



St Francis of Assisi Catholic Primary School

Newsletter—No.6

Friday 18th October 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,

Well done to our Year 6 children who took part in **Bikeability** this week ...in all weathers! The children were very sensible and were praised for their excellent listening skills by the trainers.

Leopard Class assembly this week was all about food. Following on from a Phunky Foods assembly the day before, Leopard Class talked about the foods we need to help us grow strong and healthy. They also shared their fabulous learning, including the Greek foods which were sampled on Greek day.



Phunky Foods is a primary school programme aimed at promoting healthy lifestyles for children. On 14th November (during parents evening), Caroline from Phunky Foods will be in the small hall making FREE breakfast pots with parents and their children. Drop in with your children at any point during the Thursday evening to take part in a fun, free and delicious activity.

On Wednesday, the school learned key life skills as it was "restart a heart" day. The children learned how to give emergency first aid to someone when they are in need from the Surrey and Sussex Air Ambulance Service



Play equipment outside - please do not allow your children to play on any of the outdoor play equipment either before school or after school. There are no school staff there to monitor safety and the school insurance does not cover accidents outside of school hours. Thank you for your understanding.

Finally - I am bursting with pride. The **Year 6 Pet Monitors** raised over £90 this week through their cake sale. The children made and sold cakes, held a teddy raffle and served dozens of people. This was all their idea and I couldn't be more proud. I even said to one of their parents - I expect to see them on Dragons Den in the future - budding entrepreneurs! All the children received certificates today in assembly.

I hope you all have a wonderful weekend.

Warmest wishes,

Mrs Winton



CHARITY CONCERT

A big thank you to everyone who came to St Mary's Church last Saturday to support our school choir who took part in a charity concert 'POPTASTIC'. We were helping to raise the funds for FreeShop in Bewbush and for Crawley Open House. Our children proudly represented the school and sung beautifully.

Thank you for your continued support .



SCHOOL UNIFORM

20% OFF
EVERYTHING*
IN-STORE AT
MONKHOUSE

BE QUICK, OFFER LIVE
19/10/24 - 02/11/24

*Offer not available on the Monkhouse website.

YOUR ATTENDANCE

SOCIAL MEDIA AND IT'S RELATIONSHIP TO CHILD AND ADOLESCENT MENTAL HEALTH

PRESENTATION BY
DR FELICITY WILLIAMS
ALL WELCOME!

TUES
12TH
NOV



Dr Felicity Williams, a clinical psychologist at Beacon House Therapeutic Services and Trauma Team, will explore some of the links between social media and mental health. Felicity aims to provide practical strategies to help families navigate their way through this often difficult aspect of parenting. This talk is relevant for parents/carers with children of all ages.

FREE ENTRY - RSVP APPRECIATED
TUES 12TH NOV
8:00 - 9:30pm
BALCOMBE CLUB
Balcombe, Stockcroft Rd, RH17 6HP

✉ balcomesfc@gmail.com



**BALCOMBE SMARTPHONE
FREE CHILDHOOD**

[CLICK HERE TO
INDICATE YOUR
ATTENDANCE](#)

OPEN MORNING

Wednesday 6th November and Tuesday 26th November at 9.30am

This is for children applying for a place in Reception Class next
September 2025

Please call the school office to make an appointment.



THE CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF
ARUNDEL & BRIGHTON



The Friary Pre-School in Crawley is looking for a dedicated childcare professional to join our experienced and friendly team. You will have a desire to care for children between the ages of 2-4 and support them through their key milestones in preparation for Primary School.

Qualifications

Candidates must be highly motivated and hold one of the following qualifications (or willing to work towards).
Level 2/3 Early Years or Teaching Assistant,
Childcare Experience is desirable.

Responsibilities

The successful candidate will be a Key Person with responsibilities for a small group of children and the upkeep of their Learning Journal. The Key Person's role is to support learning and development and be the key contact for a child's parent/carers. In working with their small group, the key person builds positive relationships between children and with parents/carers and staff. The role is an important one to our Pre-School and is at the heart of our practice.

Friary Pre-School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff to share this commitment.

