



HOLY FAMILY CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Headteacher Mr P.O'Kane

Newsletter 354 Friday 8th September 2017

Welcome back to the new school year and I hope that you all had a lovely break with your families; many of the children have been enthusiastically sharing their summer holiday stories with me and the other staff members

During Wednesday's assembly we welcomed a new member of staff, Mr Holmes, who will be jobsharing the year 4 class teacher role with Mr Watson. We also welcomed new pupils to Years 1, 3 and 4.

Meet the Teacher

All parents and carers with children in Years 1—6 are invited to attend short introductory meetings with their child's class teacher. Each meeting will start at 3.20pm and we would ask that children do not attend the meetings—teachers will supervise Holy Family pupils whilst their parents attend the meeting, but cannot supervise siblings who are not pupils here. Please consult the **diary dates** below to see when your child's teacher will be meeting parents.

School Uniform

As the weather is still warm your child can continue to wear summer uniform. You will be notified when summer uniform is no longer allowed to be worn. If you are going to buy a coat for your child for the autumn and winter, please remember that our school uniform policy (which all parents agreed to when they chose to send their child to Holy Family School) clearly states that plain black or navy coats should be worn at school. Please don't put your child in an awkward situation by sending them to school in red polka dots or combat camouflage or some other colour scheme as they will be asked where their school coat is. Similarly, black trainers are not the same as plain black school shoes. Some children have returned to school in breach of our school uniform policy with regards to hair and hair adornments. Girls should wear white socks or navy tights. Navy blue socks are not permitted. A number of children have returned with earrings or ear studs. These are not allowed in school and should be removed—covering with tape is not acceptable.

If you are unsure of the school's uniform policy, you can view a copy on the school website. Below, is the paragraph about hairstyles:

Hairstyles should be simple, easily managed and be the child's own natural colour. In the interests of safety and hygiene long hair should be worn tied back. Hair ornaments should be plain and simple such as a hair band or scrunchie and be in one of the school colours (navy, red, yellow or pink/pink gingham in summer). Fancy combs, slides, slips and fashion braids can be dangerous and distract children from their learning and should not be worn; silk flowers and other adornments should not be worn either. Thank

you for supporting the school's uniform policy. It is no accident that visitors and others always comment on how smart children from Holy Family look when they are representing the school.

Preparation for First Holy Communion—a Message from Fr Eduard

Our Sacramental preparation for First Holy Communion will commence in late September and this is open to children in school year 3 and above. The application packs are now available in the lobbies of both churches and the application form itself should be returned to the parish office by **Wednesday, 13th September**. A meeting for parents will take place after the 6pm Mass on Saturday, 16th September.

Parent Governor Staff Association (PGSA) Thank you to all the parents, staff members and governors who attended last night's PGSA meeting. There is a real desire to improve the social life of the school for families as well as meeting the need to raise funds. The PGSA would love to invite families to attend a welcome **FAMILY PICNIC** on the school field on Saturday 16th September, 1.00—5.00pm. Admission will be by ticket only, adults £3.00, children £1.50. As well as the picnic food and drink you bring in your hampers, all adult ticket holders will receive a beer and a burger or hot-dog. All child ticket holders will receive a soft drink and a burger or a hot-dog. Tickets will be on sale on the playground after school next week. Please do come along and meet new parents and old friends. The PGSA would be glad to receive offers of help for this event and others as follows:

Movie Night—Thursday 19th October: KS1 - 3.30-5.00pm and KS2 5.30-7.30pm—movies to be confirmed at the next PGSA meeting (all parents are welcome to attend).

Family Quiz Night –Saturday 18th November 2017 start time 7.30pm—bring your own drinks and nibbles

Christmas Bazaar/Craft Event—Friday 1st December 2017 time to be confirmed.

The PGSA will hold its next meeting on Thursday 12th October at 7.30pm. There are copies of the PGSA minutes in the red pouches by the front office.

