



## HOLY FAMILY CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Diocese of  
Brentwood

Headteacher Mr P.O'Kane

### Newsletter 437 Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December 2019

We have had a very busy time in school over the past few weeks. The Christmas Fayre on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> November was a great family occasion—the atmosphere throughout the afternoon was lovely. In addition to generating some seasonal cheer, the Christmas Fayre also raised an amazing £1568.15 that the PGSA will spend on the children in our school. The PGSA have already promised to provide Mrs Monksfield with money to buy new books for our school reading scheme. Thank you to everyone who came along and supported the Fayre; special thanks to all those who gave up their time before, during and after the Fayre to ensure it was a great success. Williams & Donovan estate agency have offered to donate £100 to the PGSA for every house sale made following a referral from someone associated with Holy Family School as part of their sponsorship of the Christmas Fayre.

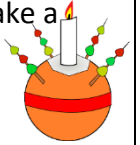
This week of we have been pleased to welcome so many parents, grandparents and parishioners into school to watch performances put on by all our children. Our very youngest pupils in the EYFS, presented a traditional Nativity story to their families on Monday and Wednesday mornings. Our older children were in action on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons, with our Years 3, 4, 5 & 6 pupils giving one final performance last night in the school hall. The General Election meant that the children could not perform at Holy Family Church as per our traditions—the parish hall at the back of the church was in use as a polling station.

Thank you all for supporting the children throughout the week, not only by coming along to watch and encourage them, but by helping them to learn their lines and song words and by providing them with such fantastic costumes. Cllr Brian Wood joined us on Tuesday afternoon in place of our mayor, Cllr Colin Riley. Cllr Wood gave voice to feelings of many when he praised and commended the children for their hard work and the quality of their singing and acting. Your generosity to the after-performance collections has raised £279.13 for the Brentwood Catholic Children's Society and Little Havens Hospice.

Today, our Year 6 pupils visited Parklands Nursing Home, singing carols to entertain the residents. This has become an annual fixture in our calendar over the past five years. The residents and staff look forward immensely to the Holy Family visit each year. In return, our pupils are able to share some joy with the wider community that is very much part of their Advent preparations for Christmas.

Throughout this Advent season, Mrs Hurley and I have been reminding the children of the true meaning of Advent—a time of preparation for the birth of our Saviour, Jesus Christ. It is important that we help the children to appreciate that there is more to Advent than simply opening cardboard calendars each day to obtain a little chocolate or some other small gift.

**Christingle Service** Our annual Christingle Service will take place next Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December at 2.30pm. This is a beautiful service of light that is celebrated by many Christians around the world as part of their Advent preparations for Christmas. Instructions on how your child (and you) can make a Christingle will be sent out via PMX Parentmail. Parents and carers are welcome to attend our Christingle Service.



**PGSA Discos** The PGSA have organised children's discos for next Tuesday afternoon. Full details are available on the PGSA Facebook page. Tickets can be purchased in advance from the PGSA.

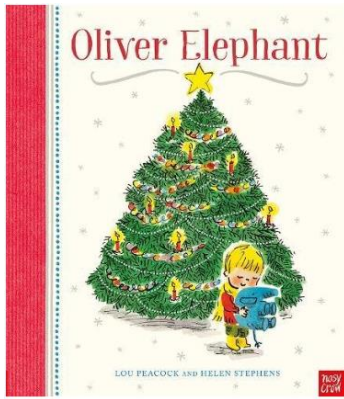
**Christmas Dinner Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> December** If you would like your child to have a Christmas dinner on the last day of term, please order it via the Parentmail App. It appears as an "event payment". Please look in PAYMENT- SHOP. The Christmas dinner must be paid for separately from the regular online school dinner payments. If your child is in KS1 a meal should still be ordered but it will be free. The deadline for orders is **Monday 16<sup>th</sup> December**. We regret that we will be unable to provide any school meals where the meal has not been pre-ordered.

**Christmas Hats on Christmas Dinner Day** You will have received a message on Parentmail regarding our tradition of wearing a Christmas jumper and/or a Christmas hat on Christmas dinner day. If your child would like to take part they should wear normal school uniform but substitute their school jumpers or cardigans with a Christmas jumper.

