



HOLY FAMILY CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Headteacher Mr P.O'Kane

Newsletter 314 Friday 16th September 2016

The mini-heatwave we experienced this week has provided lots of opportunities for outdoor fun at playtime and lunchtime, but it has made the classrooms unpleasant and unbearably hot at times. For the foreseeable future, all children can still attend school in their summer uniforms, although today's weather may suggest that autumn has arrived.

On Monday and Tuesday of this week we welcomed the children of our new Reception class in to school. I have been down to their class each day this week and so far it seems that everyone is settling in fairly well. We also welcomed a number of children to other year groups who have moved to the area during the summer holidays.

During Monday's assembly I got the children to think about the story of the Prodigal Son which had been part of the Gospel reading at last Sunday's Mass. The children in Holy Family seem a lot wiser than the Prodigal Son. They could recognise the qualities that true friends have, unlike the Prodigal Son who wasted his money on "fair weather friends" that abandoned him when his money ran out.

We said, "Goodbye and good luck!" to Mrs Wall during this morning's assembly as she leaves us for a while to begin her maternity leave. We all wish her and her family the very best and look forward to seeing her visit school in the future with "Baby Wall."

Since the beginning of the new term, all the teachers have been using a beautiful cross on the altar as a focal point for our thoughts and prayers. The cross was presented to the school by Mrs Bull on the occasion of her son Alex passing on from Holy Family to Year 7. The cross has been blessed by Fr Eduard and it is a daily reminder that we are all a family—in this school; in this parish and in God's wider world.

Hand-made Cross by Mrs Bull



Continuing with the religious theme, one of our Year 6 pupils attended a Christian event during the summer holidays called Greenbelt. Joshua Collins was there with his family and 10000 other worshippers. Joshua was more than a mere member of the congregation—on the Sunday morning of the event Joshua was one of a number of children who led the liturgical celebration with the Archbishop of Canterbury. He was brave enough to read in front of the crowd and later spent time with Archbishop Welby; he even got to ask the bishop a question.

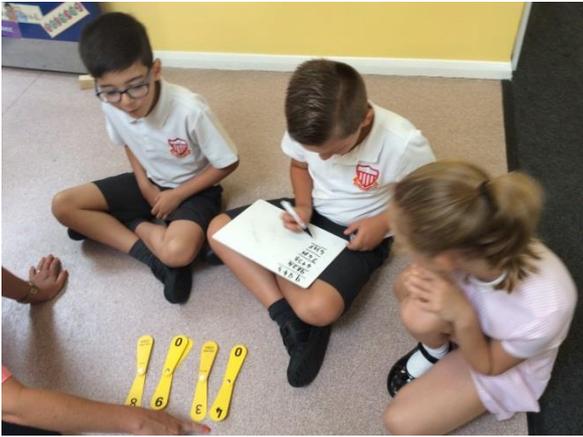


Joshua with the Archbishop of Canterbury & Other Child Liturgy Leaders

I am very privileged to do the job that I do in school—it enables me to get around the classrooms and see the children and the staff at work. Unlike my school days, work doesn't always have to be boring or mundane. Mrs Hurley and I have witnessed some fantastic teaching and learning opportunities this week—the most interesting being in Year 2 with fish!



A fishy English lesson in Year 2



Maths in Year 4



PE in Year 1

Online Learning

At Wednesday's staff meeting, Mr Watson showed all teachers how to use the latest version of My Maths which takes account of the more challenging expectations that children now face. In the coming days, Mrs Lewins as our Maths Subject Leader will ensure that all teachers and pupils have got the correct login details so that they can take full advantage of the wonderful learning opportunities that My Maths offers—at home and at school. Similarly, Mrs Hurley guided all teachers through a Bug Club session. Children should be able to access the e-books and associated tasks at home very shortly. This is a fantastic resource for helping all our pupils to develop as confident readers.



Late arrivals

It is disappointing that in the first weeks of the new term, we have had a substantial number of children marked as 'late' in the school register—28 in the first two weeks. Please ensure that your child arrives on time for school by **8.50am** at which time the school gate will be closed by the teacher on duty. Thank you for your support in this matter.

