



HOLY FAMILY CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Headteacher Mr P.O'Kane

Newsletter 363 Friday 17th November 2017

Today the school was covered in spots as we held a non-uniform day in aid of BBC Children in Need. The School Council members sold helium balloons after school kindly donated by Mrs Brumwell. The non-uniform donations amounted to £137.80—we will inform you of the totals raised next week. Thank you all so much for supporting the School Council and Children in Need by dressing your children so colourfully and imaginatively.



Yesterday we held our open morning and open evening for admission to our Reception Class 2018. We were pleased to welcome some old and new faces into school and our Year 6 children were fantastic ambassadors for the school throughout the morning, providing our visitors with detailed guided tours. During the open evening, the school councillors took on this guide role and the school choir demonstrated their beautiful singing to our guests. It was a privilege to be in school last night and I owe a great deal of thanks to the children, parents and staff who supported the open evening. The Essex LA online admissions portal opened on Monday 13th November.

Chair of Governors Mrs Julie Herridge was elected as the new Chair of Governors at a Full Governing Body meeting on Wednesday evening. Many of you will know Mrs Herridge through the First Holy Communion programme or as the Parish Secretary. I am grateful to Mrs Herridge and all our governors for giving freely of their time for the good of the children in our school community. I would like to thank Mr Blakesley, our previous Chair of Governors for fulfilling that role over the past year.

Year 1 & Year 3 Assemblies The date of the Year 1 class assembly is Friday 24th November 2017 at 10.15am in the school hall. The Year 3 class assembly will be on Wednesday 22nd November 2017 at 10.15am in the school hall.

Drum lessons There will be one space for a pupil to start drum lessons with Mr Stevenson at the beginning of the Spring term. The cost is £75.00 for 10 lessons of 15 minutes each term. If your child is interested in learning to play the drums, please contact Mrs Duxbury in the school office. The place will be allocated on a first come first served basis. Thank you.

PGSA The PGSA meeting on Tuesday evening was well attended and some great ideas were put forward for fundraising and non-fundraising activities. The Family Quiz Night is tomorrow evening, Saturday 18th November; start time 7.30pm—bring your own drinks and nibbles. £4.00 per adult; £1.00 per child. There will be a raffle during the Quiz Night—**first prize 4 X tickets for West Ham v. Chelsea** (kindly donated by Mr Overall, parent of Florence, Finley and Roman) on Saturday 9th December 2017.

Christmas Bazaar/Craft Event—Friday 1st December 2017, 3.15pm—5.15pm **Volunteers needed to man stalls—many hands make light work!**

Jackie's Jollies bags and a **Bazaar Bulletin** will be sent out next week. Fr Christmas has been in touch with me this week and has promised to come to our school to meet the children if we create a grotto for him to use.

CAFOD World Gifts If you would like purchase Christmas gifts with a difference, there are brochures from CAFOD In the school foyer which show how you can “Give gifts that change lives at Christmas” ranging from mosquito nets to goats and solar lamps.



World Gifts
Gifts that make a difference

Saint of the Week St Frances Xavier Cabrini, known as Mother Cabrini was the first American citizen ever to be canonized by the Catholic Church. She was born in Italy in 1850, one of thirteen children. She always wanted to be a nun and help others, but poor health stood in her way. She ended up working as a farm hand, but on the invitation of her local priest she became a teacher in a girls' school. Her local bishop was so impressed with her drive and determination, he asked her to found her own order of nuns: The Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart. She cared for the poor and needy in schools and hospitals. She was canonized in 1946 and American Catholics celebrate her Feast Day on 13th November each year.



Mother Cabrini



The Holy Family

Prayer to the Holy Family Jesus, Mary and Joseph, in you we contemplate the splendour of true love; to you we turn with trust. Holy Family of Nazareth, grant that our families too may be places of communion and prayer, authentic schools of the Gospel and small domestic churches. Holy Family of Nazareth, may families never again experience violence, rejection and division; may all who have been hurt or scandalized find ready comfort and healing. Holy Family of Nazareth, make us once more mindful of the sacredness and inviolability of the family and its beauty in God's plan. Jesus, Mary and Joseph, graciously hear our prayer. Amen.

Throughout November we will be saying this traditional Catholic prayer for the deceased—you may wish to recite this prayer at home with your children.



Eternal rest grant unto them o Lord
And let perpetual light shine upon them
May they rest in peace. Amen



Library Books Please could children return all library books which they have borrowed from the school library. Thank you.

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 on 01268 686041. The locations are: Little Lions Children's Centre Northwick Park Academy, Third Avenue, Canvey Island, SS8 9SU. Phone 01268 686041 3-4pm 23rd November; 7th December and Oak Tree Children's Centre, Grovewood Primary School, Grove Road, Rayleigh SS6 8UA. Phone 01268 775910 2-4pm 28th November; 12th December.

Parish Contact Details

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

Parish Priest: Fr Eduard Fartan,

eduard.fartan@yahoo.com

priest@holyfamily-church.org

Parish Secretary: Mrs Julie Herridge,

office@holyfamily-church.org

Telephone: 01268 792082 or 01268 799649

Attendance

Sadly, attendance rates at Holy Family are currently below the national average. We all have a responsibility to ensure that our children have full attendance or as close as possible given specific medical conditions. However, our rate has been dragged down by unauthorised absences. Essex LA expects the school to take a much tougher stance on attendance and punctuality. We may be put in a position of having to refer parents to Essex LA for fines. As a school we want to promote attendance for positive reasons and so we will be introducing a half-termly raffle for all children who have 100% attendance in that half-term. This week's figures are:

RF 89.1% 1F 96.9% 2T 96.9% 3W 95.9% 4HW 95.8% 5LB 86.1% 6F 99% Well done to Year 6 for best attendance last week.

Mr P. O'Kane

Headteacher

Diary Dates

Wednesday 22nd November

Year 3 class assembly, 10.15am

Friday 24th November

Year 1 class assembly, 10.15am

Friday 24th November

Choir singing at Southend Music Festival

Friday 1st December

Children's cake sale & raffle

Friday 1st December

Christmas Bazaar/Craft Fayre 3.15pm

Thursday 7th December

Christmas productions dress rehearsals

Friday 8th December

Feast of the Immaculate Conception—KS2

Monday 11th December

classes will walk to Mass in Holy Family Church

Christmas productions, 1.30pm—grandparents

and parishioners

Tuesday 12th December

Christmas productions, 1.30pm—parents

Wednesday 13th December

Christmas productions, 1.30pm—parents

Thursday 14 th December	KS2 walk to Holy Family Church to attend Mass and set up altar for evening production
Thursday 14 th December	KS2 Christmas production, 7.00pm Holy Family Church
Wednesday 13 th December	Year 6 Singing in nursing home
Tuesday 19 th December	Christingle service, 2.30pm
Wednesday 20 th December	Advent reconciliation service
Wednesday 20 th December	Christmas dinner
Wednesday 20 th December	Last day in school 2017
Thursday 21 st December—Monday 1 st January 2018	Christmas Holidays
Tuesday 2 nd January 2018	Non-pupil day
Wednesday 3 rd January 2018	First day of Spring Term 2018
Friday 12 th January 2018	Whole School Pantomime Trip
Monday 29 th January 2018	Young Voices concert o2 Arena Y5 & Y6
Monday 5 th February—Friday 9 th February 2018	Year 6 Danbury Residential