.

Thank you to those parents and carers who attended the parent contact meetings which we trust were helpful to you.

On Thursday we welcomed Father Eduard into school to celebrate mass for All Saints Day. We were also joined by a large contingent of parishioners as Thursday was a Holy Day of Obligation. November is traditionally the month in which Catholics and other Christians remember all those who have died and gone to be with the Lord. The children will have opportunities throughout November to pray for deceased relatives. It is also the month when the nation collectively remembers all those who have perished in the service of their country.

Our Year 6 pupils will be selling Royal British Legion poppies to the other children throughout November.



Our School Councillors held a meeting with Rebecca Harris MP this afternoon. Mrs Hurley was with the children and was extremely proud of their engagement and impressed with their questions. Following the meeting with the children, Ms Harris met with Mrs Hurley and I. We raised a number of issues with her, including the awful funding situation that Holy Family (and other schools) finds itself in.



Special dinner menu –Monday 5th November There will be a change to the school dinner menu on Monday:

Hot dog or a veggie sausage in a bun with smokey BBQ sauce, baked beans, tiger wedges, coleslaw and toffee apple crumble and custard or Bonfire jelly for pudding. Sounds delicious!

Online payments for school meals We are pleased that we are now accepting payment for school dinners via the Parentmail app and thank you to those parents and carers who have already made payments. Parents will now be able to view their child's balance and top up the account at their convenience. Parentmail will automatically send a prompt to top up accounts when the balance falls to £0.00. All children should have sufficient funds on account before they ask for a meal.

With effect from Monday 5th November all payments for school dinners should be made via the app. If you experience any difficulties with the app, please contact the school office.

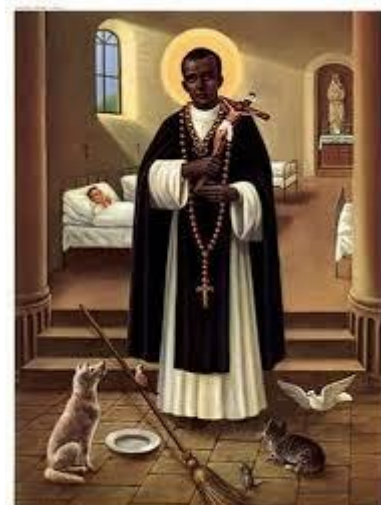
PGSA Meeting There will be a PGSA meeting in the school hall on Tuesday 6th November at 7.30pm. Please do try to come along and get involved as the meeting will focus on the Christmas Bazaar.

Reception Class 2019 Open Day and Open Day for parents & carers of children currently in reception Class

Our open day for children starting school in September 2019 will be on Thursday 15th November. Parents and their children are welcome to attend one of the two sessions - from 9.15-11.30am or 1.15-2.30pm. If you have family or friends with children starting school next year, please let them know and spread the word! Mrs Fisher and Mrs Williams would also like to extend a warm welcome to the parents and carers of children currently in Reception Class.

Saint of the Week

Saturday is the Feast Day of St Martin de Porres. He is a saint I hold in particular affection as my parents gave me the middle name of Martin in his honour; I also had a statue of St Martin in my bedroom when I was growing up. St Martin was born in Lima, Peru during the time of Spanish rule. As he was of black African heritage, many of the opportunities that were open to Peruvians of Spanish descent were not afforded to him. He devoted his whole life to the service of others—people and animals. He actually ran a hospital for cats and dogs at his sister's house. He was a Dominican brother throughout his adulthood and is held in high esteem by members of that order to this day.



Throughout this month of the Holy Souls, please remember to pray for those who have gone before us: "Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon them. May their souls, and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

Attendance Nursery class 91.1% RF 95.3% 1F 93% 2T 92.7% 3W 93.3% 4H 94% 5B 95% 6L 97.7% Well done to Year 6 for best attendance once again during the week before half term. It was disappointing to see that the excellent attendance rates since September have fallen back recently.

