

# FAMILY MATTERS

HOLY FAMILY CATHOLIC SCHOOL  
NEWSLETTER



End of an Era  
Issue



@HFCSWaltham



[www.holyfamily.waltham.sch.uk](http://www.holyfamily.waltham.sch.uk)



@HFCSWaltham



# HEADTEACHER'S MESSAGE

Friday July 17th 2020

Dear parents/carers

I am writing to you as I always do at the end of the summer term but this has been a summer term like no other. First of all I want to thank you for what you have done over the lockdown period in supporting your child's education. I also want to thank our staff who, I believe, have done their very best to provide excellent support and pastoral care to all of our young people over the past few months. I'm proud of how our students have responded to the challenges they have faced.

This has been a difficult and challenging period for everyone. I know some families have been especially hard hit and have suffered bereavements and periods when family members have been very ill and hospitalised. Clearly the pandemic is not over despite the easing of lockdown but it is very important that we try to get back to some degree of normality and schools have a huge part to play in that process.

I have produced this week a draft risk assessment for the full reopening of the school in September. We have learnt a lot from the process of partial reopening and approximately 90 percent of students in Yr 10 and Yr 12 have been regularly attending lessons over the last month. The students have really appreciated and benefited from this. This draft risk assessment has been discussed with our governors, our staff and our school trade union representatives. It has now been sent to the borough's Health and Safety Team who will provide feedback to us by the end of July which we shall take account of. The risk assessment will then be reviewed again in the week beginning 24th August. I shall then email the final version of the risk assessment to all parents/carers at the end of August so that you can see the measures we will be taking.

# HEADTEACHER'S MESSAGE

## Some key issues:

- Social distancing is no longer required for students - this is because the risk of infection for young people is low and the risk that if infected they suffer badly is extremely low.
- Students will be in year group 'bubbles' and we will be keeping these 'bubbles' separate, one from the other, as far as is practical and possible.
- One way systems will remain in place
- Every classroom will have a small pedal bin with a lid for tissues etc and students will be reminded of the importance of 'catch it, kill, it bin it'
- Additional cleaners will be deployed during the day on both sites so that door handles and other high contact surfaces can be frequently cleaned
- Hand sanitiser will be used frequently
- Students will receive clear instruction about how things must operate when they return
- We will continue to focus on staff and student well-being and resilience
- If there is a confirmed case in school then I have to contact Public Health England and the London CoronaVirus Response Centre (LCRC) and take their advice and instructions about our response
- Our behaviour policy has been updated to reflect our new context
- Transport - will be a big issue in September. We are encouraging as many staff and students as possible to walk or cycle. There will not be any access for safety reasons for parents to drive into the school car park to drop students off it is simply too dangerous.
- Students will report to different areas of the school on their arrival so that segregation is maintained
- There will be enhanced supervision rotas to ensure segregation of year groups is maintained
- The lunch period will be staggered so that only one year group at a time is using the canteen and all tables and surfaces will be cleaned between year group sittings
- The guidance states that applying the measures covered in our risk assessment will substantially reduce the risks of infection. The expectation is that the school applies these measures as far as is reasonably practical and where possible. This means that we cannot apply all elements of the risk assessment one hundred per cent of the time, but in managing to apply these measures to mitigate risk most of the time we will reduce the risk of transmission.

# HEADTEACHER'S MESSAGE

Unfortunately, we have to understand and accept that COVID19 has changed our world, hopefully not forever, but certainly for the short term. We are doing what we can to mitigate risk, but we cannot eliminate the risks of COVID19 from our lives any more than we can eliminate the awful possibilities that we will be seriously injured in a car crash on the way to work or that we will be diagnosed with cancer or some other life threatening illness, or that we some other catastrophic event may happen to you or your loved ones.

There comes a point where we have to balance risk and accept that there is no such thing as zero risk in any aspect of our lives. The sad reality of the NHS's effective response to COVID is that patients with other potentially life threatening conditions have not been able to be treated as speedily or as effectively as they should have been. It is estimated that there will be 50000 excess deaths from cancer because diagnosis and/or treatment was delayed. I fully understand that some groups are at greater risk than others including those with underlying health conditions and people from BAME backgrounds and we will continue to be mindful of that. The school has carried out individual risk assessments for all staff who may be at increased risk in order to make any necessary adaptations and to reassure colleagues that they will be as safe as possible in school.

