

Newsletter ~ Term 1, Week 4

Another busy and productive week at St Francis' School, with our reception children staying for lunch and coming together in the mornings for the first time. They were all settled and happy this morning creating marvellous pieces of art work, practising their pencil skills and chatting to their new friends. Well done to them all for a great start!

School Feast Day: Wednesday 4 October

We have been very busy planning lots of exciting events for our children this year to help them celebrate our feast day in style! As part of our celebrations, we are inviting well behaved pets into school, accompanied by a responsible adult. Please see your child's teacher if you would like to bring a pet into school during the day. Please could you also let us know if your child has a known allergy to **any** kind of animal – we don't want to give away any surprises, but we are planning to have a wide variety of animals in school on the day! You are also warmly invited to our school mass, which will take place in the hall at 10am, led by children from all four junior classes.

Parent-pupil Consultation Evenings: Wednesday 18 October and Thursday 19 October

Time slots for consultations are being allocated by the office as we speak so if you have not yet sent us your preferred time and day, you will be given a slot by us. Slips confirming your appointment will be sent home next week so please look out for them in bags and book bags.

Parents of children in Reception will have their own curriculum evening on **Wednesday 11 October at 6.30pm**.

Thank you to all those parents who managed to attend the meetings after school to meet your new class teacher and find out about the learning that will be taking place over the year.

Well Done...

...to Austin, Lauren and Frank (yr6), Emily and Zach (yr5), Grace and Scott (yr4), Gabe and Poppy (yr3), Marley, Zoe and Isabelle (Yr2), and Kenez and Lacey-Bowe (yr1) for working hard and making a great start in their new classes! They were all rewarded in merit assembly this week for their efforts.

Photographer: Tuesday 10 October

The photographer will be taking photographs of individual and family groups of children on Tuesday 10 October. Families wishing to include pre-school siblings in the photos should come to the school hall at 8.30am.

Data Collection Sheets

Thank you to all those who have returned their data collection sheets – please can they be returned to the office **as soon as possible**.

Reception Class September 2018

For children eligible to start school in September 2018, there will be an opportunity to visit St Francis during the school day to see the school in operation. Visits will take place:

Friday 6 October, 2pm

Thursday 2 November, 2pm

Monday 4 December, 2pm

Please contact the school office should you wish to make a visit. Applications for children starting school in the Reception class should be made online to North Somerset Local Authority – the closing date for applications is 23.59 hours 15 January 2018.

Transition for year 6

The process for transfer of pupils to secondary education has begun and all applications from current year 6 pupils need to be completed and returned to North Somerset by **23.59 hours, Tuesday 31 October**

2017. In addition, parents applying to St Bede's must complete the Additional Information Form and return it to St Bede's by 31 October.

St Bede's, our Catholic 'feeder' school, welcomes morning visits throughout the year for both year 5 and 6 pupils by appointment; please contact the college on 0117 3772200. For your information, there is a coach providing transport for children who attend St Bede's that runs from Clevedon, Nailsea and Portishead.

Free School Meals & Census Day

Thursday 5 October is one of three school census days that occur throughout the year. Amongst other data that we are required to supply, the school has to report the number of school meals taken on census day. The census has an impact on the amount of funding received by the school and therefore the more children who have a school meal in KS1 on census day, the more funding the school receives. For parents of children in Years Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 there is no charge for school lunches as your child is entitled to Universal Infant Free School Meals, so please support the school and encourage your child to enjoy a delicious school meal this coming Thursday.

In addition to Universal Infant Free School Meals, extra funding is available to support children's learning experience throughout their school career if they are entitled to Free School Meals at the January census. This applies to children throughout the school in both KS1 and KS2. **Therefore it is beneficial to your child if you apply for Free School Meals even if your child is currently in Reception, Year 1 or Year 2 and receiving Universal Infant Free School Meals.**

North Somerset Council has recently changed the process for applications for Free School Meal entitlement. This must be completed at the beginning of every term online with an instant decision being given. If you think you may be entitled to Free School Meals for your child please follow the link <http://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/my-services/schools-learning/local-schools/schoolmeals/freeschoolmeals/> or come into the school office and we can assist you with your application.

Parking

A reminder that the layby is for use only as a pull-in place for parents who 'drop and go' in the mornings. Many thanks to all parents and carers who use this space responsibly and with others in mind.

Friends' News

We are looking forward seeing *Boss Baby* at our Movies and Munchies on Tuesday, 10 October! Please have replies back to the office before Friday, 6 October.

Look out for communications coming home next week about our Working Bee planned for Saturday, 14 October. We need to prepare the area for the new Junior Play Trail and we will need your help!

Also, with Christmas just around the corner, we are sending home a template to give your children the opportunity to design their own Christmas cards for you to purchase, with all profits coming back to the Friends. We are looking forward to seeing some creative designs!

And Finally....

Our new year 3s took part in their first junior assembly today and did an excellent job of telling us all about St Francis and sharing with us some lovely stories about his life. We leave you with a beautiful and simple prayer from the assembly:

Dear Lord

St Francis never gave up because he was tired or bored. He went on working for You, Your people and Your Church until his work was done.

Teach me to be like Him.

Teach me how to go on working when I feel tired.

Teach me how to go on working when the job isn't very interesting.

Teach me not to grumble when I have a lot to do.

Teach me not to be lazy.

Teach me to be patient.

Teach me to see that all good work is done for You, Your people and Your Church.

Amen