

Newsletter ~ Term 5 Week 4



School – Led Mass Sunday 29 April

Thank you to all the parents, staff and children who came to our first ever school-led mass on Sunday. We received many compliments from parishioners about how clearly the children read and how sensibly they did all the jobs allocated to them.

We are aiming to lead another mass at church in September, so watch this space...

We are walking to mass on Thursday morning next week to celebrate the Feast of the Ascension and will need adult helpers to walk with us. Please let your class teacher know if you are available to accompany us.

Staffing News

We are very pleased to be able to tell you that we have made three new appointments to our teaching staff. Miss Bougourd (who is of course already known to us) and Miss Lamb will continue their work with us next year and Mrs Louise Willatts, a teacher new to us, will also be joining us in September. She is an experienced teacher currently working in Bristol and she is very excited to be the latest new member of our staff!

Mrs Mandy Thornton, one of our lunchtime staff, is leaving us next week and we will be saying a fond farewell to her on Tuesday. We will all miss her kindness and cheerfulness and we wish her well in her new job.

An advert for a replacement lunchtime supervisor will be on our website shortly, but in the meantime, we welcome any interest in the job from parents and friends of the school.

SATs News

It is 'that time of year again' for our staff and children in year 2 and 6. As parents, any test period is naturally a worrying stage for you in a child's educational journey and we do our best at school to help you and the children through their tests and tasks with as little stress and fuss as possible.

Our advice is to make sure the children get enough sleep, have plenty of breakfast during the test period and to do your best not to convey any of your own anxieties to the children. We will be out the other side before we know it!

The government has published a document which you might find of use and the link is below.

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/694765/Information_for_parents_-_2018_national_curriculum_tests_at_the_end_of_key_stages_1_and_2.pdf

Well Done...

...to all our learning stars this week who have been commended for working hard, doing their best and making good improvement. Our first ever award recommended by a family went to the whole of year 6 for their care and concern for a friend who needed lots of 'TLC' last week. So we say 'well done' to Alice, Leo, Ella, Zak, Lois, Jess, Daniel, Izzy, Joe, Sylvie and Arabella.

Road Safety

Our transport committee are still working hard to improve road safety outside our school and need your help to let us know of any incidents or near misses that happen at the beginning and end of our

school day outside the school gates. Please let the office know by email of any incidents you feel we should record. We hope that this information can be added to a portfolio of evidence to present to North Somerset and our town council.

Future of the School – Open meeting for all 9th May 2018 7pm at the school

Following the resignation of Ms Hostein, the governors have appointed Mrs Hunt as acting head until August 2019 and Mr Groves as acting deputy head for the same period. This is a time of change for the school and is happening when the wider landscape for schools is also changing, driven by budget constraints but also other considerations.

Currently, the Diocese is considering whether schools such as St Francis' would be best served in the future by becoming an academy, forming a multi-academy trust or federating with other Catholic schools. At the meeting, the Director of Education for the Diocese, Mrs Colleen Collett, will be present to explain some of the options the school has and the implications. The final decision for any change in structure will rest with the governors, but there will be regular opportunities for consultation with all stake-holders. Questions are welcome on this and other more general school matters (such as how children are assessed, their progress monitored, how parents and carers can help their child thrive at school, etc). These can be given in advance to the school office and, if time allows, on the night. Alternatively, please email your question to Ann Tarr who is chair of governors - cog@stfrancispri.org.

Please Note: The Friends' meeting scheduled for the evening of 9 May has been postponed and the new date is available on the Friends' diary of dates.

Upcoming Events

Monday 7 May: School closed (bank holiday)

Tuesday 8 May: School nurses in for year R and 6
Friends' Movies and Munchies event

Wednesday 9 May: School nurses in for year R and 6
Governors' open meeting

Thursday 10 May: Ascension Day mass at church 9am

Friday 11 May: School nurses in for year R and 6

And Finally

Our year one children had a very special visitor earlier this week. Here are their thoughts on meeting Mr Isambard Kingdom Brunel himself...

*"He was amazing because he showed us how to make a tunnel, a train track and a bridge! The tunnel was my favourite because he had to crawl through the hoops."
– Kenez*

*"We all helped him dig so he could build his tunnel. Then there was a flood and we all ran away! It was very exciting. I really liked him because he let me be a horsey."
– Valentina*

*"We all made a carriage to help collect parts for the suspension bridge. Me and Valentina were horses and we had to pull the carriage. We had to be really strong! I like Brunel because he builds things - just like my Dad - and I help."
– Pippa*

Children's BIG Pre loved & Recycling Event



**Grove Junior school, Whiteoak Way
Nailsea on Sat 9th June '18
11.15 – 1.45 pm**

To book a preloved pitch for £12. Email kate3.cheekimonkeys@gmail.com Text 07836277976
<https://www.facebook.com/CheekiMonkeysBS9andBS48/>
Admission on the day £1 adults Children FREE/ printed on recycled paper