



# HOLY FAMILY CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Headteacher Mr P.O'Kane

## Newsletter 361 Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2017

I hope that you all had a relaxing week off with your families. We have had a very busy week in school.

During Monday's whole school assembly, I spoke to the children about November being a special month of remembrance and helped them to think about All Saints Day in preparation for Mass on Wednesday.

Miss Furby organised a fantastic programme of activities for our Book Week that included a book swap, visits from authors and activities to promote reading.

On Tuesday, Colin Wyatt, an illustrator, came into school to carry out a drawing workshop for every class. Details of Colin's work may be found on his website [www.colin-wyatt.co.uk](http://www.colin-wyatt.co.uk). In the afternoon some of our dads and grandads volunteered to read to their child or grandchild's class. We would like to thank them all for giving up their time to do this.

During Wednesday morning's assembly we had a video link to Mr Clark (husband of Mrs Clark LSA) who is a police officer serving in Downing Street during which he promoted the importance of reading in order pursue a successful career. In addition some children were able to try on some of Mr Clark's uniform.



On Thursday morning Jack Sparrow came in to school to visit the children. He was also present in the hall when the KS2 children experienced a "book tasting". The school hall was set up as a restaurant and the children sat in mixed year groups and discussed their books while snacking; the atmosphere was great! In the afternoon Dennis Thompson, a local author, read his book *The Greedy Fish* to the whole school and answered questions.

Today we welcomed another author, Nicky Dee, to read her book about dinosaurs to the children and the school was awash with a great variety of costumes as the children and staff dressed as book characters.



During the week, all the children in the school have been paired with another child from a different year group and have been reading to each other and giving feedback; they have really enjoyed this exercise.



I know that the children and staff have had a really enjoyable time this week and I would like to thank Miss Furby for all her hard work to make our Book Week so successful.



If you have not already done so, we would welcome a **£3.00 voluntary contribution** for each child to help defer some of the costs associated with Book Week. Thank you all so much for supporting Book Week in so many different ways—costumes for your children; books for the book swap; buying books at the book fair. I would like to offer special thanks to the dads, grandads and uncles who came in to read with the children—you were great male role models for our boys.

We welcomed Father Basil in to school on Wednesday afternoon to celebrate the Feast of All Saints with the whole school. Fr Basil explained that the well-known saints are not the only saints in heaven—he told the children that family members who have gone to God, having lived good lives are also saints. He also explained the word Halloween to the children—Hallow, he told us is an Anglo-Saxon word for holy, so the Feast of All Saints was known in England as the Feast of All Hallows. Halloween is merely the evening before the Feast of All Hallows.

**Staff car park** A reminder that the school car park is for staff only and not for parents to drop off their children in the morning unless they are taking children to the Breakfast Club. Thank you.

**Photograph Orders – deadline** The last day for photograph orders to be received in school is **Monday 13<sup>th</sup> November**. After that date, parents and carers should send their orders direct to Tempest Photography. Thank you.

**Mobile phones** Mobile phones and other electronic devices are not allowed in school. However, occasionally it may be necessary for pupils to bring a phone in to school if they are walking home by themselves for example. If this is the case then parents should write a letter advising that their child will be bringing a phone in to school. The phones should then be switched off and will be kept in the school office until the end of the school day. Thank you for your co-operation in this matter.

**Samaritan's Purse/Operation Christmas Child (Love in a Box)** Holy Family has a very proud track record of donating filled shoeboxes to this charity—100 boxes were donated last year. The Operation Christmas Child website is packed full of information about the shoebox appeal. The local organiser has advised us that our shoebox deadline for this year is Friday 10<sup>th</sup> November. I know that some families have been gathering items for their shoeboxes throughout the summer and look forward to packing the shoebox as an annual event.

**Chess Club** If your child is interested in joining the chess club, then please let the office know. At the moment there are only 7 children interested to warrant a club taking place and we require 20 children to make it viable. The cost is £2.00 per session.

