

Newsletter ~ End of Term 2

As we reach the end of another very busy term the governors would like to thank the whole school community for all the hard work, love and care which has been clearly evident in the work of the school this term. It has been wonderful to see the children working hard, being kind and making progress. Of course, this does not happen without support from you as their parents and the staff as their teachers and support staff.

You may recall we recently advertised for new governors; one Parent Governor and one Foundation Governor. I am delighted to inform you that Anderson Chaplow has been successfully appointed as our new Parent Governor. He brings much to the role and knows the school very well. There is still a vacancy for a Foundation Governor so if you are interested in working with the school community as we move forward with the Bishop's vision, please contact me at coq@stfrancispri.org.

Teaching and Learning Update:

We continue to work on the development of the school curriculum to provide a challenging and exciting learning experience for all the children in our care. Our improvement plans accelerate at pace and we continue to benefit from the hard work of our staff coupled with the bespoke support package we receive from St Teresa's, our Ofsted Outstanding project partner.

A continuing focus for us is that of Reading so if there are any last minute gifts to be bought please think of the gift of a book; so much joy to be had in the simple pleasure of reading!

I mentioned the issue of lateness in the last newsletter and unfortunately this remains of concern. Please can we remind parents that the school gates close at 8.45am and all children arriving after this time will be registered as late in the school late book. The school gates are open from 8.35am until 8.45am and we really appreciate your efforts to get to school on time so the children can all start their day promptly.

Lost Property:

If any new uniform is being purchased for the new term, please help us by ensuring that ALL items of clothing are clearly labelled, including sports' kits, forest school wear and coats.

Parking:

We have been asked again by our neighbours to be mindful of safety when parking outside school. The police will be monitoring the situation so please park a safe distance from the school.

Tissues:

Last year you were kind enough to support the school through sending your child in with a box of tissues. It would be very much appreciated if a box or two could find their way into your shopping trolley and then to school in the first week of term.

Every Minute Counts!



Lateness = Lost Learning

5 minutes lost each day = 3 days lost
10 minutes lost each day = 6½ days lost
15 minutes lost each day = 10 days lost
20 minutes lost each day = 13 days lost
30 minutes lost each day = 19 days lost

(Above figures based on a whole school year)

Advent and Christmas

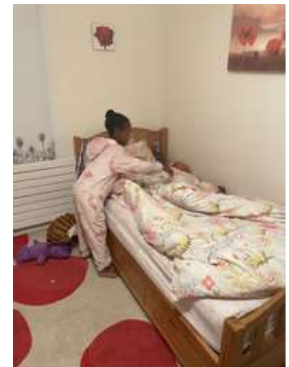
Around the classes:

KS1 visit from Father Christmas...



Our children were very excited to receive a gift each from Santa Claus who had taken time out of his busy schedule to visit KS1. They would like to take this opportunity to say Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to our community.

Well done Katherine from Year 2 for completing one of your Advent calendar activities. Long may it continue!



Don't forget the lovely resource Miss Parry sent to help us on our journey towards Bethlehem. If you have not yet had the chance to read it, why not have a look over it with your children? It is full of helpful information on this very special liturgical season.

Please also see the flyer from St Francis' Church reminding us of their family sing along on 18th December.



A huge vote of thanks to our kitchen staff, Ron and Jenny, for our lovely feast of a Christmas lunch yesterday.

And Finally...

Two beautiful visions of the Holy Family surrounded with some gorgeous angels, caring shepherds and majestic kings from Year 2 reminding us of the magical gift of Christmas.



A Christmas Prayer Robert Louis Stevenson

Loving Father,
Help us remember the birth of Jesus,
that we may share in the song of the angels,
the gladness of the shepherds,
and worship of the wise men.

Close the door of hate
and open the door of love all over the world.
Let kindness come with every gift
and good desires with every greeting.
Deliver us from evil by the blessing
which Christ brings,
and teach us to be merry with clear hearts.

May the Christmas morning
make us happy to be thy children,
and Christmas evening bring us to our beds
with grateful thoughts,
forgiving and forgiven,
for Jesus' sake.

Amen.

December 18th from 6.30



FAMILY SOCIAL

And

CHRISTMAS SINGALONG

Come and join us

St Francis Church Hall...

BRING SOME SNACKS and drinks

COFFEE.. TEA.. HOT CHOCOLATE
CHRISTMAS NIBBLES

and **non alcoholic MULLED WINE** will be on sale



Prizes for...**Best Decorated Table**
And
Funniest Fancy Dress!!



Please **BOOK** your places on the form in the church porch so we know how many to cater for!