



St Francis of Assisi Catholic Primary School

Newsletter—No.17
Friday 20th January 2023



At St Francis of Assisi Catholic Primary School, God is at the heart of our school. We try, everyday, to follow Jesus' commandment 'Love one another as I have loved you'. We do this through love for our families, our friends, and our school. We respect our environment and recognise our responsibility for it. We encourage in each other a love of learning. We rejoice in each others' uniqueness. We place prayer and worship at the centre of everything we do. We are a community of love dedicated to God. Our school is somewhere we can grow together.

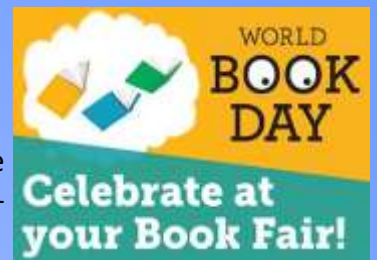
Dear Parents and Carers,



On Monday 6th Feb there will be a Dress to Express day where children are encouraged to wear clothes that express their emotions, feelings or personalities. We will be raising money for "Place 2Be" a children's mental health charity. We are asking for a suggested donation of £1 via Parentpay or to the class teacher on the day.

Book Week is Monday 27th February to Friday 3rd March

The Book Fair will be in school that week and children will have a chance to visit the fair. Further details to follow. On Thursday 2nd March it is World Book Day and children can either wear their own clothes or dress up as a book character.



Industrial Action

You will be aware that the largest teachers' union, the NEU, has called for strike action on the following dates: 1st February, 2nd March, 15th March and 16th March.

Like many schools, we have a number of teachers who are members of the NEU and although we are yet to see the full impact of the strike action, it is likely that there will be disruption on these dates in the form of full, or partial, school closures. I wanted to let you know so that you are able to plan for this, should this be the case at St Francis. When we are in a position to let you know further details about the strike action and its impact, I will, of course, let you know.

Lateness

From Monday 23rd Jan adults need to sign children in on the screens in the front office if they are late. Please do not let children come into the building without an adult if they are late. Thank you.

Ash Wednesday Mass

I would like to invite all parents/carers/grandparents to join us in the celebration of Mass on Ash Wednesday on 22nd February at 2pm.



Have a wonderful weekend,
Warm regards, Mrs Winton

This week in Year 2's class assembly, we joined our hands together for the following prayer which were perfect words for our school:

Dear God,

Thank you for all the wonderful books we get to read every day and the ones that fill our school.

Thank you for the knowledge we gain from the books we read. We pray to continue developing our love of reading throughout the school year.

Amen.

This week we celebrate Isla Jolley Tristan Popiel, Sophie Blechacz for all their wonderful reading at home! Very well done! Mrs Turney

School Vacancy—

Midday Meals Supervision

2.5 hours a day 11am – 1.30am

We are seeking to employ a reliable, self-motivated and hard-working individual who is keen to join our friendly team as a Midday Supervisor to start as early as possible.

For full details of this post, please contact the school office: Tel: 01293 521009

Email: office@stfrancisassisi.org.uk

FOREST SCHOOL

This term children in Reception and Year 3 have braved all weathers at Forest School, with sunshine, torrential rain and freezing temperatures. Reception have made log houses for the Gruffalo's snake, used hammers to create art with old Christmas trees and enjoyed a lot of mud splashing! Year 3 have experimented with different types of shelters and have loved the freedom of choosing their learning, with some making pathways for miniature animals and others making ice worlds!



If any parents are able to donate unwanted wellies or walking boots, waterproof trousers and coats we would love to build up our supply of spare clothing. Please bring any items to the front office . Thank you.



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 and Miss Chester.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about FIFA 23

FIFA 23, like its many predecessors, is a massively popular football simulator featuring lifelike recreations of thousands of real-world players, drawn from teams around the globe. While the gameplay is subtly improved year on year, the publisher EA Sports' tweaks tend to focus on FIFA Ultimate Team mode, which can tempt gamers of all ages to spend real money recruiting better players for their side. With each new release of FIFA comes a host of new players to unlock – meaning that youngsters can feel pressured to keep buying to compete with their friends.

AGE RATING
PEGI 3

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

RELEASE RAZZAMATAZZ

FIFA 23 will be the last in the blockbuster series, before EA goes solo with its own football title next season. This 'end of an era' vibe – coupled with a huge advertising budget making the new release almost impossible to miss – will elevate FIFA 23 into even more of a 'must have' for football-mad young gamers, no matter how minor the updates are on last year's version.

AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CHAT

Based on a popular sport which appeals to people of all ages, the FIFA franchise draws a huge audience of both children and adults. Communication is a key element, with many players enjoying in-game audio chat via headsets. With the mixed age range of players and a lack of regulation, however, chats can often turn offensive or toxic – especially in the heat of competitive matches.

IN-GAME PROMOTIONS

Unless precautions are taken, dedicated FIFA fans can spend significant sums when attempting to improve their Ultimate Team. Most top-level players can be unlocked by simply participating in matches, but some sought-after stars can be obtained more quickly in limited-time promotions which cost a large amount of FIFA points (the in-game currency, often paid for with real money).

