

# HOLY FAMILY CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

Kents Hill Road, Benfleet, Essex SS7 5PX  
Telephone: 01268 792231 Fax: 01268 759274  
Email: [admin@holyfamily.essex.sch.uk](mailto:admin@holyfamily.essex.sch.uk)  
[www.holyfamily.essex.sch.uk](http://www.holyfamily.essex.sch.uk)



Diocese of  
Brentwood

Headteacher Mr P.O'Kane

## Newsletter 454 Friday 12<sup>th</sup> June 2020

Dear Parents/Carers



It has been another very successful week in school with new routines now embedded. The children and staff have become very creative in finding ways to deliver the curriculum to mixed year groups within our key worker groups. We have had a steady increase in the number of children coming into school so it is reassuring that you are feeling confident in the measures we have put in place to safeguard our school community at this time. A lot can happen in a week, and one thing I have learned is not to worry about what I can't change and to concentrate on making the most of the situation we are in – although this is not always easy to do!



You will have heard the announcement this week that the government has now dropped plans for a return of all year groups to school before the end of the summer term. The government statement said:

*"While we are not able to welcome all primary children back for a full month before the summer, we are working with the sector on the next steps to allow schools that have the capacity to bring back more children in smaller class sizes to do so before the summer holidays. We will provide further details in the coming days."*

As I write this letter, this information has not yet been published. However, we are in the process of reviewing our own capacity, including the number of staff we have available and the amount of space needed. I had hoped to extend the number of days our EYFS children could attend by next week, but due to the significant increase in the number of key worker children now requesting places, our staff capacity and space is limited. For this reason, if your child is in EYFS, Year 1 or Year 6 and you would now like your child to return to school in a class bubble (one day a week) please email the school office [admin@holyfamily.essex.sch.uk](mailto:admin@holyfamily.essex.sch.uk) by 9:30am on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> June. This will enable us to make the most efficient use of available staff and space. We will not be able to accept any requests received after this time. Requests I received yesterday have already been added to the waiting list. We cannot guarantee that we will be able to accommodate all new requests – please understand that the safety and well-being of staff and children will be the driving force behind any decisions made. Preference will be given to the EYFS children. We will continue to do all in our power to provide the very best provision for all our children, whether they are at school or at home and we will update you with any plans for the future as soon as we receive further government guidance.

### **Critical-worker/ Key worker places**

If you are a critical worker, and would like to request a place for your child at school, please email the school office stating your role as a key worker and the dates you will need cover. Further information regarding critical workers can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision>



Places are allocated based on the parents eligibility under the guidance linked above, and are dependent on capacity at school. We have remained open throughout the duration of the schools closure for the children of critical workers and we will continue to endeavour to do all we can to support these families.



## Transition

Details of transition arrangements for all pupils are being considered at the moment and we will inform you of any plans we are able to make, in line with Government advice, as soon as we are able.



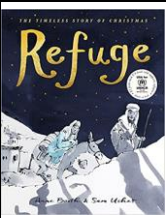
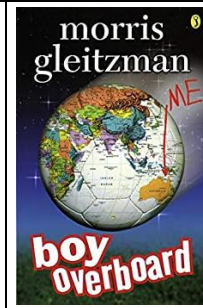
We are currently making special arrangements for Y6 Transition, including possible virtual meetings with teachers from your children's chosen secondary schools and virtual tours of their new schools. We are hoping to invite all Y6 children back into school (socially distanced) for a Retreat Day led by Walsingham House on 14<sup>th</sup> July and we are liaising with Fr Eduard to celebrate Mass for Y6 with their families (date and time to be confirmed). Mrs Monksfield is putting together the end of Year 6 photo slide show. Please send a photo of your child on their first day of school and a recent photo of your child in their school uniform (if possible!). You can either send the photos via the Class, or by email to [admin@holyfamily.essex.sch.uk](mailto:admin@holyfamily.essex.sch.uk)

## EYFS Building Works

It is envisaged that the building project for EYFS will begin shortly - we will keep you updated on progress over the next few weeks.

