



St Francis of Assisi Catholic Primary School

Newsletter—No. 21

Friday 9th February 2018



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.

Mass for Mary Scott led by Bishop Richard Moth

I should like to thank Bishop Richard, Fr. Simon and Fr. Chris for leading this morning's wonderful celebration Mass for Mary Scott and of course to all the governors and visitors from far and wide.

The term 'critical friend' is often coined to describe the difficult role of school governor and, in particular, the chair of governors. Mary has served all the schools of our parish for well over 20 years, principally as chair, and we are indebted to her for her unstinting and generous support for so many pupils and staff. The real breadth of Mary's involvement began when she was a member of staff at Our Lady Queen of Heaven and was asked to become, not only a staff governor, but also the clerk to the board. In 1997, Mary was appointed to the board of St Wilfrid's where her time as chair was extended to ensure that her experience and skills could support the planning of the new building. Fortunately for us, Mary was then appointed to St Francis in 2009, serving as board member and (you've guessed it !) chair until Christmas 2017.

Mary's experience across the full 4-18 school age range of the parish, together with her skills in finance and budgeting have made her a much-valued colleague.

The potted history, however, paints only part of the picture. There are two sides to the coin we referred to as 'critical friend'. The first is to possess a clear, ambitious understanding of what is required to help build a school fit for the children. Quite simply, Mary was always Ofsted ready and expected great things from those bearing the privilege of nurturing young people. The coin's obverse face, however, enables the 'standards' side to flourish. Mary has always been respected for the care and faith she brought to her role. Quite simply, Mary loves people. The chair of governors must be known and approachable to all connected with the school and this requires enormous amounts of time, patience and a genuine belief in the broader mission of our Church.

Our parish has indeed been blessed to have a willing servant such as Mary available for so many years and it is fitting that we have come together to say 'thank you' and to wish her a happy retirement.

I should like to wish you all a happy half-term holiday! If you're dry January is still intact, I raise a glass...

Thank you to St Maximilian Class,
Mr Lambert and all and all the parents who
joined us for their class assembly.



Congratulations to
St Therese of Lisieux
Class for
achieving 99%

Punctuality

We would like to remind you about the importance of
your children arriving promptly at school.

Your child should be in class for 8.55am as we begin
promptly at 9.00am.

Diary Dates

February

Fri 9—Last day of term

Mon 12—Fri 16 - Half Term

Mon 19—Return to school

Tues 20—Termly Learning Conference for
St Pio Class

Tues 20—Lent Liturgy at 9.05am led by St
Philip Howard—Parents Welcome

Wed 21—Termly Learning Conference for
St Philip Howard Class

Thur 22—Termly Learning Conference for
St Anthony Class

Fri 23—Termly Learning Conference for
St Francis Class

Note from Fr Simon

Tomorrow in the Friary we have a special Mass [check newsletter for time] to celebrate marriage anniversaries. So if you are celebrating an anniversary there is no better way to mark that anniversary of your nuptials than to come back before God's Altar to the place where you promised, with God's help, to live out this partnership of your whole life, which was entered into for the good of the spouses and by its nature ordered to the pro-creation of children.

In Holy Matrimony the man and the woman have become a sign of God's love for the world. They are an image of Christ the bridegroom who so loves his bride the Church that he gives himself up for her so that she might be holy and blameless before him. Next week is half term, in which falls Ash Wednesday, the start of the fast of the Sacred Lenten Season. Not only is it good thing to start thinking about what you might give up or do extra for Lent, but also to plan, especially if you are going away, how you might receive the ashes and be a great witness to the world that we should repent - for the Kingdom of God is at hand!

Termly Learning Conference

Please remember to book your TLC appointment on- line through Parentmail. If you have missed your allocated day or was unable to find a convenient time slot, Monday 5th March has been set aside for missed appointments. You will be able to book appointments for this day online from Monday 19th February.

Online Safety Update

On Tuesday 6th February it was Safer Internet Day. The focus for this year is 'Create, Connect and Share Respect: A better internet starts with you'. During assemblies and in lessons the children have been taught what is 'good online behaviour' and what they should do if they do or see something online that they shouldn't. The children have also been asked to sign an acceptable use agreement which explains how they should behave when using the computers at school.

Please can you remember to reinforce the online safety message at home. Have you agreed a set of ground rules yet? For more tips and advice, search for 'childnet family agreement'. You can also go to <https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/safer-internet-day/2018/sid2018-education-packs/education-pack-parents-and-carers> where there are lots of good ideas for discussing online safety at home with your children.

Finally, recently in the news there has been a coverage of a series of safeguarding incidents relating to certain apps and online games. Children have been lured into sharing indecent images of themselves to accounts which were specifically created to collect and then share these images.

What can you do?

1. Speak to our children about being aware of being tricked into sharing images of themselves, and the dangers of talking to strangers online.
2. Speak to your children about how, once you share an image or anything online, you lose control of it and where it goes.
3. Remind your children that they will never be in trouble for talking to a trusted adult about anything that makes them uncomfortable or they are unsure of.
4. Keep digital devices, particularly those with cameras, in communal areas.

If you need any further information then look at

<https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/blog/roblox-guide-parents>.

Note from Miss Date—Book Week 26th February – 2nd March

During the week, children will be studying different authors and using picture books to inspire their writing. The Scholastic Book Fair will be held in the small hall after school Monday – Thursday. A percentage of the proceeds is donated to the school to spend on books. Last year we earned over £500 to help restock our classroom bookshelves. On Friday 2nd March children are invited to dress up as a book character from their favourite author. There will be a homework competition to research and share information on their favourite author. A prize per year group will be given to the most creative work.



Lost Property

There is an ever increasing mountain of lost property gathering in the school.

Please check to see if any belongs to your child.

It is very important that all items are clearly labelled with your child's name.

Any unclaimed items of lost property will be put out on the Friday after half term (23rd Feb) for people to help themselves.

