



HOLY FAMILY CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Diocese of Brentwood

Headteacher Mr P.O'Kane

Newsletter 431 Friday 20th September 2019

Throughout the week our new Reception class pupils have been attending school. They seem to have settled in well, with a number of them already deciding to walk into class on their own without mummy or daddy. I know the rest of the school are looking forward to formally welcoming them to school during one of our upcoming assemblies.

On Wednesday, Dexter from the Jermain Defoe Foundation came into school to talk to the children about this year's shoebox appeal. Dexter shared some information with us and showed us a video of Jermain Defoe explaining more about his foundation, the Holy Family Children's Home and this year's shoebox appeal. Dexter will return to school on Friday 25th October to collect our shoeboxes. It would be great if we could be as generous this year as we have been in previous years when we collected shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child.



Harvest 2019 During this morning's assembly I talked to the children about harvest time. Fr Eduard has agreed to designate Sunday Mass on Sunday 6th October as Family Harvest Mass. At this Mass, the children will be able to present harvest offerings at the altar. These gifts will later be distributed to those in need. Over the coming weeks, the children can bring their harvest offerings into school where they will be displayed in the school hall, before being offered at Mass. Last year, we suggested the following pattern of harvest donations which worked extremely well, so we would be grateful if we could replicate that success this year.

Nursery and Reception Class

- Year 1
- Year 2
- Year 3
- Year 4
- Year 5
- Year 6



- Dried pasta
- Tinned foods
- Breakfast cereals
- Biscuits
- Toiletries
- Jars of food
- Bottles of squash, lemonade, cola
- (no alcohol please)**



School Funding Thank you to the parents who have taken the time to think about ways to militate against our funding issues; thanks also for taking the time to speak with me. I will put your ideas before our local governing committee and the Assisi Catholic Trust. I greatly appreciate the commitment and support that you have shown in our hour of need.

Meet the Teacher Thank you to all the parents and carers that have come along each afternoon to meet their child's new teacher. We trust you found the sessions informative and helpful. The Year 6 meeting will take place at 2.30 pm on Monday 23rd September. This session will also include a Danbury Residential 2020 meeting.

Coffee Morning The PGSA would love to invite parents who are new to the school to join them for a coffee morning on Monday 23rd September from 9.00—10.00 am. Please do come along.



School Clubs This year we plan to offer a number of after-school clubs in partnership with the Castle Point and Rochford Schools Sport Partnership (CPRSSP) based at the Deanes School. Our own staff will also run clubs, which may take place at lunchtime. We are currently waiting on confirmation of dates and availability of CPRSSP staff. As soon as we have this information, we will be able to launch our clubs for 2019-20.

Benfleet Young Drama Jackie Poth will be recommencing Drama lessons on Tuesday 24th September. For more details please call Jackie on 07703 187143.

Summer Reading Challenge If your child participated in the summer reading challenge organised by the local libraries, please ask them to bring in their certificates and/or medals on Monday morning as we will celebrate their achievements in assembly. Thank you.



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Piano Lessons There are still spaces for piano lessons at school with Essex Music Services. The lessons take place during the school day and last 15 minutes at a cost of £8.25 per lesson. The children will have 10 lessons each term. If you would like your child to begin lessons please leave their name at the school office. Places will be allocated on a "first come first served basis" with a waiting list after that. Essex Music Services offer tuition vouchers covering 66% of the cost of the fees to low-income families. Information about the vouchers can be found at tuition.vouchers@essex.gov.uk

Aldi Kit for Schools Thank you for all the Team GB stickers that have come into school already. I'm sure we can all make this a very successful campaign and obtain some PE equipment—we may even win the prize draw and receive £20 000.



Secondary School Admissions September 2020 The new secondary school admission round opened yesterday and will close on 31st October 2019. Applications can be made online via www.essex.gov.uk/admissions. 98% of parents in Essex applied online last year. Essex County Council **will not** be writing out to parents—please visit the Essex Admissions website for all information.

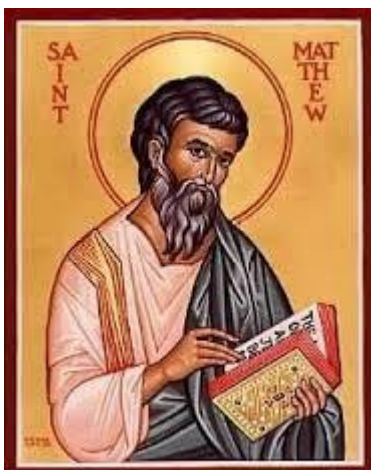
Open Days for Parents of Year 6 Boys St Thomas More High School would like to invite you to attend one of their Open Days on Thursday 17th and Friday 18th October 2019. Please contact St Thomas More High School on 01702 344933 to book your place, or visit www.st-thomasmore.southend.sch.uk

Open Days for Parents of Year 6 Girls St Bernard’s High School for Girls, Westcliff will hold open mornings from 9.30—11.00 am on Tuesday 8th, Wednesday 9th and Thursday 10th October 2019. More details from St Bernard’s school office, 01702 343583.

Open Evening for Prospective Year 7 Girls—September 2020 The Brentwood Ursuline Convent High School will be holding an Open Evening on Tuesday 24th September 2019 for prospective Year 7 girls with their parents who wish to consider entry to the school in September 2020. The doors will open at 6.30pm and the Headteacher will give a talk at 6.30pm and 7.30pm. Open Mornings will be held on 25th and 26th September 2019 from 9.30am – 10.45am for parents/carers and students. Please contact Admissions Officer Miss Lester to book a place (Tel: 01277 227156) and for further information.

