



## HOLY FAMILY CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Headteacher Mr P.O'Kane

### Newsletter 349 Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2017

Year 1 enjoyed their trip to Marsh Farm on Friday. Miss Furby told me that everyone had a great time. Thank you to everyone who helped organise this outing.



Karen from Essex Libraries joined us in school on Monday morning to lead an assembly to promote this year's Summer Reading Challenge. Holy Family children have a strong tradition of participation in the Summer Reading Challenges—we always look forward to presenting the certificates in the autumn term. This year's theme is Animal Agents. There is a website with lots of resources and information: [www.animal-agents.org.uk](http://www.animal-agents.org.uk)



Thank you to all the parents, staff and governors who came along to the second meeting of the PGSA. On Tuesday evening. Mrs Hunter has sent out a Fun Day Focus via Parentmail. The next meeting will take place on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> July at 3.30pm.

Mrs Fisher and the Reception Class team welcomed the September 2017 intake children into school on a number of afternoons this week. The children enjoyed their time in school and the sessions were supported very well by the Reception 2017 parents. There are a limited number of places still available for September 2017 intake—perhaps you have a friend or relative whose child is due to start school in September 2017 who would like to have a place at Holy Family. Please contact the school office in the first instance for further details.

I had the privilege of attending Mass in Brentwood Cathedral yesterday morning to celebrate the role of Catholic schools in our diocese over the past 100 years. I was accompanied to the anniversary Mass by Mrs Corder (Catherine from the Nursery Class and First Communion Catechist) and Amber-Leigh and Eva from Year 6—they are both altar servers. The Mass was a beautiful occasion, concelebrated by Bishop Alan and a number of diocesan priests. Bishop Alan reminded us all of the important contribution that Catholic schools have made to the



communities in Essex and East London over the years and looked forward to Catholic schools in the diocese meeting the challenges of the future.



We held our annual Sports Morning today. Miss Furby organised the event and the new format and activities (especially the water jug race) were a big hit with the children. After the event, a number of parents told me that they thought that this year was better than previous years. Thank you to all the parents, carers and family members who came along to support the children. Thanks also to everyone who signed up for an Estate Agent's Board to support the Family Fun Day and those who bought a souvenir programme for Sports Morning. Miss Furby told me that the sale of programmes combined with the activities of the Enterprise Club has so far raised £150.46 that will be used to purchase outdoor play equipment for the children. Finally, I would like to thank Miss Furby, Mr Smith, Mr Lawrence and all the other staff members for working so hard to make Sports Morning such a great success.





**Social Media** In recent weeks the office staff and I have had to field a number of calls and queries from parents (sometimes distressed; sometimes confused) about a range of issues that have been distributed via Facebook, Whatsap, Group Chats and other forms of social media. In many cases the information posted and circulated has been incorrect. Please remember that the school publishes information on the weekly newsletter, supplemented by Parentmail messages or letters. It can be tempting to believe all that is posted, but sadly some postings are no more than rumours or innuendos.

**Swimming Contributions** Thank you to everyone who has sent in voluntary donations to help meet the costs of our swimming pool and the provision of lessons. If you haven't yet made a donation towards the costs of swimming, the ladies in the school office will be happy to receive any you wish to give before the end of term.

**Healthy Tuck** Just a gentle reminder to parents and carers that the children should not be having crisps or sweet items for their tuck, nor should it be included in their packed lunches. We encourage them to bring a piece of fruit for tuck or a range of healthy tuck is available to buy for 20p each day. Thank you for your support in this matter.

**Emails to parents** Our first choice of communication to parents and carers is by text message. However, in a cost cutting measure, we will now be using **email** (which is free on Parentmail) in the first instance so we would ask parents to check their emails regularly. Thank you for your understanding in this matter.

**Saint of the week** Tomorrow is the Feast Day of St John the Baptist, son of Zachary and Elizabeth (a relative of Our Lady). John was often assumed to be the Messiah as a consequence of his preaching and baptising, but when Jesus came to him for Baptism in the River Jordan, it was John that recognised Jesus as the Messiah. John's message of repentance (turning back to God) is as meaningful today as it was 2000 years ago.



**Give It A Go** Holy Family Church runs a monthly youth club called Give it a Go for anyone in school year 7, 8 and 9. **On Saturday 1st July Give it a Go invites all those in Year 6 to join them for an introductory session.** The club starts after the 6pm Mass and ends at 9pm. Entry for the evening will be £1 and there will be drinks and sweets for sale. Parents are asked to complete a simple contact and permission form before leaving your child.

**Attendance** RF 96.2% 1F 80.3% 2T 95.7% 3W 88% 4D 99.3% 5LB 97.7% 6F 91.7% Well done to Year 4 for best attendance last week although it is disappointing that the attendance of two classes fell below 90% last week. I would therefore reiterate the point I made in last week's newsletter that the number of children in our school with significant absences is

growing and we will be introducing an approach to absence used by many local schools that could lead to fines being issued by Essex LA. Please do your best to ensure your child has the best possible attendance.

**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 from 2-4pm 6<sup>th</sup> July.

Oak Tree Children's Centre, Grovewood Primary School, Grove Road, Rayleigh, SS6 8UA. Phone 01268 686041 from 2-4pm 27<sup>th</sup> June; 11<sup>th</sup> July.

Wishing Well Children's Centre, Waterman Primary School, The Boulevard, Rochford, SS4 1QF. Phone 01702 541460 from 2-4pm 3<sup>rd</sup> July.

Mr P. O'Kane

Headteacher

### **Diary Dates**

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|---|---|
| Monday 26 <sup>th</sup> June                                  | Year 6 Deanery Mass, 11.00am Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Leigh-on-Sea   |
| Tuesday 27 <sup>th</sup> & Wednesday 28 <sup>th</sup> June    | The Appleton, The Deanes and The King John School Y7 induction days   |
| Thursday 29 <sup>th</sup> June                                | Feast of Saints Peter & Paul—Mass in School (Children & Staff Only)   |
| Thursday 29 <sup>th</sup> June & Friday 30 <sup>th</sup> June | St Bernard's & St Thomas More Y7 induction days   |
| Friday 30 <sup>th</sup> June                                  | Year 4 class assembly 10.15am   |
| Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup> July                                  | PGSA Meeting, 3.15pm  |
| Wednesday 5 <sup>th</sup> July                                | KS1 Catholic Sports 9.30- 12.00pm St Teresa's   |
| Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup> July                                 | KS2 Catholic Sports 9.30-12.00pm St Thomas More High School   |
| Friday 7 <sup>th</sup> July                                   | Year 1 class assembly 10.15am<br>Year 3 Eucharist Day St Bernard's High School<br>PGSA Children's Movie Event, 3.30pm |
| Monday 10 <sup>th</sup> July                                  | Year 2 trip to Wat Tyler Park   |

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|---------------------------------|---|
| Tuesday 11 <sup>th</sup> July   | KS2 District Sports The Deanes School           |
| Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> July    | Year 2 class assembly 10.15am                   |
| Saturday 15 <sup>th</sup> July  | PGSA Family Fun Day                             |
| Wednesday 19 <sup>th</sup> July | Year 6 class assembly 2.30pm                    |
| Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup> July  | Year 6 Leavers' Mass, 7.00pm Holy Family Church |

**Non-pupil Days 2017—2018** The following non-pupil days have been approved by the school's governors: Monday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2017, Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> September 2017, Friday 20<sup>th</sup> October 2017, Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2018, and Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February 2018.