

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



Headteacher Mr P.O'Kane

Newsletter 326 Friday 9th December 2016

Last Friday's Victorian Fayre was a great success. Thank you all so much for supporting our school so well. As a Voluntary-Aided faith school, Holy Family does not receive funding in the same way as the majority of primary schools—10% of all capital expenditure costs have to come from within the parish and school community. I am extremely grateful to all the staff and parents who helped run stalls; set up before; tidied up afterwards. Special thanks must go to Mrs Hunter who did so much to ensure that the Fayre was a great occasion. We presented her with a bouquet of flowers during Monday's assembly as a small token of gratitude.

We were able to light two purple candles on our Advent wreath on Monday morning to mark the second Sunday of Advent on 4th December. I reminded the children of John the Baptist and how his message to prepare for the coming of the Lord is as relevant this Advent as it was when he preached in the wilderness 2000 years ago.

We have had such a lovely week in school with the sound of singing, laughter and applause every afternoon. The children's Christmas performances this week elicited some lovely comments from their audience members, with many people saying that the children's shows mark the start of their Christmas season. We were pleased to welcome parishioners and grandparents to school on Monday and the children delighted them with their fantastic acting, singing and dancing and this continued throughout the week. Thank you all so much for supporting the children by providing them with the right costume or clothes; thanks also to all the KS2 parents who ensured their children were present at Holy Family Church last night. The performance in the church always creates a magical atmosphere and yesterday was no exception. Fr Eduard attended last night's performance in the church and gave us all an Advent blessing to round off the evening. Audience members have been extremely generous this week, donating a fantastic £440.00 which will be split equally between Little Havens Hospice and the Brentwood Catholic Children's Society. Finally, thank you to those parents, pupils and past pupils who helped the teachers to dismantle the stage last night and load the van. Many hands make light work!



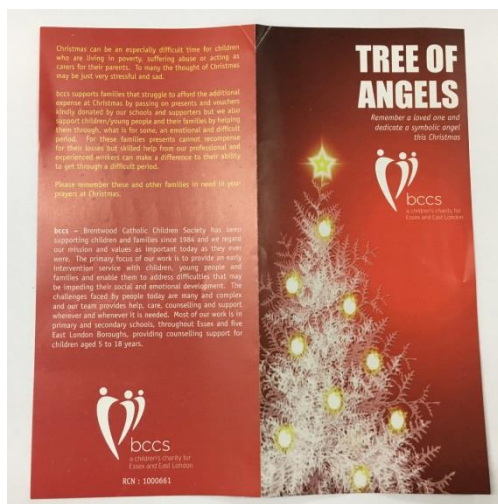
The football team were in action on Monday evening in a friendly fixture against Wyburns School, Rayleigh. Unfortunately, the match was abandoned after only 15 minutes due to fading light conditions. I know the squad are looking forward to playing Wyburns in the New Year for a full game.

On Thursday it was the Feast of the Immaculate Conception and once again our KS2 children walked to Holy Family Church to attend morning Mass with the Parish followed by a practise for the Christmas production on the staging in church. As it was a Feast Day, Fr Eduard asked the children to sing hymns; undertake the Liturgy of the Word; read the bidding prayers; serve at the altar. Before the final blessing at the end of Mass, Fr Eduard allowed us to present Pat Findlay with a “Thank You” certificate, a bunch of flowers and an enrolment in the Golden Book of Prayer from Our Lady of Bethlehem Abbey, a Cistercian monastery in County Antrim. Pat is an altar server at Holy Family Church, but for the past few years she has undertaken all the washing and starching of the altar cloths and linens that we use during Masses held in school. In her typical humble fashion, Pat told me that she feels it is a privilege to launder our altar linens.

Brentwood Catholic Children’s Society Advent Appeal & Tree of Angels

I know that it must seem like you are constantly being asked for money, but at this time of the year, as a Christian community it is important to do what we can to help others less fortunate as part of our own Advent preparations for Christmas. Earlier this week, each child brought home a BCCS money box. This year, the money boxes remind us of the Advent wreath and the birth of Christ—the Light of the World, symbolised by the white candle. Filled money boxes can be returned to the school office. Amy Cullen from BCCS will collect the boxes next Thursday afternoon. If you wish to keep your money box throughout Advent up until Christmas Day, it can be returned to school in the New Year.

The BCCS **Tree of Angels** is a way of remembering a loved one who is no longer with us. By registering with BCCS (01268 784544 or email: headoffice@bccs.org.uk) your loved one’s name will be put on a symbolic angel that will be hung from a Christmas tree in one of the parish churches in our diocese. Your loved one’s name will also be entered into the Book of Remembrance which will be bound and placed in the chapel at Childcare House, Little Wheatley Chase, Rayleigh.



