

Newsletter ~ Term 2, Week 1



Welcome to term 2 at St Francis' School! Please read the newsletter carefully this week, as there is a great deal of information packed into it!

We hope to keep the term as 'normal' as possible for you and your children, but we have already had to cancel some events due to high numbers of Covid-19 cases in the school. We will let you know what events are able to happen as the term unfolds – and of course we intend to keep the children working hard as well as celebrating this lovely time of year.

Christmas Shoe Boxes

Just before half term, the children attended an assembly which was led by a rep from the charity Samaritan's Purse. She told the children about the project 'Operation Christmas Child' which supports needy children around the world, and leaflets were distributed giving details of the Christmas Shoe Box appeal. Thank you so much to those of you who have already filled shoe boxes with Christmas gifts to support these needy children. The boxes are being collected on Monday 15 November so there is still time to fill a shoe box if you have not done so already. Leaflets containing further details and suggestions of suitable items are available from class teachers. Please let us know if you require one.

Advent Wreaths

We are encouraging the children to make an Advent wreath at home and to bring it into school on Monday 29 November, where it will be blessed by Fr Reg. Wreaths are traditionally circular and decorated with evergreen leaves representing God's everlasting love. There are three purple candles and one pink candle for the four Sundays of Advent and one white candle for Christmas day, reminding us that Jesus is the light of the world. The wreaths will be taken home at the end of the day so they can be used during family prayer times.



KOOTH November Newsletter

[Kooth.com](https://www.kooth.com) is available for all young people aged 10-18+ (up to 25 if there is an additional need) in North Somerset with free, safe and anonymous wellbeing support and advice. Accessible from any internet enabled device, Kooth is available every day.

And then on the 8th December at 4.00pm there is a webinar for Parents and Carers who would like to know more about Kooth: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/198299648587>

Anti-Bullying Week 15-19 November

Odd Socks Day marks the start of Anti-Bullying Week and this year it's taking place on Monday 15 November. The theme of this year's week is 'Kindness' and the children will be participating in activities through the week to promote kindness in our actions and thoughts.

<https://anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk/anti-bullying-week/odd-socks-day/what-odd-socks-day>

Academy News

The diocese is asking us to hold a further meeting for parents and stakeholders regarding our academisation. This will take place on 19 November at 1.30pm. If you would like to join the meeting, please email the school to book a place.

SEND EVENTS

Please follow the links below for further information:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/north-somerset-morning-send-surgery-thursday-18th-november-2021-tickets-163467659169>

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/north-somerset-morning-send-surgery-tuesday-30th-november-tickets-163471516707>

COVID UPDATE

In common with many schools in the area, we have seen a recent surge in the number of cases of Covid-19 in our community. We have cancelled all activities which involve large group gatherings and are restricting the mixing of pupils in school.

We will review our case numbers later next week and may be able to lift some restrictions. We will keep you updated.

Thank you for your patience and understanding in these difficult times.

E-Safety News

Some information you may find useful regarding Squid Game...

<https://nationalonlinesafety.com/wakeupwednesday/squid-game-trending-across-platforms-what-parents-need-to-know?fbclid=IwAR0JkP7FI9HBlcgQLPZDsM1TkFW7C-bbST4w1efv3PiMSK6UoLxF2rIL3EU>

Parent / Carer Forum

We held our first Parent / Carer forum earlier this term and it was decided at that meeting that the subject of the next forum will be Communication. All parents and carers are welcome along to the school on Friday 26 November at 8.45 – 10am to have a cuppa and a chat with senior staff and our chair of governors.

Head Bumps

If your child has had a head bump in school, as well as making a phone call or sending a Dojo message home, we will also be giving them a wrist band, as a signal to all carers (grandparents, wrap-around care, school staff etc) that the child has had a head bump. Children can show signs of delayed concussion hours or even days after a head bump, so all adults need to keep a close eye out for any signs.



Parking at Drop-off and Pick-up

It's quite a while since I've had to mention this issue in a newsletter, but a neighbour has complained about car engines being left running outside the school while parents and carers are parked waiting for school to end. I have also had some reports of cars being parked inappropriately in the mornings on double yellow lines and the zig-zags. Please be considerate and think safety first for the sake of our children.

ParentPay Emails

We have had a couple of recent incidents where emails sent to you through ParentPay have either failed or been delayed (sometimes by a few hours). We apologise for this. The technology is out of our hands once the emails are sent, but we do want to know if emails are not getting to you, so we can report to the platform if issues continue. Thank you for your patience.



Children in Need 19 November 2021: Strictly Sparkle

We invite children to wear their best ballroom dancing outfits on 19 November to mark Children in Need 2021 in style. Parents and Carers can donate via Parent Pay (as you did for our Harvest event). Anything from a sparkly hairband to full evening dress is acceptable (or just have some fun with your outfit – as long as it raises money for this good cause!)

And Finally...

The Year One children have been thinking about prayer in their RE lessons and here are some of their beautiful ideas:

- I praise God for the plants and sun – Sofia*
- I praise God for the flowers, grass and people – Sophie*
- I praise God for the lovely food I eat – Bethany*
- I praise God for my family and love – Novena*
- I praise God for apples, rainbows, the sun and people – Dylan*
- I praise God for the beach, fish and birds – Erik*
- I praise God for the lovely playground and my lovely family – Chinonso*
- I praise God for rainbows – Lily*



Have a peaceful weekend.