

Newsletter ~ Term 2, Week 7



It is hard to put into words how many mountains we have climbed as individuals and as a school community this year. I think most 'old hands' in the teaching profession would agree that the pandemic has been a period of unprecedented challenge in schools. Staff in our school have worked well above and beyond to keep the school and its bubbles open and the education and well-being of the children at the front of all they do. I thank them all and pray they have opportunities for rest and recuperation this Christmas.

There is hope for next year, but while we await vaccine rollout, our risk assessment will remain largely unaltered in the New Year. We will adjust it ready for next term in accordance with the latest guidance and it will be available on the website as usual.

We thank Sophie and Theo for sending us a picture of their Advent wreath – a reminder that hope, love, peace and joy are the themes of this season and that there is the light of Christ in the darkness.

We also thank Sophie, Aleena and Ben for sharing their home Nativity Scenes with us.



Charitable Giving

Thank you for your generous donations to our charitable work this Christmas. The lady collecting from the foodbank had to go home and empty her car before she could fit all your gifts in! She couldn't believe that such a small school had managed to collect such a pile of goodies. Please scroll down for their thank you letter.

Christmas Nativity Film

Not quite as normal this year, but we have had some very kind feedback from parents and parishioners regarding our Christmas offering. Many thanks to Miss Parry, all the staff and their pupils who went 'above and beyond' to put this together. We are also very grateful to one of our ex-governors, Paul, who edited the film free of charge and our parish for hosting the film. The video

that you received by class dojo will be available until 21 December. We hope it sheds a little festive joy.

E-Safety

A reminder that you need to continue to be vigilant about your children's access to online platforms while they are at home. It's easy to get distracted over the Christmas period, but it's still vitally important to know what your child is accessing and who they are talking to online.

An article which might be of use if your children have access to TikTok:

<https://swgfl.org.uk/magazine/tiktok-update-parental-controls-with-family-pairing-feature/>

Covid-19 Update

Just a reminder that you need to email the school office if your child shows signs of Covid-19 or has been tested positive up **until 10am on Christmas Eve.**

Traffic on Station Road - a message from a fellow parent:

...this morning's driving on station road by the school was particularly bad. So much so, I felt compelled to email in. You had parent's pulling into the layby on station road cutting past pedestrians – on my way back to the car this happened again; a car pulled into the layby closest to the school whilst people were walking on the path. But the car was blocked in the layby and then decided to reverse this time onto the path with two St Francis kids walking past at the time...it was all pretty hair raising stuff. Just as a parent, I feel quite shaken by it. Even parents with big bikes to transport kids in are just pulling onto the paths regardless of the pedestrians. So I am sorry to bother you but maybe a kind but firm reminder in the newsletter would be good – I think parents are getting confused with what's more important here. Obviously we all want to get our kids in on time but not at the cost of injuring someone.

Bad Weather

If we need to close or partially close the school because of snow or bad weather, we use the following methods to keep our parents informed as soon as possible in the morning:

- email message via ParentPay
- updated status on our website
- updated welcome message on the school telephone 01275 855373.

Parents can also check the North Somerset Council website www.n-somerset.gov.uk/disruption and listen to local radio stations.

On a related note, I understand there is some really good work going on to raise funds for a proper crossing on Station Road and our thanks go to all who are involved in this. In the meantime, please take heed of the above and **put the safety of the children first.**

A Message from our Parish...

CAFOD CAROL SERVICE: Monday 21st December at 4pm
As we are sadly not able to meet in person to sing all together and share our Carol Services this year, we are meeting on Zoom to share an all age (child-friendly time and content) story of Jesus' coming as man with bible readings, Carol-singing and artwork over the internet. In the service we will focus on one aspect of CAFOD's recent efforts and you can donate on their website if you wish. If you would like to be present for this service online, please drop an email to Deacon Didier (St Joseph's Parish, Portishead) on didier.delaplace@cliftondiocese.com (855373)

A Christmas Poem

Please keep scrolling down for a delightful Christmas poem written by one of our pupils when she was seven years old.

It is due to be published in an anthology of children's poems in the New Year so we thank Amy and family for giving us a sneak preview...

And Finally

One of our governors is a talented artist who (in more usual times) volunteers for Tyntesfield and regularly contributes a sheep-themed cartoon to the in-house magazine. She has kindly shared this month's offering with us and I would like to leave it with you as a final farewell to 2020 from St Francis' School, with our united Christmas blessings to you all and in faith that all will be well.

*The staff of St Francis' School wish all our children, parents and friends a very
Happy, Peaceful and Holy
Christmas*



Foundation Governor Vacancy

Ambitious, experienced in Finance, Catholic and available for nine meetings per year? We are looking for a new School Governor to join our Board! If you would like to know more about becoming a school governor, please click [HERE](#) for details and to get in touch with the Chair of Governors.

Statement from the Governors

On behalf of the governors, may I wish you and your families a peaceful and blessed Christmas despite the restrictions caused by Covid 19? Personally, I have greatly missed the end of Christmas term nativity services and carol concerts. Let's hope we can return to these next year.

Turning to business, it has been an extraordinary year for us in more ways than one. As a school, we have been working hard to rectify the issues raised from our Ofsted inspection. It has been a challenge to do this as well as deal with the difficulties that Covid 19 has brought us. We are making steady progress which will continue and we thank the staff for their hard work and commitment. We have been pleased with feedback from experts who have been in school this term to review the progress made.

As you may have seen, we are seeking a new foundation governor (Catholic) following the end of Seamus Ryan's term of office. We thank Seamus for all his hard work. A parent governor role will be up for election in February and we will give more details about this in term 3. Please contact me if you want more information. Thank you again for your continuing support for our school.

Ann Tarr
Chair of Governors

Jingle the Bells with Joy

**Jingle the bells with joy,
Jingle the bells with hope,
Jingle the bells with kindness and happiness.**

**I just want to say,
I want to say,
Jingle the bells with joy,
Jingle the bells with hope,
Jingle the bells with kindness and happiness.**

**When you are sad come to the Christmas bells,
And they'll cheer you up,
Jingle, jingle, jingle, jingle and
Jingle the bells with joy,
Jingle the bells with hope,
Jingle the bells with kindness and happiness.**

Amy Rockett – (when age 7)



Nailsea Foodbank
Southfield Church
85 Southfield Road
North Somerset
BS48 1SB

T 07927472649

7 December 2020

Dear Staff and Pupils of St Francis School

We are truly amazed at the donations that were picked up from your school. To be thinking of others at this time demonstrates a wonderful loving, caring Christian attitude towards those who are less fortunate.

We have had a huge increase in the number of people needing our help throughout the year.

Each Christmas we provide hampers for those in need, which contain food, extra goodies and presents. Last year we gave out 200 this year the number is double that and climbing.

Some of those who need our help are desperate and just don't know how they are going to manage and this need is worse at Christmas when children are expecting presents.

Your thoughtfulness is so encouraging and appreciated thank you so much.

Richard Worthington

Nailsea Branch Foodbank Manager



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