



# 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 457 Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2020

Dear Parents/Carers



Following the official DfE guidance published this week, we are now finalising our plans for the safe return to school of all children full time in September 2020. These plans need to be approved by the school governing body, and will be shared with you as soon as possible so that you can all feel confident and be clear about our new arrangements. As you can appreciate, there will be a lot of information to share with you, so I will produce a short summary version alongside the more detailed plan (similar to what I did for the reopening on June 1<sup>st</sup>).



Our plan will cover day-to-day school life, what will happen in the case of local lockdowns and what will happen if we have suspected or confirmed cases of Covid-19 in school. We also hope to clarify



what we will be able to offer families with regard to before and after-school clubs. Over the last few weeks, we are pleased that our procedures in school have been working well and that the children have adapted to them, and are happy and settled. We are sure that this will be the situation in the autumn. We are really pleased that the majority of children who have had to remain at home continue to log onto the recommended learning platforms and complete maths and English tasks on-line, or use workbooks purchased by their parents/ carers. Teachers also love to hear about the valuable life skills the children are



learning at home. Thank you to all of you for being so resilient and to your parents for encouraging and supporting you with your learning.

### **EYFS Pirate Day**

On Wednesday 8th July Mrs Fisher and her Team will be holding a Pirate Day. Those who are learning at home can dress up and take part in suggested pirate activities and send in some photos via Tapestry. The children attending school can come to school dressed up like a pirate and will complete some fun pirate tasks and games. Unfortunately, we are unable to lend children any of the dress up outfits that we have at school, but even if the children can wear black and perhaps make an eye patch they will look great!

### **Class Zoom meetings**

The response to the year 4 and year 1 zoom meetings was overwhelmingly positive, so the remaining teachers are looking forward to their class zoom meetings. The meetings take place after school (times will be confirmed by the class teachers on Class dojo). A safe-guarding letter detailing protocols will be uploaded and we ask that these rules are strictly adhered to by all to protect the teaching staff as well as the children.

**Year 2: Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> July**

**Year 6: Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> July**

**Year 5: Friday 10<sup>th</sup> July**

**EYFS: Friday 10<sup>th</sup> July** - recorded video message from Mrs Fisher and the EYFS team

**Year 3:** details to follow

## Goodbye and Thank you

By now, you will be aware of the decision taken by Mr O’Kane to leave Holy Family at the end of the summer term. To thank him for his years of service to our school, we are organising some very special gifts for him. Each child is invited to write a short message to Mr O’Kane - sharing a special memory of him, or wishing him the best for the future. Please send your child’s messages and artwork via Class Dojo to their teacher by **Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> July**. All the messages will be collated and presented in an album to Mr O’Kane, date to be confirmed.

We are also very sorry to say goodbye to Mrs Moss who is leaving to begin teacher training in September. We wish her all the very best - she will be a fantastic teacher. Who knows, she may return as a teacher to Holy Family one day!

Mrs Davies, from the Breakfast and After School Club, is also saying goodbye. Although Mrs Davies is no longer an ‘official’ LSA in Holy Family, she has continued to volunteer almost every week helping in the Y5 classroom and with display work. Thank you Mrs Davies for all you do for our school community.

Mrs O’Connor, one of our school cleaners, is also leaving. However, the good news is Mrs O’Connor will continue in her role working in the school kitchen. Thank you for the many years you have worked alongside us keeping our school clean. You deserve a little rest!

## Transition Arrangements

We are conscious that the children will not have the opportunity to visit their new classroom before the end of term, or meet their new teachers. To ease any anxiety around ‘moving on’ and any change of routines, the children will find out where they will be and hear about the expectations and routines through transition slide shows which will be uploaded before the end of term. The teachers will introduce themselves and provide photos, weblinks and other information which we hope will be helpful and reassuring. We look forward to welcoming Mrs Castle to our teaching staff in September. She has very kindly agreed to be part of the transition arrangements. Please be assured that our teachers have already started the process of ensuring that all academic and pastoral information is being passed on to your child’s next teacher.

## End of Year Reports



Normally at this time of year you would receive your child’s end of year school report. However, a decision was made at the beginning of lockdown that teachers would not be in a position to write reports this year. Reporting on the attainment and progress of children, having not seen them in class since late March, would be extremely difficult and we feel would serve little purpose. From work submitted via Class dojo, and conversations we’ve had with families, we believe that the majority of children have engaged in some form of learning (workbook based, on-line or practical skills) though we also

understand that others have been less successful. When your children return in September, we will very quickly ascertain where there are gaps in their learning. We will then hold our Parent Contact sessions (safety permitting) so that we can share the needs of your child and how we plan to support them.



In school this week, Year 4 have been learning about the Egyptians. They produced some fantastic art work this week.



