



# St Francis of Assisi Catholic Primary School

Newsletter—No. 20

Friday 9th February 2024



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,

I can't believe it is the end of half term! It has flown by - it seems like it was only New Year yesterday!

Monday marked the beginning of Children's Mental Health Week. We celebrated with "Dress to Express". Everyone could wear whatever made them feel happy and good about themselves. It was wonderful to see children in Oodles, character costumes and Mr Jones in his dungarees! Mr Ferrito and the Wellbeing Ambassador led a wonderful assembly on mental health.

On Tuesday, I led an assembly on Safer Internet Day. Every class then participated in activities to learn more about how fantastic the internet is but also how to stay safe on it. The children also learned about being kind on social media and how it can be a platform for bullying. The children made links to the previous day's mental health work.



Crawley Council provided Year 5 with a real treat on Thursday. They arranged for a company called Blue Sky to come in and make beautiful animal lanterns with the children. These can then be used in the town lantern parade next Friday evening. The children were taught how to bend and construct shapes from willow. The

results were fantastic and reminded me of the illuminations at Leonardslea and Wakehurst Place.

Finally, today is Go Red in Feb as we support the British Heart Foundation. We are all wearing red today, and Mrs Williams has been hiding little hearts and ducks around the school for the children to find. There are even some in my office! In Forest School yesterday, the Year 2's were delighted to find one outside in their lesson. This is also Miss Strudwick's last day before her maternity leave. We wish Miss Strudwick all the best on the birth of her little boy and I can't wait for cuddles!



I hope you all have a wonderful half term break. Don't forget to eat pancakes on Tuesday!

With warmest regards,

Mrs Winton





### Go Red for Heart Month - a note from Mrs Williams

This week, the children have been participating in a scavenger hunt of little wooden hearts and special rubber ducks hidden around the school as they have come in each morning. It has been amazing to see all the children so excited and getting stuck in with their searches as soon as the gates have been opened.



I weighed everyone's heaps of hearts this morning and would like to congratulate Armadillo Class who collected the heaviest total, and found 2 bonus ducks to boost their score. Armadillo Class will agree on a special way to celebrate this win together with their teachers in the new term. I just wanted to take this opportunity to give my sincerest thanks for all of the generous donations made for British Heart Foundation - it's a charity close to my own heart! I can't wait to update you with a final total in the new term.



### **Parent and Teaching Consultations— Tuesday 27th & Thursday 29th February 3.50– 6.30pm**

The next teacher consultation meetings will be held on **Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> February from 3.50-6.30pm**. This is an opportunity for parents and carers to meet with their child's teacher to discuss their progress.

You will need to log into your Parent Mail account to make an appointment. This went live yesterday (Thursday 8th February) and will close on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> February. Please make sure you have made your appointment within these timings.



Parents and carers are not allowed to drive onto the school site or park in the staff car parks (in front of the schools or the laybys outside the St Phillip Howard Centre. )

It is dangerous and also prevents staff from using the car parking available.

Please park away from the school and walk in.

Thank you.

## Sports News!

### Cross Country

Last week, Year 5 boys and girls competed in a cross country race against all the schools in Crawley at Oriel High School. They ran over a distance of 1.5km and had to really pace themselves. I was so proud of how determined and courageous they all were to finish the course and we even managed to have three boys and two girls finish in the top 15 of both races. These boys and girls will compete in the area finals in March so a huge congratulations to them and all the year 5 children who entered. Well done everyone !

Mr Stone.



### World Book Day

World Book day is just around the corner and we are preparing lots of exciting things for the children. On Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March, children are invited to come to school wearing a costume of a book character. On Friday 8<sup>th</sup> March, children are invited to make their own 'Character cap' at home. Please see below for some ideas! You can create a hat, bonnet or headband!

We are looking forward to seeing some imaginative headwear!



# Wet play boxes



## Thank you

Thank you to the PFA for supplying every class with wet play toys, games and equipment. Every class had a wish list of things and the PFA put these amazing boxes together. Don't forget the PFA AGM is on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> Feb in the school hall (or zoom if you can't make it). We need amazing parents, carers, friends, grannies, grandads etc to get involved in little ways and big ways. Your help makes such a difference to every child at our lovely school.

## 2 job opportunities at the Diocese.

The vacancies, including the job descriptions are on the Diocesan website under Careers <https://www.abdiocese.org.uk/careers>.

Buildings Officer: School Buildings and Finance, closing date 16 February

Part time (0.6 FTE)

Based in Crawley - with travel around Sussex and Surrey

Salary £27,000 (FTE £45,000)

The Diocesan Education Service is seeking to recruit a part time Buildings Officer - School Buildings and Finance. The successful applicant will ensure that public capital funding provided to the Diocese is spent appropriately and that the Diocese can provide assurance to the DfE and auditors as to compliance with the conditions of funding. Key areas of responsibility include ensuring that the diocesan education estate is safe and well maintained, prioritising school building projects, planning the maintenance and development of new and existing school stock and being the first point of contact in the Diocese for schools' capital issues.

Pastoral Coordinator - The Catholic parishes of Woking & Knaphill – closing date Friday, March 1, 2024.

The Catholic parishes of Woking & Knaphill are seeking an energetic, committed worker with a good understanding of Catholic faith to join their pastoral team, to assume responsibility for coordinating and developing catechesis, developing lay leadership and promoting a culture of missionary discipleship across our twin parishes.

The post is full-time but applicants who can offer least 0.6 FTE will also be considered.

Salary £32,000-35,000 depending on experience and qualifications.

Application deadline: Friday, March 1, 2024.

Interviews: Friday, March 15, 2024.

### Year 4 Swimming

Please can we remind you that if your child is unable to go swimming, they must bring in a note for the class teacher.



As you are aware, we have a NO nut policy in school. Please can I ask parents to ensure that snacks and packed lunches are free from food items that may contain nuts. This includes sandwich fillings such as Nutella/Peanut Butter. We have now updated this to include SESAME. We have children with severe allergies who are at risk of anaphylactic shock.



## ATTENDANCE AND PUNCTUALITY



Congratulations to Toucan Class for achieving 98% attendance and Wallaby Class for achieving 99% this week.

Perfect Punctuality Pizza slice awarded to Bumblebee & Meerkat Class

## Diary Dates

### February

12-6 HALF TERM

Mon 19– INSET DAY

Tues 20—Pupils return to School

Tues 27—Parent Consultation Evening  
3.50 –6.30pm

Thurs 29—Parent Consultation Evening  
3.50-6.30pm

26-1 Book Fair in School



Ladybird: Julianna Peiris  
Bumblebee: Céidín McGovern  
Koala: Jan Drozdowski  
Wallaby: John Gupwell  
Penguin: Deawn Etienne  
Seal: Isla Jolley  
Meerkat: Naina Kamal  
Zebra: James De Jesus  
Armadillo: Max Scioiano  
Raccoon: Pola Kavsadze  
Leopard: Laurence McGee  
Panda: Franciella Pinto Rakibe  
Toucan: Edward Idzik  
Alpaca: Andrea Devanathan



Ladybird: Amelia Michalska  
Bumblebee: Noah Drain  
Koala: Nevin Sony Abraham  
Wallaby: Paul Gibu Mackamlil  
Penguin: Helena Zagaja  
Seal: Dani Malkowska-Dias  
Meerkat: Maximilian Gregg  
Zebra: Junior Sseninde  
Armadillo : Eleanor Quinn  
Raccoon: Sarah Noweta  
Leopard: Maddison Orton  
Panda: Jethro Pratt  
Toucan: Olivia Gilera  
Alpaca: Leo Pereira

## 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