



# 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 404 Friday 30<sup>th</sup> November 2018

We had an exciting start to the week on Monday when most of Years 5 and 6 left by coach accompanied by Mrs Lewins, Mrs Barratt, Mrs Mahon and Miss Wade to travel to the Royal Albert Hall in London to take part in the Barnardo's **Believe in Children** concert. Despite the early start and late return to school, the children, staff and parents that I have spoken to relished the experience. Thank you to Mrs Lewins for organising our school's participation; thank you to the staff who accompanied the children; thank you to the parents and other family members who supported this event.



On Tuesday morning, Year 1 and Miss Furby took part in Winter Games at The Deanes School. Miss Furby told me that the children were a credit to the school and that they participated enthusiastically in all the activities that has been organised by the PE staff and PE GCSE students at Deanes. Thank you to the other staff and adults who helped Miss Furby with the trip.



**ASSISI CATHOLIC TRUST**  
*'Start doing what's necessary then do what's possible and suddenly you are doing the impossible'*

Today we held two of my favourite Holy Family traditions – the Cake Sale and Children’s Raffle. Thank you to all those who donated cakes and gave money to their children for this morning’s events. The proceeds from the cake sale were £172.09, whilst £158.00 was raised through the children’s raffle which means £330.09 will be added to the money raised at tomorrow’s **PGSA Christmas Fayre**—please do your best to come along and support this event. The Fayre will be open from 1.00pm—4.00pm. It’s not too late to volunteer to help tomorrow—help is always needed with setting-up in the morning and clearing-up afterwards. The raffle winners were: Harry Y6, Freddy Y4, Amber Y4, Darragh Y6, George Y5, Massimo Y3, Isla Y6, Freya Y6, Iyin Y5, Bethany Y5, Gayatri Y4, Roman Y2, Kieran Y6, Vinnie Y2, Sam Y2, Liam Y6, Sophia Y1, Jess Y6, Carter Y6, Jude Y4, Danni Y1, Millie Y4 and Francesca Y5.

**KS2 Christmas Concert** All the children and staff, from the Nursery class through to Year 6 are rehearsing for their Christmas productions. For many, many years, it has been a Holy Family tradition for our KS2 children (Years 3—6) to perform their final show at Holy Family Church on the Thursday evening of Christmas Concert Week. As a school and parish community, we have an expectation that all our KS2 children will participate in the Thursday evening show, but sadly a number of children have told their teachers that they are not coming. This puts the children and staff in an awkward position, especially as speaking parts or singing slots may have to be reallocated. We are extremely proud of the overwhelming support we receive from our families throughout the school year and I would urge all families with children in KS2 to support the concert in church on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> December. Those of us who have had the privilege of attending the Thursday evening concerts in previous years know that they are wonderful, beautiful occasions.

**Signing Choir Songs** Congratulations to our Year 1 children on having their poetry work selected for publication by Young Writers. Miss Furby sent off their entries to the recent Young Writers Poetry Patrol competition—there were over 13000 entries nationally, so to have all the children’s work selected is amazing.



**Christmas Coffee Morning** The Knights of St Columba will be holding a Christmas Coffee Morning on Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> December after 8.30am Mass. Tea, coffee, cakes and bacon butties will all be available. There will also be a raffle. Any money raised will be used to help pay for the Christmas floral arrangements in the parish and to support KSC charities.



**Christmas Dinner Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> December** If your child would like a Christmas dinner on the last of term, please order via the Parentmail App. Thank you to all those parents and carers who have already paid and ordered. There will obviously be no payment for KS1 children but the meal still has to be ordered. For KS2 children, please pay via the events payment option on the App. Please look in PAYMENTS-SHOP-EVENTS. The deadline for orders is 17<sup>th</sup> December and we regret that we are unable to provide any meals on the day which have not been ordered.

**The Christmas dinner must be paid for separately from the online school dinner payments.**

**School Uniform** A number of children are still coming to school wearing parts of the summer uniform. All children should now wear their full winter uniform to school; ties need to be worn with shirts/blouses that have stiff collars—not polo shirts. Miss Furby has asked me to remind everyone that their child will need to bring appropriate PE gear into school for PE lessons. As the hall will be used

increasingly for Christmas rehearsals, many PE lessons will take place outside as long as it is not raining. The children should have plain navy sweatshirts and jogging bottoms for outdoor PE/Games (or navy with the school logo). Thank you for your continued support of our uniform policy.

**Online payments for school meals** We are pleased that we are now accepting payment for school dinners via the Parentmail app and thank you to those parents and carers who have already made payments. Parents will now be able to view their child's balance and top up the account at their convenience. Parentmail will automatically send a prompt to top up accounts when the balance falls to £0.00. All children should have sufficient funds on account before they ask for a meal. If you experience any difficulties with the app, please contact the school office.

