



Newsletter ~ Term 1, Week 1

Welcome

A big welcome back to you all and especially our new families – I hope you all enjoyed a good summer break and are feeling refreshed. We have enjoyed a settled start to term and children have had a good first week, looking very clean and tidy and smart in their uniforms. On behalf of the staff can I thank you for your generous gifts, lovely comments and thanks at the end of last term, which were much appreciated.

We say a special hello and welcome to our new Reception children and their families: Jessica, Daisy B, Bella, Daisy C, Lilly, Harry, Leo, Polly, Charlie, Johnnie, Serah, Milosz, Bradley, Sophie, Uri, Louis, Alexander, Korey, Poppy, Maisie, Mia, Benjamin, Matilda, Abel, Edith, Dulcie, Elena, Tobias and Emmanuel.

And to Angus, Alex and Simeon who have joined us in key stage 2. We hope all our new children soon start to feel a part of the St Francis family and make new friends.

We also welcome Miss Lamb who will be teaching Y4 this year and Mrs Taylor who will be working with key stage two teachers and children as Learning Assistant. Mrs O'Gorman is well and looking forward to the birth of her baby – she was hoping to be in school for the first two weeks of this term but has been advised to rest by her doctor and will not be returning. We send our good wishes to Ron, our school cook who is recovering from a minor operation and hopes to be back with us in a week or so. Get well soon Ron.

Several members of staff have had an eventful summer and have returned to school with lots of good news. Mr Groves and Miss Ball want to share that they are getting married (not to each other!) but to their respective partners next summer. Congratulations to both teachers. Congratulations also to Mrs Cataldo who is expecting her first baby in January and who will be taking maternity leave after Christmas. We will be advertising for a teacher to cover her maternity leave.

Masses and Collective Worship

We are starting our new academic year with Mass on **Friday 15 September, 10am** led by Father Reg in the school hall. We would love to see you there – please come in through the front entrance.

Over the course of the year we have a range of collective worship and assemblies that all children participate in. These include music, song, dance and drama and can be lively, uplifting, reflective and prayerful occasions. Many are open to our families – parents, grandparents and parishes – so please keep an eye out for details in the newsletter. We would love you to come and join us as these events which really bring us together as a community. You can come along to any occasion, not just the times when your own child's class is involved

Year 5 Kilve Court Residential trip

Year 5 children will have brought home a letter this week with details of the Kilve Court residential trip that takes place in November. There will be a meeting for parents and children in the year 5 classroom next **Thursday 14 September** straight after school. This will also be an opportunity for Mrs Hunt to welcome parents to Y5 and explain some of the learning that will be taking place.

Welcome Meetings

Welcome meetings to your child's new class will take place on the following days straight after school:

Monday 18 September - Years 3 and 6

Tuesday 19 September - Year 4

Wednesday 20 September - Year 2

Parents are invited to come and meet their child's new teacher and find out about some of the learning that will be taking place this year.

There will be a meeting for year 1 parents on **Thursday 5 October at 3.30pm** to explain the transition from Reception to Y1, the Y1 curriculum and learning that will be taking place. Children will be able to watch a DVD in the Reception classroom while their parents attend the meeting.

The information meeting for parents of Reception children will take place **Wednesday 11 October at 7pm** and is an opportunity to learn how children have settled into school, what they will be learning over the coming year and how you can support them at home.

Swimming - Starts next **Friday 15 September** for years 4 and 5. A separate letter has been sent home to these children. Please contact the Office as soon as possible if you can help.

School Clubs and Extra Activities

We provide a range of clubs for children throughout the year, some run by staff and others by sports coaches, which can change on a termly basis so please keep an eye out for details. In order to accommodate the needs of as many families as possible, clubs can take place before school, after school and during the lunch break. Information about after school sports clubs for this term will be coming home soon.

Music lessons with North Somerset Music Service

For those children who have signed up for flute, saxophone and guitar, lessons start **on Wednesday 13 for flute & sax, and Tuesday 12 or Friday 15 for guitar**. All lessons are during school time. Children are expected to bring in their musical instrument on the day of their lesson and take it home on the same day for practice. A letter has been sent out this week with details of your child's lessons.

