



HOLY FAMILY CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Diocese of
Brentwood

Headteacher Mr P.O'Kane

Newsletter 456 Friday 26th June 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

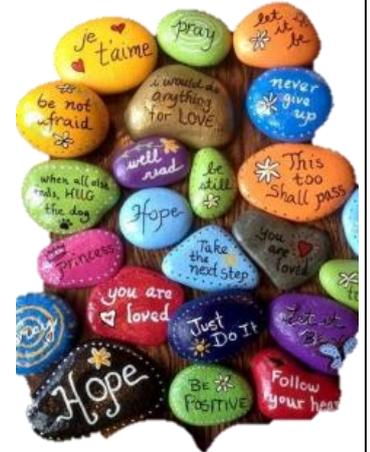
We hope that you are all managing to keep safe and well. After much consideration, we have decided that the risk attached to bringing in a greater number of pupils before the end of the summer term remains too high. Whilst we look forward to the return of all pupils, just as we had to take time to prepare school to re-open to more groups of children ensuring we did our utmost to protect all concerned, by the same token, we cannot just click our fingers and pick up from where we left off. Covid-19 has not disappeared – the potential to further spread the virus still exists, so it would simply be ill judgement on our behalf to assume that we can 'go back to normal'. We have allocated all of our available staff to current Bubble Groups and have set out the school to ensure social distancing is in place, throughout, at all times. Each Bubble is now full, so it is important that children only come to school on their allocated days in order to maintain the group size. I have no doubt that throughout this unsettling time, you have been listening daily to the news and will therefore be aware that the latest government expectation is there will be a full return to school in September. Between now and then, the staff will again be preparing for this. It will obviously take time – in which case, we will need to close the school earlier than previously communicated;

PLEASE NOTE: SCHOOL WILL BE CLOSED TO ALL PUPILS FROM FRIDAY 17th JULY (as stated on the recent Parentmail)

I hope to share more information with you next week and as ever, I thank you in advance for support in this. I will publish the list of teachers and their year groups over the next couple of weeks. We are currently planning opportunities for communication between your child and their current class teachers via class zoom meetings to provide closure to this academic year. A Parentmail will go out on Monday with dates and protocols to be followed in terms of safe-guarding children and staff during the zoom meeting.

Unity Snake

In last week's newsletter, the children were invited to decorate stones to make a Unity Snake along the railings in front of the Nursery. The snake did not grow much this week, but hopefully more stones will be added very soon. These are examples of positive words and messages children could paint on their stones, or they might prefer to paint animals, book characters, their own name, or just interesting patterns. If we get enough stones, we may be able to make the snake into a more permanent feature.



Summer Reading Challenge 2020

Every year, our children take part in the Summer Reading Challenge. The national Summer Reading Challenge is moving online this year. Children can take part by going to <http://www.silysquad.org.uk/> and signing up. The sign up process will require parental consent and parents can find more details here:

<https://summerreadingchallenge.org.uk/parents-carers>

Families are encouraged to join in and 'Get Silly' with downloadable activities, games, quizzes and more. With new content to enjoy each week, the fun will continue throughout the summer to keep families engaged. They will also receive a downloadable certificate once they've completed their challenge!

Children will set their own reading goals over the summer and can then take part using their own reading materials, e-books, e-audio and e-comics from the Essex Libraries online library service or (once libraries have reopened) using books borrowed from our libraries.

Reading Books

Please can parents/carers check whether they have any school reading scheme books at home. We will be carrying out an audit of the scheme and would be very grateful if the books can be returned to a box in the school's office reception area. Please return the books as soon as you can. Thank you in advance for your support with this.



Congratulations to Oliver and to Vinnie for receiving the 'Talent for Writing' this week. Well done boys!



Help for Families

We understand that this has been, and continues to be, a challenging time for many families and that you may have concerns about providing for your family over the summer period. The Department for Education (DfE) have now announced details of the free school meal summer scheme, 'The Covid Summer Food Fund'. The fund will provide support for children who are eligible for benefits-related free school meals (FSM). Each eligible child will continue to receive eCode vouchers totalling £90 to cover the summer holiday period. If you think that your child could be eligible for FSM, please ensure that you apply now in order to be included in the summer holiday voucher scheme. Apply online at: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/education-learning/apply-free-school-meals> If you would like school to help with accessing the vouchers for you, please let the office admin team know as soon as possible.

