
St Francis Newsletter

'Recognising Christ in Everyone'



www.stfrancisprimary.org

July 2018



Dear Parents,

The summer break is finally underway and I hope you have all had a chance by now to wind down and start to enjoy some family holiday time. As always, we seem to have finished the year with a long term filled a huge variety of activities and learning in so many different ways. This time of year also brings endings and goodbyes across the community:

Our Year 6 children are moving on to the next chapter of their school story at a variety of secondary schools and I know that they will continue to grow and develop into wonderful citizens of the world. We also say farewell to the Hayward and Shelley families moving on to pastures new. We wish them well in their new school communities and ask them to remember to live the values of St Francis in all they do.

We have some staff farewells: Mr Metcalf has completed his teaching training with us and is excited to be embarking on his new teaching career; Mrs Phipps is just at the beginning of her teacher training and is braving the world of secondary education; Mrs Bradley will be putting her classroom support experience and skills to good use at the Marist School. We would like to thank them all for their hard work and invaluable contribution to the school over many years – they will all be missed.

I would finally like to thank you all for your kind words, wishes and gifts which have marked my leaving this term. St Francis is a special place to work and to learn and I have been so blessed to have been a part of the school life of so many of your children. The warmth and welcome of the community is tangible and has supported me in times of stress or doubt. I am sad to be leaving but excited by the opportunities and challenges which await me in my new school.

Looking forward to our new school year, I am pleased to be leaving the school in the very safe and warm hands of Mrs Elliott-Walker, who as you know is taking on the role of Acting Head of School, having worked alongside us in the Teaching School for some time. We are also welcoming new teaching support staff - Mrs Crick and Mrs Embury, along with Miss Gant Webber as our student trainee teacher.

As well as our new Reception class, the Kowal, Sheikh, Boussaid and Tebala families will also be joining our school community with children in other year groups, so please give them all a warm St Francis welcome and help them to settle in when you return.

Children across the school had an opportunity at spend some time with their new teachers just before the end of term and a guide to starting in their new classes has been sent home to you all to prepare for the next school year in September. A lot to look forward then, but all is not yet quiet at school though. Over the summer break, there is another building project underway, with a much-needed refurbishment of our Reception and Key Stage 1 classrooms.



Thank you for your support and care and I wish you all a safe and relaxing summer and happiness and success in the future. In the words of St Francis "Preach the gospel always, and when necessary, use words." Mrs Caroline Johnson



EXCELLENT WORK We are delighted to inform you that the school has yet again had excellent end of year results, even better than last year! As we all know, St Francis is not just about SATs results but we are striving for excellence in all we do, academic work included and therefore it is important that we recognise the success of our children (and staff!)

Key Stage 2 Results (Year 6)	St Francis	National
% Meeting expected standard		
Reading	100	75
Writing	94	n/a
Maths	97	76
Spelling, Grammar & Punctuation.	97	78
Key Stage 1 Results (Year 2)		
% Meeting the expected standard		
Reading	87	80
Writing	70	68
Maths	80	73
Phonics (Year 1)	87	81 (2017)
% Meeting expected standard		
EYFS (Reception)	83	71 (2017)
% Achieving Good Levels of Development		

HOUSE NEWS Congratulations to St George's (Red) House for achieving the most House Points through the whole school year.



Congratulations to Class 5 for the best attendance achieving an average 98% across the class throughout the year. I am also delighted to acknowledge 100% attendance to the following individual children:

Class R - RoryMcS, Class 1 – SethA, HarryA, Amelie O'D

Class 2 - FiachraF, ThomasP, OliverS, OscarS, Class 3 – FiachraP, Class 4 – Orla McC, SkylaP

Class 5 – EdithA, JoshuaA, HenryB, PoppyB, LettyB, SorchaH, Class 6 – CaitlinN

It was however disappointing that our attendance figures across the school dropped to an average of 96% across the whole year. Please avoid taking holidays during term time and arrange medical appointment after school hours or in the standard school holiday weeks wherever possible. If you cannot avoid this, in exceptional situations only, please put in a request, in advance, via an absence request form for me to have the opportunity to discuss the matter with you if necessary.

