



HOLY FAMILY CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Diocese of Brentwood

Acting Headteacher: Mrs N.Hurley

Newsletter 463 Friday 2nd October 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Another great week. We are really impressed with the quality of work being produced by the children and are now beginning to see real progress with their learning. They are remembering so much from before Lockdown and credit must also go to the remote learning so many were engaged with at home over the summer months. I was privileged to be invited to a wonderful Y3 history lesson this week linked to the Stone Age and I was also really impressed with the results of Y1 work linked to Jackson Pollock.

As the weather gets wetter and colder, it is essential that your child comes to school with the right clothing, including suitable school shoes and winter coat. If you are having any financial difficulties at this time and unable to provide a school coat in line with our school uniform policy, please speak to a member of staff. We may be able to locate a good quality second hand coat for your child.



October is a busy month in school, marking Black History Month and the month of the Rosary. We will also be fundraising for CAFOD this month. More information on this will come to you in a separate letter.

STAR OF THE WEEK AWARD

The following children were awarded STAR OF THE WEEK by their teachers for the following reasons:



- Terry (Y1)** for his wonderful attitude to learning and beautiful manners.
- Ireoluwayinka (Y2)** for her excellent contribution to class discussions
- Danni (Y3)** for significant improvement in her handwriting
- Antonio (Y4)** for an amazing character description in an English lesson
- Yvie (Y5)** for always trying her best, contributing questions and being eager to learn.
- Ella (Y6)** for her eagerness to learn and completing all home learning tasks.
- John (Y6)** for always being cheerful and polite and showing great resilience

We are very pleased to announce the Year 6 House Captains for this year. We know you will all be fabulous! It is a very important role as the children selected become the role models for all the children in the school. Their jobs will be very different this year, but just as responsible.



St Thomas More:	St John Bosco	:	St Joseph:	St Mary:
Amber	Georgia		Abigail	Bailey
Freddie	Finley O		Leo	Iqra

School Photographs

On Monday 5th October the school photographer will be in school to take individual photographs of the children. Siblings in school may be taken together – we will confirm this on the day - but due to Covid measures, we will not be able to include the siblings from home this year. **Please ensure your child comes to school in their winter uniform including wearing their school cardigan or jumper.**

Children who have PE on Monday should bring their PE kit with them and change into it for their PE lesson.

Bikeability

This week, some of our Year 6 pupils will be taking part in Bikeability. Fingers crossed they have good weather! Bikeability will help the children develop road sense and become safer cyclists. This is a free course that is offered to year 6 every year. **Children who are taking part in Bikeability should wear their winter uniform to school and change into it after they have their photograph taken.**

Parent Consultations

We have a non-pupil day scheduled for **Monday 19th October 2020**. Teachers will be available throughout the day from 8:30am until 5pm to discuss your child's progress. All meetings will be conducted via zoom, or by phone call. During the meeting with your child's teacher, you will have an opportunity to discuss your child's strengths and also how you can support your child achieve their autumn term targets. Thank you to everyone who has already booked a slot with the class teachers.

Attendance

We have been extremely fortunate very few pupils had to self-isolate so far and this is partly due to the great effort all our families are making to keep themselves and each other safe by social distancing and by wearing face coverings. It is understandable that children will catch colds and feel unwell, so we thank all the parents and carers for following the guidance about when it is safe to send your child to school and when it is advisable to keep them at home and get them tested. Your co-operation with the school has been greatly appreciated over the past few weeks. Thank you.

Our average attendance this week was:

Group	% Attendance
Year 1	94.1%
Year 2	100%
Year 3	91.7%
Year 4	98.0%
Year 5	98.0%
Year 6	95.2%
Overall %	96.1%

Providing work for children who have to self-isolate

If your child has to remain at home please encourage them to log onto the White Rose Home Learning website where they will have access to the same maths videos being used in school each day. By doing this, your child's return to school will be seamless – they will not have missed any new learning. Your child will also have access to Bug Club for reading and can use their My Maths and TT Rockstars log-ins. Spelling frame can also be accessed from home. Please keep in regular contact with your child's teacher via Class Dojo if you have any queries.

