

HOLY FAMILY CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Diocese of
Brentwood

Headteacher Mr P.O'Kane

Newsletter 459 Friday 17th July 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

Today marked the end of another academic year at Holy Family. We have weathered the storm together and come through, safe, well and just as united as ever. Since March, our school has been a very different place; initially a partially opened school to provide childcare for key worker children and vulnerable children. On June 1st we extended our provision to invite EYFS, Y1 and Y6 children back to school. Our focus was always to keep our staff, our children and their families safe and to ensure the children continued to receive quality learning, whether they remained at home or came into school, and to make sure that all our families knew how to get in touch, or get support if they needed it. I am so proud that we have managed to achieve this and it has only happened through the hard work and commitment of so many people. The end of an academic year is always a time to reflect on our successes and to thank the many people who have contributed to making Holy Family School so special.

Thank you to all **our children** for your hard work and constant enthusiasm for learning. Thank you for your resilience during the school closure period. We are really looking forward to hearing your laughter and chatter around the school again in September. Mrs Lewins very kindly took the time to collate a selection of photos from all year groups to celebrate the children's achievements during lockdown and it is well worth watching – the video can be found on School Dojo.

Thank you to the **parents and carers** for supporting your children so well with their home-learning throughout the year, but especially for your understanding and support over the past few months. We know that for some of you it has been challenging, for some it has been a pleasure. Please be assured that we will do our very best to 'identify and plug any gaps in learning' when the children return in September.

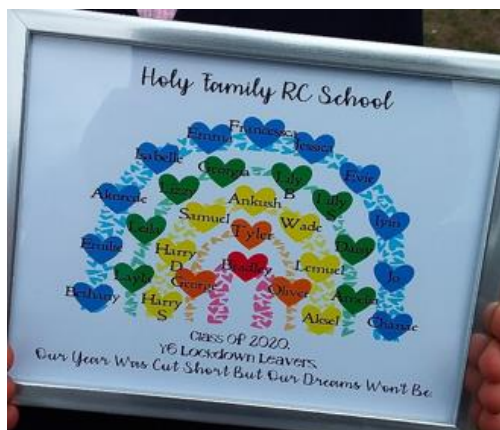
Thank you to **the wonderful Holy Family Team** - teachers, support staff, office staff, kitchen staff and cleaners – you have all worked amazingly well as a team to ensure the smooth running of our school, often going well beyond your normal duties to ensure our school was spotless and that every child received the support they required. You have shown tremendous fortitude and resilience in dealing with the ever-changing requirements. Thank you teachers for your willingness to engage in Class Dojo, to organise zoom meetings and thank you to our wonderful LSAs for basically adapting and changing whenever it was needed. All staff have been phenomenal during this time and deserve a well-earned rest. I would especially like to thank my colleagues who have been in school with me almost every day from the start, including holidays. Your positivity, support, advice and humour have been invaluable.

Special thanks to our school business manager (Mrs Henderson) who has worked tirelessly in the background and ordered everything that we needed to keep us as safe as possible whilst in school.

Thank you to the members of **our fantastic PGSA team** who have given so much of their time voluntarily throughout the year to organise events and activities to raise lots of much needed funds for our school. A special thank you to Rita (Ms McDowell) who was always on hand whenever an event needed to be organised at very short notice.

Lastly, thank you to Mrs Herridge and all **our school governors** for your unwavering support in difficult times.

Good Luck Year 6!



This week our Year 6 children's primary school journey came to an end and they now set off on new adventures - the next chapter in their lives begins. Thank you to all the staff, especially Mrs Monksfield, Mrs Mahon and Mrs Herman for helping create lovely memories for the Y6 children on their last few days with us in Holy Family.

Any decisions we took were made with the health and safety of everyone in mind. Government guidelines had to be adhered to, in addition to focusing on what we COULD do, rather than what we couldn't. Despite the limitations imposed on us, we were able to provide our Year 6 children with a proper send off.