Healthy Tuck

Holy Family was awarded Healthy Schools status last term. Part of our commitment to maintaining Holy Family as a health promoting school means that we want to see children enjoying healthy snacks at break and lunch times. Please support the school in this initiative, not to help us get enhanced accreditation, but because it is beneficial for your child and all our other pupils. To this end, we politely ask parents and carers to stop providing unhealthy snacks for their children. Too many children are bringing crisps, chocolate, cakes and sweets to school on a daily basis.

Meet the Teacher

Thank you to those parents who have attended their 'Meet the Teacher' meetings this week. I hope that they have been helpful and informative. If you need to see your child's teacher at any point, please contact the school office to make an appointment. Thank you.

Reading Books

The children will have brought home their new reading books this week. All our school books have now been banded according to a new national colour banding scheme, so please do not be alarmed if your child appears to be "on the wrong colour." All teachers received training on how to allocate e-books via Bug Club. Again, Mrs Wall, Mrs Hurley and other staff members have worked hard to align the Bug Club resources to the new banding scheme.

First Holy Communion 2017

Mrs Herridge from the Parish Office would like to share the following information:

The 2016/2017 First Holy Communion Programme will be commencing in late September or early October. To be eligible children should be in school year 3 or above in September 2016 and should already be attending Sunday Mass weekly with their families. Application packs are now available from either Holy Family Church or St. Thomas More Church and should be returned to the parish office no later than Wednesday, 21st September. Parents and children (potential communicants) should come along to a meeting after the 6pm Mass on Saturday, 24th September.

Wednesday Players ticket prize

If you are the lucky winner of 4 tickets to the Wednesday Players show next week, please contact the school office who will put you in touch with Jackie Poth. Thank you and enjoy!

School Dinners for Juniors

A reminder to Year 2 parents that when your child enters Year 3 you are required to pay for school dinners at a cost of £2.20 in advance or on the day. However, if you think that your child qualifies for free school meals, all details are available on the Essex County Council website www.essex.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals

Dinner Money Envelopes We have custom made dinner money envelopes available from the school office at a cost of £1.50 for 50 envelopes.

Drum Lessons Drum lessons with Mr Willson will begin on Thursday 22nd September so please could the drum pupils bring in their books and sticks on that day. There are some spaces for lessons for children from Year 1 upwards. The fees are £75.00 per term for 10 lessons of 15 minutes, payable in advance. The lessons take place during school time. If your child is interested in playing, then please contact Mrs Duxbury in the school office.

PE Kits Please ensure that your child has a full PE kit in school every day : PE shirt with logo, navy shorts, plimsolls (or trainers) and Holy Family PE sweatshirt for colder days. We will no longer be allowing children to borrow PE clothing from their siblings or friends as this is not hygienic and also wastes valuable PE time at the start of the lesson. We are grateful for your co-operation and understanding in this matter.

Holy Family ELC The Early Learning Centre has sessions available in September for children aged 3 and above. Children who turn 3 after 1st September can join the setting after their 3rd birthday, however, fees are payable until they are eligible for government funding.

The Early Learning Centre and Reception Class work in close partnership and form our Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) classes. This supports our young children to play and learn in an environment that is well resourced, safe and secure. Parents, children and staff see and experience the long-term benefits of attending the ELC. Children become familiar with their future school environment and they form good friendships with their peers and learn to work as a strong group that progress together throughout their primary school life.

It would be beneficial to everyone if families in the school support the ELC to ensure it remains viable for the future. The ELC is open to all so please pass this information to any friends or families who are looking for a setting for their child

Saint of the Week On Sunday it is the feast day of St Joseph Cupertino. As a child and young adult, Joseph found it difficult to do things carefully and correctly and thus was often treated badly by his family, friends and other villagers. However, as he put more and more faith in God, he found that he was able to persevere with tasks and studies, eventually to become a Franciscan Friar, devoted to Our Lady. He is the patron saint of aviators—in pictures he is often depicted in mid-air as it is believed he was able to levitate miraculously.



Attendance 1F 99.7% 2T 93.8 % 3W 92.9% 4D 92.8 % 5LB 97.3% 6F 94.8%
Well done **Year 1** for best attendance during the first week of term.

Motto: **Merciful like the Father**

The community of Brentwood Cathedral invites those who have been betrayed, or physically and emotionally abused to Mass at 6.30pm this Sunday September 18th.