NEW SCHOOL LEADERSHIP TEAM I am delighted to confirm that following some impressive presentations at our Hustings and subsequent whole school voting, our Head and Deputy Pupils were appointed at the end of term;

Head Boy – BenW, Head Girl – SorchaH

Deputy Head Boy – FreddieB, Deputy Head Girl – SaoirseF

Our House Captains and Subject Leaders will be appointed at the start of the new school year and you will be welcome to join us to celebrate their badge presentations in Collective Worship on Friday 7th (Heads, Deputies and House Captains) and Friday 14th September (Subject Leaders).

FRIENDS OF ST FRANCIS A big thank you for all the support for the various events that Friends of St Francis (**FoSF**) have run this year. Our main fundraising goal is to fund the building of a library for our school and we are delighted to report that we have raised £15,000 of the £20,000 target this year which is fantastic and would not have been possible without all contributions from parents, friends and our wonderful school staff. Thank you so much!

In addition to the library we have also funded other activities including;

- Teacher funds for class projects
- Contribution to the Whole School Panto at Christmas
- Tablecloths for school lunch tables
- Helping families who are experiencing financial hardship
- Life Bus – whole school PHSE education days

Looking forward to the next school year we would like to share two dates for the diary which we hope as many of you as possible will be able to get involved in:

- **Annual School BBQ** – this year we decided to hold this at the start of the school year rather than at the busy end of term – the planned date is **Saturday 22nd September** and more information on how to buy tickets and timings will be out the first week back
- **FoSF Annual General Meeting** – our proposed date is **Monday 1st October** at school – 7.30pm – Please do come along and contribute to ideas on how our PTA is run. Everyone is welcome and your support is vital to the success of our school community.

It would be brilliant if we had some extra pairs of hands, as well as some fresh eyes to help with fundraising ideas. It's a great way to make new friends too! The Government is reducing funding all the time and without our support, many activities simply would not be possible. Please help to make a difference – come along and show your support for the school.



YEAR 6 TRIP TO PGL OSMINGTON BAY 24-28 SEPTEMBER 2018

A parent information meeting with Mr Maxfield and Mrs Elliott Walker will be arranged shortly after the start of term. The meeting will give a brief overview of the week's activities, confirm kit list and provide a chance for general questions. If you have any more immediate queries, or individual requirements, please email the school office - office@stfrancisprimary.org. A reminder also that stage payments are due through the summer holiday, online via your ParentmailX account.

SCHOOL LUNCHES Year 6 Leavers – If you do not have another child still at school, any lunch credit on account will automatically be refunded to you via your normal Parentmail payment method and should be processed by the end of July. If a year 6 leaver has a sibling in school, any credit will be transferred to their account. If your child has an outstanding debt, please can you either clear this as soon as possible or if you have another child still at school, the debt will be transferred onto their account at the beginning of next term.

Several other pupils also have outstanding debts. Wilson Jones do request that school lunches are paid for in advance, so when you are topping up your child's account ready for next term, please can you ensure you add enough to clear any outstanding debt at the same time. Lunches remain at £2.40 per day. The current menu is published on the school website.



DIARY DATES FOR 2018-19 Term Dates for the new school year published on the school website. A calendar of key events and activities will be published during the first week of the Autumn Term. Here are some key dates for the first few days. Our value for the first half of the Autumn term is Friendship.

Monday 3/9/18 - INSET - NO PUPILS IN SCHOOL

Tuesday 4/9/18 - We look forward to seeing all pupils, except our new Reception class. School starts at 8.50 a.m. Gates open at 8.40 a.m. Breakfast Club will run as usual from 8 a.m.

Children may return to school in summer or winter uniform. A date for all winter uniform will be announced later in September.

Thursday 6th September – New Term Mass (Church) 10 a.m.

Friday 7th September – Collective Worship: School Leaders Badges

Friday 14th September – Collective Worship: Year 6 Subject Leaders Badges

Friday 21st September – Collective Worship Year 6 & Reception Buddies

Tuesday 4/9/18 to Monday 10/9/18 – New Reception Class Home Visits

We look forward to welcoming our new Reception Class pupils from Tuesday 11th September.

A reminder that most After School Clubs will start w/c 10th September (please check the timetable for any variances) but booking closes on Wednesday 5th September. You can book at any time online through ParentMail. The Film Club should be booked directly with MN Academy - www.mnacademy.co.uk, or phone 02070183906.



Get Active after school care will be available as usual from Tuesday 4th September.

Please register and book directly with them.

www.getactivesports.com or phone 01344 860868