



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 444 Friday 6th March 2020

On Monday we welcomed author Grant Strong into school. Grant delivered imaginative and engaging workshops to each of our KS2 classes based on his book *Running Deep* and challenged the children with in-depth and creative questions to stimulate their imaginations. As well as providing workshops for each class, Grant held a whole school assembly where he read an extract from *Running Deep* and reinforced the importance and enjoyment of reading. He shared tips on what helps him with the writing process and provided a very worthwhile experience for everyone.

On Wednesday Year 4 visited Anglian Water Education Centre in Chelmsford as part of their Geography topic on water this term. As a result of the trip, the children now have a much better understanding of what sewage is, where it comes from and why we need to treat it. Thank you to the parents who helped out on the trip.



On Thursday we celebrated World Book Day with most of the children (and staff) coming to school dressed as a character from a favourite book. It was fantastic to see the amount of effort and thought that had gone into making many of the costumes.



The children really enjoyed our special World Book Day Assembly where all the characters including Harry Potters, Hermiones, Fairy Tale characters and Roald Dahl characters came together. Hopefully it will inspire the children to read more at home.



Thanks to National Book Tokens, each child has been given a Book Token for £1 towards the cost of a new book. The token is valid until 29th March. All you need to do is to take the book token to any participating book shop and swap it for one of the fifteen exclusive, new and completely free World Book Day books. Or, if you'd prefer, the book token can be used to get £1 off any full price book instead.

Colin Wyatt, author and illustrator also came into school to work with all the classes on their drawing skills and he also read some of his books to the children.



On Friday, Year 5 spent the day at The Appleton School where they experienced what a day in a secondary school is like. The children participated in a variety of lessons e.g writing a persuasive speech about keeping Mr Stink’s dog at home, learning French and German through games and song and experimenting with hydrochloric acid and magnesium. They even got to use bunsen burners. One of the highlights for many pupils was when they took part in a trampolining PE lesson.



The Appleton teachers commended the children for their exemplary behaviour and our school uniform was also exemplified for its neat and smart presentation compared to other schools. Overall it was a fantastic day for the children and a special thank you to Mrs Salter for helping to supervise the children throughout the day.

In the morning, we were treated to an entertaining and informative assembly by Year 6 as they shared their memories from their residential trip to Danbury in February. We are all very proud of the Y6 children and wish to thank the many family members and friends who came along to support and encourage their children in their performance.

In the afternoon Year 2 visited South Benfleet Library where they explored information books about animals and their habitats. Thank you to all the volunteers who were able to accompany the children on their walk.



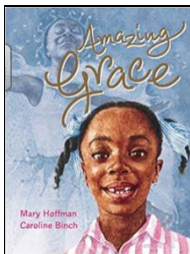
We received even more new books for the school this week via the promotion by the Sun Newspaper. Thank you Mrs Wall for co-ordinating the scheme.

Families in Focus meeting (FiF)

On Monday we had the initial Families in Focus group meeting. The FiF volunteers work with families who have a child with SEND (any disability or special need – physical or sensory impairment, learning difficulties, mental health or enduring emotional/ behavioural difficulties) and gives guidance to parents / carers about educational and welfare issues. Debra has kindly offered to attend our next meeting which will be held on Wednesday 22nd April at 2pm. Please do try to come along to share your expertise and support others who may benefit from listening to your experiences.

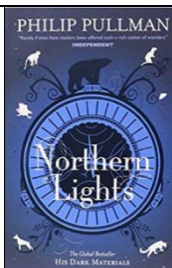
Mrs Monksfield’s March Books of the Month: all these books feature an inspirational female main character in view of International Women’s Day on March 8th.

	<p style="text-align: center;">EYFS</p> <p style="text-align: center;">That Rabbit Belongs to Emily Brown by Cressida Cowell and Neal Layton</p> <p>The Queen is determined to have Emily Brown’s toy rabbit at any price and when Emily refuses to give in, she has him kidnapped. Emily stomps to the palace to rescue Stanley and is able to show the Queen how to establish a good relationship with her very own toy.</p>		<p style="text-align: center;">KS1</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Super Daisy and the Peril of Planet Pea by Kes Gray and Nick Sharratt</p> <p>Anyone who has read the first picture book about Daisy (Daisy: Eat Your Peas) will know that the one food she can’t abide is peas. So imagine her horror when she envisages Earth on a collision course with Planet Pea which will mean peas with everything, depicted in a pull tab double page spread. How will the world be saved from this calamity? Our heroine turns into Super Daisy who with a ‘Biff!’ and a ‘Pow!’ rescues the situation in time for a pea free tea. Or has she?</p>
--	--	--	--



Lower KS2
Amazing Grace by Mary Hoffman & Caroline Binch

Grace loves stories, whether they're from books, movies, or the kind her grandmother tells. When her school decides to perform Peter Pan, Grace longs to play the lead, but her classmates point out that Peter was a boy. Besides, he wasn't black. With the support of her family, Grace learns that she can be anything she wants to be, and the results are amazing!



