

## Newsletter ~ Term 2, Week 5

### Advent

A wonderful number of Advent wreaths appeared this morning in our classrooms and school hall. This afternoon they will be blessed by Father Reg and will return home with the children this afternoon so that you can enjoy them as part of your Christmas preparations at home. Children have been busy creating Advent place mats which are also going home tonight.

Our juniors are preparing Advent reconciliation services which will be led by Father Reg and to which you are warmly invited. They are taking place at **11.15am on Friday 8 December for years 3 and 5 and 11.45am for years 4 and 6.**

### Christmas Jumper Day

We are getting the impression that there is some confusion over the date of this activity so apologies if we have muddled you up – and to clarify, we are wearing them over school uniform on the day of the Christmas dinner (Friday 15 December) and making a donation to charity.

### Walkers to Church

Children in KS2 will be walking to church to rehearse their Carol Service and we would be grateful of parent helpers for the walk on the mornings of **Monday 11 at 9.30, Tuesday 12 at 9.00, Wednesday 13 at 9.00 and Thursday 14 at 9.45am. Key Stage 1 will be watching the juniors perform their dress rehearsal on the morning of Wednesday 13 December so we will need extra helpers for that day.** If any parent is able to spare some time to help walk children to and from Church, it would be much appreciated – and you do get a sneak preview as well!

### Infant Nativity

A reminder that tickets have been sent home this week so check book bags; they may well be lurking at the bottom.

### Well Done

We said congratulations to Keira, Faye and Austin in year 6 this week, William and Hamish in year 5, Matilda, Sam and Jamie in year 4, Rubie and Maia in year 3 and James and Dotty in year 2. Lots of praise was given by the teachers this week for great attitudes to learning, contributing well in class and learning lines for Christmas plays.

We also need to say a special 'well done' to Gabe in year 3 for winning the TaeKwonDo Open British Championship in London this week. Amazing!

### And another Well Done...

To all the many people who came to the Christmas Party on Saturday, helped out on the stalls, donated prizes, spent their pocket money and gave generously of their time. Together you raised £1796.59 which will go towards enriching the education of the children here at St Francis'.

### Swimming Gala, Thursday 7 December

KS2 children who will be taking part in the swimming gala next week are reminded to bring in their swimming kit, towel and plenty to drink. They will also need a packed lunch as we will be leaving school early that day. If your child is participating and you can help out, please let Miss Ball know.

### Swimming

A reminder that the final session of the term will be this **Friday 1 December.**

## **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.

## **School Uniform**

*School Togs*, the school uniform shop in Nailsea wants us to let you know that St Francis' fleeces are now in stock and are priced at £14.99. They are also stocking a range of school shoes by the very well know brand, Hush Puppies. They have junior and senior sizes in a range of widths and they can measure feet.

## **Christmas Dinner**

The last day for returning Christmas dinner slips is today **Friday 1 December**.

## **Parking**

Once again, I am making a plea that parents are considerate of each other during the busy morning drop-off period. We have had at least two near-misses recently, when other road users have become impatient with our parents queuing on the road waiting to use the 'drop-off' area. The last thing any of us want is an accident involving a child.

Our school transport committee met this morning and the members of the committee are working hard to making things better and safer for parents and children, especially during peak periods. As I said before, we have no jurisdiction over the road outside our school, so we can only request that parents and carers are polite and considerate to each other and help all children arrive safely at school.

Please make sure that everyone involved with collecting and delivering your children are made aware of this message and many thanks to everyone who puts safety first.

## **E-safety**

Holidays are prime times for children to be relaxing and playing online...and if you want to do a little online browsing yourself, we recommend that you take some time out to read the *Digital Parenting* magazine, which is full of advice and tips about keeping children safe when accessing the internet.

It's a very readable and accessible magazine and the latest edition is available by following the link below:

<http://vodafonedigitalparenting.co.uk/>

## **And Finally...**

We are very pleased to be able to tell you that we have appointed Mr James Burgess as our new year 3 teacher from January. He has been in school this week getting to know the children and he will be popping in and out over the course of the next couple of weeks. He is very excited to be joining us and is looking forward to getting to know the parents as well as the year three children.