



HOLY FAMILY CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

Kents Hill Road, Benfleet, Essex SS7 5PX
Telephone: 01268 792231 Fax: 01268 759274
Email: admin@holyfamily.essex.sch.uk
www.holyfamily.essex.sch.uk



Headteache

Newsletter 366 Friday 8th December 2017

The children and staff have been conducting final rehearsals of their Christmas productions this week and the sound of wonderful singing has been ringing around the school. Based on yesterday's dress rehearsal, you are all in for a treat! We look forward to seeing grandparents and parishioners on Monday afternoon and parents and carers on Tuesday and Wednesday afternoon. We should be grateful if there are no very young children or 'babes in arms' at the performances as they can often cause distraction for our performers. Thank you for your understanding in this matter.

We expect to see all our KS2 children in Holy Family Church next Thursday evening for the final performance. This is always a very moving evening as the performance in the Church is a special one.

Today, as is tradition, our KS2 children walked to Holy Family Church to attend morning Mass to celebrate the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, followed by a rehearsal for the performance next Thursday evening. They were accompanied by members of staff and a large group of parent volunteers whom we would like to thank for giving up their time to help.

I hope you enjoyed the beautiful sound of the school choir singing carols in the playground yesterday afternoon and thank you for your donations totalling £32.85 which will be sent to **BCCS**. Mrs Lewins and the School Council would also like to thank parents who supported their raffle during the Christmas Fayre that raised £100 for **Mission Together** (Children Helping Children), one of Bishop Alan's chosen charities.



Mission Together is the Pope's official children's charity for overseas mission. Previously known as **Holy Childhood**, **Mission Together** has been working in Catholic schools and parishes worldwide since 1843, encouraging children to pray, fundraise and become missionaries themselves - children helping children.



There may be members of the school community – parents and grandparents who will remember our former Headteacher Sister Mary Barry. Sadly, we have just heard that she has been diagnosed with cancer and is awaiting treatment. She has asked that you keep her in your prayers at this time.

On Tuesday morning we welcomed parents and carers into school for our first ever Rocksteady Rock Concert. The children who have been attending weekly Rocksteady sessions performed a selection of Christmas songs with Phil their music teacher. Considering the children have only been participating in Rocksteady lessons for less than a term, they were mightily impressive.



The Hash Tag Band



Heads and Tails



The Zombie Hamsters



Brentwood Catholic Children's Society Advent Appeal Earlier in the week the children brought home an Advent candle money box as part of the BCCS Advent appeal. The society would be grateful to receive donations in the box which the children can return to the school office. Thank you in advance for your generosity and for those boxes already returned. Last year the BCCS counselled 1500 young people within our diocese, including children from Holy Family.

Dinner money arrears and Christmas Dinner

Due to banking arrangements, all dinner money for the last three days of term 18th/19th/20th December must be paid in advance by **Friday 14th December**.

Christmas Dinner day will be the last day of term Wednesday 20th December and will cost £2.50 for KS2 children only; this includes a special dessert and a cracker!

Drum lessons There will be one space for a pupil to start drum lessons with Mr Stevenson at the beginning of the Spring term. The cost is £75.00 for 10 lessons of 15 minutes each term. If your child is interested in learning to play the drums, please contact Mrs Duxbury in the school office. The place will be allocated on a first come first served basis. Thank you.



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 Today was the Feast of the Immaculate Conception—one of the Feast Days dedicated to Mary. It was a privilege to be able to attend Mass this morning in Holy Family Church with all of our KS2 children. Fr Eduard explained how Mary, as the Mother of God, had to be spotless, without sin—immaculate.



La Purísima Inmaculada Concepción
By **Bartolomé Esteban Murillo**



Immaculate Conception by Rizi

Library Books Please could children return all library books which they have borrowed from the school library. 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 on 01268 686041. Oak Tree Children's Centre, Grovewood Primary School, Grove Road, Rayleigh SS6 8UA. Phone 01268 775910 2-4pm 12th December.

Parish Contact Details

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

Parish Priest: Fr Eduard Fartan, eduard.fartan@yahoo.com
priest@holyfamily-church.org
Parish Secretary: Mrs Julie Herridge, office@holyfamily-church.org
Telephone: 01268 792082 or 01268 799649

RF 81.7% 1F 96% 2T 96.9% 3W 96% 4HW 94.5% 5LB 96.2% 6F 95.5% Well done to Year 2 for best attendance last week.

Mr P. O'Kane

Headteacher

Diary Dates

Monday 11 th December	Christmas productions, 1.30pm—grandparents and parishioners
Tuesday 12 th December	Christmas productions, 1.30pm—parents
Wednesday 13 th December	Christmas productions, 1.30pm—parents
Thursday 14 th December	KS2 walk to Holy Family Church to attend Mass and set up altar for evening production
Thursday 14 th December	KS2 Christmas production, 7.00pm Holy Family Church
Wednesday 13 th December	Year 6 Singing in nursing home
Tuesday 19 th December	Christingle service, 2.30pm
Wednesday 20 th December	Advent reconciliation service
Wednesday 20 th December	Christmas dinner
Wednesday 20 th December	Last day in school 2017
Thursday 21 st December—Monday 1 st January 2018	Christmas Holidays
Tuesday 2 nd January 2018	Non-pupil day
Wednesday 3 rd January 2018	First day of Spring Term 2018
Friday 12 th January 2018	Whole School Pantomime Trip
Monday 29 th January 2018	Young Voices concert o2 Arena Y5 & Y6
Monday 5 th February—Friday 9 th February 2018	Year 6 Danbury Residential