

St Francis Catholic Primary School

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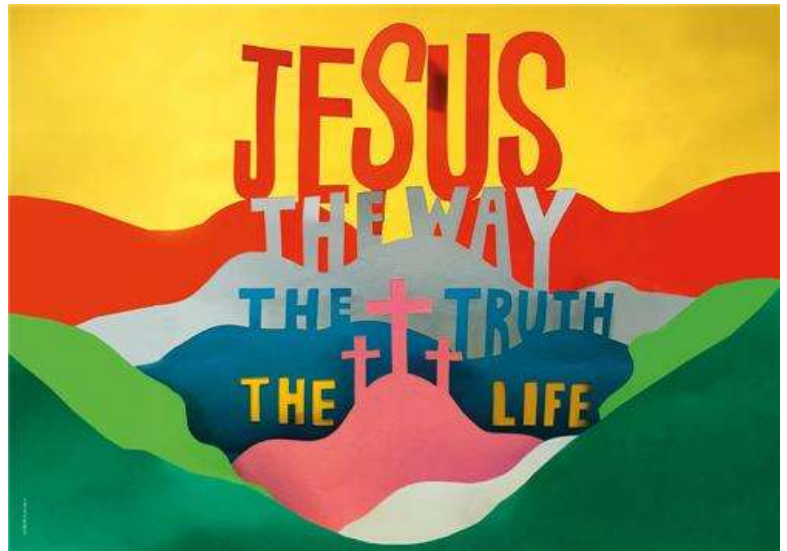


Together we are exploring our special gifts; Together we are growing towards God

Your Tuesday News 12th May 2020

'TOGETHER WE ARE GROWING TOWARDS GOD'

Yesterday in worship, we reflected on Sunday's Gospel reading which centred on Jesus being the way, the truth and the life. We started off by experiencing what it is like to lose something as this is how the disciples were feeling after they had witnessed their dear friend Jesus die on the cross. We then shared the Gospel story together and noticed how the disciples only had to look for Jesus to find God and this gave them great comfort. Linking this to our lives today, particularly in these very difficult circumstances, we can take comfort in knowing Jesus which will then remind us that God is always with us. We ended by praying together and setting our mission



of the week: to share our favourite story about Jesus with someone in our household. Please do encourage your child to share their mission with Mrs Haines either via the home learning email account (homelearning@stfrancisbrad.co.uk) or via their google classroom.

Over the weekend, many of our Y3 children should have been making their First Holy Communion. Sadly, due to the current situation, this has been postponed until further notice. Please be assured that the children were kept in our prayers and we pray they will be able to make this very special sacrament in the near future.

God Bless from Mr Copley and Mrs Haines

Following Sunday evening's announcement and the suggestion that Primary Schools could open to some year groups on the 1st June as part of step 2 of the government's recovery strategy, we understand that parents/carers will have questions as to how this will work. It is very important to point out that all five measures set out by the government must be met before schools will open to any year groups of children. Yesterday afternoon, the Department for Education released further details and guidance on how schools are expected to implement this staged reopening beginning with Reception children, Year 1 and Year 6. As school leaders, we are currently working our way through this information together with other leaders in the Blessed Christopher Wharton Trust (which we are now a part of) and the Catholic Schools Partnership to ensure that our plans are robust and promote the safety of all. Please be assured that we will communicate our plans to you as soon as we possibly can. Whilst we are all very keen to get back to school as soon as possible, the children's and staff's health and safety is of the highest priority. We thank you for your continued support and resilience during these very testing times

VE Day Celebrations

We hope you all managed to celebrate VE day with the people in your households on Friday. The work and activities the children sent through last week on VE Day was wonderful! Thank you to thee families for sharing your celebrations with us on our Twitter account. You looked to have had a brilliant day!

One of Year 5's Home learning tasks last week was to apply their cooking and creative skills and make VE day treats and decorations. Many made delicious scones and buns but also used wartime recipes to make egg less sponge cake and biscuits. Look's fantastic Year 5!



