



HOLY FAMILY CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Diocese of
Brentwood

Headteacher Mr P.O'Kane

Newsletter 403 Friday 23rd November 2018

The wet, gloomy weather of recent days has not dampened the mood or enthusiasm of the pupils and staff at Holy Family. Many, many wonderful and exciting things have been happening throughout the school.

On Wednesday with the aid of some invaluable volunteers Year 6 built an amazing Anderson Shelter as part of their WWII studies—this project followed on from their visit to Wat Tyler Park last week. The children also made individual models of Anderson Shelters in class. Thank you to everyone who helped with the construction of the Anderson Shelter: Mr Smith, Mr Watson, Mr O'Brien, Mr Lawrence, Mr Caulfield and two members of the Phillips family. Thanks also to the PGSA for buying the materials and equipment needed on the day.



The Anderson Shelter



Hanging out WWII washing at Wat Tyler Park



Year 1 presented their class assembly this morning. It was on the theme of Castles—a topic they have been studying in class. The children brought their learning to life in a variety of ways. Thank you to Miss Furby for helping the children to prepare for their assembly.

Some of us were unable to watch the Year 1 assembly as we were with our fabulous choir in Crowstone Church, Southend. The children were competing in the prestigious Southend Music Festival. Despite two strong performances, the choir missed out on the second place medal by a single point. Thank you to Mrs Lewins and Mrs Clark for preparing the singers and signers in school, Miss Toms for accompanying the choir on the piano and all those parents and grandparents who were able to provide lifts to the Festival.

Signing Choir Songs Mrs Clark will no longer be using memory sticks to distribute signing choir sign language instructions. Sign language instructions for signing choir members can now be accessed via the school's YouTube channel: HFCPS Benfleet.

Children's Raffle Tickets for the children's raffle will be on sale throughout next week, with the draw taking place on Friday morning after the cake sale. All proceeds from the children's raffle will be added to the grand total raised by next Saturday's Christmas Fayre.

Cake Sale The traditional winter cake sale will take place next Friday morning. We will gratefully receive donations of cakes, buns and pastries to be sold to the children during the cake sale and to visitors to the Christmas Fayre. Please label any Tupperware boxes or tins clearly so that they may be returned to you. All proceeds from the cake sale will be added to the grand total raised by next Saturday's Christmas Fayre.

Christmas Fayre Saturday 1st December—Donations and Volunteers Please! Any donations of preloved or unwanted toys, books, toiletries or gift sets etc would be gratefully received in preparation for the Christmas Fayre. Can you spare an hour or two on the day to help out? The PGSA are looking for volunteers to run a stall or help with setting up and tidying away after the Fayre has finished.

Christmas Coffee Morning The Knights of St Columba will be holding a Christmas Coffee Morning on Sunday 2nd December after 8.30am Mass. Tea, coffee, cakes and bacon butties will all be available. There will also be a raffle. Any money raised will be used to help pay for the Christmas floral arrangements in the parish and to support KSC charities.

Christmas Dinner Wednesday 19th December If your child would like a Christmas dinner on the last of term, please order via the Parentmail App. Thank you to all those parents and carers who have already paid and ordered. There will obviously be no payment for KS1 children but the meal still has to be ordered. For KS2 children, please pay via the events payment option on the App. Please look in PAYMENTS-SHOP-EVENTS. The deadline for orders is 17th December and we regret that we are unable to provide any meals on the day which have not been ordered.

The Christmas dinner must be paid for separately from the online school dinner payments.

School Uniform A number of children are still coming to school wearing parts of the summer uniform. All children should now wear their full winter uniform to school; ties need to be worn with shirts/blouses that have stiff collars—not polo shirts. Miss Furby has asked me to remind everyone that their child will need to bring appropriate PE gear into school for PE lessons. As the hall will be used increasingly for Christmas rehearsals, many PE lessons will take place outside as long as it is not raining.

The children should have plain navy sweatshirts and jogging bottoms for outdoor PE/Games (or navy with the school logo). Thank you for your continued support of our uniform policy.

