



# HOLY FAMILY CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Headteacher Mr P.O'Kane

## Newsletter 321 Friday 4<sup>th</sup> November 2016

I hope that you all had an enjoyable half-term holiday with your families. It is hard to believe that we are heading towards the Christmas period already as the weather has been so mild. Although the children were not in school on the Thursday and Friday before half-term, staff were hard at work. Everyone underwent First Aid training delivered by a team from the St John Ambulance throughout Thursday. On Friday, teachers and learning support staff went to The Convent of Mercy in Bermondsey as part of the Year of Mercy. We were able to see what has been going on in Mercy Schools throughout the country (including Holy Family); learn about the national and international work currently being undertaken by the Sisters of Mercy; reflect upon how we can be more effective at teaching Mercy Values in school. We were lucky enough to have a private session with Sr Patricia Bell—she simply inspired all of us to work even harder to promote Mercy Values in the modern world.

After lunch, we visited the Holocaust Memorial Exhibition at the Imperial War Museum to reinforce our understanding of how we teach the children about such a sensitive subject.

It has been another busy week in school. On Monday, Year 4 spent a fantastic day being Romans with Gary from *Portals to the Past*. The children were Roman soldiers, gladiators, citizens—Oscar came as an enemy of the Romans—a Celt (brave boy). They looked at Roman artefacts, played a game called Delta and also took part in a Roman quiz. The children and staff looked splendid in their Roman dress; thank you to the parents who prepared the children so well. The whole day was overseen by a splendid Roman lady—*Lady Lavinia* (Ms Dawson).





On Tuesday morning, the children whose parents/carers requested vaccination received their flu immunisations from the School Nurse Team and I understand that they behaved very sensibly. Well done children.

Tuesday was a Holy Day of Obligation (Feast of All Saints). I led an assembly in the morning, explaining the true meaning of Halloween (Hallows/Holy Evening). I also got the children to think about how they could be more saintly at home and at school. In the afternoon, Fr Eduard joined us to celebrate Mass. Throughout November we will be remembering all the Holy Souls who have died and gone to be with God. Children will say the traditional Catholic prayer for the deceased: "Eternal rest... each day and they can place the names of deceased family members in a special box on the altar in the hall—those named in the box will be prayed for throughout this month.

Our school governors met for an extraordinary governing body meeting on Tuesday night. Our hardworking Chair of Governors, Mrs Andrea Prophet has stepped down from the role due to increased work and family commitments; she will remain as a governor. Mr Guy Blakesley was co-opted onto the governing body and was elected as the new Chair of Governors. I would like to thank Mrs Prophet for all her dedication and commitment during her period as Chair of Governors and look forward to working with Mr Blakesley.

Karen from South Benfleet library led a special assembly on Thursday to award certificates to all the children who had taken part in the **Roald Dahl Big Read** over the summer holidays. We are always proud of the children who take part in this activity and as usual, Karen's assembly was inspiring and fun—she always brings the joy of books to life.

Reception class were treated to a Flying Start PE lesson yesterday led by one of the specialist PE teachers based at Deanes School. We have a very close working relationship with the local School Sport Partnership based at Deanes and try to avail of as many opportunities for the children as possible. In a similar vein, Miss Furby has also arranged for some free PE lessons for Year 1 and Year 4 delivered by qualified coaches from Southend United.

### **First Holy Communion Programme 2017**

Parents of those children currently preparing for First Holy Communion are reminded of the Session on Saturday, 5<sup>th</sup> November commencing promptly at 8.45am until 11am in the St. John

Bosco hall adjacent to Holy Family Church. Please remember to bring the children's course books to the session. The children will greet, read and take part in the offertory procession at the 10am Mass on Sunday, 6<sup>th</sup> November. (*Mrs J Herridge, Parish Secretary*)

### **Sisters of Mercy—Mercy International Association**

As mentioned earlier in this newsletter, we visited the Convent of Mercy in Bermondsey as part of our non-pupil day on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> October. We wanted to learn more about the work that the Sisters of Mercy and their Associates undertake in the UK and around the world. Although we mainly associate the Sisters of Mercy with the foundation of Catholic schools and convents, their work and influence is much more far-reaching. At present, the Sisters and their Associates are engaged in education, nursing, political advocacy, human rights, anti-slavery campaigns, anti-human trafficking campaigns, environmental campaigns and many, many other projects in over 40 countries. During our time with Sr Patricia Bell, we learned of the work the Mercy Institute is carrying out to help the victims of human trafficking—often children; usually female. We were moved by the plight of the victims and I agreed to bring a supply of handmade leather bracelets to South Essex that can be sold to help the work the Mercy Institute is doing with other agencies in the fight against human trafficking and modern slavery. The bracelets are £2.00 each and have been made by victims of human trafficking and other associated miseries. All money raised will be passed to Sr Patricia when she next visits the school. Please, please, please do your best to support this worthy cause by allowing your children to buy a bracelet and by buying one for yourself as well. Perhaps you could go one step further and buy a number of bracelets to sell to family members or work colleagues.



