

Newsletter ~ Term 3, Week 1

Welcome back and a very happy new year to you all. On behalf of the staff, can I say a big thank you for all the gifts, cards and warm wishes you gave at the end of last term – they were much appreciated. Staff have enjoyed a lovely Christmas break and we hope you have too.

I can't send out this newsletter without some mention of the tragedy that has struck our community this week with news of the terrible violence which has irrevocably altered the lives of so many people, including two small children. Our thoughts and prayers are with them above all.

Learning

We have not wasted any time this term getting our children involved in some very exciting learning. The RNLI visited reception and year 1 on Tuesday and taught them all about keeping safe near water. Year 6 took part in an athletics competition on Wednesday and, according to Mr Groves, took part with great enthusiasm and gave it their all. Year 5 have been busy making planets to kick start their topic and year 3 and 4 had their first dance lesson with our new sports coaches. A mysterious figure with long curly hair and a smart suit has appeared in year 2...think he might be busy writing in his diary...

There are more activities and trips coming up for children in the next few weeks so please make sure you check bags for letters, including year 3's trip to The Tithe Barn and two further sporting events involving some children from years 1-4. We are also readying ourselves for the February Parents' evenings and letters with details of these evenings will be coming home shortly.

Year 6 Assembly Friday 12 January at 10am

Year 6 children gave us a lovely assembly this morning and reminded us that in the Church Year, we are still in the joyful season of Christmas.

Bad Weather

I thought it would be useful to remind parents of the procedures we follow if there is bad weather and decisions have to be made as to whether the school will be open, partially closed or closed. In the case of poor weather conditions, parents will be notified through the following:

- the welcome message on the school telephone 01275 855373
- the school website
- email to those parents who have verified their email address on ParentPay
- Sims text message to those parents who have signed up to text messaging in ParentPay
- the North Somerset Council website www.n-somerset.gov.uk/disruption
- local radio.

Well Done...

...This week to Paige, Ronan, William, TJ, Jacob, Jamie, Rubie, Aleena, Arabella, Will, Joe, Leanne, Fraser, Jemima and Frank. You have all made a fantastic start to the New Year!

Diocesan Monitoring Visit

We welcome a special visitor from the diocese on Tuesday next week, who is coming to see how we are doing since our last Diocesan Inspection. She will be looking at some of our RE work, talking to some of our children and grown-ups and watching some lessons being taught. The children might come home talking about her visit and also about our launch of the Bishop's Year of Mission...watch this space for further news...

Safeguarding

If you have been into our school recently, you may have noticed that we have made some changes to the 'check-in' procedure at reception. Thank you for your patience as we iron out some inevitable teething problems. We have also been reviewing our use of volunteers in school to ensure that all the necessary safeguarding checks are in place. We warmly encourage parents and friends to volunteer – there are always jobs to be done! Please make contact with your child's class teacher in the first instance and we will take you through our new volunteer procedure.

Years 3 and 6 Swimming Lessons

Please may we remind parents to log onto ParentPay to make the voluntary contribution of £4 if you have not already done so. Payments were requested by **Monday 08 January** so immediate payment would now be

appreciated. If you are having any difficulties making this payment, please contact Mrs Lumsden in the school office. Many thanks to those who have already paid.

Message from St Francis' Church

Cafe Francis at St Francis Church Hall is reopening after the Christmas break next Tuesday Jan 16th. It runs from 2 - 3.30pm. Please come along for refreshments and a chat.

CLIC Wristbands and World Cancer Day 4 Feb

We are supporting this charity fundraising drive after being contacted by an ex-parent who has asked us to become involved. She says:

When cancer strikes young lives CLIC Sargent helps families limit the damage cancer causes beyond their health. Cancer doesn't discriminate. Today, 11 more children and young people will hear the devastating news that they have cancer. From diagnosis, CLIC Sargent's specialist care teams will step in, ready to help, support and guide. They will provide a specialist package of support tailored to each young cancer patient and family. CLIC Sargent fights tirelessly for children and young people with cancer, often when they feel they can't. We do this individually, locally and nationally, so that they can focus on the important things, like getting well. And if the worst happens, we will work with bereaved families to get them support, to help them cope with their emotional pain.

CLIC Sargent is supporting World Cancer Day on February 4th 2018.

It's a very simple campaign where we encourage people to donate £2 to get their own CLIC Sargent wristband, raising vital funds and awareness in the process. This year's theme is all about 'banding together', focusing on those moments of support, no matter how small, that made a big difference for the young people we work with. We are encouraging members of the public to 'band together' behind them and CLIC Sargent. Our 'Band Against Cancer' wristband's are available in three different CLIC Sargent colours - pink, teal and grey.

If children would like to buy a wristband, they will be available all through next week and will be sold by the year 6 pupils at break time.

Many thanks for all the support you show to the charities and good causes we support.

And Finally...

It can be a disheartening time of year with the decorations packed away and the short and cold days upon us. I came across these words this week as I was reading about the Bishop's Year of Mission and they helped me focus on the future and work to be done; I think 'making music in the heart' is something I would like to aspire to this year. I wanted to share the words with you:

*When the song of the angels is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and the princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with their flocks,
The work of Christmas begins:
To find the lost,
To heal the broken,
To feed the hungry,
To release the prisoner,
To rebuild the nations,
To bring peace among people,
To make music in the heart.*

Howard Thurman