On Tuesday, we welcomed one of our past pupils, Christopher and his colleagues from Walsingham House back to Holy Family to lead the children in a Retreat Day.

On Wednesday, we were very fortunate to be able to welcome Fr Eduard into our school to celebrate a socially distanced Leavers' Mass with our Year 6 children and their teachers. Thank you Fr Eduard for taking the time to be with us.

Message from Fr Eduard (taken from the parish newsletter)

We had the Year 6 Leavers Mass in Holy Family Catholic School on Wednesday the 15th of July. I was so proud of the work of our children and that of their teachers. I encouraged them underlining what a dramatic year they have successfully concluded. I cannot stress enough how proud we are of them and of their progress at this stage in life. We all wish them to have a sunny and restful summer break. We will continue to support in every possible way our children, teachers and staff in our school.



Following the Leavers' Mass, the children and staff, who were in school on the day, all gathered on the field for the Year 6 Awards Ceremony. Each Y6 child was presented with a Bible, a school mug and a certificate celebrating a personal achievement. We also presented the children with the school trophies which will be engraved with your child's name. Thank you to Mrs Monksfield and Mrs Herman for ensuring photographs from the ceremony were uploaded so quickly for Y6 parents to view. Please see the attached document.





At 2 o'clock on their final day, the children formed a guard of honour and clapped as our Y6 left for the last time. Holy Family will miss each and every one of you. You really have been a wonderful class and I know you are all going to continue to flourish at your secondary schools. Please remember that wherever you go in life children you will always be part of our Holy Family community and will always be welcome to come back to say hello, as will your parents and carers



On behalf of our children, I would like to thank the Year 6 children and their parents for the very generous and thoughtful gifts presented to the school to make playtimes more fun next year.

Our Year 6 children will be appearing in the Evening Echo on Tuesday 21st July in a special 'School Leavers Supplement 2020'

Fortunately, we are now in a position that from September, all children and staff can come back to school and we can be together once more.

Back to school in September

Years 1 - 6 will be welcomed back into school from **FRIDAY 4TH SEPTEMBER 2020**. Many of the children will be anxious about returning to school, after such a long period away. They may also be worried about being in contact with so many children again, in addition to being unsure what they need to do to keep themselves, and others, safe. Friday will therefore be classed as a 'Well-being Day' when children will be supported to re-familiarise themselves with the school routines and protocols. During the day, the class teacher will settle the children, talk through any concerns they may have, explain new routines and reaffirm respiratory hygiene. It will also enable the staff to pick up on any well-being needs from the moment the children come in.

Uniform

The children will need to return to school in full school uniform (it can be summer or winter). This includes children wearing black shoes (not trainers) and a navy or black winter coat (if it is cold / wet).

Children will be asked to come dressed for P.E., and remain in their kits, on the timetabled days (the class teacher will inform parents which day this is). Further details about your child's 2020 – 2021 timetable will be sent via Parentmail and also uploaded on the website within the next week.

To ensure there is consistent and safe working practice in school the children are not permitted to wear earrings in Holy Family. The use of plasters to cover ear piercing is not permissible. It is recommended leaving earrings in place for at least six weeks after the piercing to prevent the new hole from closing. If your child wishes to have his/her ear(s) pierced, we ask that this be carried out at the beginning of the summer holiday, so that the healing process is complete by the time school starts again in September and the ear stud can be removed. **Please do not put staff in the awkward position of having to insist that children, who have had their ears pierced at the end of the summer holidays, remove their ear rings.** Thank you in advance for your support

We do not permit children to have extreme haircuts or colouring that could serve as a distraction to other children. This is in line with our uniform policy. Thank you in advance for your support.

School Dinner Menu for Friday 4th September

From September, school dinners can be booked and paid for in the usual way via Parentmail. On Friday 4th September a hot meal of fish fingers and chips can be ordered. A detailed menu for the autumn term will be provided very shortly.