Making the bunting



An eggless chocolate cake



Lots of Scones



The Garden Party

Free E-Learning

In partnership with the University of Reading, Future Learn is offering a free e-learning called **"Covid-19: Helping Young People Manage Low Mood & Depression"**

On this course, young people, parents, carers, teachers, and other professionals can learn helpful, practical techniques to cope with low mood and depression during the lockdown period and beyond. You'll examine how to help young people structure their day and improve sleep and diet and you will cover the following topics:

- Practical advice on structuring the day and promoting healthy habits
- Helpful family communication to keep conflict to a minimum
- The importance of modelling and self-care
- Tips on managing your thoughts and your feelings
- Using this time as an opportunity for developing resilience

The course will be available online on the link below for two weeks from 4th May 2020 and takes just two hours to complete:

[https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/low-mood-during-covid-19?utm_campaign=university of reading low mood during covid 19 may 2020&utm_medium=organic social&utm_source=twitter](https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/low-mood-during-covid-19?utm_campaign=university%20of%20reading%20low%20mood%20during%20covid%2019%20may%202020&utm_medium=organic_social&utm_source=twitter)

If you are worried or concerned about the wellbeing of any of our pupils, please ask to speak to Mr Copley, Mrs Haines, Miss Burgess, Miss Martin or Mrs Laptew

Home learning Parent Survey Results

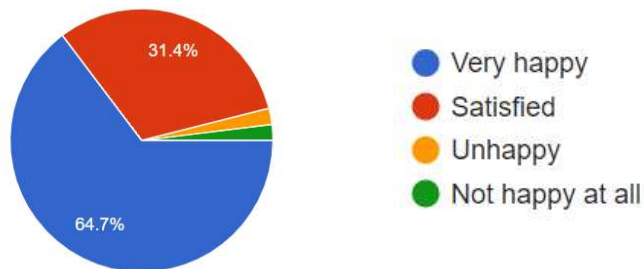
See below for the result of the recent online survey undertaken by parents.

Results of Parent /Carer Survey on Home Learning – May 2020



Last week, we asked parents/carers to fill out an online survey so that we could gather feedback on our Home Learning systems. 51 of you responded, which we are very grateful for. Below is the results and just a snapshot of some of the comments we received. We have added our responses and how we hope to address any issues:

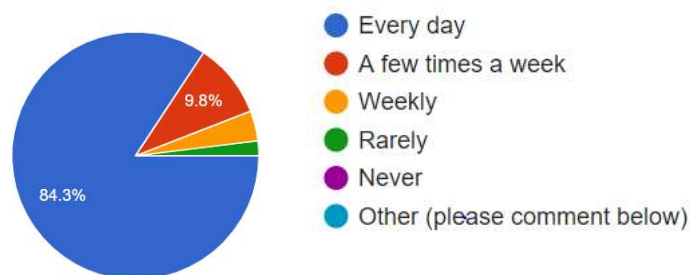
How satisfied are you with St Francis' home learning?



Positive feedback	Our response	Feedback to action	Our response
<p>Lots of different learning opportunities for the children are provided every day.</p> <p>Really good stuff - we can't always do everything due resources and of course both parents working but we pick and choose what works.</p> <p>A wide range of fun activities to do with clear progression</p> <p>The school have been extremely organised in sending daily activities, and my child is really motivated by the comments she receives back by the teachers about her work.</p> <p>Lots of work to do and feedback is given everyday. Thank you very much.</p>	<p>We are pleased so many of you are happy with our home learning systems – particularly since we had to get them up and running in such a short space of time.</p>	<p>I feel it would be helpful if some work could be completed from the kindle we use</p> <p>It is really hard to balance working from home as a key worker and follow two sets of Curriculums.</p> <p>Would be easier to have FS1 child in google drive for uploading work.</p> <p>On line lessons could be included</p> <p>I do appreciate the time and effort and I agree that the 3 and 4 year olds need to keep up their learning. But maybe less pressure, or less perceived pressure would be good. They are so young and at least my son isn't a fan of sitting in one place for too long. That being said, the work load has seemed to eased a bit.</p>	<p>Unfortunately, we do not have the technology available to us to facilitate access to our home learning on a kindle.</p> <p>We decided not to put children in FS1/2 and KS1 onto google classroom as we felt it would be difficult for them to navigate. We hoped that by putting all their learning on the home learning section of the website in one document would make it easier for parents to find and show to their children.</p> <p>We completely understand that many of our parents/carers are still working during this time – whether that is in the workplace or at home so please be assured that there is no pressure from school at all. As we have communicated frequently via text message and through our weekly Tuesday News, we just want to provide the children with the education they have a right to. There is no judgement or</p>