## **Bracelets on sale now—only £2.00**

**Music For Schools** Alan Summers from MFS has been coming to Holy Family for many, many years. He is a music teacher with MFS, a charity that facilitates woodwind and brass music lessons. Alan will be in school on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> November to lead an assembly. He will follow up with a meeting for parents on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> November at 6.00pm in the school hall.

### **Open Morning Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> November —Reception Admissions 2017**

If you or a friend or family member has a child who will be starting school in September 2017, please come along to our Open Morning on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> November, 9.30am—11.45am. The admissions process opens to parents on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> November and will close on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2017. The National Offer Day will be Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> April 2017. If you would like to visit the school, but are unable to come on our Open Morning, please call the school office on 01268 792231 to arrange a time to come and have a guided tour from two of our Y6 pupils. Please

note that all applications to Holy Family School must be made via Essex County Council, but as a Voluntary-Aided Catholic School, all applicants **must complete a Supplementary Information Form (SIF)** that needs to be returned to the school office—failure to complete a SIF will mean that your child may not be ranked correctly against our oversubscription criteria. You will also need to provide us with your child’s birth certificate for the school to verify that your child is eligible for a Reception 2017 school place Catholic families should also provide an original Baptismal Certificate and seek a reference from their Parish Priest.

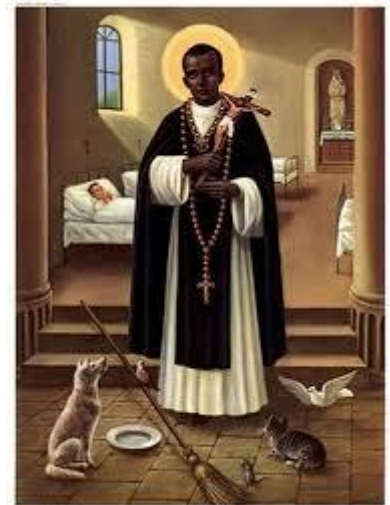
### **Love in a Box—Samaritans Purse**

Thank you to everyone who has brought in a filled shoebox—they are on display in the hall. Bruce will collect our boxes on 18<sup>th</sup> November, so please help your child to make up their box and bring it to school before then. Thank you.



### **Saint of the Week**

Today is the Feast Day of St Martin de Porres. He is a saint I hold in particular affection as my parents gave me the middle name of Martin in his honour; I also had a statue of St Martin in my bedroom when I was growing up. St Martin was born in Lima, Peru during the time of Spanish rule. As he was of black African heritage, many of the opportunities that were open to Peruvians of Spanish descent were not afforded to him. He devoted his whole life to the service of others—people and animals. He actually ran a hospital for cats and dogs at his sister’s house. He was a Dominican brother throughout his adulthood and is held in high esteem by members of that order to this day.



Throughout this month of the Holy Souls, please remember to pray for those who have gone before us:

***“Eternal rest, grant unto them O Lord  
and let perpetual light shine upon them.”***

Mr P O’Kane Headteacher

## Diary Dates

Tuesday 8 <sup>th</sup> November	Parental Contact Meetings, 3.30—6.00pm
Wednesday 9 <sup>th</sup> November	Year 3 & 4 Mass, 9.30am, School Hall (Parents/Parishioners Welcome)
Thursday 10 <sup>th</sup> November	Open Morning 9.30am - 11.45am (Reception Admissions September 2017)
Thursday 10 <sup>th</sup> November	Music for Schools Assembly
Thursday 10 <sup>th</sup> November	Parental Contact Meetings, 5.00-7.30pm
Friday 11 <sup>th</sup> November	Year 6 Class Assembly, 10.15am
Sunday 13 <sup>th</sup> November	Remembrance Sunday Family Mass, Holy Family Church, 10.00am
Monday 14 <sup>th</sup> November	Music for Schools Parent Meeting, 6.00pm
Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> November	Year 5 Class Assembly, 10.15am
Friday 25 <sup>th</sup> November	Year 3 Class Assembly, 10.15am
Sunday 27 <sup>th</sup> November	First Sunday of Advent
Thursday 1 <sup>st</sup> December	KS2 Children Walk to Holy Family Church for Mass & Rehearse Christmas Production
Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> December	Dress Rehearsal Morning for Christmas Productions
Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Production Afternoon (Elderly of the Parish & Grandparents)
Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> December	Finance & Premises Governors' Meeting 6.00pm
Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Production Afternoon (Parents & Carers—Limited Tickets)
Wednesday 7 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Production Afternoon (Parents & Carers—Limited Tickets)
Thursday 8 <sup>th</sup> December	KS2 Children Walk to Holy Family Church for Mass & Rehearse Christmas Presentation

Thursday 8 <sup>th</sup> December	KS2 Children Christmas Performance in Holy Family Church (All KS2 Children to Attend)
Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup> December	Advent Reconciliation Service
Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup> December	School Christmas Dinner
Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup> December	Christmas Hat Assembly
Thursday 22 <sup>nd</sup> December 2016—Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> January 2017	Christmas Holidays
Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> January 2017	First Day of Spring Term
Friday 6 <sup>th</sup> January 2017	Mass for the Epiphany (tbc)
Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> January 2017	Whole School Theatre Visit (Beauty & The Beast—Wednesday Players, Palace Theatre)
Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> February 2017	Year 6 Danbury Residential Trip
Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> February 2017	Year 6 Return from Danbury
Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> February—Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> February 2017	Half-Term Holiday
Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> March	Ash Wednesday—Lent Begins
Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup> March 2017	Hot Cross Run (Catholic Schools' Cross Country Event) (tbc)
Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> April—Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> April 2017	Easter Holidays
Sunday 9 <sup>th</sup> April 2017	Palm (Passion) Sunday—Start of Holy Week
Sunday 16 <sup>th</sup> April 2017	Easter Sunday
Monday 17 <sup>th</sup> April 2017	Public Holiday—School Closed
Tuesday 18 <sup>th</sup> April 2017	First Day of Summer Term
Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> May 2017	Public Holiday—School Closed
Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> May 2017	SATs Week Begins
Monday 29 <sup>th</sup> May- Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> June 2017	Half-term Holiday
Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup> July 2017	Leavers' Mass (tbc)
Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> July 2017	Last day of the school year

Monday 24<sup>th</sup> July 2017

Summer Holidays Begin

*There is one more non-pupil day that needs to be set for 2016-2017 academic year*

### HEALTHY SCHOOLS POLICY APPENDIX ONE

The school is committed to: -

- Provide appropriate facilities for pupils eating packed lunches and ensure that free, fresh drinking water is available at all times.
- Work with parents to encourage packed lunches to meet the standards listed below.
- As fridge space is not available, pupils are advised to bring packed lunches in insulated bags with freezer blocks where possible.
- Wherever possible enable pupils eating packed lunches and pupils eating school lunches to sit together.

Packed lunches should include: -

- At least one portion of fruit (dried fruit: raisins, sultanas or other unprocessed dried fruit or a small tub of fruit in natural juice is also acceptable) and one portion of vegetables every day.
- Meat, fish, eggs or a non-dairy protein (e.g lentils, kidney beans, chickpeas, hummus, falafel) every day.
- Oily fish, such as salmon, at least once every three weeks.
- A starchy food such as any type of bread (white or wholegrain rolls, pitta bread or wraps), pasta, rice, couscous, noodles, potatoes or another cereal every day.
- A dairy food such as milk, cheese, yoghurt, *fromage frais* or custard every day.
- A drink of water, fruit juice or smoothie (maximum portion 150mls), semi skimmed, 1% or skimmed milk, yoghurt or another milk drink.

Packed lunches can occasionally include: -

- Meat products such as sausage rolls, individual pies, corned meat and sausages.
- Cereal bar, plain slice of cake or plain biscuit, but encourage your child to eat these as part of a meal.

Packed lunches should not include: -

- Salty snacks such as crisps
- Confectionary such as chocolate bars, chocolate biscuits, processed fruit bars or sweets.

- Sugary soft drinks such as squash, fizzy drinks (even if labelled as sugar-free, no added sugar or reduced sugar as these drinks can contribute to tooth decay and offer little nutritional value).