

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 22nd June 2021

'TOGETHER WE ARE GROWING TOWARDS GOD'

This week is Aspirations Week, so instead of exploring last Sunday's Gospel reading, we reflected on what the word 'aspire' means and how we can be the best we can be. We looked at the well-known phrase 'actions speak louder than words' and how what we do, how we treat people and the choices we



make, define us as a person and make us who we are. Therefore, our actions are extremely important. We then reflected on one of St Paul's letters to the Colossians which reminded us of our uniqueness and how special we are. The mission for the week is to choose one of our virtues and live it out during Aspirations Week. Be the best you can be!

Year 4 Class Mass

This Wednesday, children in Y4 will walk up to school to share in their Class Mass with the rest of the parish.

Sacramental Preparation First Reconciliation And First Eucharist

Sacramental Programme

Finally, after a large pause due to the pandemic, children in Year 3 will take the Sacrament of First Reconciliation this week. Parents/carers in Year 4 should have seen separate letter about this detailing all the information.

Children in Years 5 and 6 will received the Sacrament of First Holy Communion over the weekend of 26th-27th June. Again, parents/carers of Years 5 and 6 children should have received a separate letter. As these special days draw closer, we pray for our children.

Holy living God, Bless our Children as they prepare to make their special sacraments. May they grow more deeply in their faith and in your love. Amen

Yesterday Year 2 and Year 3 took part in a 'virtual author visit' with Rob Biddulph. They listened to him chat about his job as an author and illustrator and took part in a 'Draw with Rob' session, drawing a doggy character called 'Shadow'.

They were then chosen to ask a question. Nylah was our Y2 spokesperson and she asked why Rob chose to use the word 'fall' instead of 'Autumn' in his book 'Odd Dog Out.' We wondered if he was American! He said that it was a very good question and one that he'd never been asked before. His answer was that he couldn't think of a word to rhyme with 'Autumn'!

EVERY SCHOOL DAY COUNTS:

Our Attendance Target for this year is 97%



Year 5 are our attendance champions this week.

CLASS	% ATTENDANCE	%ATTENDANCE
	w/b 14.6.21	this year to date
FS2	90	94.60
Year 1	95.86	<mark>97.67</mark>
Year 2	98.67	96.59
Year 3	94.67	95.48
Year 4	96.13	<mark>97.68</mark>
Year 5	<mark>97.39</mark>	96.22
Year 6	95.83	95.40
Average		
TARGET	95.50%	96.23%

TOGETHER WE ARE EXPLORING OUR SPECIAL GIFTS

Last week's merit winners: Tommy Williams, Sophie O'Connor, Elijah Brook, William Saunders, Willow Lillington, Mason Nolan, Lucina Jarvis, Chloe Walker, Miley Dunn and Oliver Potter.

Mrs Haines' Headteacher's Award: Grace Artist for consistently demonstrating a positive and diligent attitude to school life. Grace can always be relied upon to try her absolute best and throw herself into everything!

The Big Cat Reading Merit: Sophia Shaw in recognition of superb reading at home this week! Practicing each day leads to great improvements in reading. A great effort with reading and Sophia has shown a great deal of enthusiasm.

Maths Award: James Pickard for his phenomenal progress in Maths, as evidenced in his outstanding test result this week.

Top Spelling Groups

#	Group	Score	
1.	Year 4 2020-21	48,892,988	
2.	Year 6 2020-21	27,731,211	
3.	Year 3 2020-21	24,160,280	
4.	Year 1 2020-21	10,898,349	
5,	Year 5 2020-21	3,182,586	
6.	Year 2 2020-21	2,901,166	



Top Spellers

#	Avatar	Pupil	Groups
1.		Rhys Leak	Year 4 2020-21
2.		Lily-May Cousins	Year 4 2020-21
3.	(3)	Maisie Walker	Year 3 2020-21

Performance Poetry

On Thursday 1st July, Y2 and Y4 children will be performing their chosen poems as part of our performance poetry programme, live from the school hall this coming Thursday. A link for Y1 and Y4 parents/carers will be sent out on Thursday morning via text message if you would like to join us at 9am.

Aspirations Week

In line with our vision and mission at St Francis we want our children to aspire to be the best that they can be and develop resilience to prepare them for the world in the 21st century. The aim of the week is to give children the opportunity to explore different fields of work, speak to people who work in these fields and ask them questions and also to develop important life skills. We are bringing back 'Live for 5' in which people from the different areas of work will be interviewed by the children via Google Meet. Y6 are not participating in the Live for 5 section of the week due to being busy preparing for their end of year production. Please see below what each class will be doing:

	Life skill	Live for 5 interviews
EYFS	Washing up	Fireman Nurse
Y1	Folding clothes	Cafe owners Chef
Y2	Making a bed	Electrician Plumber
Y3	Tying shoe laces	Postman Bank worker Project Manager for Sainsbury's
Y4	Making a hot drink	Scientist Re Recording Mixer for a film studio
Y5	Touch typing	Amanda's brother?? Freelance Journalist
Y6	Using public transport/tying a tie	



In addition to this, the children will be engaging in a challenge to 'make £5 grow'. Each class will be given £5 and tasked with investing this in an idea to make a profit, Dragon's Den style! We are really looking forward to what we hope will be an interesting, informative and rich experience for the children.