Send a Smile



One of our parents, Mrs Wilson, has kindly invited our school community to get involved in the 'Send a Smile' project. Mrs Wilson is the Coach for the Castle Point Area and the aim of the charity is to encourage and initiate acts of kindness across Essex. Send a Smile aims to reach those who may be feeling lonely and isolated by sending them poems, art work or postcard style letters from local children and hobby groups which are designed to make them smile and feel more connected to the community. If your child would like to write a

poem, or draw pictures about anything that makes them smile – their pets, their perfect day, anything exciting they have experienced during lockdown ... whatever makes them feel happy, please submit it to the class teacher by **10th July 2020**. Send a Smile is open to all residents who wish to contribute, so if the children have talented grandparents, parents, carers, siblings, they can join in too, or perhaps work together on a family piece. There is no exchange of personal details, as all correspondence will go to Mrs Wilson's contacts who will deliver them by hand, it will simply say that the letters have been provided by the pupils of Holy Family School.

Accompanying the text sent to each resident will be the words:

Whether you are Happy, Sad, Lonely or Blue, this little poem is meant for you.

Hoping it Brightens your day

#United in Kind

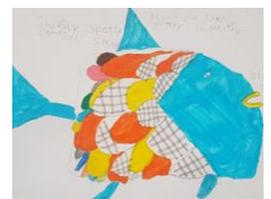
As you can imagine, it is difficult to share any key information as yet, due to waiting for the guidelines from the government. However, what I can say for sure is, we will have the safety of staff, children and families at the forefront of all our decisions, alongside our mission to get the children back as soon as possible.

As ever, please don't hesitate to get in touch, should we be able to support you in any way. I wish you all an enjoyable weekend and thank you for your continued support.

Stay safe and God bless,

Mrs Hurley

senco@holyfamily.essex.sch.uk



Teachers will continue to upload powerpoints and worksheets as well as recommend useful websites each week. Please continue to log onto: **My Maths, TTRockstars and Bug Club**



Regular daily lessons - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize>
 Over 180 video lessons each week on National Oak Academy - <https://www.thenationalacademy/>
 Storytime daily on Monster phonics <http://bit.ly/3cvcglM>
 Lonely Planet - <https://www.lonelyplanet.com/kids/activities>
 Why not visit the Maths Factor website created by Carole Vorderman <https://www.themathsfactor.com/>
 Change4life - <https://www.nhs.uk/change4life/activities>



ONLINE SAFETY

With home learning taking place online and more free time spent on devices, it is so important that children are safe. The NSPCC have information on how to set up parental controls on a range of different devices and apps. Follow the link below for more information.

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/parental-controls/>

If you have any questions about e-safety please email Mr Holmes (via admin@holyfamily.essex.sch.uk for support or advice.

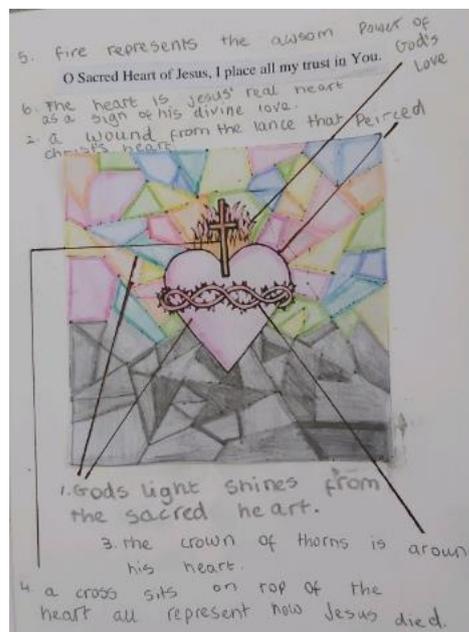


Parish Contact Details

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Parish Secretary: Mrs Clare Dempsey office@holyfamily-church.org
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Exploring string telephones in Year 4

