



HOLY FAMILY CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Diocese of
Brentwood

Acting Headteacher: Mrs N.Hurley

Newsletter 464 Friday 9th October 2020

STARS OF THE WEEK AWARD

The following children were awarded STAR OF THE WEEK by their teachers for the following reasons:



- Marlie (Y1)** for being so lovely, polite, positive and hard working
- Bertie (Y2)** for improved confidence and excellent contributions to class discussions.
- Maria (Y3)** for an excellent Stone Age story
- Ronny (Y4)** for his fantastic effort in English lessons this week
- Jessica (5)** for being a super mathematician - always on task, volunteering answers and explaining her thinking.
- Gabriel (Y6)** for his resilience and determination to master new challenges
- Finlay (Y6)** for his willingness to help others and being a super friend.

Dear Parents & Carers,

It has been another busy week. I have again been very impressed with the learning behaviours of our pupils. Earlier this week, I enjoyed spending time in Reception and Nursery observing how well our youngest children are able to work collaboratively with each other. From a distance I have visited all the classrooms and have seen a variety of high quality learning taking place. Well done children and thank you for maintaining social distance and keeping to the routines for regular hand washing.

On Monday, the school photographers were in school and commented on how well behaved and well-mannered our children are. They also commented on how smart the children looked in the Holy Family School uniform. We are very proud of our uniform, but have noticed a number of children are still wearing the wrong colour coats. Please ensure your child has the correct school coat and all children in KS1 and KS2 need to wear a school tie. If you are unsure about the uniform, please do not hesitate to contact the school office admin@holyfamily.essex.sch.uk for clarification. Please also ensure that all uniform is clearly labelled with your child's name.



As part of our RE programme of study, Come & See, the children have been learning about Judaism this week. Much of our Christian faith is based around Jewish traditions and teachings, so it is important that the children learn about Judaism each year as part of their RE work.

Twelve of our Year 6 children participated in Bikeability sessions this week and we were fortunate with the weather. The leaders commented on the children's mature attitude and their great listening skills while practising road safety on the side roads around the school premises. Thank you children for being great ambassadors for Holy Family School.



Flu Vaccinations

The Immunisation Nurse and Health Care Assistant will be in school to administer the flu vaccinations on Wednesday 14th October. **Please complete the electronic consent form** sent via Parentmail by 5pm, 12th October 2020 to ensure your child receives their vaccination. Please contact your immunisation team on **01702 482830** if you would like any help with the form. Alternatively contact the school office where paper copies are available. The vaccination is free and is a quick and simple spray up the nose.

Parent Consultations

Our non-pupil day is scheduled for **Monday 19th October 2020**. Teachers will be available throughout the day from 8:30am until 5pm to discuss your child's progress. All meetings will be conducted by phone call.

During the meeting with your child's teacher, you will have an opportunity to discuss your child's strengths and also how you can support your child achieve their autumn term targets. Thank you to everyone who has already booked a slot with the class teachers.

Attendance

Our average attendance this week was:

Group	% Attendance
Year 1	94.4%
Year 2	100%
Year 3	94.8%
Year 4	90.4%
Year 5	98.0%
Year 6	92.6%
Overall %	94.9%

ICT Infrastructure Update Project



Our school is currently in the process of replacing the desktops in our ICT suite with 30 Google Chromebooks. All staff laptops and desktop computers are also being replaced and the school's structured cabling infrastructure adjusted. The current hardware is being collected on Monday 12th October. Although the installation of the new hardware and configuration of all equipment will not take place until October half term I am confident that our wonderful

Holy Family teaching staff will once again rise to the new challenge of adapting their teaching styles to life without computers over the next two weeks. Please bear with us during the transfer of our IT systems. My sincere thanks to Mr Richard Shorten at St Thomas More School for his invaluable support and advice throughout this project, including purchasing the equipment required.

