



HOLY FAMILY CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Newsletter 461 Friday 18th September 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have been blessed with beautiful weather all week. Time is flying by and the children are now very much back into the swing of school life. It is truly wonderful having the vast majority of children back in school and we would like this to continue throughout the academic year. As a school, we continue to work incredibly hard to keep the children and staff safe ~ frequent washing of hands and thorough cleaning of classrooms and resources, all children having individual stationery packs, organising timetables to ensure bubbles do not mix as well as maintaining the separation of bubbles at lunchtime and managing all medical concerns. This is in addition to our amazing Holy Family staff planning and delivering high quality lessons for all children and supporting the children's well-being.

We are doing all we can to avoid the children's education being disrupted; we do not want a class having to isolate for 14 days because of a positive result within a bubble. In order to minimise the chance of this happening, we need our parents and carers to continue to play their part, especially during pick up times after school. Please arrive within the allocated time slots and move off immediately once you have collected your child to avoid over-crowding on the pavement.

Adults collecting Y5 and Y6 pupils should wait along the school perimeter fence leaving a gap on the inside for the children to walk along rather than the children having to pass on the outside of the line.

Please move off the pavement immediately and do not wait or congregate at the railings that run alongside the road, as this leads to people grouping. **All parents/carers must observe social distancing guidance – please stay 2m apart from people you do not live with where possible, or 1 metre with extra precautions in place, such as wearing face coverings**

Our whole school community thank you in advance for your support.

Mobile Phones

Whilst we discourage children bringing mobile phones into school, we fully appreciate that they give a sense of security and reassurance to parents (and children) if a child is walking to and from school without adult supervision. For this reason, to support pupils' growing independence, children in Year 5 and Y6 walking to/from school unaccompanied by an adult, are allowed to bring a mobile phone to school. Before signing the permission slip, please ensure your child understands our school's mobile phone protocol, and the consequences should any of the rules be disregarded.

Water bottles

Thank you to the vast majority of families who have supported the school's request that children bring water to school instead of juice. We are currently working towards achieving our Healthy Schools Award, so unless there is a very specific reason why your child has to drink juice, please help us make it fair to all children. Until further notice, we are happy for your child to have a bottle of sugar free juice for lunch.

Parent Information Sessions

As we are unable to have large numbers of parents and carers in school, class teachers will continue to share information about the curriculum via Class Dojo. At Holy Family, we strive to make our curriculum an exciting, engaging and enriching place for our children and pride ourselves on providing a broad, innovative and balanced approach to learning. The 2020 -2021 curriculum overviews have now been uploaded to the school website and

provide an 'at a glance' view of the subjects and skills required for each year group. The overviews can be used to support children in their work, and with additional research at home.

Parent Consultations

We very much want to 'meet' in order that you can hear about how your child has settled back to school and what they need to work on this term. We are therefore trialling a new way of providing this term's parent consultations. Rather than hosting the meetings on two evenings after school, we will have a non-pupil day on **Monday 19th October 2020** and the meetings with your child's teachers will take place throughout the day from 8:30am until 5pm. All meetings will be conducted via zoom, or by phone call. Information about how parents/carers can book their time slots will be available from Monday 28th September.

SEND Consultations

From next week, we will make contact with parents of children with an EHCP in order to complete any outstanding Annual Reviews which were postponed (before the summer holidays) due to COVID-19.

Pupil Progress meetings are being held in school this week after which meetings with parents/carers of children on SEN Support will take place to confirm any additional support the children will receive. Where possible, to minimise contact in school, meetings will be via zoom or by telephone conversation.

Class Dojo

It is important that you let either the office, or your child's class teacher know if you are unable to access Class Dojo; the weekly class homework letter will be uploaded to the Class Dojo class page and it will also be the main means of home/school communication used by class teachers. Tapestry will be used by Mrs Fisher in EYFS and also by some LSAs who are working with children with specific needs.

Home reading and homework

The children will bring home their school reading books on Mondays and will have them changed on Fridays. To ensure the safe transfer of books from home to school and between different children within the class bubble, it is vital that your child brings their books back on Fridays.

Reading Scheme/Library Book Amnesty

We are aware that many families may still have reading scheme/library books at home since before the lockdown. We would be very grateful if all such books could be returned to school next week and placed in the class 'Reading Book Quarantine Box'.

