



HOLY FAMILY CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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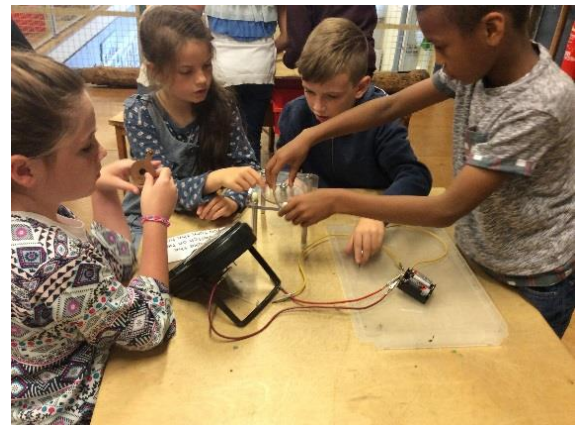
Headteacher Mr P.O'Kane

Newsletter 312 Friday 15th July 2016

What a wonderful day we've all had in school today! The children enjoyed eating their cake-sale purchases and some were also lucky winners in the children's raffle. Mrs Hunter told me that these two events combined raised £382.28 which will be added to the Fun Day total tomorrow.

However, the usual excitement of cake-sale morning was superseded by presence of Miss Emily in the hall to lead an assembly to launch the Road to Rio dance day. Each class was allocated a country and taught a dance to reflect that nation's culture, accompanied by a soundtrack of authentic music. This afternoon, we all gathered in the hall to watch each class perform their dance—it was a fantastic spectacle. Thank you to everyone who sent in a £2.00 donation towards the cost of the day. Special thanks to Miss Lardner for organising the day and to Miss Emily for teaching everyone so well.

But there were a number of enriching experiences on offer this week. On Monday morning, Year 4 set off on their school trip to Sandford Mill near Chelmsford. They had a wonderful time working on various scientific activities. Thank you to Mrs Hurley for organising the trip and to Mrs Herman and the parents who accompanied the children.



I had the privilege of representing Holy Family at St Joseph's School, Canvey Island at a special open air Mass to celebrate their 60th anniversary held on Monday morning. Members of the St Joseph's community all take pleasure in reminding me that theirs is the "senior school" as the Sisters of Mercy established Holy Family after St Joseph's. Bishop Alan celebrated Mass with Mgr Kevin Hale, Fr Eamon Power, PP Canvey and other priests from the deanery including Fr Eduard and Fr Basil. It was a great occasion despite the extremely windy conditions.

Mrs Fisher and Mrs Williams welcomed our new reception children into school over two afternoons—Monday and Tuesday. It will be lovely to see them all again in September when they formally start school.

On Tuesday, Year 6 had their last Holy Family school trip to Greenwich and despite a rainy downpour in the afternoon they had a very enjoyable time. Thank you to Mr Watson for organising the trip and to Mrs Barratt, Miss Lardner, Mrs Bewers, Mrs Clifton and Mrs Whitbourn for accompanying the children throughout the day.

From the oldest to the youngest—RW went to Barleylands on Wednesday to experience a day at the farm. Thank you to Mrs Wall for organising this experience.

Year 5 presented a fantastic assembly to the whole school yesterday morning on the theme of the Olympics. Using dance, drama and song, they told us all about the origins of the Olympic Games in Ancient Greece and brought us right up to date with all the colour and carnival of Rio 2016. It was purely coincidental that Mr Willson our drum teacher was in school at the same time as the assembly. He was able to come into the hall and tell us all about his experience as an Olympic torch-bearer for the London 2012 games. This morning he came into school wearing his Team GB 2012 sports kit and went straight to Year 5 to show them his torch. Some Year 5 children were able to take the torch to all the other classes, so that everyone got to see a real Olympic torch in this, an Olympic year. I am extremely grateful for everything that Mr Willson does for the good of the children in our school, not least in the field of archery.



School reports

The children will receive their reports on Tuesday. They will meet their new teacher on Tuesday as well. Parents can come into school on Wednesday afternoon at 3.30pm if they wish to talk to their child's current teacher about their child's report in an informal manner.

Danbury 2017

Thank you to the parents who attended a meeting with Miss Fordham, Mr Watson and I on Thursday afternoon. There was unanimous support for next year's Danbury residential trip from all those present. A number of parents who couldn't attend also sent messages of support. I will formally ask the governors to approve the 2017 residential trip during our autumn term full governing body meeting. There will be a meeting for current Y5 parents very early in the new term to share further details about the 2017 trip.