School Dinners

A reminder that school dinners are to be paid for through Parent Pay and the account should be kept in credit. Please check your balance and top up if necessary. School dinners cost £2.15 per day (£10.75 per week). If your child wishes to change their meal arrangements it helps the office if a week's notice is given. The school dinner menu operates on a three week cycle and can be found on the school website.

Flu Vaccinations

Children in years Reception, 1, 2, 3 and 4 will have brought home a letter from the school medical service this week with information about the flu vaccination. Children in these year groups are being offered the vaccination which will take place in school later on this term. Parents are requested to complete and return the consent form to school, even if refusing to by **Friday 15 September**. Children of parents who do not return the form will not receive the vaccination.

Safety in the Playground

As is usual at the start of a new school year teachers and staff will be talking to children about expectations of behaviour in and around school. Today Mrs Devereux led an assembly to remind children about expectations in the lunch hall and playground with a focus on respecting each other and our school grounds. Children were reminded that safety is key and that as part of this we do not expect to see them climbing trees or fences, standing on top of tables, benches or the top of climbing equipment. They should not throw stones or pine cones or chase each other with sticks. Children play on the playground or field in full sight of lunchtime staff and are not permitted to play in the overgrown areas of the school field or on the bank near the main road. I thought it would be helpful to let you know that this has been explained to children as some children are using the wooded area at the end of the school day to play in when you want to take them home. If you know that we have set these boundaries it may help you when you want them to leave school at the end of the day.

Weekly Newsletter

If you are a family new to the school, this weekly newsletter will provide general information about events that are up and coming and those that have taken place. Additional letters will be sent home from the office and your child's teacher with specific information about events and activities. The newsletter can be accessed via the school's website: www.st-francis.n-somerset.sch.uk and sent electronically to your email address registered on ParentPay. In order to receive the newsletter in this way please make sure you have checked that platform@parentpay.com has been added to your contacts. Please let us know if you don't receive it so we can perhaps investigate from our end.

Website

The school website includes a page for each class with information about what children will be learning and events that have taken place, and is well worth a visit. We try and put as much on the website as we possibly can to be of help to parents, including letters and information and a diary of dates. This year the termly class letter that is sent home by teachers with information about what children will be learning, activities and homework will be posted on their class page rather than be sent home as a hard copy. We are currently finalising a list of key dates for the year and hope to have this ready for next week.

Friends' News

We will shortly have some exciting news to reveal regarding the junior playground, with only a few details to iron out, and can't wait to share plans soon. Big things are happening!

Just a reminder that the 'Year Book' brochure, prepared by the Friends' last year, is still available at the office for £1. They are filled with photos of the children in their classrooms with lots of questions and answers on the year they had. We have had some amazing feedback on how great they are as a memento of the year. If you haven't already got a copy you can buy one from the school office by Friday 15 September.

We are already in planning mode for the Christmas party and upcoming events – please keep an eye out for details of these. Dates for your diaries for now include:

Wednesday 4 October, 7.30 – 9pm: Friends' Meeting in school
Saturday 14 October: Friend's Working Bee
Saturday 25 November, 4pm: Christmas Party

St. Francis' Catholic Primary School



Lifeskills Open Day, Saturday 9 September

The Lifeskills Centre at the Create Centre, Hotwells, Bristol is having an open day which will include stalls by the police, fire service and RNLI as well as treasure hunts, crafts and competitions. To find out more visit their website www.lifeskills-bristol.org.uk.

And finally...

As we start a new school year, the process for next September's new intake starts too!

Parents who have children due to start school in September 2018 are advised that they can apply online to N Somerset at www.n-somerset.gov.uk/admissions or contact the School Admissions Team for a paper application from 12 September.

The closing date for reception applications is 23:59 on 15 January 2018.

For children of Catholic parents, supporting evidence in the form of baptismal certificates should be brought to the school office, which will take a copy and forward to N Somerset on your behalf.

There will be an opportunity for prospective parents to tour the school at 2pm on the following dates:

Friday 6 October
Thursday 2 November
Monday 4 December

Please contact the school office for further information or to book a place.