



St Francis of Assisi Catholic Primary School



Newsletter—No. 1

Friday 4th September 2020

At St Francis of Assisi we believe God is at the heart of our school. As a school community, we work together to provide a caring, stimulating nurturing environment, where every child can discover their true potential and grow closer to Christ. As pupils and staff we encourage in each other a love of learning. This is a place where we can all belong and where diversity and difference is celebrated. We rejoice in each other's uniqueness and respect the dignity and beauty of each individual. Using our gifts and talents we will actively seek to make a real difference - by caring for one another and caring for our world.

Welcome back!

A very warm welcome back to all at St. Francis. I hope you've managed to have a wonderful summer break. It never ceases to amaze me how different the School is when the children return. Without them the school is empty: a place of echoey corridors and subdued lighting! With the children back though, all is bright, airy, vital and full of purpose and the beginning of this term is no exception. There is a hugely positive atmosphere around the school and so many of the children seem to be delighted to be back!

We are, as I always say, very fortunate in the staff we have at the School. I should like to welcome Mrs Yates (Year 2 St. Clare Class) Miss Gold (Year Reception St. Mary Class) and Mrs Bailey (support staff) and wish them all the very best. I am also delighted to welcome 4 new children to our school: Eli Waring –St Therese of Lisieux Class, Jethro Pratt –St Clare of Assisi Class, Sharelle Jaffa –St Anthony Class and Tristan Wright—St John Paul Class.

School Uniform

It has been wonderful to observe the children in their new uniform! Please may I remind children that no jewellery is allowed in school and that earrings should be plain studs. Friendship bracelets, bangles and similar accessories are not allowed. Hair should be tied back neatly with discreet blue bands.

Nut-free School

We are a "nut free" school because we have children in the School who are allergic to nuts, which can be a life threatening condition. Please can you help protect these children by being vigilant when bringing any foods into school.

Start and Finish Times

Over the past few days, I have noticed that the gap between intervals at the start and end of the day (drop-off and collection) i.e. 8.30am, 8.45am and 9.00am, are too long and lots of families/children are waiting outside the school gates for long periods. From next week, I am going to slightly adjust the timings, as follows. Please note the new start and finish times.

Times	Year groups	Drop off/Pick up point
8.40 am 3.10 pm	Reception (from 21st September), Year 1 and Year 2	Reception via Pre-school. Year 1 side entrance on Southgate Avenue. Year 2 front entrance.
8.50am 3.20 pm	Year 4 and Year 5	Year 4 side entrance on Southgate Avenue. Year 5 front entrance.
9.00 am 3.30 pm	Year 3 and Year 6	Year 3 front entrance. Year 6 side entrance on Southgate Avenue.

It is with great sadness that I have to share with you the news that we have lost a valued member of our school community Wendy Sykes. She passed away after a courageous battle with cancer.

Wendy was the Friary Pre-School Manager where she worked for over 23 years. Many of the children who come to St Francis start their education at the Pre-School.

There were many changes during her time at the Pre-School, but her devotion and care of the children was one of her greatest strengths. She will be sadly missed by so many people and we ask that you remember her family in your prayers.

Curriculum Meetings

Please see below dates for Curriculum Meetings. They will take place in the hall with socially distanced seating. Only one adult per family may attend. Please may request that you wear face covering.

Monday 14th - Yr2 St Bernadette 2:40pm

Tuesday 15th - Yr1 St Francis 2:30pm, Yr3 St Therese 3:00pm

Wednesday 16th - Yr1 St Anthony 2:30pm, Yr3 St Vincent 3:00pm

Friday 18th - Yr4 St John Paul 2:50pm

Mon 21st - Yr5 St Philip Howard 2:50pm

Tues 22nd - Yr5 St Newman 2:50pm

Wed 23rd - Yr2 St Clare 2:40pm

Thurs 24th - Yr4 St Maximilian Kolbe 2:50pm

Fri 25th - Both Y6 classes at 2:30pm for curriculum meeting and presentation from Mike Ferry (Headteacher at St Wilfrid's Catholic School)

Whole School Mass streamed from Arundel Cathedral – Monday 7th September 10.00am

Bishop Richard will be celebrating Mass for all schools in the diocese on Monday at 10.00am, live-streamed from Arundel Cathedral. All children here at school will attend (in their classroom). I should like to invite all parents/carers/grandparents to share this online Mass celebrating the start of our new school year next Monday (7th September) at 10.00 am.

The link is as follows:

www.arundelcathedral.co

Are you Eligible for Pupil Premium Funding?

The Coronavirus pandemic has caused significant disruption to peoples working careers and if you have been affected by job-loss, the Government is giving money to schools to help children from lower income families do their very best. This funding is called '**Pupil Premium**'. For every child registered, St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Primary School gets £1,320.

With this money your child will receive free school meals, and have access to a range of support which may include discounted extra-curricular activities, support with school uniform, music lessons, school trips, special intervention support, laptops etc. If you think you are eligible please contact the school office for an application form or Mr Hallett for a discreet and confidential discussion.

Please see attached to this newsletter a document which summarises the criteria for eligibility.