

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 7th July 2020

'TOGETHER WE ARE GROWING TOWARDS GOD'

Worship

In worship yesterday, we reflected on a passage from Matthew's Gospel which focussed on the importance of connection and linking with others to provide support to make things easier. In the reading, Jesus said, 'Shoulder my yoke and learn from me'. We explored together what a 'yoke' is and how it was used in the times of Jesus to connect two animals together so that they could share the load they were carrying. We recognised how in these difficult times of the Covid 19 pandemic that we are unable to connect with others in ways we would usually like to. We referred back to the story of 'The Invisible String' by Patrice Karst, which we read together a couple of months ago, and how we need to find new and different ways to connect with each other at the moment. This is particularly significant right now whilst we have some children in school and some children still at home.



We recognised that the symbol of the rainbow has been of particular importance most recently and this is something which we are keen to put in place on our school fence. Mr Bullock very kindly has made us a rainbow which we hope to fill with drawings of our children's hands as they return to school. In this way, our rainbow will not only be a symbol of thanks for all our care workers but also a symbol of connection for our children as they return to school. For those children still at home, they will be invited to contribute a drawing of their hand in September. We ended by praying together and setting our mission for the week: to connect with God through prayer.

God Bless from Mr Copley and Mrs Haines

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

End of year school reports

As detailed in last week's Tuesday News, distribution of end of year school reports will be organised as follows:

For children in school, a paper copy will be sent home with your child on Monday 13th July.

For KS2 children at home, a digital copy of the reports will be released in their own private area of Google Classroom on Monday 13th July and hard copies will be available to pick up from the office between Monday 13th July – Friday 17th July before we close for summer.

For Foundation Stage and KS1 children at home, we have no digital means to get a copy to each family, therefore hard copies will be available to pick up from the office between Monday 13th July - Friday 17th July.



Virtual Sports Week

Yesterday, we saw our Virtual Sports week kick off with countries going head to head in school and at home. On Monday, children learnt about the benefits of exercise, creating their own St Francis sports kit and performed their sports activities; the hopping race and standing long jump. It was fantastic to see so many join in at school and at home. Each day a new video will be released showing the brand new activities. Today they will be taking on the challenge of the egg and spoon race, speed bounce and designing their own stadium.



Well done to the children in pink bubble, who made these fantastic flags of the countries they belong to for our virtual sports week.



Transition Plans

Hopefully now you and your child(ren) have seen the 'Big Reveal' video showing who your child's new teacher will be in September. In case you missed it, staffing for September is as follows:

- FS1: (Nursery): Mrs Needs (morning) and Mrs Shields (afternoon)
- FS2: (Reception): Mrs Whitley (Mrs Lucas, Mrs Hudson and Mrs Harris will be supporting Foundation Stage children)
- Year 1: Miss Robson (Mrs Ward supporting)
- Year 2: Miss Martin (Mrs George, Mrs Harris and Mrs Gallucci supporting)
- Year 3: Ms Jennings (Mrs Heppleston and Mrs Whitehead supporting)
- Year 4: Miss McDermott (Mrs Read supporting)
- Year 5: Mrs Horne (Mrs Underwood supporting and Miss Burgess teaching on Fridays)
- Year 6: Miss Dearden (Mrs Read supporting some of the time, with the addition of Miss Burgess teaching on mornings)

Transition

Tomorrow, Wednesday 8th July, we are holding a transition morning which is for both children in school and those still at home. Your child's new teacher in September will set the children some transition activities to do either through the school website (FS and KS1) or through Google Classroom (KS2). To accompany these activities, your child's new teacher will also share a video with the children of what to expect in their new class. As many of you are aware, usually we invite parents in at the end of our transition day to meet their child's new teacher in person. Unfortunately, this is not possible this year. Instead, your child's new teacher has created an information video for parents/carers. These will be posted on our website and a link will be sent out via text message. We hope you find our transition arrangements and information useful ahead of September.

End of Term Plans

Our Final Special Merit Worship will take place on the last day of term, Friday 17th July. As has been the case over the last 4 months, this will be a virtual worship and will be shared with all children, whether at home or at school, via our school website. Sadly, it is not appropriate for us to reward children for 100% attendance this year, however, we will be awarding chosen children from each class for special end of year merits as we usually do, plus Reading, Writing and Maths merits.

Later on in the morning, our Y6 children will be sharing in their Leavers' Liturgy. This will be held outside so as to adhere to social distancing and keep any risk to as low as possible. It is with heavy hearts that we are unable to invite the whole school to this event and that we are not able to celebrate the leavers' Mass with Fr Anthony as we usually would do, but we are looking forward to celebrating the children's journey at St Francis. We hope it will be a lovely, reflective time that celebrates the children, all they have achieved and their memories.

September

Since the announcement last week of the government's plans to reopen schools fully in September, we have been making our way through all the guidance and putting preparations in place. As you can imagine, there is a lot of information and risk assessing to be carried out, so we ask you to bear with us for the time being. We hope to be in a position to share with you some outline plans for September in next week's Tuesday News. Thank you for your continued support.

TOGETHER WE ARE EXPLORING OUR SPECIAL GIFTS

Well done to our Virtual Merit Winners last week:

Mrs Haines' Headteacher's Award was presented to Natasha Feszler for being quietly consistent throughout the whole of lockdown, getting on with her home learning every week. We have been really impressed with all of your hard and how well you have kept up with your Accelerated Reader quizzing.

FS1: Benjamin Matan for always putting maximum effort into tackling and completing all of his challenges. We are so proud of you Benjamin you never cease to amaze us. Keep going with all your hard work, you are making us smile each and every day!

FS2: Sophia Shaw for her careful and thoughtful writing. She has remembered lots about how to use her sounds and how to write a super sentence

Year 1: MahrahaZa Khan for such fantastic non-chronological report on a wild animal. It included brilliant diagrams and pictures of a cheetah.

Year 2: Isaac Kiwomya for continuing his enthusiasm for learning during lockdown. He has made great progress this year and looking at the quality of his work, lockdown hasn't slowed him down.

Year 3: Blue Bubble for coming back to school with such positive attitudes. Everyone has worked incredibly hard this week and we are so proud of how you have settled into school life.

Year 4: Millie McTasney for getting stuck in with some tricky maths, persevering and producing some brilliant work.

Year 5: Sorcha Eloi for her fantastic attitude towards her work in school. She has been working super hard. Excellent work!

Year 6: Reuben Armitage for his exceptional behaviour and effort in the orange bubble. You always work so hard and have been a fantastic role model to everyone in school. Well done Reuben!



Our Mathstronaut of the Week: George Illingworth for being a Maths Shed Whizz!!

Our Big Cat Reading Award: Anna Houtmeyers in recognition of superb reading at school and at home this week. Great improvements since the return to school and practicing daily at home.





MEMBERS OF ACCELERATED READER GOLD AND SILVER CLUB THIS WEEK
3rd July 2020

Gold (100%)	Silver (80%+)
Natasha x 2, Maisie x 2	Natasha Maisie x 2
Lily-May Lucas Eliza	Theo Isla William Aoife Eliza
Francis Cora Josh H	
Summer x 3 Sienna Scarlett	Noel
Sam Ryley	