Friary Pre-School is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Hours:

Full time, permanent position 35h/week

Monday to Friday 8.30am - 4.00pm

These hours can only be varied by agreement with the employer.

Pay

The hourly rate is £12.26/hour

Payment is direct into the employee's bank account. The Diocese of Arundel and Brighton is committed to pay levels not less than the national living wage.

Pre-School Practitioners are required to attend regular staff meetings once a month. Attendance is requested for termly parent consultation events. The Pre-School is open term time only.

Application

Please request an application form by sending an email to info@friarypreschool.co.uk.

Closing date for sending the application: 17th of November 2024.

Interviews will be in the week beginning 25th of November 2024.

References and an enhanced DBS will be required.





Sussex
Health & Care



Join us for a free webinar - Monday 21st October 7pm - 9pm

Understanding Children's Needs with Kit Messenger

Presentation Summary

It's hard for children and young people to be at their best when their needs are not met sufficiently well. Children presenting with neurodivergent profiles often struggle to communicate their needs within certain environments or situations. This can often lead to a cycle of stress-related behaviours which makes life hard for the child (and for those around them too).

Using a range of visual prompts and real-life examples, Kit will explain the use of a needs-led approach to improve neuroinclusion. She will describe a structure and language for children to communicate and prepare for their needs to be met positively, explaining how this common language empowers children to take greater responsibility for being at their 'Brain Best'. Kit will go on to detail how this approach can enable barriers to be more accurately identified and addressed and, through a common set of models and tools, adults and children are able to work in partnership to ensure successful engagement in education.

Kit's Biography

Kit is a former headteacher with over 30 years' experience working with children and young people. She is the co-author of 'Curious Not Furious' and the founder and Co-Director of Changing Chances, a not-for-profit organisation with a mission to shift the world away from traditional behaviourist approaches towards ones which are neuro inclusive. Changing Chances provides courses for parents and carers as well as training for professionals within schools, wider educational provision, youth justice, social care and health. Their flagship programme, 'The Empowerment Approach®', weaves neurobiology, psychology, education and coaching to empower young people with an understanding of the brain and the tools to feel and do better.



'Understanding Children's Needs' with Kit Messenger

Date: Monday October 21st, 2024 Time: 19:00 London

Meeting ID: 885 5916 4758

Passcode: Empower

Join Zoom Meeting SCAN QR CODE OR FOLLOW LINK:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88559164758?pwd=FHSzJkUcG6NdYlqf5Zy4j2UdyIfZpv.1>



10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators TEACHING CHILDREN FIRE SAFETY

Fire safety is especially important around Bonfire Night, as fireworks, bonfires and sparklers add extra risks for families and young children. Every year in the UK, thousands of accidents occur due to improper handling of fireworks and neglecting fire safety measures. This guide offers practical tips for keeping children safe when handling everything from fireworks to space heaters.

1 BONFIRE NIGHT AWARENESS

Bonfire Night is exciting, but it comes with several inherent risks. Educate children about the dangers of fireworks and open flames. Teach them that only adults should handle fireworks and that bonfires should never be approached. Keep children at a safe distance (at least five metres away) from bonfires and explain why supervision is crucial during these events.

2 SUPERVISE FIREWORK USE

Fireworks should only be handled by responsible adults who are following UK laws and guidelines. Make sure to buy fireworks that meet British Standards and adhere to all instructions that come with them. Keep children a suitable distance from any firework activity and designate an adult to supervise the event. Ensure no one goes near fireworks after they've been lit.

3 SPARKLER SAFETY

Sparklers are often captivating for little ones, but they can burn at extremely high temperatures – over 1,000 °C! Only allow children over the age of five to use sparklers, and make sure they wear gloves. Teach them to hold sparklers at arm's length and never wave them near others. Once a sparkler has burned out, extinguish it fully in a bucket of water – which you should prepare beforehand and always keep nearby.

4 ORGANISED DISPLAYS ARE SAFER

If possible, families should attend an organised fireworks display rather than holding one at home. These tend to be far safer as they're run by professionals adhering to strict safety regulations. Organised displays also provide a controlled environment where children can enjoy the event from a safe distance, reducing the risk of accidents.