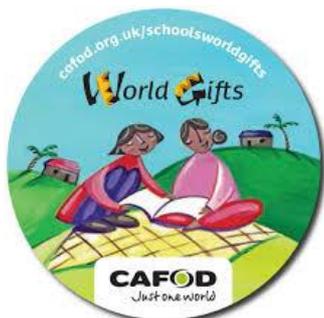
**PGSA Events** **Family Quiz Night** –Tickets for the Quiz Night will be on sale next week. The Quiz Night is on Saturday 18th November; start time 7.30pm—bring your own drinks and nibbles. £4.00 per adult; £1.00 per child. There will be a raffle during the Quiz Night—**first prize 4 X tickets for West Ham v. Chelsea** on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> December 2017.

**Christmas Bazaar/Craft Event**—Friday 1st December 2017, 3.15pm—5.15pm **Volunteers needed to man stalls—many hands make light work!**

**Reception 2018 Admissions—Open Morning & Open Evening** The admissions process for Reception Class 2018 begins on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> November 2017. There will be an Open Morning for all interested prospective parents on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> November, 9.30—11.45am. Additionally, parents will have the opportunity to attend an Open Evening that night, 5.30—8.00pm.

**Hola Amigos Spanish Club** We have been given the opportunity to offer Spanish lessons to the children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 weekly in an after-school club that will be run by Hola Amigos. One of our parents, Mrs Paula Fajardo will lead the club. If there is enough interest in this club, it will begin after school on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> November.

**CAFOD World Gifts** If you would like purchase Christmas gifts with a difference, there are brochures from CAFOD In the school foyer which show how you can “Give gifts that change lives at Christmas” ranging from mosquito nets to goats and solar lamps.



**World Gifts**  
Gifts that make a difference

**Saint of the Week** .Today is the Feast Day of St Martin de Porres. He is a saint I hold in particular affection as my parents gave me the middle name of Martin in his honour; I also had a statue of St Martin in my bedroom when I was growing up. St Martin was born in Lima, Peru during the time of Spanish rule. As he was of mixed race, many of the opportunities that were open to Peruvians of Spanish descent were not open to him. He devoted his whole life to the service of others—people and animals. He actually ran a hospital for cats and dogs at his sister’s house. He was a Dominican brother throughout his adulthood and is held in high esteem by members of that order to this day.



***The Holy Family***



***St Martin de Porres***

**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.

**Library Books** Please could children return all library books which they have borrowed from the school library. Thank you.

**Pound Coins** The school will no longer accept old style coins. Thank you for your support in this matter.

**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 9<sup>th</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup> November; 7<sup>th</sup> December and Oak Tree Children's Centre, Grovewood Primary School, Grove Road, Rayleigh SS6 8UA. Phone 01268 775910 2-4pm 14<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> November; 12<sup>th</sup> December.

**Attendance** RF 97.8% 1F 96.3% 2T 97.4% 3W 97.3% 4HW 96.1% 5LB 96.9% 6F 98.3% Well done to Year 6 for best attendance in the last week before half term.

Mr P. O'Kane

Headteacher

**Diary Dates**

Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> November	Parent Contact Evening, 3.30—6.00pm
Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup> November	Parent Contact Evening, 5.00—7.30pm
Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> November	Year 6 Remembrance assembly
Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> November	Open morning 9.30-11.45am & Open evening 5.30—8.00pm, Reception Admissions September 2018
Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> November	Year 4 class assembly 10.15am
Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> November	Year 3 class assembly 10.15am
Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup> December	Year 6 Singing in nursing home
Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> December	Last day in school 2017
Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> December—Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> January 2018	Christmas Holidays
Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> January 2018	Non-pupil day
Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> January 2018	First day of Spring Term 2018
Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> January 2018	Whole School Pantomime Trip
Monday 29 <sup>th</sup> January 2018	Young Voices concert o2 Arena Y5 & Y6
Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> February—Friday 9 <sup>th</sup> February 2018	Year 6 Danbury Residential