



HOLY FAMILY CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Diocese of
Brentwood

Headteacher Mr P.O'Kane

Newsletter 441 Friday 7th February 2020



We have had another very exciting week in school. Wednesday was rather an unusual day with all the children coming to school in their pyjamas or onesies to take part in World 'Read Aloud Day'. Teachers planned a range of



interesting activities for the children, ranging from reading around the camp fire, performing scripts, making reading crowns and reading by torchlight whilst huddled together in classroom dens. We also had classroom swaps where the children had an opportunity to listen to stories read by teachers from another year group. In the afternoon, during a whole school assembly, every child brought a book to the



hall to read and share their stories with friends. This morning following on from Read Aloud Day, Year 6 performed three short dramas to the rest



of the school. We certainly have some budding thespians in the Upper Juniors!

Yesterday we were treated to a wonderful assembly by the youngest children in our school community. The theme of the assembly was superheroes and princesses and the children looked fantastic in their costumes – as did the staff! Thank you so much to the huge number of parents and grandparents who provided the colourful costumes and came along to support the children. Thanks also to Mrs Fisher, Mrs Moss, Ms Roberts and Mrs McCarthy for preparing the children so well.

On Wednesday morning, Miss Furby arranged for the EYFS and Years 1, 2 and 3 to participate in drama workshops led by the Drama4ALL company. The children imagined that they were 'explorers' and were taken on a trip around the world where they spotted famous landmarks and learned how to say 'hello' in different languages, all the while trying to help the queen collect items from each continent. Everyone had lots of fun and thoroughly enjoyed the experience. If you wish for your child to join the drama club held in local venues, please refer to the leaflet given to each child after the drama workshop.



This morning, EYFS and Year 1 welcomed author Katie Pendrigh into school for a dramatic read of her book 'Mini Mac, The Monster Underneath My Bed'.

Lunch box ideas

A number of children enjoy school meals which are healthy and a great choice, but if your child prefers to have a packed lunch then you may find the attached information document useful. Thank you to Mr Dillon for bringing this to my attention.

In the summer term, Mrs Wall is organising a 'Routes to Food' initiative in school. This will give children an opportunity to make tasty, healthy meals and snacks using real kitchen equipment, under supervision - details to follow.

Swimming Due to essential costly repairs needed to our school swimming pool, we are regrettably unable to run swimming lessons for all the children this year. However, Mr Holmes, who very kindly took on the role of PE subject leader in January, has successfully organised a block of lessons at a local school (South Benfleet) for all Year 4 children. This will allow the children to meet the national curriculum requirements of 25 metres unaided swimming and safety around water, before reaching the end of KS2. For those children currently in Year 6 who do not meet this level, 'catch up lessons' will be arranged. It is hoped to have the school pool in operation again (hopefully next year) once finance for the repairs can be sourced.



This afternoon, the children in Reception Class had a terrific time in the outdoor learning environment. Our first Forest Schools session, led by Mr Holmes (supported by Mrs Wall and Ms Roberts) was a resounding success. The children were engaged in some digging



activities, they made daisy chains, built dens, did some mud painting and generally had a brilliant time. Thank you Mr Holmes for giving up your time to set up Forest Schools.

School Uniform At Holy Family School we have always prided ourselves on the smartness of our school uniform and it is often commented upon when the children are out and about representing the school. However, standards are slipping slightly and this is a gentle reminder to parents and carers about certain items of uniform: please ensure that your child is wearing a school tie with their shirt or blouse; trainers are not part of school uniform other than during a PE lesson so shoes and not boots should be worn; coats should be black or navy blue. If you have a query about school uniform, full details of our school uniform policy are to be found on the school website. Thank you for your co-operation and support in this matter.

Fund raising opportunity One of our parents Mrs Starling has kindly contacted Jet Wheel Tyre in Church Road Benfleet to register us with their incentive scheme. If parents, staff of the school or parishioners of Holy Family Church mention Holy Family School when making a purchase, our school will receive 5% back at the end of the year.

Saint of the week On Wednesday it was the Feast Day of St Agatha of Sicily. She suffered a particularly awful martyrdom at the hands of a high ranking Sicilian official, Quintian. There has long been a tradition

of blessing loaves and bells on her feast day. She is one of seven women, along with the Blessed Virgin Mary, who are commemorated by name in the Canon of the Mass. Her Feast Day is a major annual event in Catania where she was born.

PGSA First Aid Evening This event was well attended and feedback really positive. We are now hoping to organise practical, fun and interactive First Aid training for all the children during school hours.

Please speak to a member of the PGSA committee, or see the poster advertising the PGSA **race night**. A number of horses and jockeys will be sold in advance of the night. If you want to own a horse and/or jockey but cannot attend on the evening, any ownership winnings will be passed on after the event. If you know of any companies that may wish to sponsor a race and be advertised in the race card, please encourage them to contact us.

Thank you to the members of the PGSA who are working tirelessly to raise funds for our school and to all parents / carers / friends of the school who are always willing to support the events.

Thought for the Week “Change will not come if we wait for some other person or some other time. We are the ones we’ve been waiting for. We are the change that we seek.” Barack Obama.

Attendance last week RF 97.6% 1F 96.3% 2T **100%** 3W 93.9% 4LB 90.3% 5H 91% 6M 93.8% Well done to Year 2 for 100% attendance last week.

Parish Contact Details

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

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Mrs N Hurley

Deputy Headteacher

Diary Dates

Monday 10th February–Friday 14th February

Year 6 Residential Trip

Monday 17th February—Friday 21st February

Spring Half-Term Break

Monday 24th February

All Pupils Return to School

Monday 2nd March

Grant Strong (visiting author)

Wednesday 4th March

School nurse drop-in 2.30-3.30pm

Friday 6th March

Y5 Day at Appleton High School

Friday 13th March

Y2 Assembly

Friday 20th March

Y3 Assembly

Monday 23rd March

Infant Music Festival Year 2

Saturday 28th March

PGSA Race Night

Friday 3rd April

Y4 Easter Presentation

Friday 3rd April

PGSA Children’s Disco

Sunday 5 th April	Palm/Passion Sunday—Start of Holy Week
Monday 6 th April—Friday 17 th April	Easter Holidays
Thursday 9 th April	Maundy/Holy Thursday
Friday 10 th April	Good Friday
Sunday 12 th April	Easter Sunday
Monday 20 th April	Pupils Return to School
Friday 8 th May	75 th Anniversary of VE Day—Public Holiday
Monday 11th May	KS2 (Year 6) SATs Week
Saturday 16 th May	Quiz Night (PGSA)
Monday 25 th May—Friday 29 th May	Summer Half-Term Break
Monday 1 st June	Non-Pupil Day 4
Tuesday 2 nd June	Pupils Return to School
Thursday 4 th June	Y3 & Y5 Mary Poppins Trip
Friday 26 th June	School Summer Fete (PGSA)
Tuesday 21 st July	Final School Day of Academic Year
Wednesday 22 nd July	Non-Pupil Day 5