Providing work for children who have to self-isolate

Our school has been pro-active in preparing for times when some pupils may have to self-isolate as a result of coming into contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19. If your child has to remain at home please encourage them to log onto the White Rose Home Learning website where they will have access to the same maths videos being used in school. Your child's teacher will then upload the White Rose maths worksheets via Class Dojo. By doing this, your child's return to school will be seamless – they will not have missed any new learning. Other slide shows and worksheets used in class to deliver the curriculum may also be uploaded by the class teacher (similar to what we did during school closure). Your child will also have access to Bug Club for reading and can use their My Maths and TT Rockstars log-ins. Spelling frame can also be accessed from home. **Please be mindful that teachers will be busy planning and delivering lessons in school and it is important they don't have a significant increase in their work load.** There may be days when uploading lessons for home-learning are delayed.

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. This is also true if you have a child starting secondary school in September 2021. The onus is on the parent to find out the information themselves - 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.

Nursery & Reception Intake 2020 - 2021

We are all really looking forward to welcoming our new Reception and Nursery children to school in the coming week (starting on Wednesday). Mrs Fisher has been busy this week phoning each family to talk through any concerns they may have and answer any questions. Thank you to everyone who helped in getting the new EYFS classroom ready. Hopefully, we will be able to invite parents / carers into school and give guided tours very soon.

Free School Meal Entitlement (FSM) / Pupil Premium Grant (PPG)

Since 2014, the Pupil Premium Grant has been available to support children from lower income families and enable them to achieve higher academic grades at school. We are able to check eligibility using a simple, secure and confidential online process. Under the PPG arrangement, schools receive funding for every pupil who meets the criteria for free school meals, so it is important for us to ensure that every child that meets the criteria is actually registered at the school. This will allow us to claim much needed money. Other than our office admin, no one will know whether children are on the FSM register or not. If your KS2 child is awarded a Free School Meal entitlement by Essex County Council, the school will also be entitled to apply to the additional Pupil Premium Funding to help support your child in class.

FSM for Reception to Year 2

Children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are automatically entitled to receive a free school meal. Parents with children in these year groups do not have to apply for this entitlement. However, for low income families, schools are entitled to receive additional funding from Essex County Council (known as Pupil Premium) which can be used to support the children in school.

FSM for children in Years 3 - 6

Please register for Free School Meals if you are in receipt of any of the following benefits:

- ✓ Income Support
- ✓ Income based Jobseeker's Allowance
- ✓ Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit
- ✓ and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- ✓ Pension Guarantee Credit
- ✓ Employment and Support Allowance, income related
- ✓ Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act, 1999
- ✓ Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for
- ✓ Working Tax Credit
- ✓ Universal Credit

How to Apply

Go online to [Essex County Council Free School Meals Application](#) or apply over the Telephone by calling 0845 603 2200. Even if your child prefers to bring a packed lunch and does not require a school meal, if your child is entitled to FSMs, please apply as it benefits our school budget and allows us to have additional LSA hours in class to support your child. **Please speak to our school admin team for advice or support with applying for FSMs.**

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.

Clubs

The Breakfast and After School Clubs continue to run very smoothly with numbers attending growing steadily. There are still a limited number of spaces available. Please contact Ms Rita McDowell on **07836 277014**, or e-mail the school office admin@holyfamily.essex.sch.uk

The following clubs also began this week: Lacrosse (Y6) Football Skills (Y5) and Street Dance Club (Y3). Please speak to Mr Holmes, or contact the main office if your child is in one of these year groups and you would like to book a place for your child. We will continue to try to add to the number of clubs available over the coming weeks.

Some children from Y1 had a special invitation to attend the **Year 1 Ready-4-School Club**. If you received an invitation last week, but do not wish to take us up on the offer, please let us know on **Monday 21st** so that we can offer the sessions to another Y1 pupil.

Due to the current restrictions, only one year group will be selected to attend each of the clubs. Detailed risk assessments are available for each club.

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>

Religious Education

Mrs Mahon, our RE subject leader, has kindly put together a summary of what children will cover in their RE lessons during the autumn term. Please read the attached document.

As you are aware, we can no longer lead whole school assemblies in the hall for the children, so we have started using Ten:Ten resources in class each week in school for our gospel assemblies. Please use the following link which will take you to a very short but useful resource to support the prayer life of your child.

<https://www.tentenresources.co.uk/parent-newsletter>

We will continue to keep all our school families and friends in our thoughts and prayers.

Have a lovely weekend and please look after yourselves and each other by following the social distancing rules.

God Bless,
Mrs Hurley