

Newsletter ~ Term 5 Week 2

Summer concert 28 June

Some of you may remember our annual music concert, which was organised every year pre-Covid so that pupils learning instruments could showcase their talent to the school community. We intend to hold this concert on the afternoon of 28 June and parents / carers are welcome to attend. Depending on numbers of children involved, we may need to limit numbers to two seats per family. If your child learns an instrument out of school, they can participate so it might be good to talk to their teacher so they can prepare a short piece to play.

More details to follow.

End of the School Year: Message from the DfE

In order to commemorate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee anniversary, an extra bank holiday has been confirmed which will take place on Friday 3 June 2022.

The Department of Education has temporarily amended the Education (School Day and School Year) (England) Regulations which has resulted in a slightly shorter school year for maintained schools.

Most schools will be closed on 3 June 2022 due to the half-term, but if not, they should be closed on that date. If the school is on half term when the additional bank holiday has been added, the change to the regulations by the DfE means that it can close at another time in the year to give staff and students the extra day off and staff will be given a day's paid holiday.

The amendment means that schools will only be required to have pupil contact for the 2021/2022 year for 189 days, instead of the usual 190. The additional bank holiday means that an additional day of holiday will need to be allocated.

St Francis' School has allocated this day as Friday 22 July so the school year will end on **Thursday 21 July**.

Relationships and Sex Education (RSE)

During terms 5 and 6 we use a scheme endorsed by the Catholic Church called 'Life to the Full' in order to teach some aspects of our Relationships and Sex Education Programme.

Teachers will inform you when they are planning to deliver any particularly sensitive lessons and you can, if you wish, view the coverage for each year group using the website, username and password below:

Username

st-francs-bs48

Password

brother-14-bs48

Parent Portal

<https://www.tentenresources.co.uk/parent-portal/>

There are a few occasions when parents and carers can choose to remove their children from these lessons but in the main it is statutory requirement that children are taught the content of RSE lessons. After consultation with you, the governors have agreed that the following will be taught:

- The correct biological terms for the external genitalia in Key Stage One
- From year 4, children will start learning about the physical changes that come with puberty
- In year 6, the content covers sexual intimacy in a way respectful of Catholic beliefs and pornography from a perspective of online safety.

All topics will be taught sensitively and with due consideration to the ages and stages of the pupils.

Our policy states:

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from part or all of the sex education delivered as part of RSE that are not included in the Science National Curriculum. Should parents wish to withdraw their child/ren they are asked to notify the head teacher.

If you have any concerns or questions, please ask the class teacher in the first instance.

Well done for reading a very wordy first page – here are some photos!

Year 2

Have had a very busy week...



Doing splendidly well as catwalk models!

Reminding us of the joy of the Easter season at their mass on Friday last week



And forming a professional recorder orchestra!

Year 3 / 4 Cross Country Success

I could not be prouder of our year 3 and 4 cross country runners, who took away more medals than any other school on Wednesday at an inter-schools event. Special mention goes to Chinonso, for coming first in his event, to the year 3 boys and girls who came away with gold and silver in their relay races and to the year 4 girls who placed third in their relay. Not only did the children amaze us with their running abilities, but they also as a school team represented the school perfectly, cheering each other on and encouraging children from other schools, trying their absolute best and showing great sporting behaviour all round! Well done children – you were a pleasure to be with! As another school put it – ‘they put St Francis’ on the map!’



Forthcoming Events

When?	Who?	What?	Additional Information
Monday 9-Thursdays 12 May	Year 6	SATS	Please make sure children are in school, well rested and with a good breakfast inside them!
Monday 16-Friday 20 May	Year 2	SATS	Please make sure children are in school, well rested and with a good breakfast inside them!
Tuesday 17 May	Year 6	Bikeability	Details via class teacher
Wednesday 18 May	Year 6	Bikeability	Details via class teacher
Thursday 19 May	Year 6	Bikeability	Details via class teacher
Tuesday 24 May	Year 4	Retreat day	Details to follow
Wednesday 25 May	tbc	Multiskills sport event	Details to follow

Request from Miss Parry

If you can say the 'Hail Mary' in a language other than English, Miss Parry would be most grateful if you could send into the office a typed version of this lovely prayer special to Mary and the month of May.



And Finally...

May is traditionally the month of Mary, when Christians honour her as Jesus' mother by crowning her statue with a circlet of spring flowers. In many countries, long processions wind themselves through the streets of towns and village, led by the statue of Mary surrounded by flowers. It has long been a tradition of our school to mark the month of Mary with a May Procession, and we hope very much to be able to resume this tradition this year.

My favourite prayer as a child was Hail Holy Queen, which is probably considered quite old fashioned now and rarely said, unless reciting the rosary or during night prayers. I loved the way the words sounded like a poem, and indeed the prayer has been often set to music through the centuries using the Latin words 'Salve Regina'.

Have a lovely weekend.