**Saint of the week** Today is the Feast Day of St Andrew the Apostle, the Patron Saint of Scotland. Andrew and his brother Simon Peter were fishermen who were called directly by Jesus to be his disciples and "fishers of men." Andrew was present at many important events in the life of Jesus: it was Andrew who told Jesus about the boy with the loaves and fishes; Andrew was at the Last Supper; Andrew was one of the four disciples that came to Jesus on the Mount of Olives to ask about signs of Jesus' return at the end of time. According to Christian tradition, Andrew was martyred for his faith by crucifixion. It is said that Andrew did not feel worthy to be crucified like Jesus, so he asked to be crucified on a different style of cross, known today as St Andrew's Cross or a saltire. Historians believe that relics of St Andrew were brought to a Pictish king in Scotland. There is a legend that relics were brought from Constantinople to the area where the modern town of St Andrews in Fife stands today.



**Thought for the Week** "The great secret of true success, of true happiness, is this: the man or woman who asks for no return, the perfectly unselfish person, is the most successful." Swami Vivekananda, Indian Hindu monk

Sunday marks the beginning of the Holy Season of Advent, a time of preparing for the Birth of Christ at Christmas. The first purple candle on the advent wreath will be lit at all Masses this weekend. Please help your children to prepare for Christmas throughout this Advent time.



**Attendance** Nursery class 90.8% RF 92.8% 1F 97.4% 2T 94.5% 3W 96.7% 4H 93.7% 5B 97.3% 6L 96.5%  
Well done to Year 1 for best attendance last week.

### **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

Mr P. O’Kane Headteacher

### **Diary Dates**

|   |   |
|---|---|
| Saturday 1 <sup>st</sup> December   | PGSA Christmas Fayre 1.00—4.00pm  |
| Sunday 2 <sup>nd</sup> December   | 1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent  |
| Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup> December  | Colin Wyatt (Illustrator) in School                                       |
| Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup> December   | KS2 Walk to Church for Morning Mass & Rehearsal for KS2 Christmas Concert |
| Friday 7 <sup>th</sup> December   | Dress Rehearsal Morning   |
| Monday 10 <sup>th</sup> December  | Christmas Shows, 1.30pm (grandparents)                                    |
| Tuesday 11 <sup>th</sup> December   | Christmas Shows, 1.30pm   |
| Wednesday 12 <sup>th</sup> December                                       | Christmas Shows, 1.30pm   |
| Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup> December  | KS2 Walk to Church for Morning Mass & Rehearsal for KS2 Christmas Concert |
| Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup> December  | KS2 Christmas Concert, 7.00pm Holy Family Church                          |
| Tuesday 18 <sup>th</sup> December   | Advent Reconciliation Service   |
| Wednesday 19 <sup>th</sup> December                                       | Christmas Dinner  |
| Wednesday 19 <sup>th</sup> December                                       | Last day of Autumn Term   |
| Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup> December—Wednesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> January 2019 | Christmas Holidays  |
| Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup> January 2019                                     | Non Pupil Day   |
| Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> January 2019                                       | Non Pupil Day   |
| Sunday 6 <sup>th</sup> January 2019                                       | Feast of the Epiphany   |
| Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> January 2019                                       | Children return to school   |
| Friday 11 <sup>th</sup> January 2019                                      | School trip to Pantomime  |
| Tuesday 15 <sup>th</sup> January 2019                                     | LGC Meeting, 6.00pm   |
| Thursday 17 <sup>th</sup> January 2019                                    | Year 3 Assembly, 10.15am  |
| Friday 25 <sup>th</sup> January 2019                                      | Year 5 Assembly, 10.15am  |
| Wednesday 30 <sup>th</sup> January  | Dance Festival—Miss Furby and selected children                           |
| Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> February 2019                                      | Year 2 Assembly, 10.15am  |
| Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> February—Friday 15 <sup>th</sup>                  | Y6 Danbury Residential Trip   |
| Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> February 2019                                   | Reception Class Assembly, 10.15am   |
| Monday 18 <sup>th</sup> February—Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> February         | Spring half-term week   |
| Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> April 2019—Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup> April           | Easter Holidays   |
| Sunday 14 <sup>th</sup> April 2019  | Palm Sunday   |

Friday 19<sup>th</sup> April 2019

Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> April 2019

Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2019

Monday 6<sup>th</sup> May 2019

Monday 13<sup>th</sup> May—Friday 17<sup>th</sup> May 2019

Monday 27<sup>th</sup> May—Friday 31<sup>st</sup> May 2019

Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2019

Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> July 2019

Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> July 2019

Good Friday

Easter Sunday

Children return to school

Public Holiday—School Closed

SATs week

Summer half-term week

Non-pupil Day

Last day of the school year

Summer holidays begin