



HOLY FAMILY CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Headteacher Mr P.O'Kane

Newsletter 355 Friday 15th September 2017

We welcomed the new Reception children into school on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. I was privileged to be able to spend time with the children on Wednesday and Thursday. Mrs Fisher tells me that the children are settling in well.

On Wednesday Father Eduard came into school for the first whole School Mass of the academic year. This was such a lovely reverent occasion with impeccable behaviour and beautiful singing from the children which was commented upon by a visitor from Essex LA.

Welcome Picnic Thank you to everyone who has bought tickets for tomorrow's Welcome Picnic on the school field, 1.00pm—5.00pm. Hopefully this event will give new parents and “not-so-new” parents an opportunity to meet socially at the start of a new school year. Tickets can still be purchased on the gate tomorrow--£3.00 for adults; £1.50 for children. All ticket holders can claim a burger or hot-dog; adult ticket holders will be given a beer. The PGSA hopes that this event will kick-start a series of social and fundraising events for 2017-18 as set out below:

Movie Night—Thursday 19th October: KS1 - 3.30-5.00pm and KS2 5.30-7.30pm—movies to be confirmed at the next PGSA meeting (all parents are welcome to attend).

Family Quiz Night –Saturday 18th November 2017 start time 7.30pm—bring your own drinks and nibbles

Christmas Bazaar/Craft Event—Friday 1st December 2017 time to be confirmed.

Strictly Night—January 2018: Mrs Burns has offered to host a dance evening that promises to be a night to remember!

The PGSA will hold its next meeting on Thursday 12th October at 7.30pm. There are copies of the PGSA minutes in the red pouches by the front office.

Year 1 Class Assembly Miss Furby has been fortunate to secure the visit of an author to round off our school book week. Unfortunately, the author could only visit on Friday 3rd November. As a consequence, Miss Furby will have to set a new date for the Year 1 class assembly.

#Nut Minimisation Policy# Holy Family is a nut free school and we would remind all parents and carers that, under no circumstances, should nuts of any kind be brought into school. This includes nut based sandwich spreads such as Nutella etc. as it could potentially have serious consequences for one of our pupils. Thank you.

After School Clubs This year we hope to offer an exciting package of clubs that will be run by external providers such as Southend United. We will shortly be starting a dance club in

association with Mala Dance and Mr Lawrence and Miss Tranah are in discussions with a number of other organisations.

Meet the Teacher I hope that those parents who attended the meetings with their child's class teacher this week found them to be helpful. Please consult the diary dates below if you have not yet had your meeting. Each meeting will start at 3.20pm and we would ask that children do not attend the meetings—teachers will supervise Holy Family pupils whilst their parents attend the meeting, but cannot supervise siblings who are not pupils here.

Preparation for First Holy Communion—a Message from Fr Eduard

Our Sacramental preparation for First Holy Communion will commence in late September and this is open to children in school year 3 and above. The application packs are now available in the lobbies of both churches and the application form itself should have been returned to the parish office this week. A meeting for parents will take place after the **6pm Mass on Saturday, 16th September.**

Year 6 Parents—Secondary School Admissions 2018 The Essex Local Authority online application system opened on 12th September 2017 and the last day for receipt of applications in paper or electronic forms is Tuesday 31st October 2017. Applications may be made online via www.esses.gov.uk/admissions and last year 98% of parents in Essex applied online. The website also has a copy of the Secondary Education in Essex 2018-2019 booklet. [www.essex.gov.uk/Education-Schools/Schools/Admissions/Documents/secondary Admissions Booklet.pdf](http://www.essex.gov.uk/Education-Schools/Schools/Admissions/Documents/secondary%20Admissions%20Booklet.pdf)

Please check the specific application processes of each secondary school—Catholic secondary schools will require all parents to complete a Supplementary Information Form (SIF) and (where applicable) submit a Priest's Reference Form (PRF—see next newsletter item). Some schools may require your child to take an entrance exam, an aptitude test or undergo an audition for a particular specialism such as drama or dance.

Premier League Kicks This football scheme began on September 11th and is free to 8-19 year olds. The most local session to Holy Family for primary age pupils is at St Thomas More High School in Westcliff from 5.30-7.30pm on Tuesdays. For more information call 01702 341351 or email cohesion@southendunited-cet.co.uk

School dinners for Juniors A reminder to last year's 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 may qualify 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.

School Health Drop-in service If you have concerns about your child's health then you can use the Drop-in service where no appointments are necessary. The limit is 15 minutes per child but for more in-depth problems please contact the clinic directly to speak to a member of the school nurse team on 01268 686041. The locations are: Little Lions Children's Centre Northwick Park Academy, Third Avenue, Canvey Island, SS8 9SU. Phone 01268 686041 3-4pm 21st September; 5th & 19th October; 9th & 23rd November; 7th December and Oak Tree Children's

Centre, Grovewood Primary School, Grove Road, Rayleigh SS6 8UA. Phone 01268 775910 2-4pm 26th September; 10th & 31st October ;14th & 28th November; 12th December.

Saint of the Week Today is a special Feast Day for Mary—Our Lady of Sorrows. All parents know that a child brings joy and sorrow into their lives. Jesus had a particularly hard life and Mary was with him right to the end. The sorrows that Mary felt were like a sword piercing her heart and Catholics have a strong tradition of praying to Our Lady of Sorrows.



Attendance 1F 96.3% 2T 98.9% 3W 98.9% 4HW 96.4% 5LB 97.6% 6F 98.9% Well done to Years 2,3 and 6 for joint best attendance last week.

Mr P. O'Kane

Headteacher

Diary Dates

Monday 18 th September	Year 3 Meet the teacher 3.20pm
Tuesday 19 th September	Echo Photographer for new Reception class
Tuesday 19 th September	Year 6 Meet the teacher 3.20pm
Wednesday 20 th September	Y1 Phonics Workshop for parents 2.45pm
Friday 22 nd September	Year 5 class assembly 10.15am
Monday 25 th September	Reception class full-time
Thursday 28 th September	School Photographer
Friday 29 th September	Year 2 class assembly 10.15am
Wednesday 4 th October	Phonics Workshop for parents 2.45pm
Thursday 19 th October	Spelling Workshop for parents 2.30pm
Friday 20 th October	Non-pupil day
Monday 23 rd October—Friday 27 th October	Autumn Half-term Break
Friday 10 th November	Year 6 Remembrance assembly
Friday 17 th November	Year 4 class assembly 10.15am
Friday 22 nd November	Year 3 class assembly 10.15am
Wednesday 20 th December	Last Day in School 2017

Thursday 21st December—Monday 1st January 2018 Christmas Holidays

Tuesday 2nd January 2018 Non-pupil Day

Wednesday 3rd January 2018 First Day of Spring Term 2018

Monday 5th February—Friday 9th February 2018 Year 6 Danbury Residential

Monday 12th February—Friday 16th February 2018 Spring Half-term Break