5 KEEP FIREWORKS AWAY FROM THE HOME

If you are hosting your own fireworks display, set them off well away from homes, sheds or fences to avoid starting accidental fires. Choose a wide-open space with no flammable materials nearby and keep a means of putting out fires to hand in case of emergency – such as a bucket of water, a hose or a fire extinguisher. Afterwards, ensure that all fireworks are fully extinguished and never attempt to relight one if it doesn't go off.

6 BONFIRE SAFETY

If you're building a bonfire, place it well away from trees, buildings, fences or anything else flammable. Make sure it's structurally sound and not at risk of collapsing. Only burn natural materials like wood and leaves, avoiding petrol or other accelerants. Children should be kept far away from the bonfire, and it should always be supervised by adults. Be sure to fully extinguish the bonfire before you leave it.

7 "STOP, DROP AND ROLL"

Ensure that children know what to do if their clothing catches fire. Teach them the simple "stop, drop and roll" technique, which can quickly extinguish flames. Practice this with them before events like Bonfire Night, so they feel confident if the need to use it arises. It can also be helpful to keep another means of putting out these kinds of fires on standby, just in case. An extinguisher or flame-retardant blanket are both sound choices.

8 SECURE CANDLES AND OPEN FLAMES

Beyond Bonfire Night, everyday fire safety is also crucial. Candles can be a common fire hazard, especially in homes with young children. Teach children not to touch any open flames, and ensure candles are placed in sturdy holders away from combustible materials. Never leave candles, incense burners or other such items unattended, and always extinguish them fully before leaving a room or going to bed.

9 EDUCATE ABOUT FIREWORKS HAZARDS

Make sure children understand the dangers of playing with fire or fireworks, and how to handle such things responsibly. Emphasise that fireworks are not toys and can cause serious injuries when improperly used. Demonstrate the importance of treating fire with respect and the consequences of misuse, which can help temper any curiosity and any resultant dangerous behaviour.

10 FIRST AID FOR BURNS

Even if you have the best possible precautions in place, accidents can still happen. Keep a first aid kit on hand. Ensure you know how to apply basic first aid to burns, so you can teach children those techniques too. If someone suffers a burn, run it under cool water for 20–30 minutes. Never use creams or ointments, as these retain heat and can cause further damage. Instead, seek medical help if the burn is serious.

Meet Our Expert

James Whelan is an experienced health and safety expert who is a Chartered Member of the Institution of Occupational Safety and Health. He provides services to educational settings and many other industries, helping them to maintain a safe working environment.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/fire-safety>

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ATTENDANCE AND PUNCTUALITY



Congratulations to Meerkat Class for achieving 100% and Seal & Penguin Classes for achieving 97% attendance this week.

Perfect Punctuality Pizza slice awarded to: Bumblebee, Zebra, Armadillo, Panda and Leopard Classes.

Diary Dates

October

Tues 22—Armadillo Class Assembly at 9.05am—Parents/Carers/Grandparents welcome

Wed 23—School Disco

KS1- 2pm-3pm

KS2- 3.30pm –4.45pm

28—1 HALF TERM



Koala: April Casimir
Wallaby: Emanuele Daidone
Penguin: Max Hasinski
Seal: Rita Abu-Ghazaleh
Meerkat: Jude Mulligan
Zebra: Michaela Mathew
Armadillo: Nathaniel Itty Nijin
Raccoon: Maria Kearney-Portilla
Leopard: Favour Benjamin
Panda: Olivia Gulak
Toucan: Kajan Dzamalís
Alpaca: Thenuka Pushparajah



Koala: Reilly Stephens
Wallaby: Jovana Itty Nijin
Penguin: Alicja Mrowiec
Seal: Kingsley Wright
Meerkat: Henry Hull
Zebra: Lukas Janusas
Armadillo : Natalia Napoli
Raccoon: Junior Sseninde
Leopard: Archie Wall
Panda: Mollie Mae Brooker
Toucan: Daisy Page
Alpaca: Alicia Bray

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