



HOLY FAMILY CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Headteacher Mr P.O'Kane

Newsletter 347 Friday 9th June 2017

I hope that you all had a relaxing half term in the sunshine with your families. As promised in our last newsletter, here are some pictures from the recent Crowning of Our Lady service.



We began the new half term with a Pentecost assembly and delicious birthday cakes made by Mrs Willis which were distributed around the whole school.

Sadly, and in solidarity with the rest of the country, we held a minute's silence on Tuesday morning at 11.00am to remember the victims of last Saturday's attack at London Bridge and Borough Market.

On Tuesday evening Mrs Fisher held a meeting for the parents of the children that will join our Reception class in September 2017. It was a very well attended meeting and I trust that everyone found it helpful and informative.

I was lucky enough (as the mini bus driver!) to accompany Year 6, Miss Fordham, Mrs Duxbury and Mrs Whitbourn to Walsingham House for a retreat on Wednesday. It was a lovely day full of discussion, prayer and fun – nothing like the Catholic retreats I attended as a child. The Year

6 class as always were a credit to our school and the Retreat Leader commented specifically on the respectful way in which the children entered the Chapel for prayers. Thank you to Miss Fordham for organising the trip.

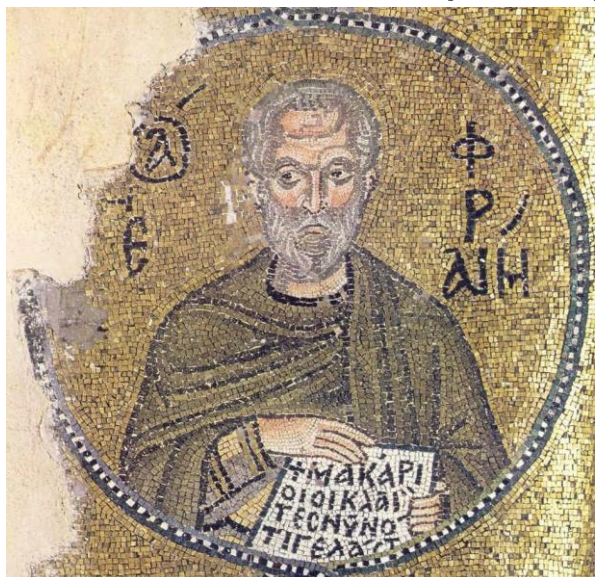


Yesterday evening we held the inaugural meeting of the Holy Family Parent, Governor and Staff Association and it was lovely to see so many members of our community coming together for the benefit of our school. Mr Summerscales was elected as Chair; Mrs Dillon as Secretary; Mrs Hunter as Treasurer. There was a real desire to start organising events on a regular basis for the children and their families. Those gathered last night agreed to organise the Family Fun Day on Saturday 15th July and a Movie Evening for the children on Friday 7th July. The next meeting of the PGSA will be on Tuesday 20th June at 7.30pm in the school hall. The new PGSA is open to all parents and carers—I know that some of you were unable to attend last night but sent messages pledging support.

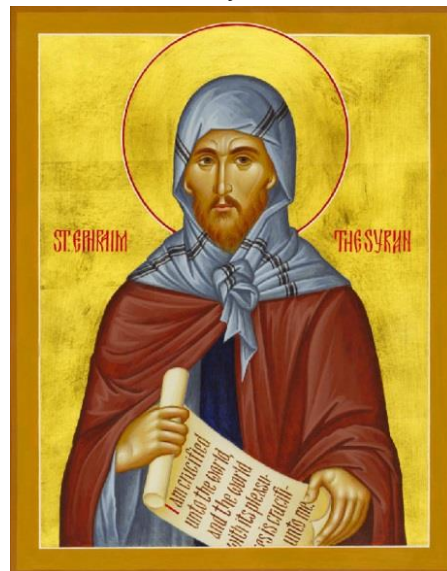
This morning we welcomed Father Eduard into school to celebrate Mass with the youngest children in our school from EYFS and KS1. The children sang out and read beautifully and I always marvel at the maturity of these young children when they take such an active part in the Mass. Thank you to the teachers for preparing the children so well; thanks also to the parents, grandparents and parishioners who attended Mass. We are so grateful for the time that Father Eduard devotes to the school.

PennUK.com The staff of PennUK (based at Shafers Arcade in Benfleet) have informed us that they are now ready to start taking school uniform orders from Holy Family parents. There will be a transition period during which our school stock of jumpers and cardigans will be available at Penn.

Saint of the Week I was going to write about St Anthony of Padua—the patron saint of lost things. However, after listening to Fr Eduard’s sermon this morning, I feel obliged to write a few lines in honour of St Ephrem the Syrian. Fr Eduard told us about the rich Christian heritage of Syria and how St Ephrem wrote many beautiful poems, verses and hymns—Fr Eduard quoted to us from one of the poems. St Ephrem was born in 306 and grew up speaking a version of Aramaic, the language that Jesus would have spoken. He is still revered in many Christian lands and is known as the “*Harp of the Spirit*.” Catholics mark his Feast Day on 9th June.



Mosaic of St Ephrem, Nea Moni of Chios



Modern Icon of St Ephrem

Attendance Nursery class 92.3% RF 94.1% 1F 89.3% 2T 98.7% 3W 95.3% 4D 93.3% 5LB 92% 6F 92%

Well done to Year 2 for best attendance during the last week of half-term.

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 from 2-4pm 22nd June; 6th July.

Oak Tree Children’s Centre, Grovewood Primary School, Grove Road, Rayleigh, SS6 8UA. Phone 01268 686041 from 2-4pm 13th & 27th June; 11th July.

Wishing Well Children’s Centre, Waterman Primary School, The Boulevard, Rochford, SS4 1QF. Phone 01702 541460 from 2-4pm 19th June; 3rd July.

Mr P. O’Kane

Headteacher

Diary Dates

Thursday 15th June

Corpus Christi Procession and Adoration, 2.30pm (Parents & Parishioners Welcome)

Friday 16th June

Year 1 to Marsh Farm

Tuesday 20th June

PGSA Meeting, School Hall, 7.30pm

Friday 23 rd June	School Sports Morning
Monday 26 th June	Year 6 Deanery Mass, 11.00am Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Leigh-on-Sea
Tuesday 27 th & Wednesday 28 th June	The Appleton, The Deanes and The King John School Y7 induction days
Thursday 29 th June	Feast of Saints Peter & Paul—Mass in School (Children & Staff Only)
Thursday 29 th June & Friday 30 th June	St Bernard's & St Thomas More Y7 induction days
Friday 30 th June	Year 4 class assembly 10.15am
Wednesday 5 th July	KS1 Catholic Sports 9.30- 12.00pm St Teresa's
Thursday 6 th July	KS2 Catholic Sports 9.30-12.00pm St Thomas More High School
Friday 7 th July	Year 1 class assembly 10.15am Year 3 Eucharist Day St Bernard's High School PGSA Children's Movie Event, 3.30pm
Monday 10 th July	Year 2 trip to Wat Tyler Park
Tuesday 11 th July	KS2 District Sports The Deanes School
Friday 14 th July	Year 2 class assembly 10.15am
Saturday 15 th July	PGSA Family Fun Day
Wednesday 19 th July	Year 6 class assembly 2.30pm
Thursday 20 th July	Year 6 Leavers' Mass, 7.00pm Holy Family Church

Non-pupil Days 2017—2018 The following non-pupil days have been approved by the school's governors: Monday 4th September 2017, Tuesday 5th September 2017, Friday 20th October 2017, Tuesday 2nd January 2018, and Monday 19th February 2018.