Online payments for school meals We are pleased that we are now accepting payment for school dinners via the Parentmail app and thank you to those parents and carers who have already made payments. Parents will now be able to view their child's balance and top up the account at their convenience. Parentmail will automatically send a prompt to top up accounts when the balance falls to £0.00. All children should have sufficient funds on account before they ask for a meal. If you experience any difficulties with the app, please contact the school office.

Saint of the week Yesterday was the Feast Day of St Cecilia, patron saint of musicians. She is regarded as the patroness of music because of a story that she heard heavenly music in her heart when she was married. Throughout her life, Cecilia sought to win converts to the faith, often falling foul of the authorities.



St Cecilia



St Cecilia



Mother Catherine McAuley



St Cecilia

Thought for the Week "The adage, *never too old to learn* is a great comfort to me." Mother Catherine McAuley founder of the Sisters of Mercy.

Throughout this month of the Holy Souls, please remember to pray for those who have gone before us: "Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon them. May their souls, and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

Attendance Nursery class 98.3% RF 97.2% 1F 97% 2T **100%** 3W 92.7% 4H 94% 5B 98.3% 6L 98.1% Well done to Year 2 for **100%** attendance last week!

Parish Contact Details

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Mr P. O'Kane Headteacher

Diary Dates

Monday 26 th November	Y5&6 Barnardo's Concert, Royal Albert Hall
Tuesday 27 th November	Year 1 Winter Games, Deanes School
Friday 30 th November	Cake Sale & Children's Raffle Morning
Saturday 1 st December	PGSA Christmas Fayre
Sunday 2 nd December	1 st Sunday of Advent
Tuesday 4 th December	Colin Wyatt (Illustrator) in School
Thursday 6 th December	KS2 Walk to Church for Morning Mass & Rehearsal for KS2 Christmas Concert
Friday 7 th December	Dress Rehearsal Morning
Monday 10 th December	Christmas Shows, 1.30pm (grandparents)
Tuesday 11 th December	Christmas Shows, 1.30pm
Wednesday 12 th December	Christmas Shows, 1.30pm
Thursday 13 th December	KS2 Walk to Church for Morning Mass & Rehearsal for KS2 Christmas Concert
Thursday 13 th December	KS2 Christmas Concert, 7.00pm Holy Family Church
Tuesday 18 th December	Advent Reconciliation Service
Wednesday 19 th December	Christmas Dinner
Wednesday 19 th December	Last day of Autumn Term
Thursday 20 th December—Wednesday 2 nd January 2019	Christmas Holidays
Thursday 3 rd January 2019	Non Pupil Day
Friday 4 th January 2019	Non Pupil Day
Sunday 6 th January 2019	Feast of the Epiphany
Monday 7 th January 2019	Children return to school
Friday 11 th January 2019	School trip to Pantomime
Tuesday 15 th January 2019	LGC Meeting, 6.00pm
Thursday 17 th January 2019	Year 3 Assembly, 10.15am
Friday 25 th January 2019	Year 5 Assembly, 10.15am
Wednesday 30 th January	Dance Festival—Miss Furby and selected children
Friday 8 th February 2019	Year 2 Assembly, 10.15am
Monday 11 th February—Friday 15 th	Y6 Danbury Residential Trip
Thursday 14 th February 2019	Reception Class Assembly, 10.15am
Monday 18 th February—Friday 22 nd February	Spring half-term week
Monday 8 th April 2019—Monday 22 nd April	Easter Holidays
Sunday 14 th April 2019	Palm Sunday
Friday 19 th April 2019	Good Friday
Sunday 21 st April 2019	Easter Sunday
Tuesday 22 nd April 2019	Children return to school
Monday 6 th May 2019	Public Holiday—School Closed
Monday 13 th May—Friday 17 th May 2019	SATs week
Monday 27 th May—Friday 31 st May 2019	Summer half-term week
Monday 3 rd June 2019	Non-pupil Day
Wednesday 24 th July 2019	Last day of the school year
Thursday 25 th July 2019	Summer holidays begin