St Francis Catholic Primary School

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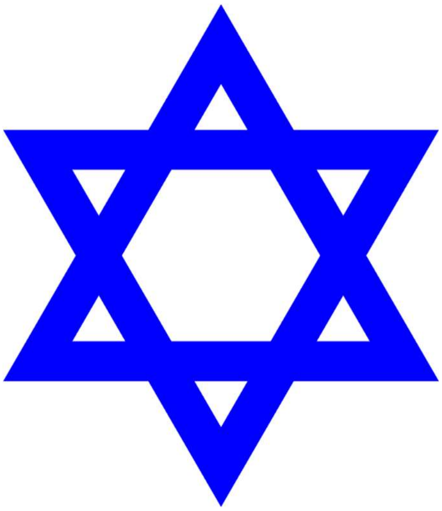
Together we are exploring our special gifts; Together we are growing towards God

Your Tuesday News 7th December 2021

'TOGETHER WE ARE GROWING TOWARDS GOD'



Worship

Other Faiths Week

This week is Other Faiths week and we are learning about Judaism. One of the first thing we are learning about is how food and actions can help us understand Judaism. In each class the children are learning why doughnuts and potato latke remind Jewish people of Hanukkah. In worship yesterday, the children watched two children share their Jewish faith and traditions with their friends. We talked about how it is important to learn about our other faiths in order to understand and respect each other.

Christingle Worship

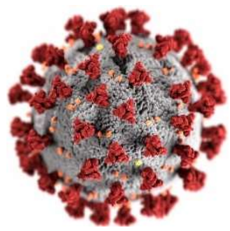
On Thursday 16th December, the children will be taking part in a Christingle worship. It is a part of our learning of how Christians celebrate Advent. On Wednesday 15th December, the children will make their own Christingle in preparation for the worship the next day. We ask if your child can please bring an orange on Wednesday15th December in order to make a Christingle.

In Foundation Stage we ask if your child can make a Christingle at home. The Foundation Stage team will send out some instructions on how to make a Christingle at home. Please can they then bring their Christingle in on Wednesday 15th December. Thank you.

First Reconciliation

Congratulations to all the Y4 children who made their Sacrament of First Reconciliation last week in church with Fr Anthony. We are so proud of them all. We pray that all the children continue to grow towards God and live as friends of Jesus.

Covid Update



Following my letter to all parents/carers last week, I would like to reiterate how important it is to remain vigilant in recognising any Covid symptoms and taking action to have yourself or your child tested if you/they display any of these symptoms. We still have a number of positive cases in school and therefore we will continue to keep all of our worships virtual at least until the end of this week. We have also postponed our Advent Mass until Wednesday 15th December at 10:30am. Our staff are continuing to wear face masks around school (not in classrooms whilst teaching) and we respectfully ask you all to continue wearing face masks when on the school site. Please support us in encouraging your children to wash their hands thoroughly and/or sanitise regularly.

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Upcoming Dates

Please make a note of the dates below. We are hopeful to be able to have parents/carers on site for these events, but **please be aware that should the number of positive cases in school continue to rise, we may have to either restrict the number of people at each event or share them with you virtually.** We will make a definitive decision on this on Friday 10th December so that we can use the latest information to help inform our decision. This will be communicated to all parents/carers in a letter. We thank you for your continued patience and understanding during this particularly unpredictable time.

Thursday 9th December	Year 3 trip to Cliffe Castle
Friday 10th December	Christmas Dinner Day and PFA Christmas Jumper Day. Please remember your donation for the Advent box appeal.
Monday 13th December	EYFS Nativity – 9.00 am and 2.00 pm
Tuesday 14th December	Years 1/2 Nativity – 9.00 am and 2.00 pm
Wednesday 15th December	Advent Mass in school at 10.30 am
Thursday 16th December	PFA Carol Service at 6.30 pm in school
Friday 17th December	Break up for Christmas
Tuesday 4th January 2022	Return to school

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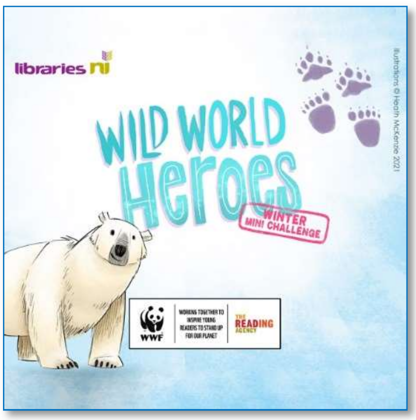

Wild World Heroes Winter Mini Challenge 2021

The Heroes are back to help with the Winter Mini Challenge! Join the Wild World Heroes as they embark on an Arctic adventure to find out about the creatures that live there. You will find out about the environmental issues facing this remote place and might even spot a narwhal or two!