Parish Contact Details

Holy Family Catholic Church, 661 High Road, Benfleet, SS7 6SF www.holyfamily-church.co.uk

Parish Priest: Fr Eduard Fartan, eduard.fartan@yahoo.com
priest@holyfamily-church.org
office@holyfamily-church.org

Parish Secretary: Mrs Clare Dempsey
Telephone: 01268 792082 or 01268 799649

Mr P. O’Kane Headteacher

Diary Dates

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| Tuesday 6 th November | PGSA Meeting, 7.30pm |
| Thursday 8 th November | ACT Football & Netball Tournaments, Our Lady of Ransom School, 1.15pm |
| Friday 9 th November | Year 6 Assembly, 10.15am |
| Sunday 11 th November | Family Mass (Remembrance), Holy Family Church, 10.00am |
| Tuesday 13 th November | LGC Meeting, 6.00pm |
| Thursday 15 th November | Reception 2019 Open day 9.15-11.30am & 1.15-2.30pm |
| Friday 16 th November | Year 4 Assembly, 10.15am |
| Friday 16 th November | PGSA Movie Nights 3.00—4.30pm & 5.00—7.00pm |
| Thursday 22 nd November | EYFS/KS1 Mass, 9.30am |
| Friday 23 rd November | Year 1 Assembly, 10.15am |
| Friday 23 rd November | School Choir to Compete at Music Festival |
| Monday 26 th November | Y5&6 Barnardo’s Concert, Royal Albert Hall |
| Tuesday 27 th November | Year 1 Winter Games, Deanes School |
| Friday 30 th November | Cake Sale & Children’s Raffle Morning |
| Saturday 1 st December | PGSA Christmas Bazaar |
| Sunday 2 nd December | 1 st Sunday of Advent |
| Tuesday 4 th December | Colin Wyatt (Illustrator) in School |
| Thursday 6 th December | KS2 Walk to Church for Morning Mass & Rehearsal for KS2 Christmas Concert |
| Friday 7 th December | Dress Rehearsal Morning |
| Monday 10 th December | Christmas Shows, 1.30pm (grandparents) |
| Tuesday 11 th December | Christmas Shows, 1.30pm |
| Wednesday 12 th December | Christmas Shows, 1.30pm |
| Thursday 13 th December | KS2 Walk to Church for Morning Mass & Rehearsal for KS2 Christmas Concert |
| Thursday 13 th December | KS2 Christmas Concert, 7.00pm Holy Family Church |
| Tuesday 18 th December | Advent Reconciliation Service |
| Wednesday 19 th December | Christmas Dinner |

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| Wednesday 19 th December | Last day of Autumn Term |
| Thursday 20 th December—Wednesday 2 nd January 2019 | Christmas Holidays |
| Thursday 3 rd January 2019 | Non Pupil Day |
| Friday 4 th January 2019 | Non Pupil Day |
| Sunday 6 th January 2019 | Feast of the Epiphany |
| Monday 7 th January 2019 | Children return to school |
| Friday 11 th January 2019 | School Trip to Pantomime |
| Tuesday 15 th January 2019 | LGC Meeting, 6.00pm |
| Thursday 17 th January 2019 | Year 3 Assembly, 10.15am |
| Friday 25 th January 2019 | Year 5 Assembly, 10.15am |
| Wednesday 30 th January | Dance Festival—Miss Furby and selected children |
| Friday 8 th February 2019 | Year 2 Assembly, 10.15am |
| Monday 11 th February—Friday 15 th | Y6 Danbury Residential Trip (tbc) |
| Thursday 14 th February 2019 | Reception Class Assembly, 10.15am |
| Monday 18 th February—Friday 22 nd February | Spring Half-term week |
| Monday 8 th April 2019—Monday 22 nd April | Easter Holidays |
| Sunday 14 th April 2019 | Palm Sunday |
| Friday 19 th April 2019 | Good Friday |
| Sunday 21 st April 2019 | Easter Sunday |
| Tuesday 22 nd April 2019 | Children return to school |
| Monday 6 th May 2019 | Public Holiday—School Closed |
| Monday 13 th May—Friday 17 th May 2019 | SATs week |
| Monday 27 th May—Friday 31 st May 2019 | Summer Half-term week |
| Monday 3 rd June 2019 | Non Pupil Day |
| Wednesday 24 th July 2019 | Last Day of School Year |
| Thursday 25 th July 2019 | Summer Holidays Begin |