Upper KS2
His Dark Materials: Northern Lights by Phillip Pullman

Lyra and Pantalaimon – her dæmon – live a fun, wild life in Jordan College, Oxford. Lyra's Oxford is in many ways similar to the one in our world, but the difference is that it is crawling with danger, dæmons, and gobblers... After listening in to an important conference held by her uncle, Lord Asriel, Lyra is determined to go to the North and see the Northern Lights, also known as the Aurora. And Dust... after overhearing it, Lyra wants to know everything about those strange particles which affect adults more than children. Her wish is about to come true: children (including Lyra's best friend Roger) start disappearing just as the hypnotizing and beautiful Mrs Coulter appears. Lyra embarks on a dangerous journey which will take her much further than the Northern Lights, even beyond her own world...

Parent Contact Sessions: Working in partnership with parents/ carers is hugely important to the success of our school. Please ensure you book a slot through Parentmail. Meetings such as these really are invaluable.

Homework Club: We are pleased to inform you that a **Monday Homework Club** will commence on 16th March. The club will run from 3pm – 3:45pm. If you would like to book a place for your child, please contact a member of our admin team. The children will have access to LEXIA, Bug Club and My Maths as well as support to complete any additional homework provided by their class teacher.

Saint of the week: On Saturday it is the Feast Day of Saints Perpetua and Felicity of Carthage. They were members of a group martyred for being a Christian during the reign of the Roman Emperor Septimus Severus. Perpetua was put to death with her companions, during games that were being held to mark the Emperor's birthday. Perpetua refused to deny her beliefs, despite pleading from her own father. Perpetua is the patron saint of mothers and expectant mothers and it is fitting that we remember her at this point in the year—yesterday was International Women's Day and Sunday will be Mothering Sunday (Mother's Day).



Thought for the Week “These are the three things that last: faith, hope and love; and the greatest of these is love.” St Paul

Attendance last week Nursery class 42% RF 93.6% 1F 94.2% 2T 93.7% 3W 93% 4LB 96.9% 5H 90% 6M 89.3% Well done to Year 4 for best attendance last week.

Parish Contact Details

Holy Family Catholic Church, 661 High Road, Benfleet, SS7 6SF

www.holyfamily-church.co.uk

Parish Priest: Fr Eduard Fartan,

eduard.fartan@yahoo.com

priest@holyfamily-church.org

Parish Secretary: Mrs Clare Dempsey

office@holyfamily-church.org

Telephone: 01268 792082 or 01268 799649

Mrs N Hurley
Deputy Headteacher

Diary Dates

Friday 13 th March	Y2 Assembly 10.15am
Sunday 15 th March	School Family Mass Holy Family Church
Thursday 19 th March	Mother's Day shopping
Friday 20 th March	Y3 Assembly 10.15am
Monday 23 rd March	Infant Music Festival Year 2
Saturday 28 th March	PGSA Race Night
Monday 30 th March	KS1 Craft afternoon (volunteers needed)
Thursday 2 nd April	PGSA Children's Disco
Friday 3 rd April	Y4 Easter Presentation
Sunday 5 th April	Palm/Passion Sunday—Start of Holy Week
Monday 6 th April—Friday 17 th April	Easter Holidays
Thursday 9 th April	Maundy/Holy Thursday
Friday 10 th April	Good Friday
Sunday 12 th April	Easter Sunday
Monday 20 th April	Pupils return to school
Friday 8 th May	75 th Anniversary of VE Day—Public Holiday
Monday 11th May	KS2 (Year 6) SATs Week
Saturday 16 th May	Quiz Night (PGSA)
Friday 22 nd May	Crowning of Our Lady
Monday 25 th May—Friday 29 th May	Summer half-term break
Monday 1 st June	Non-Pupil Day 4
Tuesday 2 nd June	Pupils return to school
Thursday 4 th June	Y3 & Y5 Mary Poppins trip
Friday 26 th June	School Summer Fete (PGSA) 3.15pm
Tuesday 7 th July	KS1 Catholic Sports
Wednesday 8 th July	KS2 Catholic Sports
Tuesday 21 st July	Final school day of Academic Year
Wednesday 22 nd July	Non-Pupil Day 5