**Enterprise Club** Miss Furby is delighted to announce that with the money raised by the Enterprise Club, she has purchased some new headphones for the ICT suite.



**Book of the Month** These are Mrs Monksfield's December recommendations:



### Oliver Elephant

Lou Peacock and Helen Stephens

When Noah goes Christmas shopping with his mum and baby sister, he has a brilliant time with his toy elephant, Oliver, playing peekaboo, hiding in a doll's house and dancing Oliver on tables. But suddenly disaster strikes - Oliver goes missing! And - oh dear - the department store is VERY big. Will Noah ever find his favourite toy again?

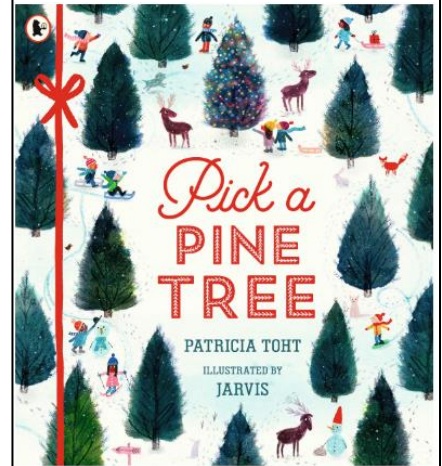
### Pick a Pine Tree

Patricia Toht

*Pick a pine tree from the lot – slim and tall, or short and squat! Long straight limbs or branches bent... Mmm! Just smell that pine scent!*

**From the winner of the V&A Best Illustrated Book 2017**

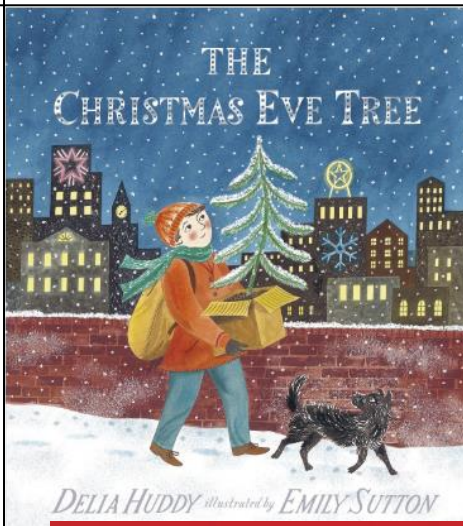
From Alan's *Big, Scary Teeth* creator, Jarvis, and author Patricia Toht, comes a beautiful, irresistible Christmas gift book that all begins with ... picking a pine tree! Brimming over with the excitement of being with family at the festive season, a gorgeously rhythmical, read-aloud narrative accompanied by warm, joyful art celebrates all the familiar rituals of decorating the tree – from digging out jam-packed boxes of trimmings, stringing tinsel, to, at last, turning on those twinkly fairy lights.



### The Christmas Eve Tree

Delia Huddy & Emily Sutton

When the ugly little fir tree is taken to the city, no one wants to buy him; they prefer the big tall trees. But a homeless boy asks the shopkeeper if he can take the tree, and down by the river in a cardboard box, decorated with a few candles, the tree finds itself at the centre of a magical Christmas Eve it will never forget. A Christmas tale with a classic feel but a modern theme at its heart.



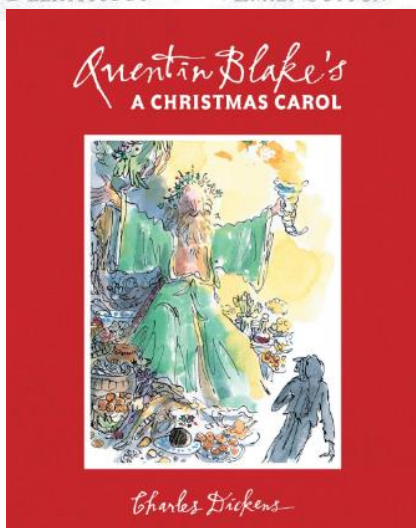
### A Christmas Carol

Charles Dickens illustrated by Quentin Blake

**Quentin Blake turns his brilliant artistic talents to Dickens' much-loved Christmas story.**

If you enjoyed watching Years 5 & 6 perform *Bah Humbug*, then you'll love this.