Piano lessons There are two spaces for piano lessons this term. At a cost of £75 per term, children receive 10 lessons of 15 minutes during the school day with a qualified tutor from Essex Music Services. (Vouchers are available for a 66% subsidy of the fees if the child comes from a low-income family. Applications for vouchers are made via tuition.vouchers@essex.gov.uk) If you are interested in the piano place, please contact Mrs Duxbury in the school office. The place will be allocated on a 'first come first served' basis with a waiting list after that.

School dinners for Juniors A reminder to last year's Year 2 parents that when your child enters Year 3, you are required to pay for school dinners at a cost of £2.20 in advance or on the day. However, if you think that your child may qualify for free school meals, all details are available on the Essex County Council website www.essex.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals

Dinner Money Envelopes We have custom made dinner money envelopes available from the school office at a cost of £1.50 for 50 envelopes.

Saint of the week Tomorrow 9th September is the Feast Day of St Peter Claver. He was a Spanish Jesuit who ministered to the African slaves being transported across the Atlantic to Columbia. He would take them food, medicine, lemons, tobacco and brandy! He cared for those at the very margins of society, left to fester in terrible conditions, in a loving, Christ-like way. At Holy Family, we like to think that we are able to care for all those in our school, our parish and the wider community. St Peter Claver is an example to us all.



School Health Drop-in service If you have concerns about your child's health then you can use the Drop-in service where no appointments are necessary. The limit is 15 minutes per child but for more in-depth problems please contact the clinic directly to speak to a member of the school nurse team on 01268 686041. The locations are: Little Lions Children's Centre Northwick Park Academy, Third Avenue, Canvey Island, SS8 9SU. Phone 01268 686041 3-4pm 21st September; 5th & 19th October; 9th & 23rd November; 7th December and Oak Tree Children's Centre, Grovewood Primary School, Grove Road, Rayleigh SS6 8UA. Phone 01268 775910 2-4pm 12th & 26th September; 10th & 31st October ;14th & 28th November; 12th December.

Attendance Nursery class 95.4% RF 92.1% 1F 93.3% 2T 89.3% 3W 86% 4D 95% 5LB 94.7% 6F 99% Well done to Year 6 for best attendance during the last week of term.

Mr P. O'Kane

Headteacher

Diary Dates

Tuesday 12th September
Wednesday 13th September

Thursday 14th September

Friday 15th September
Monday 18th September
Tuesday 19th September

Year 4 Meet the teacher 3.20pm
First half of Reception class in school
Year 5 Meet the teacher 3.20pm
Second half of Reception class in school
Year 2 Meet the teacher 3.20pm
Year 1 Meet the teacher 3.20pm
Year 3 Meet the teacher 3.20pm
Year 6 Meet the teacher 3.20pm

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| Wednesday 20 th September | Y1 Phonics Workshop for parents 2.45pm |
| Friday 22 nd September | Year 5 class assembly 10.15am |
| Monday 25 th September | Reception class full-time |
| Thursday 28 th September | School Photographer |
| Friday 29 th September | Year 2 class assembly 10.15am |
| Wednesday 4 th October | Phonics Workshop for parents 2.45pm |
| Thursday 19 th October | Spelling Workshop for parents 2.30pm |
| Friday 20 th October | Non-pupil day |
| Monday 23 rd October—Friday 27 th October | Autumn Half-term Break |
| Friday 3 rd November | Year 1 class assembly 10.15am |
| Friday 10 th November | Year 6 Remembrance assembly |
| Friday 17 th November | Year 4 class assembly 10.15am |
| Friday 22 nd November | Year 3 class assembly 10.15am |
| Wednesday 20 th December | Last Day in School 2017 |
| Thursday 21 st December—Monday 1 st January 2018 | Christmas Holidays |
| Tuesday 2 nd January 2018 | Non-pupil Day |
| Wednesday 3 rd January 2018 | First Day of Spring Term 2018 |
| Monday 5 th February—Friday 9 th February 2018 | Year 6 Danbury Residential |
| Monday 12 th February—Friday 16 th February 2018 | Spring Half-term Break |