



St Francis Catholic Primary School

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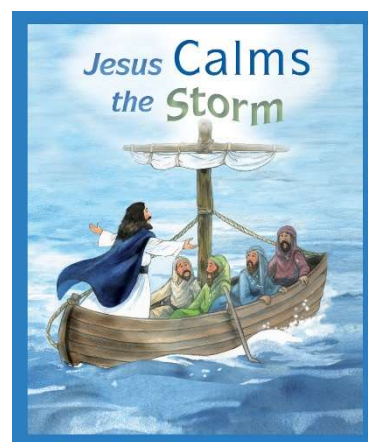
Together we are exploring our special gifts; Together we are growing towards God

Your Tuesday News 20th July 2021

'TOGETHER WE ARE GROWING TOWARDS GOD'

Worship

Yesterday FS2 – Year 5 children took the time to reflect on their thoughts and feelings about moving up the school to their new classes in September. We discussed how they may be feeling nervous, worried, excited or a mixture of different emotions. We likened this to how the disciples must have felt during a storm at sea that they once experienced and how Jesus calmed the storm and reminded the disciples that He is always there for them. They just have to have faith in Him. The children were reminded that Jesus is always with them and will be with them in September when they return to school and move to their new classes. To support everyone with this big change, children from the year group above shared their advice and words of wisdom with the children moving into their year group. Some lovely, reassuring messages were shared. It was a very fitting way to end our last Monday worship of the year.



This morning, we celebrated our Final Special Merit Worship. A boy and a girl from every class throughout school was awarded a special merit for a wonderful year at St Francis. We also awarded a boy and a girl from each class to receive the Writer of the YEAR award, an overall Big Cat Reader from Year 1 and Year 2 and the child in KS2 achieving the most amount of gold stickers in Accelerated Reader. It was a wonderful occasion and a total pleasure to celebrate so many gifts and talents.

Later today, we will be saying a fond goodbye and good luck to our wonderful Year 6 children at our Leavers Liturgy. We could not be prouder of this bunch of wonderful young people who have been brilliant ambassadors for St Francis over the years. It has been a joy to see them grow, mature and flourish over the years and we are so excited for them to begin the next stage of their lives. We are proud of you Year 6. Good luck in all that you do!



We had a wonderful weekend of celebrations as finally our Year 5 children and some children from Year 6 got to make their long-awaited First Holy Communion. We prayed for good weather for them and, my goodness, did the sun shine!! Both Masses were beautiful occasions and all the children looked



fantastic. We pray that they continue to share in God's love and follow in Jesus' footsteps.

TOGETHER WE ARE EXPLORING OUR SPECIAL GIFTS

Merit Winners last week: Ishaan Thiara, Ella Rubery, James Taylor, Bobby Jones, Ava-Grace Gamble, Eve Taylor, Joseph Symons, Kayl Walker, Year 6.

Headteacher's Award: Isaac Kiwomya for being a superstar! Isaac always puts in 100% effort into his work, is a role model for others and never let home learning get in the way. On top of all this he has impeccable manners. Well done Isaac.

Big Cat Reading Award: Dhillon Whittingham in recognition of superb reading at school this week. He always remembers to change his book as well as reads every night.

[illegible]

School Uniform Update

We have slightly amended our uniform policy for September. From 1st September 2021 onwards, children in Year 2 will have the option to wear a tie but it will no longer be statutory school uniform. Ties in Year 3 - Year 6 will continue to be statutory. Please ensure your child has a tie if they are going into these classes in September. Please note: children eligible for free school meals are also eligible for financial support for school uniform.

[illegible]

Last Thursday couldn't have seen nicer weather for our traditional Sports Day.

While we were sorry not to be able to have parents due to COVID restrictions, it

was great to see all the children having a brilliant time competing in a whole range of races as well as jumping and throwing events. The faces on the children, after they crossed the line, speaks volumes to how much they enjoyed the events and gave their best. Thank you to all children for their co-operation and unwavering support and sportsmanship during the day. Well done to the black team who gained the most points across the whole of the Sports Week. After learning all about great Olympians and the more unusual Olympic Sports the children have been really interested, let's hope in a few years we have our very own St Francis representative for Team GB.

SPORTS WEEK

Over the summer holidays there are many summer camp and active opportunities in the local area and beyond. Keep checking out the St Francis Twitter feed for events.

[illegible]

Year 5 Greek Day

Just some of our amazing Ancient Greeks for our Year 5 WOW day last week. We have written our Greek names, created Greek Gods and we planned our own Olympic Games.

[illegible]

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

We can confirm that we will continue having children come to school already dressed in their PE kits on their PE days in September. It is important to note that from September, we will expect children to be dressed in the St Francis PE uniform, which is outlined below. Please ensure the children have this kit ready for when they return in September.

- plain navy blue or black joggers and sweatshirt
- white t-shirt
- plain navy blue or black shorts
- pair of pumps/trainers
- PE bag


[illegible]

Thank you parents for all your continued support throughout the most difficult year in school. We have all really appreciated your kind messages, your patience when we have had to postpone, reschedule or cancel an event due to isolating staff or bubble closures and your resilience and determination to work in partnership with us to give your children the very best education and school experience we can possibly offer, despite the odds being against us! Your support with home learning was fantastic. This has been a really testing year for everybody but I am hopeful of a much more stable and calm year next year. I will write to you over the summer holidays, once we have put firm plans in place for how school will operate from September and an updated risk assessment. I hope you all enjoy the summer and quality time with your children and families. God bless.

I would also like to thank every single member of staff at St Francis. Each person plays an important role in ensuring the children's happiness, safety and education and I am indebted to each and every one of them for their hard work and dedication through such a turbulent year. I think everybody will be relieved to never hear the phrase 'bubble burst' or the word 'isolation' ever again! I wish all the staff a well-deserved and much needed rest over the summer.

Thank you also to our Academy Councillors (previously known as 'governors') who voluntarily work so hard for our school, providing leaders with support and challenge throughout the year. In particular, my thanks go to Mrs Reynard, our Chair and Mrs Clarke, our Vice Chair. I hope all our Academy Councillors enjoy a lovely summer break.

Most importantly of all, I would like to thank our wonderful children. Their true grit, determination and resilience has been nothing short of brilliant this year. They have taken it on the chin when their bubble burst or they had to isolate for other reasons. They have not been fazed by the amount of changes to timetables and routines we have had to put in place at the last minute due to staff isolating and they coped wonderfully during the last minute lockdown in January and February. What absolute superstars! We all wish them lots of fresh air, sunshine and quality time with their families over the summer. But most of all children stay safe and have FUN!!



Thank you!

[illegible]

Over the last year, our Breakfast Club has run at a loss due to the loss of income caused by the lockdowns and bubble closures. This loss of income accounts partially for our budget being extremely tight next year; even tighter than recent years with all the government budget cuts. Regrettably, myself and the Academy Councillors have made the difficult but necessary decision to increase Breakfast Club charges from £2 a session per child including breakfast to **£2.50** a session per child including breakfast September.

[illegible]

The Wild World Heroes Summer Reading Challenge 2021 starts on **Saturday 10th July**. It continues until the end of September. Not only does it offer children from 4 to 12 years the opportunity to continue reading during the summer holidays but also plays a key role in supporting reading catch-up after a difficult year.

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Finally we would like to wish all our children and families a very happy summer. Stay safe, enjoy the break and we will see you all on Monday 6th September.