## Mrs Monksfield's Book Recommendations

June Book of the Month – Refugee Week June 15<sup>th</sup> – June 21<sup>st</sup>

 <p><b>EYFS</b> <b>The Suitcase by Chris Naylor-Ballesteros</b> A weary animal arrives in a new place dragging a suitcase behind him. The animals he meets are very curious about its contents. He tells them what is inside but they are sceptical. To say more would give too much away about this important story that demonstrates simply and thoughtfully the necessity of being welcoming to strangers who are missing their home, as it benefits from an element of surprise on first reading. The strength and simplicity of this picture book's message is enhanced by the use of a limited but carefully chosen palette set against white space.</p>	 <p><b>KS1</b> <b>Lubna and the Pebble By Wendy Meddour &amp; Daniel Egnéus</b> Lubna is lonely when she and father arrive in a refugee camp and she uses her imagination to create a friend by drawing a happy face on a pebble with a felt-tip pen. Then Amir arrives and Lubna has a human friend to play with and to whom she can introduce Pebble which becomes important when it is time for Lubna and her father to move on. A picture book in which the expressions on the characters' faces beautifully enhance and complement a story that is told with simplicity yet has emotional depth.</p>
 <p><b>Lower KS2</b> <b>Refuge by Anne Booth &amp; Sam Usher</b> A donkey tells the story of how, led by a man, he carried a woman to Bethlehem where their baby was born and visited by shepherds and kings. A dream of danger sends them on their way until they reach another country where they find refuge. The people in this family are not named, enabling readers to find even more resonance between this simply and touchingly told version of the Christmas story and what is happening to many refugees in the world today.</p>	 <p><b>Upper KS2</b> <b>Boy Overboard by Morris Gleitzman</b> Morris Gleitzman's writing often combines humour and pathos and this novel is no exception. Football mad Jamal and his family have to leave Afghanistan when the authorities discover that his mother has been secretly running a school. Their journey to Australia is fraught with difficulty.</p>



## Juniper Reading Challenge

**Congratulations Joseph on successfully completing the Juniper Challenge.**

Details for how to get involved can be found in last week's newsletter.

Although we are currently unable to open to all children, we remain here for you all and we will continue to support you as much as possible. Please keep in touch and please continue to communicate with your child's teacher through the class dojo accounts. We love seeing photos of the things you are doing and hearing your news!

Teachers will continue to upload powerpoints and worksheets as well as recommend useful websites each week.

Please continue to log onto: **My Maths, TTRockstars and Bug Club**

Regular daily lessons - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize>

Over 180 video lessons each week on National Oak Academy - <https://www.thenational.academy/>

Storytime daily on Monster phonics <http://bit.ly/3cvcgIM>

Lonely Planet - <https://www.lonelyplanet.com/kids/activities>

Why not visit the Maths Factor website created by Carole Vorderman <https://www.themathsfactor.com/>

Change4life - <https://www.nhs.uk/change4life/activities>

### **ONLINE SAFETY**

With home learning taking place online and more free time spent on devices, it is so important that children are safe. The NSPCC have information on how to set up parental controls on a range of different devices and apps.

Follow the link below for more information. <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/parental-controls/>

### **Fostering & Adoption**

Earlier this week, I received an e-mail asking if I would include information in the weekly school newsletter to raise awareness for this cause. An online Zoom open morning and evening session has been arranged for anybody who may want to know more about fostering and what's involved. People can join the meeting where there will be a presentation along with Q&A session. Please find attached an information sheet, with details of the sessions.

### **Parish Contact Details**

Holy Family Catholic Church, 661 High Road, Benfleet, SS7 6SF [www.holyfamily-church.co.uk](http://www.holyfamily-church.co.uk)

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

In a time of change and uncertainty, even though the rules and guidance are being updated and relaxed, the threat of Coronavirus still hangs over us and for some this is still causing deep worry and anxiety. I would like to reiterate my message from the past few weeks, whatever your circumstances and whatever you have decided for your child, we fully support you and will continue to do so. As a school community, we are here to help – please keep in touch, keep sharing your wonderful photos and stay safe. Please see below some of the wonderful work completed by the children this week.

Thank you to everyone for all your support.

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

God bless,  
Mrs Hurley