## **Attendance and uniform**

Attendance becomes compulsory again from September for all students. We expect students to be back in full uniform from September. On days when a student has PE they are to attend school in their PE kit as we are not able to use our changing room facilities. If any parent has financial difficulty in purchasing uniform at this time please email me directly, in confidence, ([a.stone@holyfamily.waltham.sch.uk](mailto:a.stone@holyfamily.waltham.sch.uk)) and we shall do what we can to help.

## **Hair styles and jewellery**

One thing that is still the same as it always is in my summer letter: Please ensure any ear piercings are done at the start of the holiday so that they are healed by the time we come back and likewise that hairstyles fit in with the school guidelines for the start of the autumn term.

# HEADTEACHER'S MESSAGE

## Exam results

Mrs Klitou and Mr Delf have written to all Yr 11 and Yr 12 and 13 students to explain how exam results will be provided to students on results days. Please ensure your son/daughter follows the instructions given. These details are also available on our website: [www.holyfamily.waltham.sch.uk/home/about/data-dashboard/](http://www.holyfamily.waltham.sch.uk/home/about/data-dashboard/)

## First week back schedule for students

Date	Year groups in school
Thursday 3rd Sept	Induction Day Walthamstow site: Yr 7 and Yr 12 only 9am to 3pm Wiseman site:
Friday 4th Sept	Induction Day Walthamstow site: Yr 7 and Yr 13 only 9am to 2.00pm Wiseman site: Yr 9 only 9am to 2pm
Monday 7th Sept	Both sites: all year groups from 8.30am to 3.10pm
Tuesday 8th Sept	Lessons start for all year groups from 8.30am to 3.10pm

# HEADTEACHER'S MESSAGE

## **Staff farewells**

We met with all staff yesterday to go through planning for September and we also said farewell to a number of colleagues, three of whom I particularly want to mention - Mrs Perera who has worked in the technology department at Holy Family for 24 years, Ms Baxter who has worked in the science department for 28 years and Miss Evans who has worked at Holy Family since the school was created and worked at Corpus Christi Junior High School before that. We wish them all a long and happy retirement.

## **Summer provision from LBWF**

Please see the letter at the end of this issue from the Director of Education in Waltham Forest which includes information about summer activities in the borough for families and young people.

## **And finally...**

It is a privilege to lead our school community and I wish you all well for the summer holiday period. I shall write again at the end of August to clarify final arrangements and to share our updated risk assessment. If you have any questions or concerns at that time then please do not hesitate to contact me at the end of August.

Please keep everyone from our school community in your prayers.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Andy Stone  
Headteacher

Click below to hear from Dr. Stone about the  
measures we have taken to open safely in  
September



**A message from Dr. Stone  
about the full reopening of  
school from September**

14th July 2020



# Prayer for the end of the school year

At the end of this school year  
we give thanks to God:

For all the teaching and learning  
that has taken place in our school,  
both in and out of the classroom,

For the talents and gifts that have been shared  
and the challenges that have been faced;

For the burdens that have been lifted  
and the hurts that have been healed;

For the respect and care that has been given.

We give thanks for the friendships that have just begun  
and for those that have grown.

For the faith that has been lived in our daily struggles,  
For the hope that has lifted our hearts on the dark days  
And for the love that has kept us going.

We give thanks for the community that we are,  
and we ask you Lord -

Bless our families as we take our holidays,  
may our time together leave us with memories to cherish.

Pour out your love on us that we may return renewed  
and refreshed to continue our journey together .

We make this prayer through Christ our Lord.

Amen

Stay safe - Mrs. Grierson, Chaplain

# *Farewell from Ms. Evans*

In 1984 I started my career as a teacher at Corpus Christi Junior High School in Leyton. Two years later we moved to the Walthamstow House site, and in 1988 Corpus Christi and Cardinal Wiseman schools amalgamated to become Holy Family. 36 years after that first day in Goodall Road, I am retiring and leaving Holy Family. Except of course, that no-one ever leaves Holy Family – not really. It is a special place – a family in nature as well as in name – and I have no intention of breaking ties. I will continue to pop in and see people, and keep up to date with the progress of the school. It is far too important to me for me to just walk away.

I have been blessed with so many opportunities in my time here. I have led departments and year groups, co-ordinated literacy, sixth form more able provision and EPQ, and stage-managed more whole-school productions than I can remember. I have taught at least 8 different subjects and generated a huge amount of paper and computer files that I am currently trying to sort out! I have seen ex-students become my colleagues and life-long friends and go on to other amazing careers. I have also lost both colleagues and students because a full life is always a mix of happy and sad times.