EARLY YEARS

The EYFS class will start school in the usual way; a staggered weekly start for smaller groups. Due to COVID-19, the building works in the EYFS Unit started later than planned and this has unfortunately delayed the start date in school for our youngest children. We look forward to welcoming our Reception and Nursery children into school in the week beginning **21st September**. Mrs Fisher has already written to parents / carers and provided the start date for their children. We apologise for any inconvenience this may cause. Mrs Fisher will make 'Transition Phone Calls' in the week beginning 7th September and will also be able to use some of the time in the first two weeks to help support our current Reception children settle into Year 1.

Breakfast & After School Club

I am pleased to inform you that we are able to run our Breakfast and After School Club from September. A full risk assessment will be provided in due course. As there is a high demand and places are limited, we encourage parents to book as early as possible. Please e-mail ritamcdowell@holyfamily.essex.sch.uk with the days / sessions you require for your child. This will help us greatly in organising the 'bubble groups' and minimise cross contamination between year groups.

The Gospel this weekend is another parable. It is about a mustard seed.

He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his field. Though it is the smallest of all seeds, yet when it grows, it is the largest of garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds come and perch in its branches."



What lesson do we learn from the Gospel?

Jesus said that the kingdom of God is like a little mustard seed. When this little seed is planted it grows into a huge plant. We learn that great things grow from very small beginnings.

Dear God, though we are so small and the world is so big, help us to make a difference to all those we meet today. Amen.

Instructions: Find the hidden words listed in the box to the right.

A	S	D	M	F	G	H	J	K	M
L	Z	X	U	B	I	R	D	S	A
Q	J	E	S	U	S	W	E	R	T
T	Y	U	T	I	O	H	F	P	T
P	A	R	A	B	L	E	I	A	H
E	S	D	R	G	H	A	E	J	E
R	K	L	D	Z	X	V	L	L	W
C	C	V	B	S	E	E	D	A	N
H	M	Q	W	E	R	N	T	R	Y
U	I	G	O	P	A	S	D	G	F
S	M	A	L	L	G	T	R	E	E
H	J	R	K	L	A	S	D	F	G
H	J	D	A	S	D	F	G	H	J
K	L	E	K	I	N	G	D	O	M
Z	X	N	C	V	B	N	M	Q	W
E	R	T	Y	P	L	A	N	T	S

JESUS	PARABLE	KINGDOM
HEAVEN	FIELD	SMALL
LARGE	MUSTARD	SEED
PLANT	GARDEN	TREE
BIRDS	PERCH	MATTHEW

Instructions: Use some of the words in the box above to fill in the blanks below:

_____ told them another
 _____: "The _____ of
 _____ is like a _____
 _____, which a man took and planted
 in his _____. Though it is the
 smallest of all your seeds, yet when it
 grows, it is the largest of garden plants
 and becomes a _____, so that the birds
 of the air come and _____ in its
 branches." Matthew 13:31-32

Final Thoughts

It is easy to think about all the things that might have been this year, the plans we had made for family events, special occasions, trips and holidays. While these times have been so tough, especially for those directly impacted by this virus, I have heard from many of you of the positives you are experiencing as a result of the current situation – amazing acts of generosity and community spirit, learning new skills, adopting healthy lifestyles and precious family time.

On behalf of all of the teachers and support staff, I'd like to say a HUGE thank you for your very generous gifts, beautiful cards and thoughtful words - they certainly brought a tear to my eye.

Thank you all.

I wish you a happy and restful summer holiday and look forward to our new chapter from September!

Take care and stay safe.

God bless,

Mrs Hurley

senco@holyfamily.essex.sch.uk

Parish Contact Details

Fr Eduard is once again celebrating Mass in Holy Family Church and in St Thomas More Church in Hadleigh.

Holy Family

6pm (Sat)

St. Thomas More

7pm(Sat)

St. Thomas More

8.30am

Holy Family

10am

Holy Family

6pm

1st Mass of Sunday

Mass People of the Parish

Mass

Mass

Mass

Holy Family Catholic Church,

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Parish Secretary: Mrs Clare Dempsey

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