



HOLY FAMILY CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

Kents Hill Road, Benfleet, Essex SS7 5PX
Telephone: 01268 792231 Fax: 01268 759274
Email: admin@holyfamily.essex.sch.uk
www.holyfamily.essex.sch.uk



Diocese of
Brentwood

Headteacher Mr P.O'Kane

Newsletter 397 Friday 5th October 2018



Thank you so much for your generosity towards the Macmillan Cake Sale on Friday. Miss Tranah sold some surplus cakes to parents and carers on the playground after school, raising more money. The final total was £304.00. Miss Tranah then delivered the remaining cakes to

the residents

October is traditionally the month when Catholics make a special effort to pray the Rosary so we started the week with an assembly dedicated to the Rosary. It is worth exploring the stories behind the different Mysteries of the Rosary: Joyful, Sorrowful, Luminous and Glorious at home with your children.



On Tuesday, Steve Parker from Essex County Fire and Rescue Service presented a Sparks and Spooks assembly to educate and inform the children about the dangers of fireworks, bonfires, candle-lit pumpkins and other hazards that they will encounter over the coming weeks.



Mr Watson and Mr Lawrence took the boys' football squad to a tournament at Waterside on Tuesday. The Holy Family team did exceptionally well, winning their group stage only to be knocked out in the knockout rounds by the school that went on to win the tournament. There were 26 schools in the competition, so our team can be extremely proud of their efforts. Well done! Thank you to Mr Watson and Mr Lawrence for organising our participation.

On Wednesday afternoon, we welcomed parents from our Reception class to a phonics information session in order that they can help their children as they learn to read. Mrs Fisher's presentation is available for parents on the EYFS class page on the school website.

Today Years 1 and 2 walked to the library. Thank you to all those parents and grandparents who gave so freely of their time to accompany the children and the staff along the route. Library visits are so important to children of all ages—not just younger children, so I am grateful to Miss Furby and Miss Tranah for organising today's library visits.



The children in Year 1 have also been very busy this week learning to tell the time.



Creative Writing Club Mrs Narang from **Creative Cube** has offered to run a creative writing club on Thursdays for children in Years 1—6. The cost of the club would be £4.00 per session and a minimum of 10 children would need to sign up for the club to run. If you would like your child to attend **Creative Cube**, please leave your details with the ladies in the school office. The club would run from 3.00—4.00pm.

Parental Contact This year an appointments booking system for parental contact meetings has been set up via Parentmail. Since the appointment system went live earlier today, Mrs Mitchell has seen that a number of parents have already booked their slots. If you are not yet registered for PMX Parentmail, please do so. It is the most efficient way of communicating with parents.

Flu Immunisation consent forms Thank you to those parents and carers who have returned their completed forms. Please return your child's form whether or not they will receive the immunisation. All forms must be completed indicating YES or NO by **Wednesday 3rd October**. Thank you.

School photographs This Monday 8th October the photographers will be in school to take class, individual and siblings photographs. If you would like a family photograph taken that includes siblings **not attending** Holy Family School, please leave your details with the ladies in the school office; the photographers will begin taking these family grouping photographs at 8.30am. Please ensure that your child comes to school in **winter uniform** including jumpers and cardigans. Thank you.

Road Safety Walks Our Reception and Year 5 children will be able to undertake road safety walks on Tuesday with members of the council's road safety team—Reception in the morning; Year 5 in the afternoon.

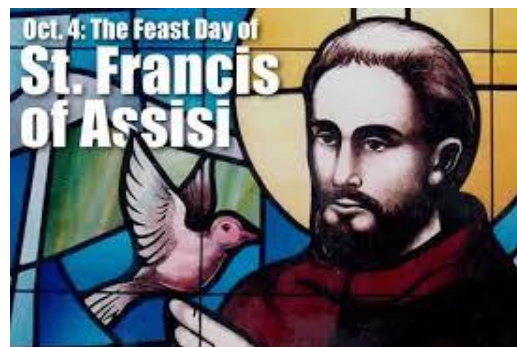
Office supplies The school office would be really grateful for your donations of any unwanted or spare underwear for the children who may have had little accidents during the school day! Thank you.

PGSA The meeting on Tuesday evening was very productive. The first part of the meeting was given over to the annual PGSA AGM. It's amazing how many events have been organised and how much money has been raised for the children of our school by such a small band of dedicated volunteers. I know that the Chair of the PGSA, Mr Summerscales will be writing out to you all very soon. Please, please, please come along and help with the PGSA—many hands make light work! The Christmas Bazaar will be on Saturday 1st December, 12.00—3.00pm. There will be a Movie Night on Friday 16th November. Details will be posted on the PGSA Facebook page.

