



HOLY FAMILY CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Diocese of
Brentwood

Headteacher Mr P.O'Kane

Newsletter 442 Friday 14th February 2020

On Monday morning, along with parents and relatives, we waved goodbye to our Year 6 children as they set off on their residential trip to Danbury. The children were able to take part in a range of activities including canoeing, caving, climbing and aerial trekking. Throughout the week they were excellent ambassadors for our school, demonstrating good behaviours and positive attitudes. We welcomed the children back on Friday afternoon- tired but happy and full of stories!



The winners of the 'Spirit of Danbury Award'

For support and leadership with problem solving skills across a variety of activities showing confidence when faced with new challenges and being both sensible and patient.

For support and kindness to others, showing empathy and always encouraging others. A very thoughtful pupil who showed perseverance and confidence.

Congratulations and well done Harry & Layla

It was lovely to hear that there was a special Environmental Award presented to Group 3 this year for helping to clear debris and rubbish from the canal whilst canoeing.

A special mention must also be given to the girls in Cabin 9 for winning the Tidiest Cabin Award.

Thank you to the members of staff who gave up their home comforts and family time to accompany the children: Mr Watson and Mrs Mahon and to our wonderful parent helper Mrs Bull. Thank you also to Mr Watson for sending over the fantastic photographs for us to share with the parents.



On Tuesday it was 'Safer Internet Day' and with this in mind our whole school assembly focussed on this very important topic. A range of interactive resources were used in school throughout the day to help children gain a better understanding of 'an online identity' and the importance of keeping safe online.

Attendance Awards During Friday lunchtime, there was great excitement when children who had achieved 100% attendance were invited to a VIP lunch with our Chair of Governors (Mrs Herridge). At 2:30pm, we then all came together at our final assembly for this half term where I was proud to present up to 70 children from Y1 – Y5 with certificates for their 100% attendance. The Year 6 attendance certificates will be presented in assembly after our half term holidays. As an extra incentive, each of the pupils got to choose a small gift. The winner of the £10 half termly 100% attendance prize was Stanley (Y3).



Thank you to Mrs Herridge for giving up her time to attend lunch with the children and to all who helped me organise and set up the VIP lunch for the children. Thank you also to the PGSA for sponsoring the incentive.

Goodbye We said goodbye to Mr Smith in a special assembly on Thursday morning. Some pupils presented Mr Smith with gifts and a card signed by all the children in school. We thank Mr Smith for all he has done in the five years he has been our Holy Family site manager and wish him all the very best in his new job. On our return after February half term, we will welcome Mr Mahon to Holy Family. Mr Mahon has kindly agreed to help us out as our site manager until the vacancy is filled.

Forest Schools Once again, the children in Reception Class had a very stimulating Friday afternoon. Despite the mud, they thoroughly enjoyed themselves and had great fun exploring and building. Thank you to Mr Holmes and Mrs Wall for leading the Forest School session.

Fund raising opportunity One of our parents Mrs Starling has kindly contacted Jet Wheel Tyre in Church Road Benfleet to register us with their incentive scheme. If parents, staff of the school or parishioners of Holy Family Church mention the school when making a purchase, the school will receive 5% back at the end of the year.

Saint of the week On Friday we celebrated St Valentine's Day. But beyond cards, love tokens and the colour red, what do we actually know about this saint? He was a priest in Rome during a time of persecution of Christians under Claudius II. He helped many martyrs and their families, but was eventually martyred himself in 269. He is the Patron Saint of a myriad of causes including engaged couples, bee keepers, epilepsy, happy marriages, love, plague, travellers and young people. He is represented in pictures with birds and roses. When you give and receive your cards, perhaps you could spare a thought for Valentine who made the ultimate sacrifice for the love of Christ.

Thought for the Week "Be the change you want to see in the world" Mahatma Ghandi.

Attendance last week Nursery class 93.1% RF 95.6% 1F 90.8% 2T 98.1% 3W 99.1% 4LB 97.9% 5H 96.3% 6M 95.5% Well done to Year 3 for best attendance last week.

Thank you all for your continued support and kind words throughout this half term. It has been a very busy few weeks, but we hope to welcome Mr O’Kane back to school soon. Please keep Mr O’Kane in your thoughts and prayers.

Mrs N Hurley
Deputy Headteacher

Parish Contact Details

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Diary Dates

Monday 17th February—Friday 21st February

Spring Half-Term Break

Monday 24th February

All Pupils return to School

Monday 2nd March

Grant Strong (visiting author)

Wednesday 4th March

School nurse drop-in 2.30-3.30pm

Friday 6th March

Y5 Day at The Appleton School

Friday 13th March

Y2 Assembly

Friday 20th March

Y3 Assembly

Monday 23rd March

Infant Music Festival Year 2

Wednesday 25th March

Hot Cross Run at 1pm St Thomas More’s High School

Saturday 28th March

PGSA Race Night

Friday 3rd April

Y4 Easter Presentation

Friday 3rd April

PGSA Children’s Disco

Sunday 5th April

Palm/Passion Sunday—Start of Holy Week

Monday 6th April—Friday 17th April

Easter Holidays

Thursday 9th April

Maundy/Holy Thursday

Friday 10th April

Good Friday

Sunday 12th April

Easter Sunday

Monday 20th April

Pupils return to school

Friday 8th May

75th Anniversary of VE Day—Public Holiday

Monday 11th May

KS2 (Year 6) SATs Week

Saturday 16th May

Quiz Night (PGSA)

Wednesday 20th May

KS1 Pentecost Dash – St Teresa’s Catholic Primary

Monday 25th May—Friday 29th May

Summer Half-Term Break

Monday 1st June

Non-Pupil Day 4

Tuesday 2nd June

Pupils return to school

Thursday 4th June

Y3 & Y5 Mary Poppins Trip

Friday 26th June

School Summer Fete (PGSA)

Tuesday 7th July

KS1 Catholic Sports

Wednesday 8th July

KS2 Catholic Sports

Tuesday 21st July

Final school day of Academic Year

Wednesday 22nd July

Non-Pupil Day 5