Taking part in the Winter Mini Challenge is simple. Read at least three books between 1 December and 16 January and add them to your online profile at www.wintermini.org.uk to get super fun digital rewards! You'll find loads of other great stuff on the website too, including games, book reviews, reading activities such as downloadable activity sheets and content from the best children's authors and illustrators around. For parents there is a Home Zone and Library Zone on the website with more information on reading. There is also a Facebook page so that parents can keep up to date with news and opportunities.

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Minnie Vinnies

We are collecting items for Horton Housing. We will be making up Advent boxes for children that are in need. Suitable contents that can be brought in are: hats/gloves, comb/brushes, hair bobbles, toiletries, toothbrush and toothpaste, socks, chocolate (long sell by date), puzzles/colouring books, pens/pencils, small game/toy, small cuddly toys, lip balms, etc. Thank you in advance of your donations that can be sent in with children or dropped off at the office. We will be meeting again after school on Tuesday 7th December 2021 3.15 – 4.15 pm. **These boxes are going to be collected next week so could we have your donations by the end of this week. Many thanks.**

EVERY SCHOOL DAY COUNTS:

Our Attendance Target for this year is 97%

Year 3 are our attendance champions for last week and they are just managing to stay above the target of 97% for their overall attendance.

CLASS	% ATTENDANCE **w/b: 29.11.21.**	%ATTENDANCE **this year to date**
FS2	92.81	93.56
Year 1	83.75	95.92
Year 2	95.16	96.01
Year 3	95.48	97.59
Year 4	89.82	95.94
Year 5	88.24	96.33
Year 6	93.08	96.11
Average	**91.19%**	**95.92%**
TARGET	**97.00%**	**97.00%**

TOGETHER WE ARE EXPLORING OUR SPECIAL GIFTS

Merit Worship

Our Merit winners last week: FS1 - Kiana, Leya, Rosie, Harper, FS2 – Alyssa, Year 1 – Ace and Emily, Year 2 – Beau, Year 3 – Max, Year 4 – Imogen, Year 5 – Isla and Year 6 – Excel.

Mrs Haines' Headteacher's Award: Phoebe for being everything that a St Francis pupil should be … and more! Phoebe is polite, helpful, kind and caring and I thank her for the wonderful example she sets for everyone. ☺

Big Cat merit reading award: Matteo for always doing lots of excellent reading at home and it really shows in his work. We can see in Matteo's reading how his outstanding phonics is really helping him.

Congratulations to Milana in Year 3 who has achieved her yellow belt in Taekwondo. Well done Milana.

Mathsvember Maths Shed Challenge

Thank you to all children who joined our Mathsvember Maths Shed challenge - winners were announced at Merit worship for each class on Friday. This week is the launch of our very first internal Primary Maths Challenge for our KS2 children. To enter, the children have a 20 question maths quiz which draws upon their problem solving and reasoning. This needs to be returned by this Friday. The top 3 children from the challenge will compete in the new year in school on a similar type challenge to find our first St Francis Maths Champion.

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Food Bank Support

We hope and pray that all our families continue to be happy and healthy over the Christmas period and beyond. Please find a link below to all the food bank information in our local area should you or anyone you know require any help over the coming weeks. Please be assured that school is always here to help any families with any further support. Please just get in touch.

Bradford Central foodbank

https://bradfordfoodbanks.org.uk/foodbanks/?_sft_post_tag=individual

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Hats gloves and scarves

Due to the forecast for colder weather we would ask parents to ensure that children have plenty of outdoor clothing to keep them warm when out on the playground. It is a very exposed playground and can be very chilly when the wind is blowing at this time of year. Also layer your children up with indoor clothing as we have to have ventilation in school.

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Parent Survey Results

Please see below the results of the Parent Survey we took in October. Thank you to everyone who responded.

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

Parent Survey Results - October 2021

Thank you to the 46 parents who responded to our survey in October. Below are the results and how we are responding to your feedback which is always very much appreciated.