Reception Class 2019 Open Day Our open day for children starting school in September 2019 will be on Thursday 15th November. Parents and their children are welcome to attend one of the two sessions - from 9.15-11.30am or 1.15-2.30pm. If you have family or friends with children starting school next year, please let them know and spread the word!

Saint of the Week Yesterday, 4th October was the Feast Day of St Francis of Assisi, patron saint of animals, merchants and ecology. He is also the patron saint of the **Assisi Catholic Trust**, our family of Catholic schools in Southend Deanery. Staff from all the schools in the deanery attended a special Mass yesterday evening at St Peter's Church, Eastwood to mark St Francis' Feast Day and to formally launch the **Assisi Catholic Trust**. Francis lived a simple life, but was a man of action. He encouraged people to turn to God with obedience and reverence. The mural in our art room is the children's interpretation of his famous **Canticle of the Sun** in which he expressed his brotherhood with creation in praising God. St Francis is credited with creating the first live nativity scene in 1223. He is one of the most venerated

religious figures ever—it's no accident that **Cardinal Jorge Mario Bergoglio** chose the name **Francis** for his papacy in 2015. Pope Francis has tried to bring the simplicity, faith and Christian love of St Francis to our modern world in his role as leader of the world's Catholics.



“A single sunbeam is enough to drive away many shadows” St Francis of Assisi

Thought for the Week **“Start doing what’s necessary then do what’s possible and suddenly you are doing the impossible.”** Motto of the Assisi Catholic Trust—a quote from St Francis.

October—Month of the Rosary

Throughout October, Catholics have traditionally prayed the Rosary. It is a contemplative form of prayer that allows you to think about the great mysteries of our faith. Archbishop Fulton Sheen said, *“The rosary is the book of the blind, where souls see and there enact the greatest drama of love the world has ever known; it is the book of the simple, which initiates them into mysteries and knowledge more satisfying than the education of other men; it is the book of the aged, whose eyes close upon the shadow of this world, and open on the substance of the next. The power of the rosary is beyond description.”*

Please take time to pray the Rosary with your children throughout October. I know many children receive Rosary beads as gifts, especially around the time of their Baptism or First Holy Communion—October is an ideal time for your children to use their Rosary.



Our Lady of the Rosary



A Rosary



A Nun Making Rosaries

Attendance Nursery class 100% RF 95.9% 1F 95.2% 2T 98.8% 3W 98.3% 4H 95.7% 5B 96.3% 6L 98.4% Well done to the Nursery class for perfect attendance last week. Overall, so far this term, attendance has been at a three year high of 97.5%--let's hope we can maintain this across the whole school year.

Parish Contact Details

Holy Family Catholic Church, 661 High Road, Benfleet, SS7 6SF www.holyfamily-church.co.uk

Parish Priest: Fr Eduard Fartan,

eduard.fartan@yahoo.com

priest@holyfamily-church.org

Parish Secretary: Mrs Clare Dempsey

office@holyfamily-church.org

Telephone: 01268 792082 or 01268 799649

Mr P. O’Kane Headteacher

Diary Dates

Monday 8 th October	School Photographs – winter uniform
Wednesday 10 th October	Judaism Day
Wednesday 10 th October	Years 5 & 6 to Westcliff Synagogue
Thursday 18 th October	St Thomas More High School Open Day
Thursday 19 th October	St Thomas More High School Open Day
Monday 22 nd October—Friday 26 th October	Autumn Half-term week
Tuesday 30 th October	Parental Consultation 3.30—6.00pm
Thursday 1 st November	Feast of All Saints Day
Thursday 1 st November	Parental Consultation 5.00—7.30pm
Friday 9 th November	Year 6 Assembly, 10.15am
Sunday 11 th November	Family Mass (Remembrance), Holy Family Church, 10.00am
Thursday 15 th November	Reception 2019 Open day 9.15-11am 1.15-2.30pm
Friday 16 th November	PGSA Movie Night
Thursday 22 nd November	EYFS/KS1 Mass, 9.30am
Monday 26 th November	Y5&6 Barnardo’s Concert, Royal Albert Hall
Tuesday 27 th November	Year 1 Winter Games, Deanes School
Saturday 1 st December	PGSA Christmas Bazaar
Sunday 2 nd December	1 st Sunday of Advent
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

Wednesday 30th January

Monday 11th February—Friday 15th

Monday 18th February—Friday 22nd February

Monday 8th April 2019—Monday 22nd April

Sunday 14th April 2019

Friday 19th April 2019

Sunday 21st April 2019

Tuesday 22nd April 2019

Monday 6th May 2019

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

Dance Festival—Miss Furby and selected children

Y6 Danbury Residential Trip (tbc)

Spring Half-term week

Easter Holidays

Palm Sunday

Good Friday

Easter Sunday

Children return to school

Public Holiday—School Closed

SATs week

Summer Half-term week

Non Pupil Day

Last Day of School Year

Summer Holidays Begin