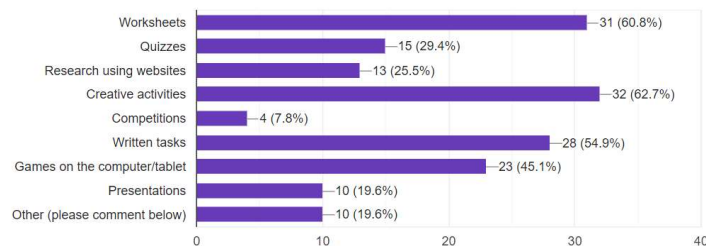
<p>Fun, creative activities that the children enjoy doing. We have found the videos and slides very helpful when supporting our children. Google classroom has been very easy to understand and use.</p> <p>Google classroom works really well - assignments and submission dates are clear, there us supporting material and the ability to communicate with the teacher and classmates. I'm really impressed with this as an intervention under the circumstances.</p>			<p>pressure from us at all. We want you to feel supported.</p>
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How often does your child access work on our school website or google classroom?



Positive feedback	Our response	Feedback to action	Our response
<p>It is fantastic that we are able to have daily access to learning.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I usually check in the evening the night before to see what work is set and if I need to prepare anything. We don't always complete everything, it depends how willing my son is. Both me and Dad are key workers. We try our best to get learning done daily. <p>I actually quite like being a bit behind, I personally find it much easier to follow the list of tasks when they're set out for the week than clicking in and out of different pages for different days. Some days we like to do more literacy and get stuck in, then switch it and do maths the next day.</p>	<p>We are pleased so many of you are enjoying accessing the home learning set by the teachers every day.</p>	<p>Difficult as our laptop is in use for home working dad and 1 child uses iPad another has to wait.</p>	<p>We understand that not everyone has technology at home for every child. Please do contact us at homelearning@Stfrancisbrad.co.uk if you are struggling.</p>

What type of activit(ies) do you think have been the most successful?



Positive feedback

Our response

Feedback to action

Our response

Lots of practical activities are given which are fantastic!

The maths from Whiterose (Y2) has been really easy to follow. I do have a printer at home so I realise that makes it a lot easier. The girls love using Purple Mash. The feedback shout outs are fab too. The girls love to hear what their teachers have said. It's a motivator.

All of it..! Everything she has received, as long as there is continued variety has been great !

We are pleased many of you are enjoying the practical activities particularly with the younger children.

Some worksheets/activities can be a bit difficult without a printer!

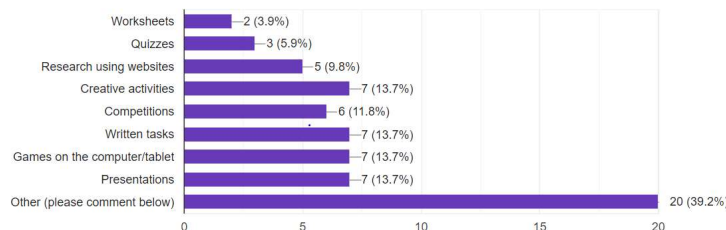
More work that is set for independent/ self directed learning would help.

Everything the school has set has been great , but as a family we are struggling to find a balance. Both parents whilst not key workers are still working full time and are busier than ever so trying to find time to fit in school work is difficult and find we end up using our weekends to catch up so never any downtime! whilst not front line we are in demand and working 10-12hr days and feel so guilty on the children.

We understand that not everyone has a printer at home, so we will continue to try to plan tasks that do not require any printing.

Please be assured that there is no expectation for every piece of work to be done. We know there are families where the parents/carers are still working so please just do what is manageable. We will continue to provide one Maths, one English and one other subject each day as this is our responsibility as teachers to provide the education that the children have a right to. However, there is no judgement from school on how much or how little the children manage to complete.