A beautiful luxury edition of Dickens's timeless Christmas classic. **A Christmas Carol** is the book that defines the Christmas spirit. Ebenezer Scrooge, a mean-spirited miser, is visited by three ghosts one Christmas Eve. The ghosts show Scrooge the true value of Christmas: charity, good humour and love for his fellow man. Quentin Blake's colourful illustrations guide the reader through Scrooge's lively journey to find the meaning of Christmas. This unabridged edition contains a foreword by the illustrator and is the ultimate Christmas gift book.



**Reception Admissions September 2020** The admissions round for September 2020 opened on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2019. Essex County Council will not send out letters, but advise all parents seeking places to visit the website [www.essex.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.essex.gov.uk/admissions) where there is a copy of the Primary Education in Essex 2020/21 booklet and the Schools Admissions Policies Directories contain details of all admission policies.

**Saint of the week** Tomorrow is the Feast Day of St John of the Cross. St John loved the cross which is a symbol that Christ died to save us all. John was a Spanish Carmelite Friar who was involved in establishing monasteries and friaries and is also regarded as one of the greatest writers in Spanish literature. His two most famous works, *Spiritual Canticle* and *Dark Night of the Soul* are considered masterpieces. He died on 14<sup>th</sup> December 1591.

He was canonised as a saint in 1726 and is considered one of the thirty-six **Doctors of the Church**—saints of significant importance.

***“In the twilight of life, God will not judge us on our earthly possessions and human successes, but on how well we have loved.”*** — [San Juan de la Cruz](#) (St. John of the Cross)



**Thought for the week** *“Rejoice, the Lord is coming soon! God sends his own Son to save us. Joy and gladness are ours, and the time for sorrow and lamenting is over. Christ is standing at the gates and we know he is the one for whom we have been waiting. Do not lose heart. Take courage! Your God is coming!”* Introit for third Sunday of Advent 2019.



Sunday is the third Sunday of Advent. At all Masses this weekend, the rose pink candle will be lit on the Advent wreath. Pink is the colour of joy and this Sunday is referred to as **Gaudete Sunday**. **Gaudete** is the Latin word for **rejoice**, the first word of the introit (entrance) at Sunday’s Mass.

**Attendance** Nursery class 93.1% RF 95.6% 1F 97.1% 2T 98.8% 3W 97.3% 4LB 89% 5H 96% 6M 96.6% Well done to Year 2 for best attendance last week.

**Parish Contact Details**

Holy Family Catholic Church, 661 High Road, Benfleet, SS7 6SF

[www.holyfamily-church.co.uk](http://www.holyfamily-church.co.uk)

Parish Priest: Fr Eduard Fartan,

[eduard.fartan@yahoo.com](mailto:eduard.fartan@yahoo.com)

[priest@holyfamily-church.org](mailto:priest@holyfamily-church.org)

Parish Secretary: Mrs Clare Dempsey

[office@holyfamily-church.org](mailto:office@holyfamily-church.org)

Telephone: 01268 792082 or 01268 799649

Mr P. O’Kane Headteacher

**Diary Dates**

Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup> December	PGSA Children’s Discos
Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> December	Christingle Service 2.30 pm
Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Dinner Day & Christmas Jumper Day
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> December—Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> January 2020	Christmas Holidays
Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> January 2020	All Pupils Return to School
Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> January 2020	Whole School Pantomime Trip
Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup> January	Online Applications for September 2020 Reception Places Close
Monday 10 <sup>th</sup> February—Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> February 2020	Year 6 Residential Trip <b>tbc</b>
Monday 17 <sup>th</sup> February—Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> February	Spring Half-Term Break
Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> February 2020	All Pupils Return to School
Sunday 5 <sup>th</sup> April 2020	Palm/Passion Sunday—Start of Holy Week
Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> April—Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> April 2020	Easter Holidays
Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup> April 2020	Maundy/Holy Thursday
Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> April 2020	Good Friday
Sunday 12 <sup>th</sup> April 2020	Easter Sunday
Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> April 2020	Pupils Return to School
Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> May 2020	75 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary of VE Day—Public Holiday
Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> May	KS2 (Year 6) SATs Week
Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> May—Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> May 2020	Summer Half-Term Break
Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> June 2020	Non-Pupil Day 4
Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> June 2020	Pupils Return to School
Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup> July 2020	Final School Day of Academic Year
Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> July 2020	Non-Pupil Day 5