As I start a new and exciting stage of my life I am filled with gratitude for my time here and a deep sense of the privilege that it has been to be a part of such a warm and loving community. I wish everyone at Holy Family all the best for the future, knowing that you will continue to be both an exceptional place of learning and a truly Catholic community. I am leaving in strange circumstances, but I know that God brings good out of every circumstance, and the world will someday be a better place. In the meantime, stay safe and well and may God go with you.

*Sue Evans*



# Farewell from Ms. Baxter

Finding my joy.

I joined Holy Family in September 1992 as a science teacher.

Actually, I had walked the corridors before, back in 1974 as a student. When I left I became a trainee forensic chemist - (this was in the days before CSI and no one knew what forensic science was, I used to tell people I was a civil servant). It was daunting making the decision to change career, but I have never regretted becoming a teacher. If I am allowed to give one final piece of advice, it is don't be afraid of change.

Your plans and ambitions can change and that's fine.

So, 28 years at Holy Family as a science teacher including 18 as a Head of Year.

One of the joys of teaching has been the opportunity to learn from my colleagues and from the students. As the saying goes "Every day's a school day". A further joy is because SCIENCE!!! It is well known in the science department that I am never happier than when I get the opportunity to really exercise my geek tendencies by doing or teaching practical science.

I hope some of my enthusiasm for science and particularly chemistry has come across to the students. It is an added joy when I hear from past students, particularly those who have taken up careers in STEM areas.

The last 4 months have been a learning experience none of us predicted. It is not how I thought my working life would conclude. I hope to continue my learning in retirement, to try things that working full-time have not allowed for such as walking-in and learning about different parts of Britain. A new joy will be taking breaks and holidays when I want them, not just in the school holidays.

Thank you to all the young people and colleagues who've made the last 28 years so interesting (challenging at times, but never boring) and the reason I kept coming back every day to the classroom.

Denise Baxter

# *Farewell Mrs. Perera*

Mrs Perera has retired after teaching at Holy Family for 24 years. She has been a great teacher who always put her students first and really enjoyed teaching them and getting to know them.

She taught all ages of students from Yr7 to Sixth Form and taught all the different technology subjects including graphics, product design, textiles and cookery as well as some RE, maths and art.

Mrs Perera came to the UK to complete her studies in architecture and worked in an architectural practice for a number of years before deciding that teaching was the career for her.

This was our gain and architecture's loss. She is a very creative person, a talented artist and someone who could always draw out the hidden talents of our students.

Generous of spirit, kind to everyone, Mrs Perera has lived out her Catholic faith and the Holy Family Way. I know she will miss teaching and her students but there are many good things for her and her family to look forward to in the years ahead. We thank her for her service and wish her a long and happy retirement.

## *Life on Earth 2020*

A poem written by Mrs Perera during lockdown

Today is Twenty Fifth Day in March Year of 2020	No more picnics on the Heath
Fifty nine Years on Earth..... for me	Stay at home
Earth is trembling without an Earthquake	No more Cinema going
Stay at home is the norm!	No more popcorn sharing
No more visiting parents	Stay at home
No more hugging friends	No more London by night
Stay at home	No more theatre tickets
No more going to school	Stay at home
No more seeing our pupils	No more horse races
Stay at home	No more Grand Prix
No more meeting in the café	Stay at home
No more drinks at the pub	No more plane journeys
Stay at home	No more guided tours
No more nail extensions	Stay at home
No more hair salons	No more spreading the virus
Stay at home	More, more help our NHS
No more going to the beach	Stay at home.

*Geetha Perera*

**CLICK HERE TO SEE A  
FULL GUIDE TO THE  
SCHOOL UNIFORM**



**HOLY FAMILY  
CATHOLIC SCHOOL  
& SIXTH FORM**

# WHERE TO GET YOUR SCHOOL UNIFORM FOR SEPTEMBER 2020

Our school uniform can be obtained from either Speedstitch or Carolina's. Please contact the outfitters to book an appointment. Payment plans are also available.



