



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 296 Friday 4th March 2016

May this Jubilee year open us to even more fervent dialogue so that we might know and understand one another better; may it eliminate every form of closed mindedness and disrespect, and drive out every form of violence and discrimination.

Pope Francis 2016

We have had a lovely week in school as Bishop Alan visited us on Wednesday afternoon along with Father Eduard. Bishop Alan led an assembly where he answered questions from pupils and following this he blessed the new picture of The Holy Family which is on display in the entrance to the school.



He then walked around the school chatting to pupils and finished his visit meeting with staff. He had very positive thoughts about our school and commented how smart the children looked in their uniform and what a credit they were to you as parents and the school. He thanked all the

staff for their commitment to education and teaching and what a key role they were and are playing in the lives of the pupils here at Holy Family. I would also like to offer our thanks to the children who went to church that evening and served at the celebration. It has been reported to school that they were fantastic ambassadors for the parish and school.

Well done to the children in Year 3 who made their Sacrament of Reconciliation last Saturday at Holy Family Church. I have been informed that you too were a credit to yourselves, parents and the Parish.

Yesterday was World Book Day and it was fantastic to see the children (and staff) dressed up as their favourite character from a book. I didn't know who I was going to meet next as I walked around the school – it was delightful! Thank-you parents for your time and commitment to creating such wonderful costumes. A hugely enjoyable day was had by all.



I would also like to say a HUGE thank- you to all those who have donated books to the school. The books are amazing and have surpassed our expectations! We really appreciate your support and such donations will assist all the children with their learning, as it is important for them to be exposed to a wide variety of genres to challenge and entertain them.

Parent contact

On Tuesday 8th March (3.30 – 6.00pm) and Thursday 10th March (4.30 - 7.30pm) next week we will be holding parent contact meetings. We hope that parents will keep their appointments with the teacher but if you are unable to attend we should appreciate knowing in advance. Please be aware that appointments are for 10 minutes only and if you require further time arrange a follow up meeting via office. Thank you.

Governors' Visit

On Wednesday 9th March our school governors will be in school for the whole day to meet with pupils, parents and staff in order to fulfil their statutory obligations and monitoring duties.

Corporal Works of Mercy

The Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy are actions that we can perform that extend God's compassion and mercy to those in need. One of the corporal works is to feed the hungry and in this connection we would like the children to bring in groceries which we can then pass on to the refuge run by Women's Aid in Basildon.

Reception: Biscuits

Year 1: Cereals

Year 2: Tinned foods

Year 3: Dried pasta and rice

Year 4: Toiletries eg. soap, shower gel, toothpaste, shampoo

Year 5: Teabags, coffee, hot chocolate

Year 6: Easter Eggs for any children who may be in the refuge

We would like all donations to be in by Friday 18th March. Thank you.

Mothering Sunday

We would like to wish all Mothers a restful and enjoyable day on Sunday; I hope you will all be spoilt and thanked by your children! Enjoy.

Year 3 Robot Factory day

On Friday 18th March, Year 3 will be having a day building robots. If you have any spare cardboard, cardboard boxes or "crafty bits" then Miss Lardner and Year 3 would be pleased to receive them.

Class teacher appointments

If parents and carers would like to speak to their child's teacher, please make an appointment at the school office. It is not realistic to expect an impromptu meeting in the mornings as staff are committed to a number of activities. However, if it is urgent please contact the school office who will assist you. Thank you for your understanding and co-operation in this matter.

School procedure reminder

As a parent, if you have any concerns regarding your child/ren, the first port of call is always to the class teacher because they know and teach your child and have responsibility for them on a daily basis. However, if having met with them (through having made an appropriate appointment) and the issue has not been resolved, the next stage of the process is to request a meeting with the Deputy Head Teacher, Mrs Hurley. If there is still no resolution, then the matter can be referred to the Headteacher, Mrs Birtles, by either party. This procedure is in line with the school's Policy on Behaviour, Discipline and Anti Bullying. Thank you.

