



# HOLY FAMILY CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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## Diocese of Brentwood

Headteacher Mr P.O'Kane

### Newsletter 449 Friday 1<sup>st</sup> May 2020

Dear parents,

As yet another week of school closure comes to an end, we continue to be amazed by all the wonderful, imaginative learning that is taking place whilst we are apart. We all recognise the pressures that you as parents and carers must be under, trying to juggle working from home yourselves, looking after and supporting the children with their learning as well as taking care of your family's emotional well-being, so I just want to express my thanks to you all for really rising



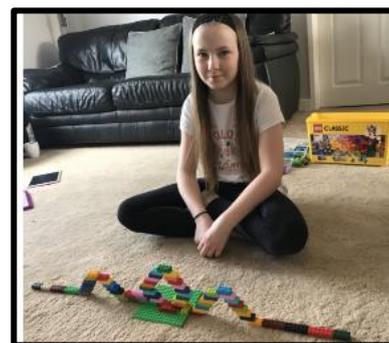
to the challenge! Over the past few weeks, I have heard stories of parents and children who are going that extra mile to support and raise money for the NHS. The photos included in this newsletter are just some of those we have received in school – others will be published shortly.



**Milly** completed a 7k run on Saturday to raise money for the NHS.



**Leo** recently built some intricate Lego models – this is just one example of his creativity.



**Georgia** built a rainbow roller coaster, dedicated to the NHS, for Day 1 of a 30 day challenge.

As teachers, we've had amazing support from families who continually surprise us with their thoughtful ways of expressing their appreciation for the efforts that we are making. We are all one team, all pulling together.

I have been privileged to have had contact with families, within our school community, where key workers face the daily challenges of working on the front line - these dedicated, caring people are shining examples of what it means to put others first. **THANK YOU!**

All the staff continue to work hard to provide learning opportunities for the children. I know they really enjoy seeing the work that the children are producing and being able to interact and give 'dojo' points via **Class Dojo**. We are so proud of our pupils (and adults) for all the effort they are putting into home learning. Please continue to upload examples of your children's work each week, or just leave a brief message to let us know how you are getting on - it is our way of keeping in regular contact and being able to support the children. There has been a terrific response to our teachers reading stories to the children and we thank you for your positive feedback. Each week, I will invite 'guest readers' to join in with our reading project. As the weeks go by, we discover new ways of using Class Dojo to keep the children engaged and we hope to provide additional videos to those available for schools across the country. This week Mr Holmes recorded some PE sessions for KS1 and KS2 whilst Mrs Lewins recorded a 'dude lesson' for her Year 4 class. We have loved all of the photos of children participating in these sessions.





Many of you will have received a phone call during the week from teachers, from Catherine or myself. We will continue to try and call parents and carers we have not yet been able to make contact with. From our conversations, many of you are actually enjoying the opportunity to build some wonderful memories with your children during our school closure period. The photos and conversations we've had with you certainly show this to be true, as do the wealth of photos we've received from you. **Francesca** sent in a photo of a robin's eggs in a nest, Mrs Lewins shared with me a terrific recording by **Aaron** where he had written the lyrics and set his words to music, **Finley** produced the wonderful drawing below, whilst **Layla** baked scones and even made a tutorial video for her portfolio. **Zachary** became an entrepreneur – he built and decorated his own fish and chip shop, made a video to advertise his produce, then prepared the fish supper to sell to his family. As well as developing maths and English skills, it is clear that the children are continuing to develop their art skills, gardening, music, PE, science and history – for this we would like to say well done and **THANK YOU**. From the attached 'Healthy Selfie' sheet of photos, food technology remains very popular and there's even a photo of a child valeting the family car. What a talented bunch of children (and parents/carers) we have at Holy Family!



However, some days home schooling can become increasingly challenging. Issues raised in conversations include: concerns around your children's current emotional well-being, finding it difficult to motivate your children, trying to engage them in written tasks, concerns around your children falling behind other children, difficulties working from home and teaching, limited access to technology etc. First of all, thank you for sharing your concerns and worries. **PLEASE DO NOT WORRY**. We are certainly **NOT** phoning to check up on you – these calls are to offer our support and we are happy to speak to the children if they would like us to say hello. Very clear, safe-guarding procedures are in place - the member of staff will have spoken to me (as designated safeguarding Lead) prior to making the call and when staff are speaking to your child, the phone needs to be on loud speaker and an adult needs to be in the same room as the child. Thank you for your cooperation and understanding.

We are keeping a close eye on the latest Government advice and as soon as we know more about any news linked to school's reopening, we will of course let you know. In the meantime, we will continue to support and provide home learning opportunities for the children through Class Dojo.



### May 8th VE Day Celebration

You will be aware that next Friday (8th May) is a Bank Holiday. School will remain open for childcare for Key Workers' children. As it is a Bank Holiday, work will not be set for pupils at home, or in school on this day.

On Thursday, six of our children wrote VE Day inspired poems and submitted them to the Dan Snow Challenge. They produced some very thought provoking and celebratory acrostic poems. The challenge is one of the ways the Government is trying to encourage children to be involved in this very special anniversary whilst at home. If your child would like to submit some VE Day work, please find details at the link below:

<https://ve-vjday75.gov.uk/dan-snows-ve-day-challenge/>

**Congratulations** to Lizzie (Y6)  
who won a drawing challenge  
for an African Missionary



### ONLINE SAFETY

Remote learning can be a great way to continue learning outside the classroom, but please ensure you have filters and parental controls in place to prevent your children stumbling across inappropriate content.

## **May is the Month of Mary**

We have now entered the month of May. This is the month that we dedicate to Our Lady. If the children were in school, we would be inviting them to set up small prayer spaces for Our Lady in their homes. It would be lovely to see photos of any spaces that are created and I will share them in next week's newsletter.

## **Holy Family School Song video**

Last week, in the school newsletter, you may recall I referred to an exciting new project. A Parentmail was sent out last Thursday providing details for how your child can get involved and the safe-guarding procedures we have put in place. You will find the backing track and lyrics for the school song on the PGSA Facebook page. Please support this project as it will be wonderful to come together as a school in this way, during our time apart. Thank you to all who are involved in organising it and to the children who have already sent in their videos.

All video clips to be included in the final video should be sent to [senco@holyfamily.essex.sch.uk](mailto:senco@holyfamily.essex.sch.uk) by **Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> May 2020**.

## **Parish Contact Details**

Holy Family Catholic Church, 661 High Road, Benfleet, SS7 6SF

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Parish Priest: Fr Eduard Fartan,

[eduard.fartan@yahoo.com](mailto:eduard.fartan@yahoo.com)

[priest@holyfamily-church.org](mailto:priest@holyfamily-church.org)

Parish Secretary: Mrs Clare Dempsey

[office@holyfamily-church.org](mailto:office@holyfamily-church.org)

Telephone: 01268 792082 or 01268 799649

Enjoy the attached sheets showing a selection of photos received via Class Dojo this week.

Look after your families, stay safe and healthy and I hope to see you all very soon.

We will continue to keep all the families who are going through a difficult time in our prayers.

If you need any advice or support, or you just want to let us know you are doing fine, and cannot access Class Dojo, please get in contact via [senco@holyfamily.essex.sch.uk](mailto:senco@holyfamily.essex.sch.uk) or use [admin@holyfamily.essex.sch.uk](mailto:admin@holyfamily.essex.sch.uk)

Our main school office is unmanned at this time, so phone calls will not be answered.



God bless,  
Mrs N Hurley