Open Evening for Prospective Year 7 Pupils—September 2020 The Deanes School will hold an open evening on Tuesday 24th September 2019 from 6.30—9.00 pm. More details are available from The Deanes School by calling 01268 773545.

Saint of the Week Tomorrow is the Feast Day of St Matthew, one of the twelve apostles and author of the first Gospel. Before his conversion he was a tax collector, sometimes referred to as Levi by the other Gospel writers. As a tax collector, Levi would have been despised by the wider community, and it was after Jesus feasted with Levi, the scribes and the Pharisees criticised Jesus for “*eating with tax collectors and sinners.*” Jesus responded thus: “*I came not to call the righteous but sinners to repentance.*” In icons and religious works of art, Matthew is symbolised as the winged man or angel. This is because Matthew’s gospel starts with a genealogy of Jesus’ human ancestors, reinforcing Jesus’ human nature.



Thought for the week “From that time Jesus began to preach his message: “Turn away from your sins because the Kingdom of heaven is near.” Matthew 4: 17

Attendance Nursery class 71% 1F 99.1% **2T 100%** 3W 99.1% 4LB 99.3% 5H 98.7% 6M 99.3% Well done to Year 2 for **100%** attendance during the first week back at school.

Parish Contact Details

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

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Mr P. O’Kane Headteacher

Diary Dates

Monday 23 rd September	PGSA Coffee Morning 9.00-10.00 am
Monday 23 rd September	Year 6 Meet the Teacher/Danbury Meeting 2.30 pm
Wednesday 25 th September	School Mass 9.15 am—parishioners welcome
Friday 27 th September	Year 5 Class Assembly 9.15 am
Tuesday 1 st October	Black History Month Begins
Wednesday 2 nd October	Year 5 Trip Colne Valley
Friday 4 th October	CAFOD Family Fast Day
Sunday 6 th October	Harvest Family Mass 10.00 am Holy Family Church
Monday 7 th October	Judaism Week Begins
Monday 7 th October	School Photographer
Wednesday 16 th October	World Food Day
Thursday 17 th October	African Dance Day
Friday 18 th October	Year 1 Class Assembly 9.15 am
Tuesday 22 nd October	Parent Contact 3.15—5.45 pm
Thursday 24 th October	Parent Contact 5.00—7.30 pm
Thursday 24 th October	Last Day for Shoebox Appeal
Thursday 24 th October	Flu Immunisation Day
Friday 25 th October	Non-Pupil Day 3
Monday 26 th October—Friday 1 st November	Autumn Half-Term Break
Monday 4 th November	All Pupils Return to School
Tuesday 5 th November	Sponsored Times Tables Challenge
Friday 8 th November	Year 6 Class Assembly 9.15 am (Remembrance)
Sunday 10 th November	Remembrance Sunday
Monday 11 th November	Anti-Bullying Week
Tuesday 12 th November	Online Applications for September 2020 Reception Places Open
Thursday 14 th November	Open Day (September 2020 Admissions)
Friday 15 th November	BBC Children in Need Day
Thursday 21 st November	Year 4 Trip Hadleigh Park
Friday 22 nd November	Leigh on Sea Music Festival (Choir Only)
Tuesday 26 th November	Year 6 Trip Wat Tyler Park (WWII & Evacuation)
Friday 29 th November	Children’s Cake Sale & Raffle

Friday 29 th November	PGSA Christmas Bazaar 3.00 pm
Sunday 1 st December	1 st Sunday of Advent
Friday 6 th December	Christmas Nativity & Concert Dress Rehearsal
Monday 9 th December	Christmas Nativity & Concert 1.30 pm
Tuesday 10 th December	Christmas Nativity & Concert 1.30 pm
Wednesday 11 th December	Christmas Nativity & Concert 1.30 pm
Thursday 12 th December	KS2 Children Walk to Church am
Thursday 12 th December	KS2 Christmas Concert Holy Family Church 7.00 pm
Wednesday 18 th December	Christingle Service 2.30 pm
Thursday 19 th December	Christmas Dinner Day
Friday 20 th December—Friday 3 rd January 2020	Christmas Holidays
Monday 6 th January 2020	All Pupils Return to School
Friday 10 th January 2020	Whole School Pantomime Trip
Wednesday 15 th January	Online Applications for September 2020 Reception Places Close
Monday 10 th February—Friday 14 th February 2020	Year 6 Residential Trip tbc
Monday 17 th February—Friday 21 st February	Spring Half-Term Break
Monday 24 th February 2020	All Pupils Return to School
Sunday 5 th April 2020	Palm/Passion Sunday—Start of Holy Week
Monday 6 th April—Friday 17 th April 2020	Easter Holidays
Thursday 9 th April 2020	Maundy/Holy Thursday
Friday 10 th April 2020	Good Friday
Sunday 12 th April 2020	Easter Sunday
Monday 20 th April 2020	Pupils Return to School
Friday 8 th May 2020	75 th Anniversary of VE Day—Public Holiday
Monday 11 th May	KS2 (Year 6) SATs Week
Monday 25 th May—Friday 29 th May 2020	Summer Half-Term Break
Monday 1 st June 2020	Non-Pupil Day 4
Tuesday 2 nd June 2020	Pupils Return to School
Tuesday 21 st July 2020	Final School Day of Academic Year
Wednesday 22 nd July 2020	Non-Pupil Day 5