

St Francis Catholic Primary School

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Acting Headteacher: Mrs A. Haines

Acting Deputy Headteacher: Miss S. Burgess

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

Your Tuesday News 8th December 2020 'TOGETHER WE ARE GROWING TOWARDS GOD'

Worship

We are continuing with our Advent theme 'We Wait Upon You Lord' and preparing our hearts for the coming of Jesus Christ. This week is the second week of Advent so we lit two purple candles on our Advent Wreath. In Sunday's Gospel, John the Baptist told us to 'prepare the way of the Lord.' We discussed together all the different ways we are continuing to prepare for the birth of Jesus. We then discussed the idea of hope, since this week's candle represents this. We watched a short video all about a boy waiting for his robin to fly home at Christmas time and we noticed how the boy was like us waiting for Jesus to come and the robin was like Jesus, making the long arduous journey to get to us. We are continuing our Advent mission this week: to stay awake and be alert by doing good deeds for others. The children were reminded how they could go to our Giving Manger and write on a piece of 'straw' anything kind or thoughtful they have done and lay it in the manger to prepare the crib for Jesus.





Virtues Worship

We explored the virtue of 'foresight' this week and focussed on Greta Thunberg as a significant and influential person who is a good example of this virtue.

St Francis Virtual Nativity and Carol Service

Over the past few weeks, different children in school have been preparing to take part in our Virtual Nativity and Carol Service. Children in KS1 have been practising telling the Christmas Story, the choir have been practising at home and different children throughout school have been preparing readings. We are hoping that everything will be recorded by the end of this week and that the final video will be available to enjoy through our website at some point next week. We will of course inform you once it is ready.

EVERY SCHOOL DAY COUNTS:

Our Attendance Target for this year is 97%



Congatulations to Year 1 who are our attendance champions last week.

CLASS	% ATTENDANCE w/b: 30.11.20.	%ATTENDANCE this year to date
FS2	98.62	97.65
Year 1	100.00	98.60
Year 2	<mark>99.33</mark>	<mark>98.38</mark>
Year 3	<mark>98.00</mark>	96.83
Year 4	<mark>98.64</mark>	<mark>98.29</mark>
Year 5	85.71	95.99
Year 6	96.67	96.04
Average	96.71%	<mark>97.39%</mark>
TARGET	97.00%	97.00%



Our Merit Winners last week: Nikhil Ahir-Sharp, Layla Waugh, Alfie Marshall, Esme Firth, Frankie Bairstow, Charlie Thomas and Armin Laszlo.

Mrs Haines' Headteacher's Award: Maisie Walker for embracing all areas of school life with such enthusiasm. Maisie works so hard and approaches everything with a positive attitude. Well done Maisie keep it up !

Big Cat Reading Award: Eliza Cordingley for superb reading this week and scoring top marks in the reading test.

Maths Award: Scarlett Zaborowski for working so hard at home to practise her skills on Maths Shed. Very well done Scarlett keep it up !

11 # Avatar Year 6 2020-21 36,406,084 Pupil Groups 1. Scarlett Zaborowski Year 6 2020-21 26 Year 3 2020-21 16036991 1 Year 4 2020-21 33,321,821 Year 4 2020-21 2. Rhvs Leak Year 1 2020 21 ł 28,955,683 Year 4 2020-21 3. Lily-May Cousins ŝ Your 2 2020-21 2853842 Ver 57026-21 24(15)2

Staffing Update

We are very pleased to inform you that we have recruited a new Y3 teacher to cover Miss Jennings maternity leave. Mr Jack Mallon will start with us after Christmas but will visit school before we break up for Christmas to meet the children and work with Miss Burgess to gain all the information needed in order for as smooth a transition as possible.

Attendance

Mrs Wright, our Parental Involvement Worker and Mrs Howley, our Office Administrator are currently looking at attendance figures for the whole of this Autumn term. Letters will be sent out to parents/carers of children whose attendance rate has fallen below 90%. Please note: any absence due to Covid, whether individual isolation or whole bubble isolation, will not be included when calculating the figures.



St Francis Virtual Advent Calendar

We are spreading a little bit of Christmas joy throughout Advent by opening a door each day on our Virtual Advent Calendar. Each day, a member of the St Francis team shares something with the children - a Christmas fact, joke or challenge and then shares their favourite Christmas song. Catch up with all the antics so far by following us on Twitter @stfrancisbrad

Christmas Cards

If your children would like to send Christmas Cards to their classmates, they are invited to bring them in this week where they will be quarantined for at least 72 hours in our Christmas post box before being handed out by our Christmas elves (all gloved up!!) next week.



Christmas Dinner and Jumper Day



A reminder that children will have the opportunity to share in Christmas dinner and are to come dressed in non-uniform on Monday 14th December with a Christmas jumper in memory of Alfie Joe Barraclough, a former pupil at St Francis who very sadly passed away at Christmas time 5 years ago. Parents/carers are asked to send in £1 donations which can be brought into school or paid through Parent Pay. Thank you to the parents who have already paid.

Gianna Project

Our Gianna Project collection for struggling new mums and babies is stocking up nicely. Thank you for your generous donations



After School Club Closure

A reminder to all parents/carers who use our After School Club childcare - the club will be closed on Friday 18th December.

Winter Clothing

We have had our first taste of winter weather and it was noticeable that not all children were adequately dressed for the cold weather. Please could you ensure that your child comes to school in appropriate footwear and outdoor clothing for the wet and cold weather at this time of year.

St Francis Parent and Friends Association NEWS

PFA Virtual Christmas Disco





Don't forget to email in your child's song requests (we need some on a Christmas theme!) as well as shout outs for their friends to:

<u>homelearning@stfrancisbrad.co.uk</u>. The deadline for this is Wednesday 9th December. We remind you that instead of buying a ticket as you usually would for a PFA disco, that you make a donation to the PFA. Please send your donations into school with your child.

PFA Smarties Challenge

All children should now have come home with a little treat of a tube of Smarties from the PFA. In return, they ask children to fill up their empty Smarties tubes with 20p coins or any other coins that fit inside. All of this generously donated money will go into the PFA fund and will be used to invest in some much-needed new playground equipment for the children.



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A successful Italian themed day in Year 4. Complete with homemade pizzas, panettone and a virtual tour around the Colosseum!

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