



## 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 377 Friday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2018

We have had a very busy week both inside and outside school. Thank you to all those parents and carers who attended parent contact meetings this week. I trust that they were helpful and informative.

Members of our school choir sang at The Salvation Army Citadel in Hadleigh on Saturday evening. Mrs Lewins was extremely proud of the children who, in her words, **“Sang brilliantly in front of the mayor and Rebecca Harris M.P.”** Thank you to the parents and children who supported our engagement with members of the wider community. Thanks also to Mrs Lewins for her continued involvement with our school choir.



During Monday's whole school assembly, I spoke to the children about the importance of doing the right thing at the right time—especially in this holy season of Lent. I also had the pleasure of giving out 100% attendance wristbands.



Some of our younger children were singing in front of an audience on Tuesday. Our Year 2 children attended the annual Infant Music Festival. Although the Infant Music Festival in non-

competitive, there was no doubt in Miss Tranah's mind as to who the best singers were: **Year 2 Holy Family**. Thank you to all the parents and other family members who supported the children. Thanks also to Miss Tranah and Mrs Fisher for preparing the children for the event. Mrs Clark has been teaching the children sign language which they used during their performance—a number of people made positive comments to Miss Tranah about this. Thank you Mrs Clark.

On Wednesday, Year 1 presented their class assembly on the theme of Special People Who Help Us. This assembly had to be rearranged because of the snow closures, but it was lovely that so many parents and grandparents were able to attend the rescheduled event. Through song, dance, acting and prayers, Year 1 certainly helped all present to understand that there are people in our community such as doctors and police officers who dedicate their lives to helping others. Thank you to Miss Furby and Miss Roberts for preparing the children for their assembly.

Yesterday afternoon, our netball squad were in action against Winter Gardens School, Canvey. Holy Family was the dominant force throughout the game, winning 15:0. Well done to all the squad members and thank you to Mrs Bewers for coaching the team so well.

Today, the school fielded a team in a cross-country running event at Deanes School. Over 20 primary schools took part. A number of our squad members had strong individual performances, most notably Abigail Barber who received a bronze medal in the Year 3 girls' race. Thank you to Mr Lawrence for organising our participation. Thanks also to Mrs Bewers, Mr Holmes and Miss Trigg for joining Mr Lawrence in accompanying the squad to Deanes.

**Young Writers** Miss Furby is extremely proud of the children in her class. They wrote poems that were submitted to the Young Writers competition. Nationally, there were over 12000 entries. The editors and judges have selected many of the Holy Family Year 1 poems for publication in a book called *Little Riddlers 2018—Essex* which is scheduled for publication on 31<sup>st</sup> May 2018. Well done Year 1 and thank you to Miss Furby for organising the children's participation in the competition.

**Changes to Term Patterns** A number of local schools wrote out to parents earlier this week informing them of changes to their holiday patterns. These schools feel that unauthorised holiday absences are a problem and that by creating a two week break for the autumn half-term, there may be a reduction in unauthorised absences. A number of our parents believed that Holy Family School was also making the same changes. Holy Family School did not write out to parents this week as we will not be changing our term pattern at this point in time. Unless there is an official announcement from the school, please do not assume that Holy Family automatically does the same as other local schools. At some point in the near future, Holy Family and other Catholic schools in our deanery will be forming a Multi Academy Trust (MAT)—Assisi Catholic Trust (ACT) to deliver the vision for Catholic education set out by Bishop Alan. Once Holy Family is a part of ACT, we may set term dates in conjunction with the other schools that are members of ACT.



