



HOLY FAMILY CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Headteacher Mr P.O'Kane

Newsletter 309 Friday 24th June 2016

It has been another varied week in the life of Holy Family School. Despite the beautiful blue skies that I'm looking at this afternoon, the weather put paid to a number of events that were planned. I took the decision to postpone our school sports morning as the weather forecast predicted heavy showers for our area on Wednesday morning. The organisers of the KS1 Catholic sports also had to postpone the competition on Thursday morning.

We hope to hold our school sports morning on Wednesday 13th July 2016; the KS1 Catholic sports is provisionally rescheduled for Wednesday 6th July 2016.

Throughout Monday morning and on into the afternoon, Mrs Barratt and Mr Watson were involved in a meeting with the KS2 Writing Moderator. Each year a number of schools are selected randomly to have a sample of children's work and teacher assessment judgements scrutinised by the local authority on behalf of the DfE. It was a very positive meeting, with the moderator acknowledging the hard work of the pupils and staff. A few weeks ago, Mrs Wall had to go through the same process with an EYFS moderator; as with KS2 moderation, it was a validation of all the good work undertaken by our reception children and staff.

On Monday afternoon we welcomed senior staff from our local Catholic secondary schools, St. Bernard's and St. Thomas More. Mr Sharpe and Mrs Allen met with parents with daughters in Year 5; Mr Mason and his team (which included four of our recent past pupils) spoke to parents with sons in Year 5. I trust that all those who attended found the sessions useful and informative. It was lovely to welcome back Jayden, Matthew, Vincent and Luca.

PC Jane Grieve came into school (during her own time) to speak to all of our Year 5 and 6 children about e-safety, appropriate use of technology, cyber-bullying and other pertinent concerns. The school staff and I have to deal with increasing numbers of complaints about social media posts and texting by children and their parents. It is worrying that a significant number of our pupils have social media and other accounts with the full knowledge and approval of their parents. We all need to remember that it is as important to stay safe in cyber-space as it is to stay safe on our bikes; near water; and all the other physical hazards that we would be wary about exposing our children to, yet far too many children have unfettered access to the most dangerous place of all—the internet.

Mrs Barratt, Mr Watson and I accompanied our Year 6 class to the annual Mass for all leavers from our Southend Deanery schools. This was a lovely occasion enabling all the Catholic schools to come together to mark the end of the children's primary school education and gave all present the chance to reflect on moving on to the next stage of their lives. Mgr Kevin Hale

concelebrated Mass with Fr Lee, Fr Basil and Fr Jeff Woolnough from Eastwood. Fr Eduard was also present. I am grateful to Steve's Self-Drive Hire in Southend for hiring a minibus to the school at very short notice after our initial transport plans were scuppered. I have to admit I enjoyed driving in such an elevated position.

Year 5 spent the afternoon at King John School today as a taster session to help them with the process of deciding where to attend secondary school.

Inflatable Fun Day Saturday 16th July—Advertising Boards

Thank you for the donations that have started to come into school; thanks also to all the parents and grandparents who have signed up for an Amos Estates board.

Piano lessons

There are now only two spaces for piano lessons with Mrs Rothwell starting in the Autumn Term 2016. The lessons last 15 minutes and are given during the school day. Fees are £75 for 10 lessons per term payable in advance. If your child is in Year 1 or above and is interested in having lessons, please leave their name with the school office.

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: 30th June; 14th July.

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

Attendance

RW 84.7% 1C 97.7% 2FL 89% 3L 98.6% 4H **100%** 5B 96.9% 6I 94.1%. Well done to Year 4 for excellent 100% attendance last week.

Saint of the Week.

On Wednesday, the Church will celebrate the lives of two of the greatest saints—Peter and Paul. Although completely different in background, education, temperament and life experiences, they both worked hard to spread the gospel throughout the world. Peter had first-hand knowledge of Christ, having been with him throughout his ministry; Paul on the other hand was a convert to Christianity who had persecuted Christians when he was called Saul. Whatever our strengths (and weaknesses) we can all do Christ's work here on earth. Fr Eduard has very kindly offered to celebrate Mass with the children on Wednesday afternoon.

Mr P O'Kane Headteacher

Diary Dates

Monday 27 th June	Governors' Finance & Premises Meeting Governors' Personnel Meeting
Tuesday 28 th June	Induction Day (1) King John & Appleton
Wednesday 29 th June Wednesday 29 th June	Feast of SS Peter & Paul Year 1 & 2 Trip to Barleylands
Wednesday 29 th June	Induction Day (2) King John & Appleton
Thursday 30 th June	Early Learning Centre Sports Day 11am
Thursday 30 th June	Induction Day (1) St Thomas More, Westcliff for Boys & Girls
Friday 1 st July	Non-pupil day
Friday 1 st July	Induction Day (2) St Thomas More, Westcliff for Boys & Girls
Friday 1 st July	Induction Day Southend High School for Boys & Girls
Tuesday 5 th July	Year 5 Day to St Bernard's & St Thomas More
Wednesday 6 th July Wednesday 6 th July	South Essex Archery Tournament KS1 Catholic Sports (tbc)
Wednesday 6 th July	St Bernard's Open Evening
Thursday 7 th July	Catholic Schools Sports KS2
Thursday 7 th July	St Thomas More Open Evening
Monday 11 th July Monday 11 th July	Reception 2016/17 Induction 1 Year 4 Trip—Sandford Mill
Tuesday 12 th July	Reception 2016/17 Induction 2
Tuesday 12 th July	Year 6 Trip—Greenwich
Wednesday 13 th July	School Sports Morning (tbc)
Friday 15 th July Friday 15 th July	Road to Rio Dance Day Cake Sale Morning

Saturday 16 th July	Inflatable Fun Day	
Friday 22 nd July	Last School Day of the Academic Year	
Thursday 1 st September	Non-Pupil Day	
Friday 2 nd September	Non-Pupil Day	
Monday 5 th September	Children return to school	
Thursday 20 th October	Non-Pupil Day	
Friday 21 st October	Non-Pupil Day	
Monday 24 th October—Friday 28 th October	Half-Term Holiday	
Thursday 22 nd December 2016—Wednesday 4 th January 2017	Christmas Holidays	
Monday 13 th February—Friday 17 th February 2017	Half-Term Holiday	
Monday 3 rd April—Monday 17 th April 2017	Easter Holidays	
Monday 1 st May 2017	Public holiday	
Monday 29 th May- Friday 2 nd June 2017	Half-term holiday	
Friday 21 st July 2017	Last day of the school year	
Monday 24 th July 2017	Summer Holidays	

There is one more non-pupil day that needs to be set for 2016-2017 academic year.