



# HOLY FAMILY CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Headteacher Mr P.O'Kane

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## **Newsletter 289 Friday 8th January 2016**

Welcome back and a Happy New Year to you all. I hope that you and your families had a wonderful Christmas time together.

I am very pleased to be joining Holy Family School, working alongside Mr O'Kane as Headteacher and have enjoyed my first week getting to know both staff and children. I have been warmly welcomed by both.

During Monday morning's assembly we welcomed Mr David Slade to the school as our Year 5 teacher.

### **Safeguarding**

Safeguarding is everybody's responsibility and appropriate use of social media sites by all members of the school community is required. In this year of Mercy allocated by Pope Francis, let us lead by example and recognise the need to stop, reflect and think before we use social media to inflict hurt and discord. Are you acting in a Christ like way?

### **School gate congestion**

Once you have said goodbye to your children in the morning, please move away from the entrance to the school gate to allow access for other parents and children. Thank you.

### **A message for Reception class parents and carers**

Thank you to parents and carers of children in our Reception class for saying goodbye to their children at the school gate this week and allowing them to walk in to school on their own like the rest of the children. Any messages may be passed to the office or a note placed in your child's bookbag.

### **Whole school pantomime trip Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> January**

On Monday, the children brought home a letter concerning our annual trip to the Wednesday Players Pantomime at The Palace Theatre. This year the performance will be Sleeping Beauty. If you have not already done so, please return the permission slip and payment of £12.50 (to cover the cost of the ticket and coach travel) as soon as possible. Thank you.

Please could we request for all children to arrive at school promptly at **8.40am** in order that they may be registered promptly. Therefore, we will open the school gate at 8.30am to allow children to come straight into class to be registered before we depart. All children will be given a drink and a biscuit during the interval—there is no need for anyone to bring money for sweets or ice-creams.

### **Permanent dinner menu change**

Mrs McAnulty has advised that the Wednesday option on the week 2 menu will now be gammon and not pork.

### **School Meals**

During the winter and cold weather, we would like to encourage as many children as possible to have a hot school lunch. Our new menus are working well with the addition of a third option of a jacket potato on some days, offering more variety. So, why not give your child the opportunity to try a hot, healthy, nutritious lunch to see them through the day – free for all KS1 pupils!

Having a healthy, balanced meal in the middle of the day has been proven to improve pupils' learning and well-being and it also presents them with an ideal opportunity to enjoy the full dining experience, learning social skills and interacting with their friends.

Parents of fussy eaters may be reassured that children are more flexible with their eating habits when they are eating with their friends. Perhaps the children could initially try a meal with which they are familiar such as fish fingers or a roast. Even if the children will be eating another hot meal in the evening with the family, the amount of energy they expend during the day both physically and mentally means that they need to refuel well.

If you have any questions regarding school lunches whether it be about menus, special diets / allergies or the dinner hall, please contact the school office or our Catering Manager, Mrs Willis.

### **Fluenz immunisation**

There is a catch-up clinic on Canvey Island for any children who missed the immunisation opportunity in school. If you would like to book an appointment, the clinic's number is 01268 366606.

### **BATIC Family Sports Clubs**

The Batic Trust will be running a sports club for children and family members / guardians. The venue is, The Deanes Sports Centre every Saturday from 16<sup>th</sup> January to 19<sup>th</sup> March 2016 excluding February half-term. Times: 2-3pm KS1 children and family; 3-4pm KS2 children and family. A maximum of 2 adults to attend per child. There are still places available and you can reserve a place via email by contacting [batctrust@thedeanes.essex.sch.uk](mailto:batctrust@thedeanes.essex.sch.uk) with the following information: name of student, school, year group, contact mobile number, email, number of children/adults attending.

### **Primary School Admissions**

Parents of children born during the period 1<sup>st</sup> September 2011 to 31<sup>st</sup> August 2012 can now apply for primary school places up until **15<sup>th</sup> January 2016**. Apply online at [www.essex.gov.uk/admissions.You](http://www.essex.gov.uk/admissions.You) also need to complete a Supplementary Information Form which you can collect from the school office. Please be aware that the deadline is fast approaching.

Father Eduard has asked us to remind parents that he will be available to meet with them to issue Certificates of Catholic Practice to families known to him and who are practising Catholics. These meetings will take place following the 6pm Mass on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> January and Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> January. Parents will need to book an appointment time by entering their details on the sign-up sheets which are now available in the Holy Family Church lobby.

### **School Health Drop-in service**

Details of the new dates for the School Nurse drop- in service are now available from the School Office.

### **Saint of the week**

On Monday 11<sup>th</sup> January, it is the feast day of Blessed William Carter, a bookseller from London. He was arrested and tortured at the Tower of London for publishing Catholic books and literature during the reign of Elizabeth I. He was executed for his beliefs and was beatified by Pope John Paul II. It is hard for us to appreciate how difficult it was for Catholics so close to home in years gone by.

### **Attendance**

RW 93.% 1C 90.7% 2FL 86% 3L 92.8% 4H 98% 5B 95.8% 6I 96%. Well done Year 4 for best attendance in the last week of the Autumn Term.

Wishing you an enjoyable weekend and Father Eduard is looking forward to seeing you at Mass at either Holy Family Church, Benfleet or St Thomas More, Hadleigh.

God Bless

From

Mrs S Birtles and Mr P O’Kane

Headteacher

### **Diary Dates**

Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> January Whole school trip to the Pantomime – Sleeping Beauty

Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> January Young Voices concert O2 Arena years 5 and 6

Monday 8<sup>th</sup> –Friday 12<sup>th</sup> February Year 6 Residential Trip to Danbury

Monday 15<sup>th</sup> – Friday 19<sup>th</sup> February Spring half-term

There is a CALENDAR section on the school website—[www.holyfamily.essex.sch.uk](http://www.holyfamily.essex.sch.uk)