We have also secured DfE funding to setup a new Google G Suite to support our school's use of remote learning platforms. Further information and training will be provided once the system is installed.

ADMISSIONS - IMPORTANT UPDATE

If your child is due to start school in September 2021 you will no longer receive a letter from the council inviting you to apply and giving you the relevant opening and closing dates for applications. - please follow this link for further information: <https://www.essex.gov.uk/admissions-to-essex-schools-for-the-next-school-year>

Secondary School Admissions

The application period for Year 7 secondary admissions for September 2021 opens on **11th September 2020**. Parents should apply online via www.essex.gov.uk/admissions. The statutory national closing date for applications is 31st October 2020.

Counselling

If your child is struggling through a painful experience, or is experiencing anxieties for whatever reason, and you would like any further information on how we could support them, through group play therapy, or individual sessions with a counsellor, please do not hesitate to e-mail me and I will arrange for you to speak to Catherine (our school counsellor) or with an outside agency.

Useful COVID-19 website links

Stay at home guidance for households with possible coronavirus (COVID-19) infection

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance>

Stay at home: what to do if you or someone you share your home with has coronavirus symptoms

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/906663/20203007_Easy_read_household_isolation_v3.1.pdf

Guidance for households with grandparents, parents and children living together where someone is at increased risk or has possible or confirmed coronavirus (COVID-19) infection

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/guidance-for-households-with-grandparents-parents-and-children-living-together-where-someone-is-at-increased-risk-or-has-symptoms-of-coronavirus-cov>

Please follow the link to an open letter to parents and carers from Essex police

<https://www.essex.gov.uk/news/essex-county-council-open-letter-to-parents-and-carers>

Saturday 10th October is World Homeless Day, a day in which we focus upon those who have nowhere to belong or stay. Who are these people? They are people like us, only their life has been transformed by the flip of a coin. What do they need? Shelter, care and friendship, all the things Jesus has taught us to give. As we reflect upon the Gospel this weekend, perhaps we could spend some time seeing Jesus in all those we meet, not judging but loving, as Jesus taught us to do!

Religious Education

NEW Ten:Ten Parent Newsletter – October

Please find a link below to the very short but useful newsletter for this month which will help you to support the prayer life of your child <https://www.tentenresources.co.uk/parent-newsletter>

Our Gospel reading this Sunday is from (Matthew 22:1-10): An Invitation to the Wedding Feast

Jesus said to the chief priests and the elders of the people: 'The kingdom of Heaven may be compared to a king who gave a feast for his son's wedding. He sent his servants to call those who had been invited, but they would not come. Next he sent some more servants. "Tell those who have been invited," he said, "that I have my banquet all prepared, my oxen and fattened cattle have been slaughtered, everything is ready. Come to the wedding." But they were not interested: one went off to his farm, another to his business, and the rest seized his servants, maltreated them and killed them. The king was furious. He despatched his troops, destroyed those murderers and burnt their town. Then he said to his servants, "The wedding is ready; but as those who were invited proved to be unworthy, go to the crossroads in the town and invite everyone you can find to the wedding." So these servants went out onto the roads and collected together everyone they could find, bad and good alike; and the wedding hall was filled with guests. When the king came in to look at the guests he noticed one man who was not wearing a wedding garment, and said to him, "How did you get in here, my friend, without a wedding garment?" And the man was silent. Then the king said to the attendants, "Bind him hand and foot and throw him into the dark, where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth." For many are called but few are chosen.' **Are we alert and listening for God's call?**

And Finally....

Thank you to all who continue to show consideration during drop-off and pick-ups by standing back and waiting rather than crowding at the gates. It is vital that we keep practicing 'face and space', especially during the autumn/winter months when colds, flu and other nasty bugs are around.

Please remember all in our local community who need our prayers at this time. Wishing you a peaceful and relaxed weekend.

God bless and thank you for always being so supportive of our wonderful school community.

Mrs Hurley