



Newsletter ~ Term 2, Week 1

A big welcome back to a new and busy term to all our children and families. The Friends' were very busy during the holiday with improvements to our playground which have included the installation of the new play equipment for our junior children and some new 'grass' outside the Reception classroom for outdoor play. Staff have also been treated to new car park markings so now there is no excuse for any of us to park crookedly! Thank you to all who have worked so hard to make this happen.

We have had a lovely first week back which included walking to St Francis' Church on Wednesday for the Feast of All Saints with Father Tom. He asked us to look around the church and spot as many saints as we could in the pictures and banners up on the walls – we surprised ourselves with just how many there were. This afternoon Years 3 and 4 went off for their Raise the Roof singing festival where I'm sure they raised the roof. Year 2 dressed up for a very colourful international day and all classes have been completing their projects for Black History Month.

This is a particularly full term and we want to thank you in advance for the support you will be giving your children with all the extras – helping them learn words for a part they may be playing in the Nativity, providing costumes, remembering to send in donations for charitable causes and completing any additional homework tasks. We will endeavour to keep you well informed of all that is going on; please check book bags regularly for letters and information about events and keep an eye on the website.

Kilve Court, Wednesday 8 – Friday 10 November

Children in Year 5 are off to Kilve Court next week for their three day residential trip. Don't forget to pack plenty of warm clothes and wet weather gear.

Year 4 Trip to Caerleon, Wednesday 8 November

Year 4 children will be visiting the Roman fort at Caerleon next Wednesday and as well as their packed lunch it is really important that they bring a coat because they will be outside for some of the day.

Year 1 Local Visit

A letter with details of two local trips out for children in Year 1 will have been sent home this week. Mrs Galey and the children will be visiting the park next Tuesday (7 November) and Nowhere Woods next Thursday (9 November) in the afternoon.

Remembrance Day, Friday 11 November

Poppies are on sale in school to commemorate Remembrance Day and in support of the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal. Children are invited to bring in a small donation for a poppy. This year the following items are also on sale:

Wristbands – 50p Poppy Reflector – 50p
Crosses - £1 Snap Band - £1 Friendship Bracelet - £1

Can children please bring in the correct amount should they wish to purchase one of these.

Punctuality

I know that with the darker mornings and the colder weather, bed is particularly snugly in the morning, but can I please ask that children arrive at school on time. They must arrive in time for the bell at 8.45am and registration. A walk around classrooms at the start of the day shows teachers and children to be starting their learning within 5 minutes of the bell being rung and children arriving late after the bell miss out on important instructions. Some children are regularly late for school and this missed time does mount up. Please try and make sure children are on time for the start of the day and picked up promptly at the end.

Friends' News

The Friends' have applied and been selected to take part in Tesco's Blue Token initiative (Bags of Help). We have applied to continue the work started to improve the playground and want to concentrate next on some new playground markings. Voting takes place in the Nailsea store and Portishead Express store until Monday 1 January. The project with the highest number of votes will receive £4000, second place £2000 and third place £1000. Please spread the word and let's make every token count.

Dates for your diary:

Christmas Party: Saturday 25 November 4pm - 7.30pm

Flu Vaccinations

The school nursing team will administer the flu vaccination to children of Years Reception, 1, 2, 3 and 4 on Monday 20 November. If you haven't yet returned your reply form, please do so by that date. Children who do not return a form will not be vaccinated.

Reception Admissions 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. The next visit will take place **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. Baptismal Certificates as supporting evidence must be presented to the school office before January 15 in order to accompany the application.

Transfer to Secondary School

The process for transfer of pupils to secondary education has begun and all applications need to be completed and returned to North Somerset by 23.59 hours, **Monday 31 October 2016**. In addition parents applying to St Bede's must complete the Additional Information Form and return it to St Bede's by 31 October. As a Catholic primary school our 'feeder' secondary school is St Bede's Catholic College in Bristol. Morning visits are welcomed throughout the year by appointment; please contact the college on 0117 3772200. Transport for children to St Bede's is via a coach that runs from Clevedon, Nailsea and Portishead for children from North Somerset.

E-safety Update

We have been alerted by the police to an app called *Yellow* which is used mainly by secondary age students. However, through links with older children as friends or siblings, your children may come across it. It is a social networking site with a minimum age of 13, but as is the case with all such sites, has the potential to be misused and could pose a safeguarding risk to children of any age.

Advice for parents from *Thinkuknow* can be found on the link below:

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/PageFiles/74772/Thinkuknow%20Parent's%20Guide%20to%20Yellow.pdf?epslanguage=en-GB>

Email Address Change

Please note that with immediate effect the school email has changed to:

office@stfrancispri.org

There will be a period of transition where emails will be automatically directed from the old to the new address but we would encourage you to change all your contact details as soon as possible.