



St Francis Newsletter

'Recognising Christ in Everyone'



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Christmas 2017



Our final newsletter of the calendar year is a time to reflect on all the hard work and fun we have had this term. The Autumn term is often the longest and it seems incredible now to think that when we returned to school in September we were wearing summer clothes!

Recently the school has been a hive of Christmas activity with the Fair, Pantomime, Nativity, Carol singing, lunch and Christingle celebration today. I think we are all well and truly ready for Christmas! I would like to thank you all for your generosity over the last term, not just financially, but also the time and effort you put into helping make our school such a happy place.



The children have been taking part in our reverse Advent Calendar and the amount of food donations collected has been phenomenal, we are beginning to look like a branch of Waitrose (other supermarket brands are available!)

Tomorrow's worship will be led by a representative of the Trussell Trust Food bank who will explain to the children what their individual effort means to a family at crisis this year. That is the real meaning of Christmas, to offer hope and love to others.

Mrs Johnson



NATIVITY We hope you all enjoyed our Reception and KS1 Nativity 'Children of the World' this week. Mrs Barnes, Mrs Pearce, Miss Swan, along with their class teams and parent helpers worked incredibly hard with the children to put on a meaningful Nativity full of wonderful acting, singing and Christmas joy.

The whole school also took part in an amazing Christingle service yesterday led by Mrs Barnes and Mrs McCarthy. It was a lovely way to complete our Christmas celebrations, bringing the true meaning of Christmas alive through the children's super drama, singing and reading.



Thank you to the FoSF Committee, Class Reps and many parents that have worked so hard this term with fundraising and support for school events. In particular the Christmas Fair was a truly magical experience with the Winter Wonderland and Santa's Grotto, as well as a tremendous success, raising almost £3,600.

All the staff would like to add their thanks to the many parents who come in regularly to assist with class activities, school outings, sports events and trips. Your help makes such a difference to what we can achieve.

STAFF UPDATE We are very sad to say farewell to Mrs Barnes, our Class 2 teacher at the end of this term and we thank her for many years of hard work and commitment to St Francis. We will miss her enthusiastic drive for learning, her creativity and her caring, thoughtful nature.

We look forward to welcoming a new full time teacher for Year 2 in January, Mrs Grant-Stuart, as well as a new full time teacher for Year 5, Miss Mitchell. We are also pleased to welcome Miss Cresswell, who has joined us for her placement as a student teacher in Reception class. Mr Metcalf will be back with us again to complete his placement after February half term.



EXCELLENT WORK Mrs Johnson is thrilled to announce that the following children have had work chosen for our Tree of Excellence displayed outside her office this half term. They have been chosen because their teachers consider the work to be the result of excellent effort and focus. If you are in school, pop along and have a look:

Year R – BetsyB, Year 1 – EmilyW, Year 2 – MichaelO'S, Year 3 – FiachraP,
Year 4 – CharlotteW, Year 5 – ChloeC, Year 6 - MariaM



SPECIAL MENTIONS Special Mentions regarding work or actions that teachers would like to particularly acknowledge are read out regularly during Friday Collective Worship. They are also recorded in a book which you are welcome to look at any time when you are visiting school. Congratulations to the following children recognised this term:

Reception – TobyL, MasonA, AlexR, StanleyU

Year 1 – MarthaMcN, HarryA, AmelieO'D, JaimeH, SethA, PoppyO'K

Year 2 - AmberN, BenjaminW, OliverS, EdenS, OscarS, FiachraF, JamesF, LeonM, ZofiaO

Year 3 – NikolaiW, SiennaMA, HenryA, ConorR, FiachraP, HanaM

Year 4 – MiguelK, TylerA, DiogenesP, JoshuaA, IzzyL, MiloH, SophieVB, AppolloniaM, MaxZ

Year 5 – FreddieB, GeorgeW, JackW, SorchaH, DominicW, ChloeC, FredaB, OrlaS

Year 6 – OliverF, IsabellaBV, NateH, ZackP, YasmineB, GabrielaH, ReubenVSA

A whole class mention to Class 1 for excellent behaviour and enthusiasm, representing our school so well on their recent Class trip to Windsor Castle.



