



HOLY FAMILY CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Headteacher Mr P.O'Kane

Newsletter 295 Friday 26th February 2016

Welcome back and I hope that you all had a lovely half term break.

During assembly this afternoon, Year 6 gave a presentation to the rest of the school about their experiences at Danbury. They seem to have had a wonderful and fulfilling time and I am sure that they will have made the younger children look forward to their own Year 6 school trip. The following children were acknowledged as having the Spirit of Danbury: Adrielle Fuego, Larissa Guit, Mia Henning, Brandon McCarthy, Pearl Morrissey and James Wylde. Congratulations!

On Wednesday, we welcomed Father Eduard in to school to celebrate Mass with Years 5 and 6 and their families and parishioners. The children were a credit to the school demonstrating reverence and positive behaviour. It was a lovely opportunity for me to meet some of our parishioners and equally to see some familiar faces of the parents.

Today all the children in Years 1 to 6 have brought home a tea towel which was produced to celebrate the school's golden jubilee last year. Hopefully the children will be keen to use them in the kitchen to help out!

Final Training Day for Academic Year 2015/16

The final training day for staff will be on Friday 1st July 2016.

Bishop Alan's visit to Holy Family Parish

On Wednesday afternoon, Bishop Alan will be visiting the school and leading an assembly and meeting the staff. In the evening he will celebrate Mass at Holy Family Church at 7pm and the Sacrament of Confirmation. Father Eduard has invited all Holy Family children and parents to this. It is a wonderful opportunity to come and meet our new Bishop.

Class teacher appointments

If parents and carers would like to speak to their child's teacher, please make an appointment at the school office. It is not realistic to expect an impromptu meeting in the mornings as staff are committed to a number of activities. However, if it is urgent please contact the school office who will assist you. Thank you for your understanding and co-operation in this matter.

School procedure reminder

As a parent, if you have any concerns regarding your child/ren, the first port of call is always to the class teacher because they know and teach your child and have responsibility for them on a daily basis. However, if having met with them (through having made an appropriate appointment) and the issue has not been resolved, the next stage of the process is to request a meeting with the Deputy Head Teacher, Mrs Hurley. If there is still no resolution, then the matter can be referred to the Headteacher, Mrs Birtles, by either party. This procedure is in line with the school's Policy on Behaviour, Discipline and Anti Bullying. Thank you.

The Importance of Reading

Information and further evidence of the importance of reading has been highlighted recently in the publication of *The Life Project*. This project began in 1946 and is an extraordinarily detailed and exhaustive study of the lives so far of tens of thousands of Britons. What has been learned is that reading and its importance in our lives should not be underestimated as this skill is a life enhancer and impacts positively on all aspects of education, including maths. Another key finding was shown to be the importance of regular set bedtimes and sleep patterns (10/11 hours of sleep per night for primary age children) and how this leads to and promotes good behaviour. Being loved and raised in a supportive and warm environment was another positive attribute.

World Book Day Thursday 3rd March

In order to celebrate World Book Day next Thursday, this academic year we are asking the children to dress up as their favourite book character. This year, with reading being the major focus for the school, we would like parents to donate a new book or a second hand book in mint condition and send it in with your child/ren on Thursday. A list of the authors which would be pertinent to the children's learning and development may be found on the school website under the Newsletter section. Thank you for your support.

Healthy Eating

As part of our on-going commitment to healthy eating, wellbeing and an active lifestyle, the school is holding a meeting on Tuesday 1st March at 09:15 in the school hall. All parents and carers are warmly invited so that we can share our thoughts and have your valuable input towards this initiative.

We look forward to seeing you on Tuesday.

Cross country

There will be cross country twice a week now on **Wednesday and Friday lunchtimes** until the Hot Cross Run day for the juniors on Tuesday 22nd March. Please ensure that the children have their cross country clothes in school for both days. Thank you

Parent Governor Election

We have received three nominations for Parent Governor. Please remember to return your forms by Thursday 10th March. Thank you.

