

St Francis' Catholic Primary School



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Acting Headteacher:
Mrs Catherine Hunt

Ensuring for all an excellent child-centred education within a Christ-centred philosophy

23 November 2018

Dear Parents / Carers

During the next few weeks, we will be celebrating two of the Church's seasons – Advent and Christmas. Advent is a four week period of preparation for Christmas and marks the beginning of the Church's year. It is a joyful season full of waiting and expectancy as we prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus. Advent begins on Sunday 2nd December and between now and the end of term we will be helping the children to deepen their understanding of the importance of Jesus' birth. The "Year of Prayer", a follow up to the "Year of Mission", begins on the first Sunday of Advent so "Prayer" will be the main theme of the events that are taking place.

Advent Wreaths

We are encouraging the children to make an Advent wreath at home and to bring it into school on Friday 30 November where it will be blessed in an Assembly led by Fr Reg. Please come and join us for this lovely celebration at 9am in the school hall. Wreaths are traditionally circular and decorated with evergreen leaves representing God's everlasting love. There are 3 purple candles and 1 pink candle for the four Sundays of Advent and 1 white candle for Christmas day. The candles remind us that Jesus is the light of the world. The wreaths will be taken home at the end of the day so they can be used during your family prayer times.

Playground Prayers

On Monday 3, Monday 10 and Monday 17 December, we will start the week by gathering the whole school on the Key Stage One playground for morning prayers. Parents are welcome to join us for a quiet five minutes of reflection to start the week.

Advent Calendar/Advent Tasks

Each class has been thinking of some simple acts of kindness that we can do as part of our Christmas preparations. During Advent, these tasks will be displayed on the fence near the school gate. Please try and set aside some time each day/week to help your child(ren) to complete the activities.

Crib / Prayer tree

The Crib figures will be on display in the entrance Hall throughout December. A "Prayer Tree" will be displayed next to the crib. During December we are asking the children to write prayers to hang on the tree. Parents are also welcome to pop into school to add their prayers to the display. The prayers will be taken up in the offertory procession during our Christmas Mass on the last day of term.

Email: office@stfrancispri.org
Website: www.st-francis.n-somerset.sch.uk

Book donations

We have been approached by James Hanson from Radio Bristol who has a friend who has recently returned from a trip to Tanzania and is trying to start a scheme for getting old books to a local school there. If you have any unwanted good quality children's story books or exercise books please bring them to school during December and place them under the Christmas tree in the entrance Hall. The books will be taken to Tanzania and shared with the children in the school.

Advent Prayer Bags

Each child in Reception Class and Year 3 will take home the popular Advent prayer bag for one evening during Advent. The bag contains a scripture reading, a prayer and some items to make a small prayer display. There are some guidelines in the bag giving suggestions of how to use the resources. I hope parents and other family members will find this resource an enjoyable way of praying with your child. Please ensure that prayer bags are returned to school the next day so that they can be given to another child.

Christmas Jumpers

The children are invited to wear Christmas jumpers instead of their normal school jumper/cardigan on Wednesday 19 December (Christmas dinner day) and make a small donation to charity. Please keep an eye on the weekly newsletter for further details.

Christmas Mass

We will end our term with Mass in the school hall on Friday 21 December at 10am. Please come and join us for this joyful occasion as we all prepare for the wonderful celebration of Christmas. Refreshments will be served after Mass.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Miss A Parry (RE Lead)



The circle of evergreen leaves represent God's everlasting love.

The candles represent Jesus, the light of the World. There are 3 purple candles and 1 pink candle for the 4 Sundays of Advent and 1 white candle for Christmas day.