The Importance of Reading

Information and further evidence of the importance of reading has been highlighted recently in the publication of *The Life Project*. This project began in 1946 and is an extraordinarily detailed and exhaustive study of the lives so far of tens of thousands of Britons. What has been learned is that reading and its importance in our lives should not be underestimated as this skill is a life enhancer and impacts positively on all aspects of education, including maths. Another key finding was shown to be the importance of regular set bedtimes and sleep patterns (10/11 hours of sleep per night for primary age children) and how this leads to and promotes good behaviour. Being loved and raised in a supportive and warm environment was another positive attribute.

Healthy Eating

The meeting we held on Tuesday concerning healthy eating and wellbeing etc was very positive and thank you to all those who attended and expressed their opinions.

Cross country

There will be cross country twice a week now on **Wednesday and Friday lunchtimes** until the Hot Cross Run day for the juniors on Tuesday 22nd March. Please ensure that the children have their cross country clothes in school for both days. Thank you.

Sport Relief Mile

On Sunday 20th March at Woodside Park, Manor Road, Benfleet there will be an opportunity to take part in The Benfleet Mile for Sport Relief. Details of how to apply may be found at sportrelief.com Happy running!

Parent Governor Election

We have received three nominations for Parent Governor. Please remember to return your forms by Thursday 10th March. Thank you.

Consultation

There is a consultation regarding the proposal to establish an Enhanced Provision for children with Austistic Spectrum Disorders at Merrylands Primary School Basildon on 15th March. Further details may be found on the school website.

Year of Mercy Lenten Talk

Father Eduard will be hosting a talk at Nazareth House, London Road, Southend, on Monday 7th March at 7.30pm. All are invited and welcome. The evening will conclude with Exposition and Benediction. Fr Eduard will explore the question: ***Do we need mercy?***

Study day with Father Nicholas King SJ

Father Nicholas King, well-known biblical scholar, will lead a study day at the Catholic Church of Christ the Eternal High Priest, Gidea Park, RM2 6DH on Saturday 12th March from 10.30am until 3pm. The topic of the day will be "The Helplessness of God". Biblical texts will be explored to help us reflect on leadership and authority in the Church. The day is free, and tea and coffee will be provided. Please bring a packed lunch. It is essential to book your place and this should be done by email to GPstudydays@gmail.com Copies of the flyer associated with the study day are in the school foyer.

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: 10th and 24th March; 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

St Joseph's (yellow team) were the winners of the house points competition last week by 73 points so very well done to those children involved.

Attendance

RW 97.1% 1C 95.4% 2FL 94.4% 3L 98.7% 4H 99.2% 5B 94.9% 6I 93.3%. Well done to Year 4 for best attendance once again last week.

Saint of the week

On Sunday, we celebrate St Perpetua and St Felicity, young women executed for their faith in 203. This was a time where Christians endured terrible torture by Emperor Septimus Severus in North Africa. Both women were willing to sacrifice their lives for Jesus and their faith despite having families and children of their own. Hand in hand they faced martyrdom together; they marched from their cells, to the amphitheatre, as if into heaven, with cheerful looks and graceful bearing – they were brave and happy martyrs.

Jubilee Year of Mercy 2016

Motto: **Merciful like the Father**

From

Mrs S Birtles and Mr P O'Kane
Headteacher

Diary Dates

Tuesday 8 th March	Parent contact meetings 3.30pm - 6pm
Wednesday 9 th March	Governors' school visit
Thursday 10 th March	Parent contact meetings 4.30pm - 7.30pm
Thursday 17 th March	Year 3 /4 Mass 9.30am school hall. Parents and parishioners welcome.
Friday 18 th March	Infant Music Festival 9.45am (Year 2) The Paddocks, Canvey Island
Monday 21 st March	Year 3 robot factory day Eggshibition entries in school
Tuesday 22 nd March	Hot cross run p.m. (selected junior children) St Thomas More High School
Thursday 24 th March	Year 4 Easter Presentation 2pm in the school hall parents and parishioners welcome
Friday 25 th March – Sunday 10 th 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