

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 23rd November 2021 'TOGETHER WE ARE GROWING TOWARDS GOD'

Worship

As it was the Feast of Christ the King on Sunday, our worship yesterday focussed on the kind of King Jesus was. We discussed how He was a very humble king and did not want to be seen as important wearing a gold crown. Instead he saw himself as a Servant King and in fact was crowned with thorns just before He was sentenced to death by Pontious Pilate. We took our inspiration from this and set our mission for the week: To follow Jesus' example of being humble by putting others first.



The feast of Christ the King signifies the final Sunday of the church's year. Next Sunday is the first Sunday of Advent. Please find all the information about Advent below:

Advent at St Francis 2021



Our theme this year is 'GO LIGHT YOUR WORLD' and is all about following Jesus' example of being the light for others to follow.

Advent prayers will take place at **8:25am** every day in the small hall for children, parents/carers and staff. Everybody is warmly invited. It is a very special and peaceful way to start the day during advent. Please do try to come along.

Once again, we will have our **Giving Manger** this year. The children will be given opportunities throughout Advent to write on pieces of 'straw' whenever they do something for someone else and lay them in the manger in readiness for the birth of Our Lord.

As is tradition at St Francis, our Advent charity is **Catholic Care's 'A Baby is Born - Gianna Project'** which looks at giving baby baskets to young mums who are struggling with newborn babies. This will be set up in the entrance way for donations to be put in.

On Wednesday 1st December, Reception and KS1 children will take part in a **Saying Sorry Service** with Father Anthony. KS2 children will take part in a **Penitential Service** followed by confession with Fr Anthony for those children who have made their Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Our very special **Advent Mass** will take place on Tuesday 7th December at 10:30am. Everybody is very welcome to come along to take part in this very special occasion.

We are thoroughly looking forward to our very first **Foundation Stage Nativity** on Monday 13th December at 9am and 2pm and also our **KS1 Nativity** on Tuesday 14th December at 9am and 2pm.

The final Advent event is the annual **PFA Carol Service** on Thursday 16th December at 6:30pm. Our St Francis School Choir will be performing and leading the carols and this year, it is with great pleasure that the brand new Staff Choir will be performing as well. It is always a wonderful occasion of music and celebration whilst reflecting on the Christmas Story and a very important date in the PFA calendar for much-needed fundraising. Please pop it in your diary and come along!

Thursday 2 nd December	Years 1/2 Parent and Child Writing Workshops – 3.30 pm and 5.30 pm
Tuesday 7 th December	Advent Mass in school at 10. 30 am
Thursday 9 th December	Year 3 trip to Cliffe Castle
Friday 10 th December	Christmas Dinner Day and PFA Christmas Jumper Day
Monday 13 th December	EYFS Nativity – 9.00 am and 2.00 pm
Tuesday 14 th December	Years 1/2 Nativity – 9.00 am and 2.00 pm
Thursday 16 th December	PFA Carol Service at 6.30 pm
Friday 17 th December	Break up for Christmas
Tuesday 4 th January 2022	Return to school

BCWCAT Feast Day Mass



Yesterday our Head Girl, Pippa, Head Boy, Joshua and Year 6 Ambassador, Lucas all represented our school brilliantly at the BCWCAT Feast Day Mass. It was a truly wonderful occasion with all 17 Catholic schools in Bradford and Keighley coming together in worship to celebrate the Feast Day of our Patron Saint, Blessed Christopher Wharton. Well done to all of our children on the art work based on 'The Light of Christ' which was displayed at the back of St Walburga's church.

Mini Vinnies

Ms Jennings and Mrs Heppleston are looking for prospective Mini Vinnies. There are enough spaces for four Year 4 children, four Year 5 children and one Year 6 child. Please speak to your child about considering this. Mini Vinnies work together in faith to do good for our school and community. It is a great opportunity.





First Holy Communion

Congratulations to the Year 5 children who made their First Holy Communion in church on Sunday. It was a pleasure to see them all dressed so smartly and taking this very special sacrament. Well done and thank you to the choir who led the singing. They all did brilliantly despite the technical hitches!

Y4 Sacrament of Reconciliation

We keep our Year 4 children in our prayers as many of them make their Sacrament of Reconciliation on Tuesday 30th November and Wednesday 1st December at 6pm in church

EVERY SCHOOL DAY COUNTS:

Our Attendance Target for this year is 97%



Congratulations to Year 3 who are our attendance champions. Years 4 and 5 were very close runners up.