Mrs Johnson is delighted to recognise a tremendous number of children with excellent attendance for the Autumn term:

Reception - ConorF, HamiltonR, AlexR, MatthewS, CocoS, StanleyU, ElliottW, BenjaminY

Year 1 – SethA, HarryA, BaileyA, HarryB, ScottB, JamesF, MaxG, Harry M-G, Savana-MarieN, AmelieO'D, MollyP, EmilyW, CharlesW

Year 2 – HelenB, MatildaB, SamuelD, FiachraF, GraceJ, AmberN, ThomasP, OliverS, OscarS, EdenS, IsabelleT-G, Amber VB, BenjaminW

Year 3 – BenjyB, SamuelB, AntoninoG, GerardoG, ZaraH, EsmeH, OliverJ, AvaMcC, OliverP, FiachraP, MontyR, CameronS, AnnabelleY

Year 4 – TylerA, LukeB, SamG, MiloH, OliviaJ, Orla McC, LeoM, AppolloniaM, SkylaP, SophieVB, LucasW

Year 5 – EdithA, JoshuaA, FredaB, HenryB, PoppyB, FreddieB, JulietteB, LenaB, ChloeC, FinlayC, DanielG-S SorchaH, AlbertJ, DylanMcC, CarloP, GeorgeW

Year 6 – DoodyB, YasmineB, AlbertoC, OliverC, SummerC, CaitlinN, AnderS, SamS-S, ElizabethT

Despite this, our overall attendance is still lower than we would like and we have had several absences towards the end of this term without prior notice. As a reminder, our procedure is to receive a written request, via an absence request form, *prior* to the period of leave being asked for and for Mrs Johnson to have the opportunity to discuss this with you, if necessary.

As we start next term, at a time when attendance can be affected by seasonal illness, please can you to think hard about requesting additional time away from school for your child and ensure this is only for very exceptional circumstances.



PRIMARY SCHOOL ADMISSIONS 2018-19 The deadline for 2018-19 primary school applications is **MIDDAY on Monday 15th January 2018**. A Common Application Form (CAF) must be submitted directly to your local Borough Admissions team and a supplementary information form (SIF) handed into the school office with supporting documentation (proof of residency and baptismal certificate if appropriate).

The SIF enables our Governors to correctly rank applications in line with the school's admissions criteria. This applies to all applicants, including siblings of existing school pupils.

If you have any queries or concerns, please speak to Mrs Underwood or the school office.



SCHOOL UNIFORM Children should be wearing full Winter uniform next term with a warm, waterproof coat. The children will go outside every day at break and lunchtime in all reasonable weather conditions and so need to have adequate clothing to keep them warm and dry. There have been an increasing number of non-uniform items appearing, including leggings rather than tights and a variety of shoes and socks. Hairbands and bows should also be discreet and in school colours only. Please contact KidsBiz www.kidsbiz.co.uk if you need any new uniform items, or Mrs Abell who manages the second hand uniform sales.

Please also ensure that your child has a full PE kit in school at all times, with suitable trainers. A warm, waterproof sports top and joggers or tracksuit trousers, in black or brown, would also be sensible to keep in their kit bag so that they are dressed appropriately for the weather.

AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS A reminder that after school clubs are available to book online via ParentMail until Friday 5th January. Clubs will start week commencing 8th January and run for 10 weeks, with the exception of Sewing and Cookery starting a week later. To book for the film-making club with MN Academy, please register with them directly at info@mcacademy.co.uk. If a club is full, it will show as 'sold out' on Parentmail. Please send an email to the office at office@stfrancisprimary.org if you would like to put your child on a wait list.



DIARY DATES Please find attached an updated diary with key dates for the remaining 2017-18 terms. Please always check Parent notices for any changes or additions.



Magpies are running a 3 day holiday activity camp at Holy Trinity School Sunningdale on 20th to 22nd December. Please see the attached leaflet for details or go to their website to book. <http://www.magpiesinthecommunity.org/>

We look forward to seeing you all back at school on Wednesday 3rd January 2018 at 08:50. Breakfast Club and Get Active after school care will both be open as normal, at 08:00 and 15:00 respectively. There is no need to pre-register for Breakfast club – this continues at £3 a session payable on the door. Please register with Get Active online at www.getactivesports.com.

*Wishing you all a peaceful and holy Christmas
and a Happy New Year*

