



St Francis Newsletter

'Recognising Christ in Everyone'

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September 2017

— WELCOME — BACK TO SCHOOL



A big welcome to all children, staff and parents, especially newcomers to our school community. It only seems like yesterday I was wishing you all a great summer and here we are again, the nights are drawing in and the holiday clothes are being returned to storage. I hope that you all had a wonderful summer with time for rest, fun and rejuvenation.

Our school value this half term is *Friendship* and during worship this morning I compared friends to shoes.

They come in all different sizes, designs, shapes and for different purposes and when we have new shoes we have to wear them a lot to make them work best, fit us properly. Often our most comfortable shoes are the ones which we have worn during times when we needed to work hard.

In the same way our really best friends are with us during the difficult times as well as the good times just like Jesus and his disciples. They stuck beside Him even when He was accused, abused and killed. The children will be thinking more about the value of friendship during the half term so ask them what they know and think.

Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labour: If either of them falls down, one can help the other up. But pity anyone who falls and has no one to help them up. Ecclesiastes 4:9-10

The lovely picture above shows 3 'generations' of St Francis buddies (Reception, Year 6 and Sixth Form) enjoying time together at the end of the summer term gathering at Broomhall Park. It is lovely to see and hear how important and lasting these school friendships are and how they continue to provide support as our children embark on their next exciting chapter.



CHANGES AFOOT! The holidays have seen some big changes at the school, not least of which is our new entrance and office refurbishment. We have a more modern, friendly and welcoming reception area which will be completed over the October half term when the security doors and flooring will be fitted.

There is a new school reception office, a medical room, an office for the Teaching School and an area for teachers to work during their non-contact time. A lot of hard work and clearing out has been achieved and I would like to thank Mrs Farrell, Mrs Underwood and of course, Andy for their hard work and sense of humour during this project.

There have been changes to staffing as outlined in the Summer Term newsletter, but additionally I am sorry to say that over the holidays I received the resignation of Mrs Stevens. Debbie, as some of you know, has been a member of staff at St Francis for over 14 years and it is with sadness that we say goodbye to her. She has been the driving force behind the success and popularity of sport in the school and I am determined that the high levels of participation which we have achieved will be continued as her legacy.

Mr Maxfield will continue to be our PE subject leader and we have a number of external companies providing specialist coaching to the children. Our After School Clubs have also been managed by Debbie over the last few years and are also hugely popular and diverse. Mrs Underwood will take on the responsibility of administering these and again, we will endeavour to maintain the variety and quality of our offering.

As I announced last term, I am pleased to say that my position has been confirmed as Head of School and Juanita Dunlop is now officially Executive Head Teacher for St Francis and St Joseph's, Bracknell. I am sure that you will see her around the school throughout the year. The leadership structure here at St Francis is as follows:

Executive Head	Juanita Dunlop
Head of School	Caroline Johnson
Key Stage Leadership Team	Miss Swan (EYFS) Mrs Barnes (Years 1, 2, & 3) Mr Maxfield (Years 4, 5 & 6)



Your child is about to become a published author! We are excited to be

launching Pobble at St Francis, a teacher-founded website for publishing our pupils' writing. As well as allowing you engage with your child's writing, it gives your child an audience for their work, providing them with a purpose, proven to impact attainment. Pobble will set up an account for each child and you will be provided with a link to this via your primary email address which you provided to the school office. (If this has changed recently, please let the school office know as soon as possible). You will then receive an email next week directly from Pobble, with a link to activate your account and link to your child's work.

You will also be sent a request via ParentMail to provide your consent for your email address to be shared with Pobble and for your child to access Pobble and publish their work. Your email address will be only shared for the purpose stated and will not be shared with any other third parties. Pobble goes live at St Francis on Monday 19th September,

Pobble is used in schools all over the world to safely share and celebrate children's writing. To read some of the wonderful work being shared by other children, visit www.pobble.com. To learn more about Pobble's approach to e-safety and how they will commit to keeping your child safe online, please read their guide at the following link:

<http://bit.ly/pobble-e-safety>

MUSIC LESSONS Our peripatetic teachers are starting individual and group lessons again this term, Rock&Pop Foundation are already underway this week with Guitar and Drums and Berkshire Maestros will be starting next week with Piano and Violin. There are some slots still available for Violin (on Thursday) - please register online at www.berkshiremaestros.org.uk or contact them on 0118 901 2370.



Currently Maestros are unable to offer Guitar lessons as they have not yet appointed a replacement for Jamie MacCrae. Existing pupils will be contacted directly about this.

AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS A reminder that After School Clubs will start next week and registrations will be taken until **this** Friday, online via ParentMail. Your child's place is automatically confirmed once you have made a booking. If the club is full, you will not be able to register. If any club is not sufficiently subscribed, it may not be able to run, but this will be confirmed on Friday and any payments already made will be automatically refunded through ParentMail.

2nd HAND UNIFORM SALE Mrs Abell is running a 2nd hand uniform this Friday 8th September from 2.30 p.m. If you have any items to drop in, please hand into the school office. Please bring small change - all items are £1 each and monies donated to Friends of St Francis school funds.

Please also check the lost property box this week, now by the gate, as there is still quite a lot left here from the end of the summer term and this will be cleared on Friday and remaining items donated to the 2nd hand shop or to the next Bags to School collection.



YEAR 6 PGL TRIP PARENT MEETING A reminder for Year 6 parents that there is a short meeting next week, Monday 11th September at 7.30 p.m. to run through key points for the forthcoming class residential trip to Osmington Bay. The meeting will not last longer than an hour.

NEW TERM MASS The whole school will attend Mass at St Francis Church on Thursday this week at 10.00 a.m.

FRIDAY COLLECTIVE WORSHIP You are all very welcome to join us on Friday at 9 a.m. for Collective Worship when our Year 6 Head Boy/Girl team and House Captains will be presented with their badges.



DIARY DATES & DATA COLLECTION A calendar of key diary dates will be published at the end of the week and sent home along with a data collection form. It is vital that we have up to date emergency contact and medical details so we would appreciate you completing this form and returning it to the school office as soon as possible to that we can check all our records are correct.

Our staff are looking forward to working with your children and to making this year as happy and successful as possible. In the words of that most philosophical of bears.....

Mrs Caroline Johnson
Head of School

WE DIDN'T REALISE WE WERE
MAKING MEMORIES. WE JUST KNEW
WE WERE HAVING FUN

