

HOLY FAMILY CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Headteacher Mr P.O'Kane

Newsletter 342 Friday 28th April 2017

It has been a quiet but industrious week in school with the children focussing hard on their schoolwork which I have witnessed first-hand on my travels around the school.

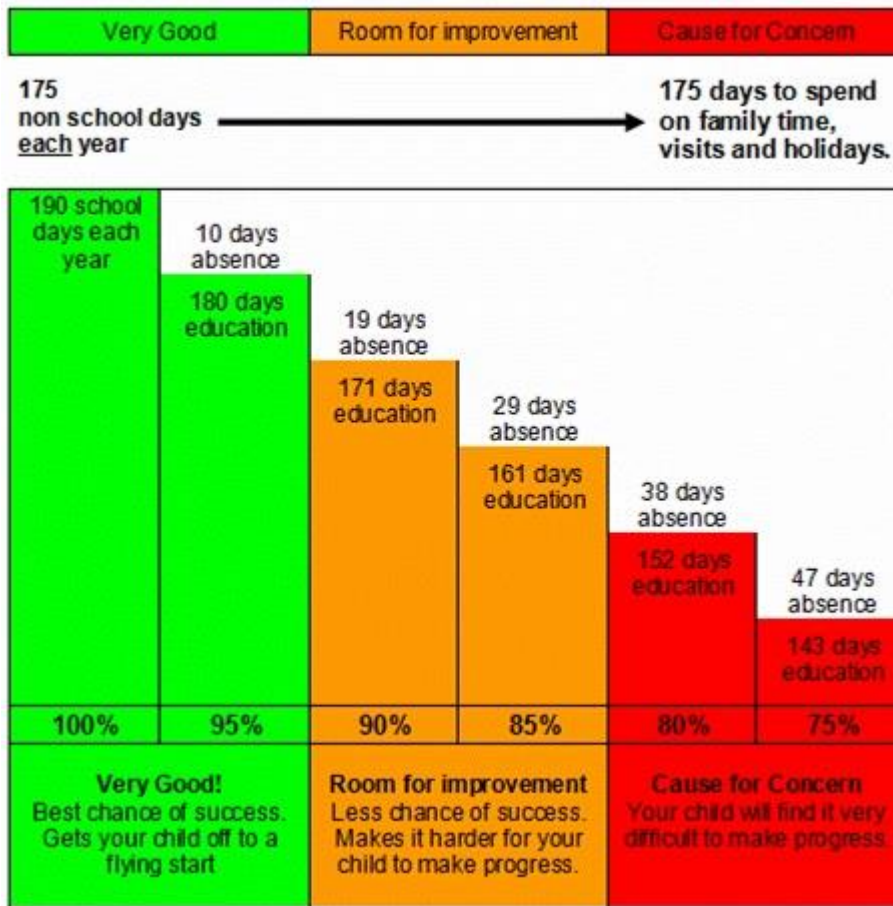
My St George's Day assembly on Monday morning was much more low key than usual, as I took the time to talk to all our children about our behaviour expectations. The overwhelming majority of our children act appropriately in class and at play, but there are a minority of children who are still unable to follow our simple rules: "**Do the right thing at the right time**" and "**Keep your hands, feet and unhelpful comments to yourself.**" Staff members throughout the school are using our school behaviour policy much more consistently and we have made some adjustments to lunchtime organisation.

RE Inspection The Diocese of Brentwood will carry out a Section 48 RE Inspection on Thursday 4th May.

Blue Whale Challenge The diocese, the police and one of our governors have alerted me to the dangers of an internet "game" known as the Blue Whale Challenge. I do not wish to print the vile details here, but suffice to say that this "game" can be physically and emotionally damaging to children and young people. Please remember how vulnerable our children can be when they have unhindered and unfiltered access to the internet via XBOXES, tablets, phones, laptops and other devices. Some of our parents are often unaware that their children are communicating with unknown persons in games or other apps until a problem arises or they are notified by the school—often concerned parents will pass worrying screenshots etc to class teachers, Mrs Hurley or myself.