TT Rockstars Leader Board



Name	Year
Bradley	Y6
Abiraam	Y3
Antonio	Y4
Gayatri	Y6
Joseph	Y5
Abigail	Y6
Aruniga	Reception

When it comes to **Times Tables**, speed AND accuracy are important – the more facts your child remembers, the easier it is for them to complete harder calculations. Times Table Rock Stars is a fun and challenging programme

designed to help pupils master the Times Tables. Please ask your child's teacher about this on-line program. All children from Year 1 to Year 6 have their personal log-ins. A special **WELL DONE** to Aruniga from Reception who has been working her way through the Times Tables since the start of lock down.

Intra-school Daily Mile Destinations competition.

This week all year groups have once again shown great determination in completing their daily mile challenge. The competition is close and should this continues for the rest of this term, there could be two winning classes. Keep up this brilliant effort.

Well done! A healthy body leads to a healthy mind!

Cohort	Completed	Week 2 Total
Year 1	5 daily mile events	10 miles
Year 2	4 daily mile events	8 miles
Year 3	5 daily mile events	10 miles
Year 4	3 daily mile events	6 miles
Year 5	3 daily mile events	6 miles
Year 6	4 daily mile events	8 miles



EYFS Classroom

If any parent / carer from across the school would like to see inside the new EYFS classroom, please inform a member of the EYFS team or the school office and we will be happy for you to step inside, in small groups, after school on Fridays. Phase 2 of the EYFS building project will be completed during the October half term – this will include installing the new EYFS playground equipment, replacing the safety railings at the main entrance and landscaping the grounds

ADMISSIONS - IMPORTANT UPDATE

If your child is due to start school in September 2021 you will no longer receive a letter from the council inviting you to apply and giving you the relevant opening and closing dates for applications. This is also true if you have a child starting secondary school in September 2021. The onus is on the parent to find out the information themselves - please follow this link for further information: <https://www.essex.gov.uk/admissions-to-essex-schools-for-the-next-school-year>

Secondary School Admissions

The application period for Year 7 secondary admissions for September 2021 opens on **11th September 2020**. Parents should apply online via www.essex.gov.uk/admissions. The statutory national closing date for applications is 31st October 2020.

Free School Meal Entitlement (FSM) / Pupil Premium Grant (PPG)

Since 2014, the Pupil Premium Grant has been available to support children from lower income families and enable them to achieve higher academic grades at school. We are able to check eligibility using a simple, secure and confidential online process. Under the PPG arrangement, schools receive funding for every pupil who meets the criteria for free school meals, so it is important for us to ensure that every child that meets the criteria is actually registered at the school. This will allow us to claim much needed money. Other than our office admin, no one will know whether children are on the FSM register or not. If your KS2 child is awarded a Free School Meal entitlement by Essex County Council, the school will also be entitled to apply to the additional Pupil Premium Funding to help support your child in class.

FSM for Reception to Year 2

Children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are automatically entitled to receive a free school meal. Parents with children in these year groups do not have to apply for this entitlement. However, for low income families, schools are entitled to receive additional funding from Essex County Council (known as Pupil Premium) which can be used to support the children in school.

FSM for children in Years 3 - 6

Please register for Free School Meals if you are in receipt of any of the following benefits:

- ✓ Income Support
- ✓ Income based Jobseeker's Allowance
- ✓ Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit
- ✓ and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- ✓ Pension Guarantee Credit
- ✓ Employment and Support Allowance, income related
- ✓ Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act, 1999
- ✓ Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for
- ✓ Working Tax Credit
- ✓ Universal Credit

How to Apply

Go online to [Essex County Council Free School Meals Application](#) or apply over the Telephone by calling 0845 603 2200. Even if your child prefers to bring a packed lunch and does not require a school meal, if your child is entitled to FSMs, please apply as it benefits our school budget and allows us to have additional LSA hours in class to support your child. **Please speak to our school admin team for advice or support with applying for FSMs.**

Counselling

If your child is struggling through a painful experience, or is experiencing anxieties for whatever reason, and you would like any further information on how we could support them, through group play therapy, or individual sessions with a counsellor, please do not hesitate to e-mail me and I will arrange for you to speak to Catherine (our school counsellor) or with an outside agency.

