



HOLY FAMILY CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Headteacher Mr P.O'Kane

Newsletter 330 Friday 13th January 2017

Monday was the Feast Day to mark the Baptism of the Lord, so Monday's assembly was all about Christ's Baptism in the Jordan by John the Baptist. I reminded the children that through our own baptisms we are all called to be followers of Jesus each and every day.



Mrs Herridge from the parish office came into Year 4 on Tuesday morning to talk to the children about church groups such as the Knights of St Columba. This was linked to their RE topic of **Community**. On Wednesday, Charles, a former chorister from Brentwood Cathedral came into Year 4 to talk to the children about the role and responsibility of being a chorister in the wider community.



Also on Wednesday, Years 5 & 6 took part in a wonderful road safety initiative with Essex Police and the local authority road safety officer. The children found out about some of the hazards that bad driving can cause and were given access to a speed gun to monitor the

streets around the school. In total, 19 drivers were stopped for speeding and were given a choice by the police officer—speak to the children about road safety issues or be issued with a £100 fine and 3 penalty points. Only one driver refused to acknowledge the danger he was causing and would not speak to the children. He's now £100 poorer!

Our Year 1 children went for a walk beyond the school gate on Thursday so they could find out more about their local environment for geography. Thank you so much to the army of parents and grandparents that volunteered to accompany the children on their walk. It was a very successful activity.



Yesterday afternoon was rounded off with a surprise visit to Year 3 by Tyler Witherall. Tyler was feeling a lot stronger yesterday afternoon, and decided he wanted to come into school to be with his classmates. To say there was great excitement is an understatement. Thank you all so much for the prayers, love and support that you have all shown to Tyler and his family at this time. We all prayed for Tyler and his family during this morning's assembly; I also told the children that Tyler is ill once again. A number of children were awarded Angel Certificates at this morning's assembly as their names had been entered into our Book of Angels. Children's names are put in the book for a whole host of reasons by way of thank you for good work and good deeds.

Finally, thank you all so much for battling the treacherous roads and footpaths this morning to get your children to school. I sent out our **Severe Weather Advice** to all families via Parentmail yesterday evening. Hopefully this current cold spell will not lead to a school closure. Mr Smith deserves special thanks. He got in extra early this morning to grit all our internal paths around the school and a section of the playground—his efforts were greatly appreciated by staff and children alike.

Diocesan Information for parents wishing their child to attend a Catholic Primary School

A Certificate of Catholic Practice should be requested from your Parish Priest in person and only one per child will be issued. Please apply for one of these from Fr. Eduard **after the 6pm Mass on 14th January**. Meetings will take place in Holy Family Church Meeting Room. Sign-up sheets for appointments are available now in the Holy Family Church lobby. These Certificates will be issued to families known to your Parish Priest and who are practising Catholics.

Music For Schools change of day Woodwind lessons with Amy Jago will now take place on MONDAY mornings so please remind your children to bring their instruments in on that day. Lessons commence on Monday 9th January. Thank you.

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.

The locations are: Central Canvey Primary Care Centre, Long Road, Canvey Island, SS8 OJA. Phone 01268 686041 2-4pm 19th January; 2nd & 23rd February; 16th March 2017.

Oak Tree Children's Centre, Grovewood Primary School, Grove Road, Rayleigh, SS6 8UA. Phone 01268 686041 10th & 24th January; 7th & 21st February; 7th & 21st March 2017.

Mr P. O'Kane
Headteacher

Diary Dates

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| Saturday 14 th January 2017 | Certificate of Catholic Practice Session (After 6.00pm Mass), Holy Family Church Meeting Room |
| Monday 16 th January 2017 | Danbury Parents Meeting Y6, 3.30pm |
| Wednesday 18 th January 2017 | Whole School Theatre Visit (Beauty & The Beast—Wednesday Players, Palace Theatre) |
| 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 |
| 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 1st May 2017

Public Holiday—School Closed

Monday 8th May 2017

SATs Week Begins

Monday 29th May- Friday 2nd June 2017

Half-term Holiday

Thursday 20th July 2017

Leavers' Mass (tbc)

Friday 21st July 2017

Last day of the school year

Monday 24th July 2017

Summer Holidays Begin

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