**The Holy Family**

**Prayer to the Holy Family** Jesus, Mary and Joseph, in you we contemplate the splendour of true love; to you we turn with trust. Holy Family of Nazareth, grant that our families too may be places of communion and prayer, authentic schools of the Gospel and small domestic churches. Holy Family of Nazareth, may families never again experience violence, rejection and division; may all who have been hurt or scandalized find ready comfort and healing. Holy Family of Nazareth, make us once more mindful of the sacredness and inviolability of the family and its beauty in God's plan. Jesus, Mary and Joseph, graciously hear our prayer. Amen

**Saint of the Week** Tomorrow is the Feast Day of St Patrick, the Patron Saint of Ireland. Thanks to his clever use of the humble shamrock plant, he was able to explain the concept of the Holy Trinity—three in one. Patrick brought the faith to the people of Ireland, despite his own mistreatment at the hands of the Irish when he was young. The seeds of faith that he sowed led countless Irish priests, nuns and monks throughout the world to take the faith to others. There would be no Holy Family School if it wasn't for the Sisters of Mercy, founded by Mother Catherine McAuley from Dublin, coming to this part of Essex to provide Catholic education in the best traditions of St Patrick.



**Thought for the Week** *“Where can we go to find God if we cannot see Him in our own hearts and in every living being?”* Swami Vivekananda , Indian Spiritual Leader.

### **Parish Contact Details**

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

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 Julie Herridge,

[office@holyfamily-church.org](mailto:office@holyfamily-church.org)

Telephone: 01268 792082 or 01268 799649

RF 96.5% 1F 93.9% 2T 96% 3W 82% 4W 92.3% 5LB 95.7% 6F 97.3%. Well done to Year 6 for best attendance last week.

Mr P. O'Kane

Headteacher

**Diary Dates**

Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> March	PGSA Meeting, 7.30pm
Thursday 22 <sup>nd</sup> March	World Book Day
Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> March	Year 2 Class Assembly, 10.15am
Sunday 25 <sup>th</sup> March	Palm (Passion) Sunday
Monday 26 <sup>th</sup> March	Lenten Reconciliation Service
Monday 26 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 1 Easter craft afternoon 1.30-3pm
Tuesday 27 <sup>th</sup> March	Rock Steady Concert, 9.15am
Tuesday 27 <sup>th</sup> March	Hot Cross Run (KS2)
Wednesday 28 <sup>th</sup> March	Nursery & Reception Easter craft morning 9.30-11am
	Year 2 Easter craft afternoon 1.30-3pm
Thursday 29 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 4 Solemn Easter Presentation, 2.15pm
Thursday 29 <sup>th</sup> March	Holy Thursday
Friday 30 <sup>th</sup> March	Good Friday (School Closed)
Sunday 1 <sup>st</sup> April	Easter Sunday
Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> April	Public Holiday (School Closed)
Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> April—Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> April	Easter Holidays
Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> April	First Day of Summer Term
Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> April	Year 3 Class Assembly, 10.15am
Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> April	St George's Day
Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> May	Public Holiday (School Closed)
Monday 14 <sup>th</sup> May	Beginning of SATs Week
Sunday 20 <sup>th</sup> May	First Holy Communion, Holy Family Church, Benfleet
	Crowning of Our Lady, 2.30pm
Friday 25 <sup>th</sup> May	Half-term Holiday
Monday 28 <sup>th</sup> May—Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> June	School Talent Show
Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> June	PGSA Camp Out
Saturday 9 <sup>th</sup> June	Junior Music Festival, Cliffs Pavilion (Choir)
Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> June	Mass of Thanksgiving, First Holy Communicants
Sunday 17 <sup>th</sup> June	School Sports Morning (Years 1—6)
Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> June	<b><i>Nursery Class and Reception Class will organise their own Sports Morning—date tbc</i></b>
	Year 3 Eucharist Day, St Bernard's
Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> July	Year 7 Induction Day, St Thomas More
Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> July	Year 7 Induction Day, St Thomas More & St Bernard's
Friday 6 <sup>th</sup> July	Year 5 Taster Day, King John School
	PGSA Summer Fete
Friday 6 <sup>th</sup> July	Leavers' Assembly, 2.30pm
Saturday 7 <sup>th</sup> July	Leavers' Mass, 7.00pm, Holy Family Church
Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> July	
Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> July	