Sports Day

As last year's virtual sports week was so popular during the full lockdown, we have decided to run a full sports week again this year during the week beginning 12th July, culminating in a traditional sports day on Friday 16th July. <u>Unfortunately, we have had to make the difficult decision to not invite parents/carers on site to watch this event.</u> Of course, we know how much parents/carers look forward to sharing in this event, but with the number of children involved in this event, plus the Delta variant on the rise, and an increase in bubble closures in other schools near us, we have decided it is not worth risking people's health and having to close a bubble, putting children and their families in isolation potentially for the start of the summer holidays. We have come so far this year, it would be a real shame to have to close a bubble right at the end of the year.

Y6 End of Year Celebrations

I am now able to share with you the arrangements for the different leavers' activities. The Y6 performance of Joseph and His Technicolor Dreamcoat will be pre-recorded and shared with Y6 parents;/carers once it is ready to view. As the performance can only be done indoors and the risk of contracting Covid is higher indoors, we are very sorry that we are unable to invite parents/carers into school for this event. As stated above in relation to Sports Day, we need to minimise the risk to everyone's health and potential bubble closures. We hope you understand. Thank you as always for your continued support.

Due to the Y6 children being in one bubble, each Y6 child is invited to have **3** family members to attend their Leavers' Mass on Monday 19th July at 10:30am and their final Leavers' liturgy on Tuesday 20th July at 2:15pm. Weather permitting, we are hoping to hold these events outside, where the risk of Covid spreading is lower and there is more room to social distance. Please note: if the weather forecast is to rain and we need to take the Mass/liturgy inside, parents/carers will no longer be permitted to attend these events. We will of course communicate this much nearer the time, if it is the case. Please pray for good weather!

Year 6 will be arranging a fund raising event before the end of term for a whole school's summer teddy bear picnic. Watch out for key details in the coming weeks.

BCWCAT Art Competition

Please remember that the deadline for the BCWCAT Art competition is tomorrow, Wednesday 23rd June. Entries must be sent in by this date. Please note that any art projects that children have worked on in the past can either be sent in as entries or photographed and the photos sent to the office email address.

Transition

At St Francis, we know how important it is for children to meet their new teacher and visit their new classroom ahead of returning to school in September. Therefore, on Wednesday 30th June, we will hold a transition morning in school when the children will do just that. We would also like to offer an opportunity for parents to meet their child's new teacher(s). This will be done virtually over Google Meet on the same day. Times are yet to be finalised, so they will be communicated to you as soon as possible. Please note that the Y6 transition meeting for parents of the current Y5 children will include information about the residential trip to Winmarleigh which will take place in September 2021.

Y6 parents/carers, please note: Unfortunately the staff at St Bede's and St Joseph's College have had to make the difficult decision to cancel all transition arrangements for Y6 children. This is due to the rapid increase of the delta variant being detected in Bradford and SBSJ engaging with the enhanced testing of their pupils. A letter confirming this will be sent out to parents imminently.

Young Voices Biggest Sing

The choir did a superb job last week of singing their hearts out for the Young Voices Biggest Sing. This was an event in which Young were aiming to smash their own Guinness World Records™ for the Largest Simultaneous Sing-Along and top the charts with a charity single! Hundreds of thousands of children, their teachers and families came together all over the UK, the US and the rest of the world last Tuesday in the safety of their schools and/or home to sing the iconic song 'Lovely Day' by Bill Withers with special guest artists to raise vital funds in support of Place2Be, the chosen charity for 2021. I am so very proud of the school choir not only for their wonderful singing, but also for how they have managed to learn a song with many words in two part harmony, having not been able to practise together at all. Well done choir and keep it up!

Parent Survey

As part of our continued monitoring of the catering contract, our catering consultants have provided us with a Consumer Insight Survey to be completed by both parents and pupils. The children will complete their survey in class. Below is the link for the Parent Survey. Please can parents complete the survey by 2nd July at the latest. Your help in this is much appreciated.

https://ci.litmuspartnership.co.uk/form-5931334/bcwcat-parent-survey

Reminder

<u>Please remember that the last day of school is Tuesday 20th July. We will return to school after the summer break on Monday 6th September.</u>