



St Francis of Assisi Catholic Primary School

Newsletter—No. 21
Friday 23rd 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 hope that you all had a restful and enjoyable half term break. To mark the start of the season of Lent, Mr Szymczyk led a whole school hymn practice to learn new and practice favourite seasonal songs. The songs already sound wonderful. Years 3 and 4 have started rehearsing for their Easter production which takes place during the last week of term. It promises to be amazing!

Also this week, I led a Gospel assembly where I examined the importance of using the season of Lent to pray, reflect and prepare for the coming of Christ. Father Peter and Father Nelson were also in school for reconciliations.

Our amazing PFA had their AGM yesterday. On behalf of all the children and staff, I would like to offer my heartfelt thanks to the PFA for everything they do to raise funds for our school. A particular shout out to the marvellous Emma Piggott who has stepped down as co-chair. Emma has been part of the PFA for 17 years and has raised thousands of pounds for the children of St Francis. Emma is continuing to support the PFA until her daughter in Year 6 leaves in July. Thank you also to Laura Page as co-chair, Treasurer Alex Stimpson and Secretary Dawn McGee. It has been an absolute joy working with this fabulous team. Thank you also to all those who attend the meetings and help with events. Thanks to Laura, Dawn and Sian who will be continuing in key roles. It was lovely to see new PFA members wanting to shadow current members with a view to take over next year.

Next Friday is St David's Day. Everyone who is in St David's house is welcome to wear something that is yellow that day.

World Book Day: On Thursday 7th March come dressed as a word and Friday 8th March children can wear a "character cap" with their school uniform.



On Wednesday, Year 6 were delighted to be invited to St Wilfrid's School to see their production of We Will Rock You! The show was fantastic, and everyone was buzzing about it when they got back to school. In Year 6 it has been great to welcome back Mr Johnson after his paternity leave. Baby Bernie I hear is doing well. Speaking of babies, Miss Strudwick gave birth to a baby boy last weekend. She has named him Albie and they are both doing well.



Have a wonderful weekend.

Warmest regards, Mrs Winton

Lent 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

As you know, we have entered the season of Lent. Lent is not only a time to give up things, but a time of giving to others and fundraising for charity. Every Lent, at the request of Bishop Richard, the schools in the Arundel and Brighton diocese fundraise for Mission Together, the children's section of the charity Missio, who help the world's poorest children around the world.

This year, our fundraising will be in 2 parts. The first part will be a **photo competition** called 'Lent through a Lens'. In this competition, children are encouraged to take a photo of something that best represents Lent. Lent is the old word for Spring so examples of photo ideas could be snowdrops, buds on trees, chicks or lambs. Children need to take this photo and either give a printed copy to their class teacher or email it to the office FAO Miss Batchelor. Please clearly label the printed picture or email with your child's name and class. When submitting your entry, we kindly ask for a donation towards Mission Together. There will be prizes for the winning entries. This competition opens on Monday 26th February and ends on Monday 25th March.

The second part will be an **own clothes day on the last day of term, Wednesday 27th March**. For this event, we kindly ask that you make a suggested donation of £1 to Mission Together. Closer to the day, there will be a parent pay set up for this, or you can make cash donations to the office or your child's class teacher on the day.

Miss Batchelor will be sharing these fundraising events with children in celebration assembly on Friday.

Thank you for your support and generosity with our fundraising events.

Miss Batchelor

Cooking Club started this week and the children made a delicious vegetarian pasta dish. The PFA have supplied fantastic cooking apparatus that was put to great use. One child even said he preferred his pasta salad to fish and chips!

Thank you Mrs Finch.



A friend of Mr Jones gave him a coin to show his class. It was minted in Constantinople about 800 years ago!

What is even more interesting, is that it was found on a farm in Lebanon!



Sports News!

Year 6 girls entered a cricket festival at K2 last week with other schools in Crawley and had a fantastic time!

All the girls bowled, batted and fielded and demonstrated excellent teamwork. I was so impressed with how they improved their cricketing skills with every game and their enthusiasm and team spirit was marvellous.

Well done girls!

Mr Stone.



Scholastic Book Fair

Next week, the Scholastic Book Fair will be at school. Parents, carers and children will have the opportunity to visit after school in the small hall Monday- Wednesday.

The fair will be open 3.10-3.45.

Please note that we can only accept cash payments.

Fundraiser for British Heart Foundation— a note from Mrs Williams:

Thanks to everyone's kind generosity, we raised a fantastic £162.20 last half-term for our 'Go Red for Feb' dress-down day.



Outside Clubs

Please note the following clubs will not be running next week due to Parent and Teacher consultation.

Tuesday—Karate

Tuesday- Alicia Keys Choir



St. Francis PFA

Mothering Sunday Sale

Wednesday 6th March

£3.00 per gift

Children will have the opportunity to come and purchase from a selection of gifts during school time. Extra gifts available after school subject to availability

**Tickets available online from now until 11pm on
Sunday 3rd March.**

We will not be able to accept orders after this date

<https://www.pta-events.co.uk/pfa-stfrancis>

 *Crawley - Parents & Friends of St Francis*

A Parent's Guide to Fake News



scan the QR code with your phone's camera for Parent Guide on how to help keep your children safe online



Don't believe everything you see online!

Young people can very easily be dragged into things without parental guidance and support.

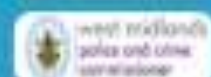
Online safety is when young people know who they can tell if they feel upset by something that has happened online.

Parents please contact your school to enquire attending their next e-safety workshop or have any concerns.

Working with Home Office 'PREVENT', The Police and Crime Commissioner and Children's Safeguarding Partnerships to help keep children safe online.

Skips Educational Email: info@skipssed.com Tel: +44 121 227 1941

Developed in partnership with



ATTENDANCE AND PUNCTUALITY



Congratulations to Panda, Toucan & Armadillo Class for achieving 100 % attendance and Seal Class for achieving 99% this week.

Perfect Punctuality Pizza slice awarded to Toucan, Panda, Meerkat, Seal, Koala & Bumblebee classes

Diary Dates

February

Mon 26– Photo competition ‘Lent through a Lens’ opens

Tues 27—Parent Consultation Evening
3.50 –6.30pm

Thurs 29—Parent Consultation Evening
3.50-6.30pm

26-1 Book Fair in School

March

Fri 1—St David’s Day– children in St David’s house only to wear yellow



Ladybird: Reilly Stephens
Bumblebee: Leah Lucas
Koala: Patrick Quinn
Wallaby: Leondre Chery Furtado
Penguin: Anaisha Pandey
Seal: Martha Kirwan
Meerkat: Gia Joseph
Zebra: Alice Lane
Armadillo: Raphael Joseph
Raccoon: Marco Ferreira
Leopard: Ambra Mulilo
Panda: Eva Mihajlisin
Toucan: Sam Morgan
Alpaca: Mateusz Matlak



Ladybird: Sophia Abreu
Bumblebee: Kinsley Ggiibwa
Koala: Kian Young
Wallaby: Jake Knight
Penguin: Helena Zagaja
Seal: Scarlett Simon
Meerkat: Robin Alexa
Zebra: Roman Borgia
Armadillo : Archie Wall
Raccoon: Lola-Belle Joyce
Leopard: Gerry Ryan
Panda: Aharan Jaishankar
Toucan: Felissia St Paul
Alpaca: Laya Thomas

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, Mrs Jones and Miss Date