## Year 6 Leavers

It is a very strange ending to the academic year, so even though we cannot celebrate the Year 6 children's time in Holy Family in the traditional way, we are determined to acknowledge their successes and make their final days with us special. Details for the Year 6 final days have been sent separately to the Y6 parents.

## Government FSM Vouchers

Government Edenred vouchers will continue to be released for the six week holiday period (£90 per child - Covid Summer Food Fund). Please get in touch with our wonderful Holy Family admin team if you need help accessing the vouchers.



## Unity Snake

Thank you to all the wonderful children who decorated stones to make our Unity Snake. The snake is gradually growing longer, and hopefully more stones will be added this week. The rain hasn't been kind to some of the stones the children decorated, but we will re-do them and make them waterproof. Children can paint positive words and messages, or they may prefer to paint animals, book characters, or just patterns.

## Returning Reading and Library books

Please can parents/carers check whether they have any school reading scheme books at home. We will be carrying out an audit of the scheme and would be very grateful if the books can be returned to a box in the school's office reception area. Please return the books as soon as you can. Thank you in advance for your support with this.

**Congratulations to Georgia  
on receiving the  
'Talent for Writing' this week.  
Well done Georgia!**



## Summer Reading Challenge

Every year, our children take part in the Summer Reading Challenge. The national Summer Reading Challenge is moving online this year. Children can take part by going to <http://www.silysquad.org.uk> and signing up. The sign up process will require parental consent and parents can find more details here:

<https://summerreadingchallenge.org.uk/parents-carers>

Families are encouraged to join in and 'Get Silly' with downloadable activities, games, quizzes and more. With new content to enjoy each week, the fun will continue throughout the summer to keep families engaged. They will also receive a downloadable certificate once they've completed their challenge!

Children will set their own reading goals over the summer and can then take part using their own reading materials, e-books, e-audio and e-comics from the Essex Libraries online library service or (once libraries have reopened) using books borrowed from our libraries.

## Send a Smile

In last week's newsletter, I mentioned that one of our parents, Mrs Wilson kindly invited our school community to get involved in the 'Send a Smile' project. Mrs Wilson is the Coach for the Castle Point Area and the aim of the charity is to encourage and initiate acts of kindness across Essex. Send a Smile aims to reach those who may be feeling lonely and isolated by sending them poems, art work or postcard style letters from local children and hobby groups which are designed to make them smile and feel more connected to the community. If your child would like to write a poem, or draw pictures about anything that makes them smile – their pets, their perfect day, anything exciting they have experienced during lockdown ... whatever makes them feel happy, please submit it to the class teacher by **10th July 2020**. Send a Smile



Let's connect  
our community  
with kindness

is open to all residents who wish to contribute, so if the children have talented grandparents, parents, carers, siblings, they can join in too, or perhaps work together on a family piece. There is no exchange of personal details, as all correspondence will go to Mrs Wilson's contacts who will deliver them by hand, it will simply say that the letters have been provided by the pupils of Holy Family School.

Accompanying the text sent to each resident will be the words:

*Whether you are Happy, Sad, Lonely or Blue, this little poem is meant for you.*

*Hoping it Brightens your day*

*#United in Kind*

*Here are some of the examples submitted so far.*



Teachers will continue to upload powerpoints and worksheets as well as recommend useful websites each week. Please continue to log onto: **My Maths, TTRockstars and Bug Club**

Regular daily lessons - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize>

Over 180 video lessons each week on National Oak Academy - <https://www.thenational.academy/>

Storytime daily on Monster phonics <http://bit.ly/3cvcgIM>

Lonely Planet - <https://www.lonelyplanet.com/kids/activities>

Why not visit the Maths Factor website created by Carole Vorderman <https://www.themathsfactor.com/>

Change4life - <https://www.nhs.uk/change4life/activities>

### **ONLINE SAFETY**

With home learning taking place online and more free time spent on devices, it is so important that children are safe. The NSPCC have information on how to set up parental controls on a range of different devices and apps. Follow the link below for more information.

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/parental-controls/>

### **Sports Clubs September 2020**

Please read the attached letter from Mr Holmes (PE Subject Leader). We all look forward to getting back to as close to 'normal' as possible in September.

Stay safe and God bless,

God bless,

Mrs Hurley,

### **Parish Contact Details**

Holy Family Catholic Church, 661 High Road, Benfleet, SS7 6SF [www.holyfamily-church.co.uk](http://www.holyfamily-church.co.uk)

Parish Priest: Fr Eduard Fartan, [eduard.fartan@yahoo.com](mailto:eduard.fartan@yahoo.com)

[priest@holyfamily-church.org](mailto:priest@holyfamily-church.org)

Parish Secretary: Mrs Clare Dempsey [office@holyfamily-church.org](mailto:office@holyfamily-church.org)

Telephone: 01268 792082 or 01268 799649