



HOLY FAMILY CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Diocese of
Brentwood

Headteacher Mr P.O'Kane

Newsletter 440 Friday 31st January 2020



Our first class assembly of the year was presented last Friday by Year 5 who covered the topic of the Holocaust in a very mature way. Thank you to Mr Holmes for preparing the children so well. Thank you also to the parents/carers who encouraged the children to learn their lines, and to all who attended the Year 5 assembly.

Enterprise Challenge Team News Please support the Enterprise Challenge Team with their latest fund raising initiatives – the Holy Family Word Competition and also by buying sausage rolls on a Friday for 30p each. With the money that is raised, Miss Furby and her team organise lots of exciting activities for the children to enhance the curriculum. They are currently organising for the children to have a fun, interactive animal session in their classrooms where they will choose two species per class, choosing from corn snakes, royal pythons, bearded dragons, crested geckos, tarantulas, ferrets and hedgehogs. KS1 will have the opportunity to meet with their chosen creatures on 12th March, Lower KS2 have their sessions on Thursday 19th March and Upper KS2 on Thursday 26th March. EYFS will meet ferrets, hedgehogs and chickens on Wednesday 1st April. We would be grateful for your support in helping raise money for additional exciting events in school in the future. Thank you.

On Wednesday there was great excitement in the school hall throughout the day as each class had the opportunity to learn some Chinese dancing with Darren from Dance Days. Thank you to Miss Furby and the Enterprise Team for organising the activity.



World Read Aloud Day In celebration of World Read Aloud Day, on the 5th February all children are invited to come to school wearing a onesie, pyjamas or comfy clothes. Each child is asked to donate £1 for the privilege of not having to wear their school uniform. Teachers have arranged a variety of reading activities throughout the day including several read alouds in the classroom and talking together about books. To make the day more special, all lights will be turned off, so children are asked to bring a labelled torch to school. Please reassure your child that the school will not be in total darkness, nor is it essential that they have a torch.

Drama Workshop On Wednesday 5th February, children from Reception to Year 3 will participate in a free drama workshop in school.

Forest Schools for EYFS Mr Holmes has kindly offered to lead Forest Schools sessions for our youngest pupils this term with the first session commencing on Friday afternoon, 7th February. This outdoor learning aims to develop confidence and self-esteem through hands-on learning in the natural environment. Mrs Wall has kindly offered to come into school as a volunteer on Friday to support Mr Holmes. In time, it is hoped to make Forest schools a regular part of the curriculum, extending it across the school so older children can also benefit.

EYFS Superheroes Assembly

We are really looking forward to seeing our EYFS children and their teachers dressed up as superheroes on Thursday 6th February. Parents/ Carers of the EYFS children are invited to a short, but special superheroes assembly on Thursday 6th at 11:15am.

First Aid Workshop The PGSA have organised First Aid Training for parents/ carers which will take place in the school hall at 7pm on Thursday 6th February. Please refer to the PGSA app for further information.

Fund raising opportunity One of our parents, Mrs Starling, has kindly contacted Jet Wheel Tyre in Church Road Benfleet to register us with their incentive scheme. If parents, staff of the school or parishioners of Holy Family Church mention the school when making a purchase, the school will receive 5% back at the end of the year.

Site Manager Vacancy Mr Smith, our school site manager, is moving to pastures new at the end of this half term. We will be very sorry to say good bye to Mr Smith as he is a very valuable and respected member of our school team.

Mr O’Kane is still unwell, and his period of certified sickness has been extended until February half term. Please keep Mr O’Kane and his family in your prayers. The staff, supported by the Governing Body, the Assisi Trust and the Diocese continue to work extremely hard as a team to ensure the very best education for all our children. Thank you to everyone, including our parents and carers, for all your support and encouragement over the past few weeks.

Saint of the week Yesterday was the Feast Day of Saint Thomas Aquinas, an Italian Dominican friar and priest. He is still regarded as one of the greatest philosophers ever to have lived and his major work ***Summa Theologiae*** still underpins the teachings of the Catholic Church today. Thomas Aquinas was anything but reactionary. He lived at a time of intense philosophical, social and political ferment, but he was able to use the new learning and thinking of his age to promote a deeper understanding of the faith. Saint Thomas Aquinas is considered the role model for all those wishing to study for the priesthood.

Thought for the Week *“All the darkness in the world cannot extinguish the light of a single candle.”* St Francis of Assisi

Attendance last week Nursery 55% RF 90% 1F 96.3% 2T 93.5% 3W 99.1% 4LB 97.6% 5H 95% 6M 99.3%
Well done to Year 6 for best attendance last week.

Parish Contact Details

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Mrs N Hurley
Deputy Headteacher

Diary Dates

Thursday 6 th February	Superheroes Day (EYFS)
Thursday 6 th February	First Aid Training (organised by the PGSA @ 7pm)
Monday 10 th February–Friday 14 th February	Year 6 Residential Trip
Monday 17 th February—Friday 21 st February	Spring Half-Term Break
Monday 24 th February	All Pupils Return to School
Monday 2 nd March	Grant Strong (visiting author)
Friday 6 th March	Y5 Day at Appleton High School
Friday 13 th March	Y2 Assembly
Friday 20 th March	Y3 Assembly
Monday 23 rd March	Infant Music Festival Year 2
Saturday 28 th March	PGSA Race Night
Friday 3 rd April	Y4 Easter Presentation
Friday 3 rd April	PGSA Children's Disco
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)
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)
Tuesday 21 st July	Final School Day of Academic Year
Wednesday 22 nd July	Non-Pupil Day 5