St Francis Newsletter
6th November 2026



Compassion ~ We love and care

Humility ~ We put others first

Responsibility ~ We do what is right

Inspiration ~ We think big and shine bright

Solidarity ~ We stand together

School value focus: Solidarity

This week In my Gospel Assembly, we reflected on our fifth school value, **Solidarity - We Stand Together**. Through a fun and memorable challenge, pupils discovered that just as a stack of paper is stronger together than a single sheet on its own, we too are stronger when we support, encourage and care for one another. It was wonderful to see children sharing thoughtful ideas about how they can help others feel valued, included and supported within our school family.

Our Gospel reading from **Matthew 25:35-40** reminded us that every act of kindness matters.

Jesus teaches us, *"Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me."*

Pupils reflected on the many ways they can live out solidarity each day, from welcoming someone into a game to offering encouragement to a friend who may be finding things difficult. We finished by challenging ourselves to carry out one act of solidarity during the week, helping to make our school an even more caring, inclusive and supportive community.



Poppy Appeal

Poppies will be on sale for one last day on Monday 9th November.

Please note we can only accept cash donations.

Advent Activities





During Advent, our school community will be celebrating this special season through prayer, worship, service and acts of kindness as we prepare our hearts for the birth of Jesus. Children will open the Catholic Missio Advent Calendar each day in class and take part in special Advent liturgies and reflections throughout the season.

Confirmed Events

- EYFS Nativity
- KS1 Nativity
- KS2 Carol Concert at The Friary
- Choir singing at two local charity events
- Advent Liturgy led by the Liturgy Leaders on Tuesday 1st December
- Reconciliation for Years 4-6

Advent Catholic Social Teaching Activities

As part of our Advent focus on serving others, we will be supporting a number of charitable causes:

- Collection at the Carol Concert

- Reindeer Run and Christmas Jumper Day for St Catherine's Hospice on Friday 11th December
- Staff Reverse Advent Calendar to support Crawley Open House where the staff donate for each day of advent

In the Classrooms

Throughout Advent, children will take part in a range of faith-filled activities, including:

- Daily Missio Advent Calendar reflections
- Advent Kindness Chains inspired by the theme: *"Every act of love makes God's presence visible."*
- Advent Angels weekly awards and display in the hall
- Missio Advent Liturgies within each class

Through all of these activities, we hope to help our children grow in faith, generosity and compassion, remembering that Advent is not only a time of waiting, but also a time of bringing hope, joy and kindness to others.

Non-Fiction November



Stay and Read Session

What a lovely stay and read session we had for our Year 1 children this week. They enjoyed sharing stories and completing reading activities with their grown ups. It's wonderful to see our children developing a love of reading and sharing that enjoyment with their grown ups. A big thank you to everyone who joined us!




Autumn





PTA Diary Dates

Christmas Fayre preparations are underway! We've got lots of lovely activities planned, and there are a few important dates and deadlines for families to be aware of.

Friday 27 November is our big deadline! Here's everything you need to know:

🎄 Jolly Jars Christmas Competition – Deadline Friday 27 November

Children are invited to decorate a jar and fill it with individually wrapped, NUT-FREE sweets. Get creative with paint, stickers, drawings or anything else you fancy!

Please hand completed jars into your child's class by Friday 27 November.

Participation is completely optional, and there's a prize for every class!

👕 Own Clothes Day – Friday 27 November

Children can wear their own clothes to school in exchange for a donation towards our Christmas Fayre stalls.

Each year group has been allocated a different donation:

* Reception: New or unwanted gift/toy for the lucky dip

* Year 1: Shop-bought cupcakes for the cake stall. NO NUTS please, and ensure the use-by/best-before date is beyond Friday 4 December.

* Year 2: Clean, good-condition soft toy for the teddy tombola

* Year 3: Red or green item for the Christmas hamper raffle

* Year 4: Bottles for the bottle tombola

* Year 5: New or unwanted gift/toy for the lucky dip

* Year 6: Bottles for the bottle tombola

🎟️ Christmas Raffle – Tickets due Friday 27 November

Raffle tickets will be coming home with children on Friday 6 November!

Please return your completed ticket stubs and payment by Friday 27 November. Can be handed into the office. All tickets must be returned, even if you're not buying them please!

We've got some fantastic prizes lined up, with more exciting announcements to come!

🎅 Christmas Fayre – Friday 4 December

Save the date! We're looking forward to welcoming everyone for an afternoon of festive fun, stalls, games, refreshments and our Christmas raffle.

Thank you for supporting the Friends of St Francis PTA. Every donation, raffle ticket and contribution helps make these events possible!

Christmas Fayre



Diary Dates



Diary Dates

November

Tues 10 - Parents Consultation Evening 3.40 -6.20pm

Thurs 12- Parents Consultation Evening 3.40-6.20pm

Tues 24 - Alpaca Class Assembly at 9.05am - parents/carers/grandparents welcome

Fri 27 - Own Clothes Day in exchange for a donation for the Christmas Fayre stall

Fri 27 - Deadline for Jolly Jars Competition

Fri 27 - Christmas raffle tickets to be returned.

Attendance



This week's attendance winners are:

Meerkat and Wallaby class for making fantastic improvements to their class attendance figures

Star of the Week



Ladybird: Tori Mwebaze

Bumblebee: Elisha Evenor

Koala: Isabelle Bray

Wallaby: Julia Barbagallo

Penguin: Michaela Andama

Seal: Evelyne Petrus

Meerkat: Julianna Peiris

Zebra: Charlie Kluge

Armadillo: Ariya De Jesus Lucas

Raccoon: Alicja Mrowiec

Leopard: Raphael Roberto

Panda: Leo Alex

Toucan: Emily Smykowski

Alpaca: Noah Carter

Reader and Writer of the Week



Ladybird: Ruairi Bishop

Bumblebee: Isabella Jones

Koala: Miguel Do Carmo

Wallaby: Maya Ogun

Penguin: Jamie Isou Caro

Seal: Maya Iwanski

Meerkat: Joanna Rodrigues

Zebra: Mason Wynter

Armadillo: William Doidge

Raccoon: Kian Young

Leopard: Praise Benjamin

Panda: Edward Johnston

Toucan: Eliana Moutou

Alpaca: Kaya Vincatassin

Final thoughts from Mrs Winton

I hope you all had a happy, restful half term and this first week back has been positive. For me, this is always my favourite term of the school year. There is something truly special about

autumn, Advent and the journey towards Christmas. It is a busy term, but also a magical one, filled with opportunities for prayer, celebration, reflection and service to others.

As we begin this new half term, our school value of Solidarity reminds us of the importance of helping one another, standing together and supporting those in need. Through our Advent activities, charitable fundraising and acts of kindness, we will encourage the children to think about how they can make a difference in the lives of others. Together, as a school family, we can bring hope, joy and God's love to those around us.

A reminder that our Parents' Evenings take place next week. These meetings are a valuable opportunity to discuss your child's progress and celebrate their achievements.

Finally, for those of you enjoying firework celebrations this weekend, I hope you have a wonderful time and stay safe.

Love and God bless,

Mrs Winton

Headteacher



Child Protection and Safeguarding

At St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Primary School, we are committed to promoting the welfare of all our pupils, ensuring they feel safe and can place their trust and confidence in any adult that is working in, volunteering for or visiting the school.

The Designated Safeguarding Leaders at St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Primary School are Mrs Winton, Miss Strudwick, Miss Date and Mrs Jones.

If you have concerns about a child you can also call Integrated Front Door (IFD) on 01403 229900 or out of hours on 0330 222 6664.