Overall, how happy are you with school? 93% of parents surveyed were at least very happy with school overall		
Positive feedback:	**Areas for improvement:**	**Our response:**
Pupils are well behaved and the teaching model is perfect. *My child is happy and developing well, she has always received extra support when needed.* *Our son gets a fantastic educational experience. He loves school and is making superb progress.* *Friendly, hard working, caring staff and wonderful ethos.* *My children are happy at this school which makes me happy* *Kids are happy and love coming to school, all doing great*	*I don't feel I get regular updates on how my child is progressing. I think with COVID rules still in place i.e. no face to face contact with teachers, and not being able to enter the coat room, communication needs to be increased.* *Been informed by the headteacher that celebrating your child's achievements outside of school can only be done in merit assembly at the END of the school year!!!!!!* *The lack of communication or being informed of changes is too late. It's so difficult to talk to the teachers as it's rushed in a morning and then feels the same on an afternoon.*	Our weekly Tuesday News is the main communication channel for all events and key messages throughout school. In addition to this, we use our text messaging service to get direct messages to parents where necessary. We hold a parents' evening in October and March where parents can talk directly to their child's teacher and we always promote contacting the school office to make an appointment with a teacher to discuss anything pertinent to your child. Please note: children's achievements from outside of school are celebrated at Merit Worship on the last Friday of every month, not the end of the year. Apologies for any misunderstanding.

How satisfied are you with how our school supports learning? 91% of parents surveyed were at least very happy with how school supports learning		
Positive feedback:	**Areas for improvement:**	**Our response:**
Despite lockdown she is has still carried on developing and learning well *Great communication and incentives for the children.* *Always on hand if we have any queries about work* *I feel the children are supported to progress and that they are encouraged to be their best without feeling pressured.*	*Sometimes we are informed of what children will be learning but on occasions I have no clue what they do in class. Some classes are cancelled such as PE* *I've no real idea how the school supports learning. I don't know what is in place to bridge the gap from what was missed over Covid. Maybe I'll find out more from parents' evening.* *Sometimes I feel communication could be a little better ie I had no idea what sounds or words my yr 1 child has been learning*	*We are hoping to reintroduce some events which include inviting parents into the classrooms to see the children learning and their work. This will include seeing Phonics lessons in KS1. Please look out for these in the Tuesday News in the new year. Of course this is all reliant on the Covid situation being safe.*

Whether you go to church or not, how do you feel about it? 70% of parents surveyed feel at least very happy about church 30% of parents surveyed feel ok about church		
Positive feedback: *Our faith is extremely important to us and we love how the ethos of the school supports our children in the development of their testimonies and relationship with God* *There is joy in worship.* *It encourages our child to support church and pray.*	**Areas for improvement:** *Requires modernization* *Needs more to keep children engaged* *We used to go before the pandemic but haven't been since. I always felt uncomfortable as my son was very vocally not interested* *I enjoy church, but my children are too young to sit through service. My children are very energetic and won't sit for long*	**Our response:** *Our senior leaders, RE Leader, Academy councillors and Fr Jackson are all working together to put some special Masses in place in the new year that centre around the children.*

If your child has taken a Sacrament (First Reconciliation or First Holy Communion), how did you feel about the preparation sessions? 38% of parents surveyed felt at least very happy with the sessions which took place before the pandemic 61% of parents surveyed felt ok about the sessions which took place before the pandemic		
Positive feedback:	**Areas for improvement:** *Not enough preparation and information from school and Father to parents. It was all a bit up in the air. It needs more structure.*	**Our response:** *We want the children and families to feel well prepared for taking their Sacraments. We are working with Mrs Heppleston and Fr Jackson to put family catechesis in place for the new year with set dates and times.*

What suggestions do you have to improve your experience of going to church? Make the hymns more lively - 53% Have a children's liturgy - 56% Make it more welcoming - 41% Other - 15%	
Other suggestions: • *Update and connect with modern society* • *Look to increase the congregation especially amongst those families who have school aged children. Perhaps by adding a mixture of suggestions; children's literacy, family mass, social activities after mass, better links between the school and the parish so people feel more connected.* • *I would suggest personal invitations,children/family friendly Sunday school lessons and that the main service is family friendly…we take Sunday themed activities for the kids to do so they don't get too noisy…maybe some simple packs for the kids?* • *No need to improve* • *More well known hymns* • *Make it more relevant especially more appealing for children and get them involved*	**Our response:** *Hopefully, with the special Masses we plan to put in place in the new year, we will start to address some of these suggestions and we can build on them from there.*