**Website:**  
[www.speedstitch.co.uk](http://www.speedstitch.co.uk)

**Email:**  
[shop@speedstitch.co.uk](mailto:shop@speedstitch.co.uk)

**Phone number:**  
**020 8531 4800**

*CAROLINA* appointed school outfitters

708 Chigwell Road Woodford Bridge Essex IG8 8AL

**Website:**  
[www.carolinaschooloutfitters.co.uk](http://www.carolinaschooloutfitters.co.uk)

**Email:**  
[shop@speedstitch.co.uk](mailto:shop@speedstitch.co.uk)

**Phone number:**  
**07702569319**

**Due to current circumstances we encourage you to shop early and online**





**CLICK HERE TO SEE A  
FULL GUIDE TO THE  
SCHOOL UNIFORM**



**HOLY FAMILY  
CATHOLIC SCHOOL  
& SIXTH FORM**

# YOUR SCHOOL UNIFORM EXPLAINED

## Years 7 & 8

**All students must wear  
a school blazer, white  
shirt and school tie.**



**Girls must wear either  
the red checked kilt  
or school branded  
trousers**



**Boys must wear black  
formal school trousers**



## Years 9, 10 & 11

**All students must wear  
a school blazer, white  
shirt and school tie.**



**Girls must wear either  
the black kilt  
or school branded  
trousers**



**Boys must wear black  
formal school trousers**



**All school uniform items can be obtained  
from Speedstich and Carolina's Outfitters**

# *Do you have any uniform to donate?*

## UNIFORM DONATIONS

We are asking for donations of our current school uniform which your child may no longer need or have outgrown that is still in good and wearable condition. This can range from the list below:

### Years 7 & 8

Blazer



Trousers



School Tie



GIRLS  
RED CHECKED KILT  
or  
SCHOOL BRANDED  
TROUSERS

### Years 9, 10 & 11

Blazer



Trousers



School Tie



GIRLS  
BACK KILT  
or  
SCHOOL BRANDED  
TROUSERS

### PE Kit



**PLEASE DROP ANY DONATIONS TO EITHER  
SCHOOL OFFICE ON THE 1ST, 2ND OR 3RD OF  
SEPTEMBER - MANY THANKS**



# Smartphone Life on Film 2020



**LIFE  
ON  
FILM**

**SMARTPHONE  
E D I T I O N**

**SUMMER 2020**

**CAPTURE YOUR  
LIFE ON FILM**



e17films.com



Instagram: @futurefilmfocus

**We want to see your films made during lockdown 2020...film a sequence, a story, review a favourite shop, recipe or words of wisdom for a better future.**

**Follow @futurefilmfocus on Instagram and learn how to make a short film on your smartphone.**

**3 film tutorials made by young filmmakers (all ex-Holy Family Media and Film students!) to inspire a new generation.**

**Your films could be selected to be shown as part of Leytonstone Loves Film September 2020.**

## LIFE ON FILM

SMARTPHONE  
EDITION

SUMMER 2020

CAPTURE YOUR  
LIFE ON FILM



[e17films.com](http://e17films.com)



Instagram: [@futurefilmfocus](https://www.instagram.com/futurefilmfocus)

"We're living in a really unique time, so we think that everyone should be able to capture this moment in history using what they have (a smartphone) and taking inspiration from what's around them."

**- Shola, Presenter**

"3 steps to help us connect with other filmmakers using what we all have in the palm of our hands."

**- Monday, Assistant Producer**

"An easy way to make the best film you can under lockdown using just your imagination and your phone."

**- Lauren, Editor and Assistant Producer.**



# Competitions & Surveys



## TAKE OUR SURVEY

We want to find out how the lockdown has affected young people from London and Essex. Take our survey today and you could win £500 for yourself and up to £1000 for your youth group/school!

[Take the Survey](#)

## HAVE YOUR SAY

**WIN £500**

[Take the survey NOW!](#)

**TAKES 10 MINS!**

**YOU COULD WIN £500**

## ANTHEM COMPETITION

Jack Petchey's Anthem competition is back for all the budding singers and songwriters out there! You must be 11-25 and from London or Essex to enter.

[Find out how to enter](#)

## OUR POSITIVE CAMPAIGN

Get involved in #TheGoodInWhereILive on social media or enter our competition to be in with a chance of winning £250!

[See guidelines](#)

## EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY SERVICE

### Parent/carers support

Waltham Forest Educational Psychology Service are providing a telephone consultation service to parents and carers.

During the COVID 19 lockdown there can be increased pressure on families and especially those parents of vulnerable children.