Swimming Lessons We are pleased that swimming lessons will begin next Wednesday 3rd May with our swimming teachers Mrs Dempsey and Mrs Hughes. The children have brought home letters this week regarding times and costs which will be £30.00 per child, £60.00 per family.

Attendance RF 95.3% 1F 96.3% 2T 98.8% 3W 76.6% 4D 96.6% 5LB 97.9% 6F 94.6% Well done to Year 2 for best attendance last week. The overwhelming majority of children have good attendance, but there is a significant minority for whom attendance is of serious concern. In the coming weeks, I will be writing to parents of children with poor attendance to invite them into school for attendance meetings. There is a direct link between attendance, progress and attainment.



Earrings Despite the reminder in last week's newsletter and the fact that the school rules regarding the wearing of earrings was shared with the children in assembly, a number of girls have been sent to school wearing earrings covered with tape. This is not our school policy and it creates conflict and stress where there ought to be none. Children become anxious because parents send them in with earrings knowing that they are in breach of the school rules. Children do not like it when I or a member of staff mentions that they should not be wearing earrings. I do not expect to see any children in school next week with earrings, taped over or otherwise. Please support us in maintaining our school uniform policy. Thank you.

Saint of the Week Tomorrow we celebrate the feast day of St Catherine of Siena. St Catherine began having visions at the age of 6, seeing guardian angels and the people they protected. She became a Dominican nun and continued to have visions, seeing Christ himself. She was respected for being one of the greatest thinkers of her time, despite not having a formal education. Our Lord gave her the stigmata (crucifixion wounds) in 1375 and she died in 1380 at the age of 33—the same age at which Jesus himself was put to death.

Church of San Domenico, Siena—St Catherine's relics are here



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 4th & 18th May; 8th & 22nd June; 6th July.

Oak Tree Children's Centre, Grovewood Primary School, Grove Road, Rayleigh, SS6 8UA. Phone 01268 686041 from 2-4pm 9th & 23rd May; 13th & 27th June; 11th July.

Wishing Well Children's Centre, Waterman Primary School, The Boulevard, Rochford, SS4 1QF. Phone 01702 541460 from 2-4pm 15th May; 5th & 19th June; 3rd July.

I wish you all an enjoyable bank holiday weekend.

Mr P. O'Kane

Headteacher

Diary Dates

Monday 1 st May	Public holiday—school closed
Thursday 4 th May	Section 48 RE Inspection
Monday 8 th May	SATs week
Thursday 18 th May	Sponsored Bounce
Thursday 18 th May	Year 3 Trip—Wat Tyler Park
Saturday 20 th May	First Holy Communion, 11.00am Holy Family Church, Benfleet
Monday 22 nd May	Year 5 Parents' Meeting with Senior Staff from St Bernard's and St Thomas More
Thursday 25 th May	KS1 Cross Country Pentecost Dash 9.30am
Friday 26 th May	Crowning of Our Lady service 2.30pm Parents and carers welcome
Monday 29 th May- Friday 2 nd June	Half-term holiday
Tuesday 27 th May	Year 5 Day, St Bernard's & St Thomas More tbc
Monday 19 th June	Year 6 Deanery Mass, 11.00am Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Leigh-on-Sea

Friday 23 rd June	School Sports Morning
Tuesday 27 th & Wednesday 28 th June	The Appleton, The Deanes and The King John School Y7 induction days
Thursday 29 th June	Feast of Saints Peter & Paul
Thursday 29 th June & Friday 30 th June	St Bernard's & St Thomas More Y7 induction days
Wednesday 5 th July	KS1 Catholic Sports 9.30- 12.00pm St Teresa's
Thursday 6 th July	KS2 Catholic Sports 9.30-12.00pm St Thomas More High School
Friday 7 th July	Year 3 Eucharist Day St Bernard's High School
Tuesday 11 th July	KS2 District Sports The Deanes School

Non-pupil Days 2017—2018 The following non-pupil days were approved by the school's governors at their meeting on Monday evening: Monday 4th September 2017, Tuesday 5th September 2017, Friday 20th October 2017, Tuesday 2nd January 2018, and Monday 19th February 2018.