



# HOLY FAMILY CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Headteacher Mr P.O'Kane

## Newsletter 301 Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2016

What a colourful place the school was today with the children and staff resplendent in their red and white clothes in honour of St George. We held our non-uniform day in order to raise money for our second Corporal Work of Mercy ***“Give water to the Thirsty”*** which we discussed in assembly on Monday. The amount raised was a fantastic £286.28 which means that we have more than doubled our target of £123 to buy a water pump. Special thanks to the families in the ELC who also supported today's fundraising. A cheque is on its way to CAFOD.

We held a special St George's Day assembly this morning—Mrs Hunter was on hand to take some photographs.



The football team were in action on Thursday afternoon at home against Kingswood Primary School. The score was 5:1 to Holy Family. Thank you to Mr Watson and Mr Lawrence for training the team.

We welcomed Father Eduard in to school on Wednesday to celebrate Mass with our KS1 and Foundation Stage children. The children read and sang beautifully and with great maturity. It was lovely to see some parents, grandparents and parishioners join us for Mass.

As the weather improves, it's tempting to stay a little longer on the playground at the end of the school day to have a chat. However, it's important that everyone leaves the playground as quickly as possible so that the gate can be locked promptly. The children should not ride their bikes or scooters on the playground at the end of the day, nor should they engage in ball games.

### **Funding Bids**

The school governors have applied to the diocese for grants to create new changing rooms for swimming and to repair and rejuvenate the large adventure playground that is currently unsafe. We are extremely hopeful that our bids will be successful.

### **School and Parish Fundraising**

Holy Family School is an integral part of Holy Family Parish. For many years the Development Fund Committee has organised major fundraising events such as the fete and bazaar. If you would like to get involved with fundraising for the school and parish, please make contact with the Development Fund Committee via the office at Holy Family Church.

### **Swimming Lessons**

We are so fortunate at Holy Family to be able to offer swimming lessons on site to our pupils and I am pleased that lessons will start this coming week. Mr Smith has worked hard to have the pool ready for us. Details of the lesson times were set out in the letter which the children brought home earlier in the week. As swimming is part of the PE curriculum at school, we expect all pupils to take part in this wonderful opportunity. I know that the children enjoy swimming with their friends.

### **Drum Lessons**

There are vacancies for drum lessons on the school's drum kit with John Willson. The lessons take place on a Thursday morning and are 15 minutes long. The cost is £75 per term (payable in advance) for 10 lessons. If your child is interested in learning to play, please contact the school office.

### **Music Scholarships: Brentwood Ursuline Convent High School**

Brentwood Ursuline Convent High School is offering music scholarships to 17 girls of the Year 7 intake for September 2017. A letter from the Headteacher explaining the procedure for applications is in the Holy Family school foyer. Parents wishing to apply should submit the appropriate form which is on the Ursuline school website [www.buchs.co.uk](http://www.buchs.co.uk) by 15<sup>th</sup> July 2016. The Year 6 open evening for the 2017 intake is on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> October 2016.

### **School Health**

Drop- in service

Any parents with health and developmental concerns about their children may drop in to the Central Canvey Primary Care Centre, Long Road, Canvey Island SS8 OJA. They are able to perform hearing tests and no appointment is necessary.

The drop-in clinic dates are: 5<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> May; 16<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> June; 14<sup>th</sup> July.

For more in-depth problems please contact the clinic directly on 01268 686041 for an appointment with the school nurse.

### **House Points**

Well done to St Joseph's (yellow team) who were the winners of the house points competition last week with 812 points.

### **Attendance**

RW 99.3% 1C 93.3% 2FL 93% 3L 92.1% 4H 99.7% 5B 98.8% 6I 91.3%. Well done to Year 4 for best attendance once again last week.

### **Saint of the week**

As you will all be aware, tomorrow is St George's Day. Although he was not actually English, nor did he ever set foot on English soil, George is regarded as a hero by Englishmen and women everywhere. His red cross is the flag of England and forms part of the Union flag with the crosses of St Andrew and St Patrick. It is generally believed that George was a Roman soldier from the Eastern Empire who converted to Christianity. It is thought that he fought for good against evil he encountered; giving rise to the myth that he killed a dragon. The dragon symbolises evil and all that is bad. St George's heroism won him many fans and as well as being the patron saint of England he is also the patron saint of people with skin diseases, soldiers, horsemen and horses, field workers, Aragon and Catalonia (Spain), Canada, Ethiopia, Georgia, Germany, Malta, Portugal and Venice (Italy) to list only a few of his patronages. Perhaps as we reflect upon St George and his legacy, we can pray to him as we seek to conquer our own "dragons and demons" that life throws at us.

### **Midday Assistant**

We are looking to appoint a Midday Assistant who enjoys working with children to join our friendly team of midday staff. If you, a family member or friend is interested please contact Maxine Henderson at the school office for further details.

**Motto:** **Merciful like the Father**

From

Mr P O'Kane  
Headteacher

### **Diary Dates**

Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> May	School Closed—Public Holiday
Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> May	Personnel Governors' Meeting
Saturday 7 <sup>th</sup> May	First Holy Communion, Holy Family Church
Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> – Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> May	KS2 SATS Week
Saturday 14 <sup>th</sup> May	Family Day—Holy Family Church
Tuesday 24 <sup>th</sup> May	NFER Pilot Tests (Y6)
Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> May	Crowning of Our Lady
Monday 30 <sup>th</sup> May—Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> June	Summer Half-Term Holiday

Monday 13<sup>th</sup> June

Year 1 Phonics Screening Week

Friday 1<sup>st</sup> July

Non-pupil day

**We are aware that the school website is not fully up to date. This issue is being addressed and we are grateful for your continued patience and perseverance—the technician will be coming into school to remedy our problems very soon.**