The EPS consultation service is available to families who may want support with:

- Emotional support for yourself or child's emotional health and well being
- Talking to your children about COVID 19 and the ongoing situation
- Supporting learning
- Managing behaviour
- Accessing information and resources

The consultation service is open to all families in Waltham Forest  
Calls can be arranged Monday to Friday 9am-7pm

If you would like to arrange a consultation please contact the

**Educational Psychology Service**  
**Between the hours of 9am and 4.30pm:**

**020 8496 1732**

**At any Time:**

email: [educationalpsychologyservice@walthamforest.gov.uk](mailto:educationalpsychologyservice@walthamforest.gov.uk)

You will be asked to provide information on name, school, contact details, preferred contact time. Information will be stored and a record of the consultation and outcomes for EPS information only.

You may request a copy of this record or at any time request to have it removed

If any safeguarding issues arise we have a duty of care to pass on to appropriate parties.



## Families Directorate

Strategic Director Families: Heather Flinders  
Magistrates Building, Farnan Avenue, Walthamstow, London, E17 4NX



Learning & Systems Leadership  
**Town Hall, Forest Road, Walthamstow, E17 4JF**

Ask for: David Kilgallon  
Email: David.Kilgallon@walthamforest.gov.uk  
Direct: 020 8496 3221  
Date: 14.07.2020

Dear parent/carer

A final letter from me before the end of what has been the most challenging academic year, I suspect any of us can remember.

I'd firstly like to thank you for your patience and all you have done to support your child during these unprecedented times. You've been personal educational providers, coaches and motivators and so much more. I'd also like to personally thank all the staff in schools for the work they have done to keep schools open to vulnerable children, and the children of keyworkers, and then to additional year groups. In Waltham Forest the number of schools that have remained open and the overall pupil numbers that have been attending has been phenomenal.

As the Government has announced, it is expected that all children and young people will return to school in September. I would ask for your continued patience as all schools are using the period between now and the end of term plus much of the holiday period to plan how this will work for children.

Detailed risk assessments are being drawn up and signed off to ensure schools are as practically safe as is possible to welcome all children and young people back. Schools, with support from the Council and others are putting appropriate control measures in place and planning how they will safely group children on their return to school. It won't be schools going back to normal but rather the "new normal" where schools operate in as child focused way as possible whilst maintaining safety. Each school will communicate its plans for September as soon as it is able to and I am sure many will have already done so.

We are working with Public Health England and other partners to make sure our local plans are effective and regularly updated.

In terms of the next academic year the Government have clearly indicated that attendance at school is compulsory. The shared belief of the Council and schools is that we very much want to support children and young people back to school. Whilst we hope and expect that most children and young people will immediately bounce back into school, we recognise that a minority will need additional support. Our collective view is that the health and wellbeing of all children is just as important as their educational outcomes, although both are clearly closely linked. Getting all children safely back



to school in September is something I am sure we will all support together and as parents you have an absolute fundamental role in this.

In terms of the curriculum in the forthcoming academic year, the Government has indicated that a full curriculum should be delivered with some scope for short term adjustments. We are encouraging our schools to fully meet this expectation whilst also supporting them in recognising the impact the last four months have had. From September in several schools you may see a “recovery curriculum” being delivered for a term or possibly slightly longer. This is to support children and young people back into effective learning. Alongside this we are also supporting schools to plan how they will mitigate the impact of any future short term need to keep groups of children and young people away from school should the need arise. We are supporting schools, where necessary, in refreshing their remote learning and access to online resources.

Limitations on availability of public transport and the pressure of all pupils returning to school is another area the Government has recognised. We are actively working with our schools to promote walking or cycling to work and would particularly urge all parents and carers that live within two miles of their child’s schools to walk or cycle. There is a travel survey for parents, carers and students that we would encourage you to complete. It can be found at <https://bit.ly/WFSchoolTravel2020> and feedback from this survey will inform our work with schools. Please look out for publicity around local schemes to support alternative means of travel to school that lessen the burden placed on public transport.

As the summer holiday begins, we acknowledge that this will bring another set of challenges for families. With this in mind we would encourage you to visit [www.walthamforest.gov.uk/holidays](http://www.walthamforest.gov.uk/holidays), which will provide information on finding childcare and things to do with your children over the next six weeks. We will be updating this regularly but also encourage you to sign up for the Councils Families newsletter and follow us on twitter (@wfcouncil) as we will be regularly sharing information on things to do, including taking part in virtual activities commissioned from local artists and organisations.

Please enjoy what I hope will be a restful summer for you and your nearest and dearest. Keep an eye out for opportunities to engage over the holiday period and look out for messages from your school or the Council regarding the start of the new academic year in September.

Stay Safe.

Yours sincerely,



**David Kilgallon**

Director of Learning & System Leadership