CIRCLING SCAMMERS

The popularity of FIFA Ultimate Team (FUT) mode has led to online scammers convincing many impressionable gamers to pay real money for non-existent FUT coins and player cards, or directing unwary FIFA fans to phishing sites. If your child gives these individuals their login details, the scammers can access not only their carefully built team but potentially your payment information.

ADDICTIVE NATURE

One match on FIFA (usually around 15 minutes, but often lengthened by extra time and penalties) almost invariably leads to another. It can be a powerful temptation for young players, regardless of unfinished homework or an approaching bedtime. If the "just one more game" mindset starts to impact a child's daily routine, it could be a sign of gaming disorder, a recognised mental health issue.

GAMBLING-ADJACENT BEHAVIOUR

Ultimate Team has become a major feature in FIFA due to the revenues it generates. It can also be addictive, with children striving to earn coins and level up while swapping, selling and buying players. Spending FUT coins to open a player pack (which many experts have likened to gambling) is designed to be an exciting act – with bright lights, fanfare and attention-grabbing prizes.

Advice for Parents & Carers

BE SELECTIVE WITH CHATS

It's enormous fun for FIFA players to chat online with friends, even as their teams do battle in the game. It's probably the safest idea, though, to restrict contact with strangers. By turning off voice chat in FIFA and allowing cross-party chat in their device's settings, your child can speak to people who are already on their friends list but won't be able to talk to (or hear) strangers online.

STAY ALERT FOR SCAMS

There are some key things to remember about potential FIFA scams. Firstly, EA never contacts users via any method other than emails to the account holder (which may well be you). Neither will they ever ask for a player's username or password outside the game itself. EA's terms and conditions outlaw the buying of FUT coins, so anyone selling them should be treated as suspicious.

CONTROL SPENDING

If your child plays Ultimate Team mode on FIFA, ensure their account isn't linked to your payment methods – so they'll need your permission to make in-game purchases. Alternatively, you could use parental controls to limit spending – or set up a pre-paid 'allowance'. When excitedly clicking options on screen, it's easy for a young person to forget the real-world repercussions of online purchases.

AVOID 'EXTRA TIME'

If your child's spending a lot of time on FIFA 23 and seems less enthusiastic about other activities in their life, you could consider restricting how long they can play for each day with the parental controls in their device's settings. Even if they're not playing on their console or computer, there's a FIFA companion app for smartphones – but that can be limited through parental controls, too.

Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is Games Editor of technology and entertainment website Dexerto and has been working in the gaming media for three years. A long-time fan of the FIFA franchise, he is also a parent and therefore a keen advocate of online safety. Writing mainly about tech and fitness, his articles have also been published on influential sites including IGN and TechRadar, among others.

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NOS National Online Safety
#WakeUpWednesday

Source: <https://www.esportsobserver.com/fifa-ultimate-team-23-features> (over 4000 for the highlighting 'lockdown' game) (over 4000 for the highlighting 'lockdown' game) (over 4000 for the highlighting 'lockdown' game)
*This document is for informational purposes only. It is not intended to be used as a substitute for professional advice. Please consult your doctor or other qualified professional for more information.

Thank you to St Bernadette class, Mrs Sulaksan , Mrs Alfieri and all the families who joined us for their assembly this week.

St. Bernadette's assembly focused on 'Books'. We discussed our favourite books and why they are important to us. We also talked about the importance of the Bible and how it guides us on our journey of life.



Congratulations to St Newman's Class for achieving 100% attendance this week. Well done!

The UK's best parenting magazine is free for all carers, parents & grandparents- Enjoy!

https://issuu.com/sevenstarmedia/docs/ff_winter2022_digital160123



Like & follow us on **facebook**.

We hope you enjoy it!
Family First

Helping to build a healthier & happier future

Diary Dates

January

Mon 23—Young Voices at O2

Tues 24—St Therese of Lisieux Class Assembly at 9.05am—Parents/Carers/Grandparents welcome

Tues 31— St Anthony Class Assembly at 9.05—Parents/Carers/Grandparents welcome



St Mary: Jarren Besa-Bicol
St Joseph: Dominykas Maikstenas
St Francis: Helena Zagaja
St. Anthony: Maja Samborska
St. Bernadette: Emilia Kowalska
St. Clare of Assisi: Kaya Vincatassin
St. Therese of Lisieux: Vincent Sun
St. Vincent de Paul: Mollie Mae Brooker
St. John Paul: Thenuka Pushparajah
St Maximilian Kolbe: Jaden Songor
St. Newman: Rhys Furtado
St Philip Howard: Maggie-May Richards
St Peter: Victoria Sztobryn
St Paul: Emily Macdonald



St Mary: Tienna Hazel-Harrison
St Joseph: Nevin Sony Abraham
St Francis: Athena Carter
St. Anthony: Sanath Nadakuditi
St. Bernadette: Maximilian Gregg
St. Clare of Assisi: Noah Carter
St. Therese of Lisieux: Archie Wall
St. Vincent de Paul: Olivia Gulak
St. John Paul: Amina Haxho
St Maximilian Kolbe: Aaron De Heredia
St. Newman: Dylan Amurun
St Philip Howard: Olivia Gilera
St Peter: Afonso Sousa
St Paul: Tiago Silva