Christmas dinner and Christmas hat day If your child would like a Christmas dinner at school on Wednesday 21st December, please ensure that it is paid for by Monday 19th December along with all monies due that week. Thank you. It has been the tradition at Holy Family for many, many years for children to wear a festive hat to school on Christmas dinner day. Some of the hats that have come in on previous occasions can only be described as stunning creations. If your child would like to wear a festive hat to school on Wednesday, they are welcome to do so.

Christingle Service We will hold our traditional Christingle Service at 2.30pm in the school hall on Tuesday 20th December. All parents are welcome to attend this wonderful Christian service of light. Instructions on how to make a Christingle from an orange and cocktail sticks will be sent home next week.

Danbury 2017 There will be a Danbury information meeting for Year 6 parents on Monday 12th December 2016 at 3.30pm in the Year 6 classroom.

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 2-4pm 15th December.

Attendance Nursery 87.65% RF 93.6% 1F 96% 2F 98.7% 3W 94% 4D 99.3% 5LB 98.7% 6F 94.4% Well done to Year 4 for best attendance last week.

Saint of the week Yesterday was 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.



Mr P. O'Kane
Headteacher

Diary Dates

Monday 12th December

Danbury meeting in Y6 classroom 3.30pm

Thursday 15th December

Y6 singing carols at Parklands Nursing Home

Friday 16 th December	Choir Carol Singing on Playground, 3.00pm
Monday 19 th December	Children's Class Christmas Party Afternoon
Tuesday 20 th December	Christingle Service, 2.30pm (Parents Welcome)
Wednesday 21 st December	Advent Reconciliation Service, 9.30am
Wednesday 21 st December	School Christmas Dinner
Wednesday 21 st December	Christmas Hat Assembly
Wednesday 21 st December	Carols Round the Tree, 2.30pm
Thursday 22 nd December 2016—Wednesday 4 th January 2017	Christmas Holidays
Thursday 5 th January 2017	First Day of Spring Term
Friday 6 th January 2017	Mass for the Feast of the Epiphany
Wednesday 18 th January 2017	Whole School Theatre Visit (Beauty & The Beast—Wednesday Players, Palace Theatre)
Monday 6 th February 2017	Year 6 Danbury Residential Trip
Friday 10 th February 2017	Year 6 Return from Danbury
Monday 13 th February—Friday 17 th February 2017	Half-Term Holiday
Wednesday 1 st March	Ash Wednesday—Lent Begins
Tuesday 21 st March 2017	Hot Cross Run (Catholic Schools' Cross Country Event) (tbc)
Monday 3 rd April—Friday 14 th April 2017	Easter Holidays
Sunday 9 th April 2017	Palm (Passion) Sunday—Start of Holy Week
Sunday 16 th April 2017	Easter Sunday
Monday 17 th April 2017	Public Holiday—School Closed
Tuesday 18 th April 2017	First Day of Summer Term
Monday 1 st May 2017	Public Holiday—School Closed
Monday 8 th May 2017	SATs Week Begins

Monday 29 th May- Friday 2 nd June 2017	Half-term Holiday
Thursday 20 th July 2017	Leavers' Mass (tbc)
Friday 21 st July 2017	Last day of the school year
Monday 24 th July 2017	Summer Holidays Begin
<i>There is one more non-pupil day that needs to be set for 2016-2017 academic year</i>	

HEALTHY SCHOOLS POLICY APPENDIX ONE

The school is committed to: -

- Provide appropriate facilities for pupils eating packed lunches and ensure that free, fresh drinking water is available at all times.
- Work with parents to encourage packed lunches to meet the standards listed below.
- As fridge space is not available, pupils are advised to bring packed lunches in insulated bags with freezer blocks where possible.
- Wherever possible enable pupils eating packed lunches and pupils eating school lunches to sit together.

Packed lunches should include: -

- At least one portion of fruit (dried fruit: raisins, sultanas or other unprocessed dried fruit or a small tub of fruit in natural juice is also acceptable) and one portion of vegetables every day.
- Meat, fish, eggs or a non-dairy protein (e.g lentils, kidney beans, chickpeas, hummus, falafel) every day.
- Oily fish, such as salmon, at least once every three weeks.
- A starchy food such as any type of bread (white or wholegrain rolls, pitta bread or wraps), pasta, rice, couscous, noodles, potatoes or another cereal every day.
- A dairy food such as milk, cheese, yoghurt, *fromage frais* or custard every day.
- A drink of water, fruit juice or smoothie (maximum portion 150mls), semi skimmed, 1% or skimmed milk, yoghurt or another milk drink.

Packed lunches can occasionally include: -

- Meat products such as sausage rolls, individual pies, corned meat and sausages.
- Cereal bar, plain slice of cake or plain biscuit, but encourage your child to eat these as part of a meal.

Packed lunches should not include: -

- Salty snacks such as crisps
- Confectionary such as chocolate bars, chocolate biscuits, processed fruit bars or sweets.
- Sugary soft drinks such as squash, fizzy drinks (even if labelled as sugar-free, no added sugar or reduced sugar as these drinks can contribute to tooth decay and offer little nutritional value).