Consultation

There is a consultation regarding the proposal to establish an Enhanced Provision for children with Austistic Spectrum Disorders at Merrylands Primary School Basildon on 15th March. Further details may be found on the school website.

Pencils for Phil Beadle

We have received this request recently from Sister Jude of Brentwood Religious Education Service via Independent Thinking Ltd

Last week our long-time Associate Phil Beadle went to France to help us work out how best we can support the education of children in the refugee camp in Dunkirk. Working under the banner of our partner charity World Wide Education Project, Phil linked up with Edlumino who are doing amazing work over there in very difficult circumstances. He came back with a shopping list which include a really rather straightforward request - coloured pencils. So, can you help the children in a refugee camp on the French border?

Pop down to somewhere like Poundland and pick up a set of pencils for £1 or Poundstretcher and pick up a kid's activity pack for 99p. You get the idea. Then pop them in an envelope and send them to us a:

Pencils for Phil Beadle

Independent Thinking Ltd

Crown Buildings

High Street

Bancyfelin

Carmarthenshire SA33 5ND

We will make sure Phil Receives them ready for when he goes out next. Phil, Edlumino and the refugee children of Northern France will be very, very grateful. Merci.

Study day with Father Nicholas King SJ

Father Nicholas King, well-known biblical scholar, will lead a study day at the Catholic Church of Christ the Eternal High Priest, Gidea Park, RM2 6DH on Saturday 12th March from 10.30am until 3pm. The topic of the day will be "The Helplessness of God". Biblical texts will be explored to help us reflect on leadership and authority in the Church. The day is free, and tea and coffee

will be provided. Please bring a packed lunch. It essential to book your place and this should be done by email to GPstudydays@gmail.com Copies of the flyer associated with the study day are in the school foyer.

Can you be caught reading?

Thank you very much to everybody who submitted photographs; there is a lovely display in school.

School Health

Drop- in service

Any parents with health and developmental concerns about their children may drop in to the Central Canvey Primary Care Centre, Long Road, Canvey Island SS8 OJA. They are able to perform hearing tests and no appointment is necessary.

The drop-in clinic dates are: 10th and 24th March; 21st April; 5th and 19th May; 16th and 30th June; 14th July.

For more in-depth problems please contact the clinic directly on 01268 686041 for an appointment with the school nurse.

Team Points

St Mary's (blue team) were the winners of house points competition in the week before half-term. Well done to all those who contributed.

Attendance

RW 96.3% 1C 94.7% 2FL 94.8% 3L 96.9% 4H 99.3% 5B 97.7% 6I 96.7%. Well done to Year 4 for best attendance last week.

Saint of the week

Next Tuesday, 1st March is St David's Day. St David is widely known as the Patron Saint of Wales. He was the son of King Sant of South Wales, but chose to be ordained as a priest. He went on missionary work throughout Wales, founding a number of monasteries. He died in 589 AD in one of the monasteries he founded. He was widely regarded for his excellent spiritual leadership and the good life he led that was an example to others.

Jubilee Year of Mercy 2016

Motto: Merciful like the Father

From

Mrs S Birtles and Mr P O'Kane
Headteacher

Diary Dates

Wednesday 2 nd March	Bishop Alan's pastoral visit
Friday 4 th March	Year 5 Taster Day at The Appleton School
Tuesday 8 th March	Parent contact meetings 3.30pm - 6pm
Thursday 10 th March	Parent contact meetings 4.30pm - 7.30pm
Friday 18 th March	Infant Music Festival 9.45am (Year 2) The Paddocks, Canvey Island
Tuesday 22 nd March	Hot cross run p.m. (selected junior children) St Thomas More High School
Thursday 24 th March	Easter Presentation 2pm in the school hall parents and parishioners welcome
Friday 25 th March – Sunday 10 th April	Easter holidays

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There is a calendar section on the school website—www.holyfamily.essex.sch.uk