Mr P O’Kane Headteacher

Diary Dates

Tuesday 20th September Year 3 **Meet The Teacher**, 3.30pm

Thursday 22nd September Year 1 **Meet The Teacher**, 3.30pm

There will be no meeting for Reception Class as Mrs Fisher has made home visits.

Friday 23rd September Year 4 Class Assembly, 10.15am

Saturday 24th September 6.00pm Mass followed by 2017 First Holy Communion Meeting, Holy Family Church

Thursday 29th September School Photographs

Friday 30th September Year 1 Class Assembly, 10.15am

Monday 3rd October World Faith Study Week—Judaism

Sunday 9th October Harvest Family Mass, Holy Family Church, 10.00am

Tuesday 11th October Full Governing Body Meeting, 6.30pm

Wednesday 12th October Year 5 & 6 Mass, 9.30am, School Hall (Parents/Parishioners Welcome)

Friday 14th October Year 6 Girls to Visit St Bernard’s School

Monday 17th October Finance & Premises Governors’ Meeting, 6.00pm

Thursday 20th October Non-Pupil Day

Friday 21st October Non-Pupil Day

Monday 24th October—Friday 28th October Half-Term Holiday

Friday 4 th November	Year 2 Class Assembly, 10.15am
Wednesday 9 th November	Year 3 & 4 Mass, 9.30am, School Hall (Parents/Parishioners Welcome)
Friday 11 th November	Year 6 Class Assembly, 10.15am
Sunday 13 th November	Remembrance Sunday Family Mass, Holy Family Church, 10.00am
Friday 18 th November	Year 5 Class Assembly, 10.15am
Friday 25 th November	Year 3 Class Assembly, 10.15am
Sunday 27 th November	First Sunday of Advent
Thursday 1 st December	KS2 Children Walk to Holy Family Church for Mass & Rehearse Christmas Presentation
Friday 2 nd December	Dress Rehearsal Morning for Christmas Presentations
Monday 5 th December	Christmas Production Afternoon (Elderly of the Parish & Grandparents)
Monday 5 th December	Finance & Premises Governors' Meeting 6.00pm
Tuesday 6 th December	Christmas Production Afternoon (Parents & Carers—Limited Tickets)
Wednesday 7 th December	Christmas Production Afternoon (Parents & Carers—Limited Tickets)
Thursday 8 th December	KS2 Children Walk to Holy Family Church for Mass & Rehearse Christmas Presentation
Thursday 8 th December	KS2 Children Christmas Performance in Holy Family Church (All KS2 Children to Attend)
Wednesday 21 st December	Advent Reconciliation Service
Wednesday 21 st December	School Christmas Dinner
Wednesday 21 st December	Christmas Hat Assembly
Thursday 22 nd December 2016—Wednesday 4 th January 2017	Christmas Holidays

Thursday 5 th January 2017	First Day of Spring Term
Friday 6 th January 2017	Mass for the Epiphany (tbc)
Monday 6 th February 2017	Year 6 Danbury Residential Trip
Friday 10 th February 2017	Year 6 Return from Danbury
Monday 13 th February—Friday 17 th February 2017	Half-Term Holiday
Wednesday 1 st March	Ash Wednesday—Lent Begins
Tuesday 21 st March 2017	Hot Cross Run (Catholic Schools' Cross Country Event) (tbc)
Monday 3 rd April—Friday 14 th April 2017	Easter Holidays
Sunday 9 th April 2017	Palm (Passion) Sunday—Start of Holy Week
Thursday 13 th April 2017	Holy Thursday
Friday 14 th April 2017	Good Friday
Sunday 16 th April 2017	Easter Sunday
Monday 17 th April 2017	Public Holiday—School Closed
Tuesday 18 th April 2017	First Day of Summer Term
Monday 1 st May 2017	Public Holiday—School Closed
Monday 8 th May 2017	SATs Week Begins
Monday 29 th May- Friday 2 nd June 2017	Half-term Holiday
Thursday 20 th July 2017	Leavers' Mass (tbc)
Friday 21 st July 2017	Last day of the school year
Monday 24 th July 2017	Summer Holidays Begin

There is one more non-pupil day that needs to be set for 2016-2017 academic year