Inflatable Fun Day Saturday 16th July

The Fun Day is finally upon us and I know that the children are all very excited about it. As has been tradition in the past, the children will open the event with a song and dance and therefore we would like all children to be at school by 12.50pm.

The school community, under the fantastic guidance of Mrs Lewins and Mrs Hunter has worked very hard to make the day a success and we look forward to seeing you all there!

STOP PRESS: Mrs Hunter and Mrs Lewins declared a total profit of £3977.00 on Saturday evening. This figure may vary as some more money is expected to come in; some more receipts that need to be reimbursed may also come in next week. Thank you to everyone who supported the Family Fun Day—we all had a wonderful afternoon and the weather was extremely kind to us. Special thanks must go to Mrs Hunter and Mrs Lewins who have been the driving force behind the Family Fun Day.

Musical Instruments

The school has a number of stringed instruments that are surplus to requirements. If you would like to purchase a violin or a double bass; a cello or a guitar, please speak with Mrs Fisher or Mrs Lewins. No reasonable offers will be refused.

Parking in the layby

We should be grateful if parents would not park in the layby in Bowers Road as residents are finding it difficult to reverse out of their driveways. Thank you.

Holy Family ELC

The Early Learning Centre has sessions available in September for children aged 3 and above. Children who turn 3 after 1st September can join the setting after their 3rd 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

Dinner Money Arrears

Please be aware that with effect from last Monday 11th July, school dinners are to be paid for on the day on which the meal is taken or children should bring a packed lunch. Thank you.

Piano lessons

There is now only one space for piano lessons with Mrs Rothwell starting in the Autumn Term 2016. The lessons last 15 minutes and are given during the school day. Fees are £75 for 10

lessons per term payable in advance. If your child is in Year 1 or above and is interested in having lessons, please leave their name with the school office.

Fire Station Open Day

Rayleigh Fire Station is holding an Open Day on Saturday 6th August from 10am – 4pm giving children an opportunity to meet the firefighters, look at the fire engines and explore the fire station.

Saint of the Week.

Our school, like many others in this area, was founded by the Sisters of Mercy. It therefore seems fitting to reflect on a group of Carmelite nuns (The Martyrs of Compiègne) who were martyred for the faith on 17th July 1794 at Place du Trône (modern day Place de la Nation), Paris. The good sisters were victims of the “Terror” that pervaded post-revolutionary France. As they went to the guillotine, they were heard to sing the ***Salve Regina***. We sometimes take our Catholic schools and institutions for granted, so it is important to take time to remember the sacrifices of the nuns, priests and brothers who worked so hard to establish and protect our schools in the past.



Stained glass window, Saint-Honoré d'Eylau, Paris

Attendance

RW 93.3% 1C 95% 2FL 95.7% 3L 98.6% 4H **100%** 5B 92.6% 6I 92.9%. Well done to Year 4 for perfect attendance last week. In recent weeks there has been a very worrying decline in our attendance figures which will have an impact on our next Ofsted report. Please do your best to ensure your child attends school every day and avoid booking holidays during term-time.

Motto:

Merciful like the Father

Mr P O’Kane Headteacher

Diary Dates

Saturday 16 th July	Inflatable Fun Day
Wednesday 20 th July	Year 6 Leavers' Assembly, 2.30pm
Thursday 21 st July	Year 6 Leavers' Mass, 7.00pm Holy Family Church
Friday 22 nd July	Last School Day of the Academic Year
Thursday 1 st September	Non-Pupil Day
Friday 2 nd September	Non-Pupil Day
Monday 5 th September	Children return to school
Thursday 20 th October	Non-Pupil Day
Friday 21 st October	Non-Pupil Day
Monday 24 th October—Friday 28 th October	Half-Term Holiday
Thursday 22 nd December 2016—Wednesday 4 th January 2017	Christmas Holidays
Monday 13 th February—Friday 17 th February 2017	Half-Term Holiday
Monday 3 rd April—Friday 14 th April 2017	Easter Holidays
Monday 1 st May 2017	Public holiday
Monday 29 th May- Friday 2 nd June 2017	Half-term holiday
Friday 21 st July 2017	Last day of the school year
Monday 24 th July 2017	Summer Holidays

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