What type of home learning activit(ies) set by the teacher do you think have not been as successful? (Constructive feedback would be appreciated here)



Positive feedback

Our response

Feedback to action

Our response

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I'm happy with everything her teachers have provided & VERY grateful • There is nothing wrong with any tasks set by the teacher. Some children have different learning styles and I have found anything longer and drawn out, my daughter seems to lose interest in. I believe they have all been useful 	<p>This is great to hear. Our teachers will continue to provide daily lessons in Maths English and one other subject.</p>	<p>Not everyone has the equipment to do the creative activities and are unable to get out to buy anything.</p> <p>Its sometimes difficult when they can't edit on the work set and have to write all the questions only because its time consuming and tends to take twice as long..that's the only problem we have had.</p> <p>Purple Mash doesn't seem to have interested my child as much as the google classroom or sumdog.</p>	<p>We will try to keep creative tasks to a minimum as we completely understand that not everyone has access to all the resources. However, much of the FS1 and FS2 curriculum is built upon creativity, so creative tasks can be difficult to avoid. Please be assured that not every task is expected to be done and not in a set period of time. Therefore, if a task is set that your child would like to do then it is perfectly fine for it to be done once you have had time to gather the resources.</p>
Do you have any further comments/suggestions you would like to make?			
Positive feedback	Our response	Feedback to action	Our response
<p>No suggestions, everyone is doing there best. Well done for everything you have already done for us and the communication we have had.</p> <p>Thank you so much for all your hard work, Google Classrooms is fantastic and a really good way of handing work in and getting feedback from the teacher.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I think that the school are showing true resilience in this unprecedented time <p>The way St Francis school has adapted to ensure the continuation of learning and other important elements of school life (Monday worship and merit worship) is truly remarkable. I have nothing but praise for all staff and have no negative views whatsoever. Thank you.</p> <p>Thank you to everyone involved with the home learning. I feel that my child hasn't been held back and the contact between school and home is fantastic. He loves to see the comments on completed work from his teachers.</p>	<p>We are thrilled that so many of you are happy with the home learning we have set up. We are hugely grateful for the support you have shown to school as we put systems in place in this challenging and unprecedented time.</p>	<p>We think it would be nice if the children could all get together on something like Zoom with their class teacher, so they can see her and all their classmates. Other than that, we think you are all doing an amazing job.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notes online for parents to understand some of the terminology so that the child has some consistency. Speak to both parents and children. Maybe offer some paper packs or work books for those who do not have great it skills or access to printers ect <p>Home learning has been quite a challenge for us. I have 3 children in different year groups and as well as working, splitting my time between all 3 of them is tough. I do believe all aspects of home learning would be very successful if it wasn't for individual students unique home situations.</p> <p>Maybe a message to say do what you can, when you can just to take a bit of the pressure off. I</p>	<p>Whilst we would love to facilitate a class session on something like Zoom, we have been advised strictly against this by our safeguarding consultant. There are many safeguarding implications when using such video platforms and it is our utmost priority to keep our children and staff safe. We will continue to provide shout outs on our website for our younger children and communicate frequently via google classroom with the older children.</p> <p>We are willing to work with you in any way we can if you are struggling with any part of the home learning. Please just email us at homelearning@Stfrancisrad.co.uk – we will respond quickly and talk it over with you.</p> <p>Our message has been and always will be to just do what you can manage in your own personal circumstances. There is no pressure from school. We simply want to provide the education that the children have a right to. It is entirely up to you what you do with your child(ren). There is no judgement from school.</p>

Just to thank ALL of the St Francis team for making home schooling easier for us working parents, it's appreciated so so much in these difficult times		know we could just not do the work, but I have this need to complete what I feel is expected and I don't want my son getting behind. But I worry me putting too much pressure on him will have a negative effect on him and his learning. However I do appreciate all the effort being put in for our children.	When we eventually reopen our doors to all of our children, we will be working very hard to first and foremost make sure the children are safe and happy. It will then be our job to plug any gaps the children may have so please do not worry about your child(ren) getting behind.
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