



HOLY FAMILY CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Headteacher Mr P.O'Kane

Newsletter 299 Thursday 24th March 2016

The last few days in school have been varied and busy, but it's always lovely to be in school during Holy Week; the Year 4 Easter presentation was a solemn and appropriate way to end the term.

We welcomed Father Eduard in to school on Monday morning for a whole school Reconciliation Service which was a reflective, thoughtful occasion. Father then made himself available for those children in the juniors who wished to attend individual Confession. I am always proud of the maturity which our pupils display at such important times. Preparing our hearts and minds for Easter is such an important part of Lent.

Mr Corder from the Ford Technical Centre, Dunton came into Year 3 on Monday afternoon to talk to the class about robotic technology and to present the children with certificates for building great robots on Robot Factory Day. Despite no longer having children at Holy Family, we are extremely grateful to the continued support that Mr Corder and Ford provide for the school in a variety of ways.

On Tuesday afternoon, Mrs Birtles, Miss Lardner, Mrs Bewers and Mr Lawrence took a team of junior children to the annual Hot Cross Run at St Thomas More High School (photos attached). All the competitors came from the Catholic Primary Schools in the Southend and Castle Point Deanery. The children had a fantastic time. It was a very close competition and our children ran extremely well with a number coming back with medals: Ciaran Mastrogiacommo, Jessica Barber, Daragh Mastrogiacommo, and Luke Whitbourn. Overall Holy Family came fourth, narrowly missing out on third by a single point. Well done to all our runners and thank you to all the parents and family members who helped with transport and supported the squad. Thanks too, to school staff who have been helping the children to prepare for the event.





Later on Tuesday, there was much deliberation by the staff over the winners of this year's Eggshibition on the theme of Rio 2016 –Olympics. They agreed that the standard was very high and all the children who took part were given a small chocolate egg. The following children were awarded with a larger egg: Millie Fincham (running) RW; Jethro Fisher (boating) Y1; Bethany Webb (long jump) Y2; Freddy Fincham (boxing) Y3; Maya Meleard (running) Y4; Freddie Macal (diving) Y5; Larissa Guit (tennis) Y6. The judges selected Freya Essex's Eggshibit as the overall winner. She had created an equestrian themed model. Thank you to all the children, parents and other family members who got involved with this year's Eggshibition. Behind all the fun is an important message about the Resurrection and new life. Fr Eduard took some time to view the Eggshibits on Monday afternoon.

The week was concluded with the Easter presentation this afternoon which this year was performed by Year 4. There was a reverent and holy atmosphere in the hall during the performance and we are very proud of the children for performing with such maturity. It was lovely to see so many parents, grandparents and friends in school to watch the presentation. Thank you to Mrs Hurley, Mrs Herman and Mrs Bewers for preparing the children so well. Easter presentation photographs will be posted on the Year 4 class page of the school website shortly.

The donations collected to "**Feed the Hungry**" were delivered to Basildon Women's Refuge this week (very apt in Holy Week). The parishioner who transported the food and toiletries told me that the staff and residents were overwhelmed by our collective generosity. A number of refuge

staff members were openly weeping, as their supplies were very low and our offerings were quite literally a godsend that will ensure a significant number of women and children will have food on their tables in coming days. There is a blue box in the porch of Holy Family Church where donations to Basildon Women's Refuge can be deposited throughout the year.

Today we say goodbye to Mrs Kipps in the school office. We thank her for her hard work and wish her well in her new job.

We also bid farewell to Mrs Birtles who has been supporting the school since January. She will be returning to her own school after Easter. I am extremely grateful for all the hard work, energy and enthusiasm that she has given to Holy Family this term and for the wisdom and advice she has shared with me.

Summer Uniform

After the Easter holidays we would like all the children to return to school in their summer uniform:

Boys White school polo shirt; grey shorts or trousers (not black); grey socks ; black shoes; school jumper; navy blazer with school badge.

The polo shirts are available from the Tesco Embroidery Service – please put your orders in soon as last year they were very busy!

Girls Pink gingham dress; school cardigan; white socks; black shoes; navy blazer with school badge.

Girls in years 5 and 6 may wear a short-sleeved pink checked blouse with a navy skirt.

School Dinner Menu

There will be a new school dinner menu with effect from the Summer Term, details of which are to be found on the school website.

Swimming Lessons

Details of swimming lessons and fees will be sent to parents and carers after the Easter Holidays.

BATIC Trust Performing Arts Club

The BATIC Trust is creating a Performing Arts Club which will start in April 2016. The classes will involve a mixture of dance, drama and singing. They will take place on Tuesday (at The Deanes School) and Friday(Kents Hill Infant School) evenings 5pm-6.30pm. The cost is £35 per 7 weeks. In order to reserve a place, please collect a form from the school foyer.

Holy Week 2016

Last Sunday was Palm Sunday which marks the beginning of Holy Week. Easter is the most important Christian festival of the year when we celebrate the resurrection of Christ after his death on the cross. Throughout Lent, we have been preparing the children for Easter and it would be fantastic if you could take them to the Easter services and liturgies at Holy Family Benfleet and St Thomas More Hadleigh. Details of Mass times and other Easter liturgies can be found on Holy Family Church's website www.holyfamily-church.co.uk

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: today ; 21st April; 5th and 19th May; 16th and 30th June; 14th July.

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

Team Points

Well done to St Thomas More (red team) who were the winners of the house points competition week.

Attendance

RW 78.7% 1C 91.7% 2FL 91.3% 3L 95.2% 4H 96.7% 5B 97.7% 6I 97%. Well done to Year 5 for best attendance last week.

Saint of the week

Tomorrow is the Feast Day of St Margaret (of) Clitherow. During Tudor times when members of the Church were persecuted, she hid fugitive priests in her home. Eventually she was arrested and imprisoned. She refused to give up her Catholic faith and was sentenced to death by crushing on 25th March 1586.

Jubilee Year of Mercy 2016

On Sunday 10th April the community at Brentwood Cathedral welcomes to 6.30pm Mass all doctors, nurses, carers and all those who minister medicine to the sick.

Midday Assistant

We are looking to appoint a Midday Assistant who enjoys working with children to join our friendly team of midday staff if you, a family member or friend is interested please contact Maxine Henderson at the school office for further details.

Motto: **Merciful like the Father**

We would like to wish you all a happy and holy Easter time with your families. We look forward to seeing the children back in school on Monday 11th April.

From

Mr P O'Kane
Headteacher

Diary Dates

Friday 25th March – Sunday 10th April Easter holidays

Final Training Day for Academic Year 2015/16

The final training day for staff will be on Friday 1st July 2016.

There is a calendar section on the school website—www.holyfamily.essex.sch.uk

We are aware that the school website is not fully up to date. This issue is being addressed and we are grateful for your continued patience and perseverance.