



HOLY FAMILY CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Diocese of
Brentwood

Headteacher Mr P.O'Kane

Newsletter 405 Friday 7th December 2018

Thank you to everyone who was able to attend the Christmas Fayre on Saturday which was a wonderful community occasion and has raised an incredible £2297.49. I would like to say a big thank you to everyone who came to the Fayre and who contributed in any way to the running of it. I would especially like to thank the members of the PGSA for all the time and dedication they gave to making the day so successful.



Mrs Hurley led Monday's assembly to mark the beginning of this Holy Season of Advent. She lit the first purple candle on our Advent Wreath which was created by Mrs Herridge our Chair of Governors.

On Tuesday we welcomed Colin Wyatt, illustrator, into school to work with children in all year groups to hone their artistic skills. The children thoroughly enjoyed their sessions with Colin with some referring to his visit as a "real treat." Thank you to Miss Furby for organising Colin's visit and thank you to the PGSA who gave Miss Furby a gift voucher to present to Colin in appreciation of all his efforts.



Yesterday the mixed netball team played a home match against Thundersley. Mrs Bewers was extremely proud of the squad as they won 13:0 against a school which has traditionally been one of our strongest local rivals. Well done to all the girls and boys in the squad. Thank you to Mrs Bewers for coaching the team.

Early collection of pupils We have found that a trend has developed recently of some children being collected regularly before the end of the school day varying from 2.30pm or even earlier. We understand that there may be the odd occasion when medical appointments can only be obtained during schools hours but it is disruptive to the child's education to take them out before 3pm.

Obviously, the school has no issue when there is a real family emergency or suchlike, but increased convenience for parents or carers is not a good reason to take your child out of school early. Thank you for your co-operation in this regard.

KS2 Christmas Concert All the children and staff, from the Nursery class through to Year 6 are rehearsing for their Christmas productions next week. For many, many years, it has been a Holy Family tradition for our KS2 children (Years 3—6) to perform their final show at Holy Family Church on the Thursday evening of Christmas Concert week. As a school and parish community, we have an expectation that all our KS2 children will participate in the Thursday evening show, but sadly a number of children have told their teachers that they are not coming. This puts the children and staff in an awkward position, especially as speaking parts or singing slots may have to be reallocated. We are extremely proud of the overwhelming support we receive from our families throughout the school year and I would urge all families with children in KS2 to support the concert in church on Thursday 13th December. Those of us who have had the privilege of attending the Thursday evening concerts in previous years know that they are wonderful, beautiful occasions.

Please note that this year's performances in school will begin at 1.10pm and not 1.30pm as in previous years. This is to take account of our earlier end to the school day at 3.00pm.

Christingle Service This year our annual Christingle Service will take place on Monday 17th December at 9.30am. 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.



Christmas Dinner Wednesday 19th December If your child would like a Christmas dinner on the last day 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.

Saint of the week Tomorrow is the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. This great Feast Day was first proclaimed by Pope Pius IX in 1854. The doctrine behind the feast is that Mary was free from original sin. Mary is such an important figure in the whole Christmas story and as we journey through Advent we should remember that Our Lady, the Holy Mother of God intercedes for all of us in our times of need.



Thought for the Week “The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light. They live in a land of shadows, but now light is shining on them.” Isaiah 9:2

Attendance Nursery class 92.1% RF 88.3% 1F 97% 2T 94.6% 3W 97.3% 4H 97.7% 5B 95.7% 6L 97.4%
Well done to Year 4 for best attendance last week.

Parish Contact Details

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Mr P. O’Kane Headteacher

Diary Dates

Monday 10 th December	Christmas Shows, 1.10pm (grandparents)
Tuesday 11 th December	Christmas Shows, 1.10pm
Wednesday 12 th December	Christmas Shows, 1.10pm
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
Monday 17 th December	Christingle Service, 9.30am Parents Welcome
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 13th May—Friday 17th May 2019

Monday 27th May—Friday 31st May 2019

Monday 3rd June 2019

Wednesday 24th July 2019

Thursday 25th July 2019

SATs week

Summer half-term week

Non pupil day

Last day of the school year

Summer holidays begin