CLASS	% ATTENDANCE	%ATTENDANCE
	w/b: 15.11.21.	this year to date
FS2	92.00	93.74
Year 1	96.00	95.56
Year 2	94.61	<mark>97.03</mark>
Year 3	98.71	<mark>97.90</mark>
Year 4	<mark>98.44</mark>	96.70
Year 5	95.00	<mark>97.49</mark>
Year 6	98.21	96.52
Average	96.13%	96.42%
TARGET	97.00%	97.00%

TOGETHER WE ARE EXPLORING OUR SPECIAL GIFTS

Merit Worship

Our Merit winners last week: FS1 Alice, FS2 Ezmae, Year 1 George, Year 2 Bosco, Year 3 Anna, Year 4 Femi-Lee, Year 5 Tulisa, Year 6 Chloe. Well done everyone.

Mrs Haines' Headteacher's Award: Isla (Year 2) for writing and sharing a beautiful and thoughtful piece of work which reflected on her thoughts and feelings on being kind.

Big Cat Merit reading award: Scarlett (Year 2) for completing lots of brilliant reading this week at home. Her reading skills are really improving. Great job Scarlett.



Performance Poetry

Congratulations to Years 2, 4 and 6 on their brilliant performances of their chosen poems all linked to Kindness Week. It was wonderful to see such confidence and important messages being spread.

Kindness Week

What a fabulous week we all had during our Kindness Week ending in a wonderful assembly with all the children showcasing their work. So much kindness and positivity was spread throughout the week. Thank you parents/carers for your support with our #onekindword dress up day. We now have an agreed definition of what bullying is: If unkindness happens 'Several Times On Purpose' (STOP) then you must 'Start Telling Other People'. A big thank you to our School Councillors, Digital Leaders and Librarians for being such positive role models throughout the week. We raised money for Catholic Care on Odd Socks Day and for Children In Need on Friday. Thank you all for your generosity.



Winmarleigh Hall September 2022

There is a meeting after school on Tuesday 30th November for Year 5 parents and pupils regarding the residential visit to Winmarleigh Hall in September 2022.

Parent and Friends Association



The PFA are running a Christmas raffle this year. Tickets are now on sale for £1 a strip. Money can either be sent into school with your child or paid online via Parent Pay (fundraising donations). There are various prizes on offer such as a gin hamper, world beers hamper and a chocolate hamper. It's definitely worth a shot!! If anyone has any good prizes they could donate, they would be gratefully received. Please simply let Mrs Whitehead (Chair of the PFA) know or the office. Many thanks in advance.

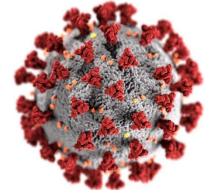
Mental Health Champions

I am delighted to tell you that 8 children from each KS2 class have been nominated by their teachers to train up as Mental Health Champions. They started their training last Friday by partaking in a live launch show over Zoom with other children in schools across the country. This morning, they have taken part in an interactive workshop and they will continue their training weekly over the next few weeks. I am really looking forward to seeing how they develop and what interesting and beneficial work they get up to in the near future.

Queen's Jubilee

Please note, there is a slight amendment to the dates for our Easter holidays due to the extra Bank Holiday for the Queen's Jubilee. We will now break up for Easter on **Tuesday 12th April** instead of Wednesday 13th April.





Covid 19 Update

We currently have 5 confirmed positive cases in school. It is imperative that parents/carers are extra vigilant of children showing symptoms and to take them for a PCR test as soon as possible at the first sight of symptoms. The main symptoms are:

- a new continuous cough
- high temperature
- loss of or change in normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)

Parents should note that should the school have several confirmed cases within any 14 day period, this may be viewed as a potential outbreak by Public Health England and tighter controls and measures may have to be introduced. We are very keen to go ahead with our Advent and Christmas celebrations as outlined above with parents continuing to come into school, so we do ask that you support us in being extra vigilant and proactive if your child shows symptoms so that we can contain the spread as much as possible and continue with our plans.

Parents/carers are reminded that one of our continued control measures is to have good ventilation in the classrooms and throughout school so please make sure your child has plenty of layers underneath their school uniforms as the weather gets colder. Many thanks for your continued support.