

## Newsletter ~ Term 3 – New Beginnings!

Dear Families

At the start of another very busy term and with the busy-ness of getting back into the routines of life I must ask that families consider the safety of all road users and pedestrians. There have been a number of complaints and concerns received about unsafe parking and dangerous road use outside school both in the morning and in the afternoon. Please, please think twice about where and how you park. We appreciate drop off and pick up is a pressurised time of day with thoughts on any number of things, but road safety must be paramount. Thank you for your consideration and help in this very serious matter.

As you will have read in previous correspondence this week, cases of covid are on the increase within our school community. We are therefore requesting that parents please wear masks when they enter the school grounds, not just when entering the building. Mask wearing helps the children to know we care and that we model good practice in our daily lives.

Many thanks for your continued support in these matters.

Catherine Hanley

Chair of Governors

### ***And now onto some news from around the classes from Mr Tucker....***

Dear Parents/Carers,

It is an absolute pleasure to back with you at St Francis. Some of you may remember that I was at the school for a week or so, just over a year ago. If you see a strange looking man on the gate, wearing a suit which appears a little tight (I *may* have over indulged during the festive period please) do please feel free to pop over and have a chat.

I must say, I have been incredibly impressed with the way the children have come back after the holidays. Heads down, tails up, they have been beavering away and making a cracking start to the new year.

Reception began the week by taking part in their first ever assembly, which they tackled with aplomb. They were so grown up: marching in like soldiers with their backs straight; sitting calmly and quietly and listening carefully to Miss Lamb. She was particularly impressed by the way they joined in the discussions by raising their hand and waiting to be asked before speaking. The theme of the assembly was looking at our school value of kindness and more specifically, how we can show this to others through our actions. They have all been charged with being kind to each other and I am really looking forward to seeing how they get on.

After two terms of History, Year 1 have now moved onto their Geography unit of work: where do we come from? This will involve studying their environment at a variety of levels, from the immediate locality of Nailsea, to wider afield. They began by understanding what is meant by the United Kingdom and what the capital cities of the four countries are. When I asked if they could name the countries and their capitals, two very distinct things occurred: Miss Lamb

made the 'pleeeeeeeeeeease get this right' face and the children supplied the answers without so much as breaking a sweat. If they know that much at the end of one lesson, I have very high hopes for what they will be able to achieve in 12 weeks' time!

Year 2 have thoroughly embraced their new topic of The Great Fire of London. Bearing in mind they only started this on Tuesday, the amount they have learnt is truly phenomenal. All I asked was for them to give me one fact and they told me all about how the blaze began in Thomas Farrier's bakery but was blamed on the maid (who was one of only 10 people to die in the fire, they reliably informed me); that it started in Pudding Pie Lane; that the warm dry weather meant that the houses caught light very quickly and that the wooden roof of St Paul's, exposed due to building work, was the cause of the Cathedral burning down. I did not know half of those things before they told me.

With all the disruption over the last few years, many children have simply not had the opportunity to develop their swimming skills. So, it was with much excitement that Year 3 (and Year 4) made their way to Backwell Pool on Friday morning. This initial lesson was very much aimed at assessing the children so they can be placed in the most suitable groups. While many of them were able to swim strongly on their fronts, it was the quality of the backstroke that particularly impressed me. Arms high, little fingers in first, it was like watching a bunch of young Adam Peatys... possibly with slightly fewer tattoos. Even though some of them were quite nervous, they all gave it their best shot, with some even surprising themselves. Just as an aside, the receptionist at the front desk said they were, 'Quietest class ever!' Nice one, Year 3. Nice one.

Greta and the Giants by Zoe Tucker and Zoe Perisco is the book Year 4 are studying in Literacy. Using the metaphor of the Giants to represent us adults, Governments and Big Business tells the story of Greta and how she successfully campaigns to save the planet. In one lesson, they were looking at the range of emotions she would have experienced at different points in the story. Understanding how characters are complex constructs, who do not just feel one constant, simple emotion throughout a story, such as 'brave' or 'sad', will help them hugely when they have to write their own narratives. Possibly the most impressive element of their discussion was the way they understood the subtleties of the situation and the vocabulary they used. For example, when explaining Greta's feelings when she started to protest on her own, they used the word 'determined' to show that she was going to fight for the planet, yet contrasted this with 'worried' to explain that she felt her actions may not be enough.

To celebrate the feast of Epiphany, where the Magi came to worship Jesus at his birth, Year 5 were joined by Year 6 for Mass on Thursday morning. It was the first time that classes have managed to attend St Francis's for an act of worship in well over a year and it felt like an extremely symbolic moment for the whole school (the other classes joined via video link). As you would expect from our children, they were a credit to themselves, behaving just as they should. At the end of the service, Father Richard blessed some chalk and gave it to some members of the congregation, inviting them to write the blessing 20 + C + M + B + 22 on the doors of their houses. The letters C, M and B stand for Caspar, Melchior and Balthazar (the three wise men) but are also abbreviations of Christus Mansionem Benedicat, 'May Christ bless the house'. The numbers are for our year, 2022 and the + signs represent the cross.

When they got back to school, Miss Parry wrote this on the school's front door, while some Year 6 children scribed it on each class's door.

As one would expect, Year 6 have hit the ground running, with noses firmly to the grind stone. The focus in maths has been multiplying fractions and using these skills to solve problems. I don't know about you but when I was in primary school, I barely came across a fraction, let alone attempt problems involving them. Looking at their books, I was really impressed with not only the standard of presentation but also the way that they were responding to feedback, which allowed them to correct their prior misconceptions. If you happen to have a lazy 5 minutes over the weekend, have a go at one of their problems below, just to see how you get on.

*Jack runs  $9 \frac{1}{3}$  miles three times a week. Dexter runs  $12 \frac{2}{4}$  miles twice a week. Who runs the furthest during the week?*

Have a lovely weekend when it comes. By the time you've waded through this weighty section of the newsletter it will be Monday morning again!

Play safely and take care,

Mr Tucker

## Smart Watches

Following the festive break, we have noticed that many of our children have been lucky enough to receive Smart Watches from Father Christmas. Whilst these are impressive pieces of technology, their capacity for recording images/sending messages/accessing the internet means that they bring a raft of potential E-Safety and safeguarding issues with them. As such, they should not be brought into school. Children wearing Smart Watches in school will be asked to remove them so they can be returned at the end of the day. (As an additional note, children are far more successful in telling the time if they learn through consistent use of an analogue clock face rather than digital. We would highly recommend analogue watches!)

## Celebrations of success for Rosie!

Rosie plays rugby for Yatton minis who seem to be trailblazing their way through the junior game! Great to hear of your 'awesome solo try' Rosie – Jasmine Joyce had better watch out!



*And Finally...*

It's panto time! Oh yes, it is!



**Buckle your swash and set sail with Robinson, Captain Seasalt and Nutty Nick into a world of adventure and hilarity!**

**Nailsea Musicals Invites you to join us this Panto Season for  
"Robinson Crusoe & The Pirates"**

**Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> – Friday 21<sup>st</sup> January 2022 @ 7.30pm  
Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2022 @ 1pm & 5.30pm  
Scotch Horn Centre, Nailsea**

**Discounts available for Groups of 10+  
[Nailseamusicals.org.uk](http://Nailseamusicals.org.uk)**

**Get your tickets now!**

**COVID-19 Safe Environment**