Clubs



The Breakfast and After School Clubs continue to run very smoothly with numbers attending growing steadily. There are still a limited number of spaces available. Please contact Ms Rita McDowell on **07836 277014**, or e-mail the school office admin@holyfamily.essex.sch.uk This week the children enjoyed playing with lots of new board games, playdough and drawing materials.



Drama Club

We received the following message from Sarah Beale who visited our school over the past few years and provided free drama sessions to all year groups. Sarah has asked us to share details about her current drama classes via our school newsletter.

We are offering all children an introductory free class which can be booked at this link -

<https://www.perform.org.uk/free-drama-class> Parents can also watch a video about our safety measures at [perform.org.uk/covidsafety](https://www.perform.org.uk/covidsafety). We'd also be delighted to offer any of your children a £40 discount should they decide to sign up. Thank you so much and if you have any questions do get in touch.

Sarah Beale PERFORM4ALL COORDINATOR

Email: sarahbeale@perform.org.uk Tel. 0207 255 9134

Y5 & Y6 Drop-off and Pick-up

To avoid congestion at the school gate, please encourage your children to use both the pedestrian gate and the car park gate to gain access to school in the morning and when leaving school at the end of the day. Kents Hill Road is a very busy road and I have noted on occasion that some adults and even children are having to step into the road to get past others. Please move off immediately when you have collected your child.

Useful COVID-19 website links

Stay at home guidance for households with possible coronavirus (COVID-19) infection

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance>

Stay at home: what to do if you or someone you share your home with has coronavirus symptoms

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/906663/20203007_Easy_read_household_isolation_v3.1.pdf

Guidance for households with grandparents, parents and children living together where someone is at increased risk or has possible or confirmed coronavirus (COVID-19) infection

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/guidance-for-households-with-grandparents-parents-and-children-living-together-where-someone-is-at-increased-risk-or-has-symptoms-of-coronavirus-cov>

Please follow the link to an open letter to parents and carers from Essex police

<https://www.essex.gov.uk/news/essex-county-council-open-letter-to-parents-and-carers>

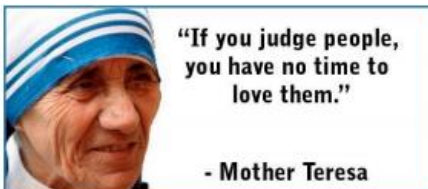
Religious Education

***NEW* Ten:Ten Parent Newsletter – October**

Please find a link below to the very short but useful newsletter for this month which will help you to support the prayer life of your child <https://www.tentenresources.co.uk/parent-newsletter>

Our Gospel reading this Sunday talks about Jesus being the cornerstone. Like the cornerstone of a building which is laid to provide support and strength, Jesus is the cornerstone of our faith, the rock on which the Church has been built upon. He knows how it felt to be cast aside and asks that we do not cast others aside, but see Jesus in them.

Saturday 10th October is World Homeless Day, a day in which we focus upon those who have nowhere to belong or stay. Who are these people? They are people like us, only their life has been transformed by the flip of a coin. What do they need? Shelter, care and friendship, all the things Jesus has taught us to give. As we reflect upon the Gospel this weekend, perhaps we could spend some time seeing Jesus in all those we meet, not judging but loving, as Jesus taught us to do!



Please remember all in our local community who need our prayers at this time. Wishing you a peaceful and relaxed weekend.

God bless and thank you for being so supportive of our wonderful school community.

Mrs Hurley