



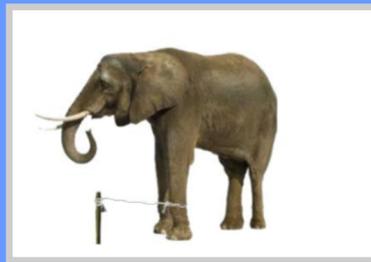
# St Francis of Assisi Catholic Primary School

Newsletter—No. 27

Friday 26 April 2019



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! I hope you all had a wonderful and restful Easter holiday. One of the takeaways from my Easter break was the above image. The elephant is perfectly capable of removing the stake, but does not because of the lessons it learned when it was younger. Then it was not strong enough to break the tether, and that acceptance of failure has stayed with it. The simple message is 'Don't give up' but there is a deeper lesson about the limitations we impose upon ourselves. A teacher once exhorted a group of children to replace the question: 'Am I intelligent?' with 'How am I intelligent?' describing the different, positive ways we can all answer this question.

It's vital that a school does not restrict a child's sense of potential; our curriculum focus has been part of the commitment we have to what is often called 'roundedness.' We don't see this as a dilution of aspiration, or a substitute for aiming high, but an understanding that heights are most successfully reached from a broad base. One of the many delights bestowed by England's rugby team last term has been the revelation that part of their success was down to a session of beer and darts! Alas, I can't put that in our provision in exactly the same way, but the principle of attaching value to variety and enjoying time together holds strong; what appears to be at odds with an end goal can, in fact, be inherently supportive of it.

I am very pleased to confirm that Ofsted are currently reviewing their priorities (the framework for school inspection) leaning towards a focus on staff/pupil well-being and mental health, and a focus on the school's broader curriculum offering: roundedness. The aim of the latter to lessen reliance on exam results (SATS!) as a measure of school quality. I have attached to this newsletter a summary of the school's development priorities for 2019 which take into account the new OFSTED lens. \*

Accordingly, the school will be tuning its aspirations in 2019 concerted towards 'Wellbeing' and 'Active Life-styles'. Over the next few weeks, we are introducing 'meditation' to the curriculum (a couple of minutes a day) as a whole school focus. By means of an introduction to this topic, a representative from the diocese will spend time with children in each class introducing meditation and its benefits. Meditation is believed to 'train the mind to focus and concentrate. It brings the mind to a point of relaxed, alert attention to the present moment. It is in this state of mental presence that learning is at its most effective and most effortless'.

\* *The Ofsted Framework is currently in consultation with an anticipated implementation this September 2019*

### Note from Mrs Williams – Flight Simulator

In the last week of term, three pupils from Year 5 attended an afternoon visiting a flight simulator and interviewing pilot Kate McWilliams (who became the world's youngest female commercial airline pilot at the age of 26) for BBC's Newsround. Throughout the afternoon, the girls asked some marvellous questions but we will let you hear those for yourselves when the episode goes live – we will let you know when the episode is ready for take-off.



After being introduced to the pilot and film crew, the girls set off on their journey to find out more about becoming a pilot by firing away questions at Captain Kate! Next, they swiftly took to the skies as co-pilots in a flight simulator. The girls reached new heights when they helped to navigate a safe flight; learning how to take off, make smooth turns and landing us all safely back at Gatwick Airport.

The girls represented St. Francis superbly with their enthusiasm, courage and fantastic interviewing skills, and have reported that they enjoyed it very much even after several hours of filming – but they do say time flies when you're having fun!



### Easter Egg Hunt

On the last day of term, the PFA arranged for the children to go on an Easter Egg Hunt. The winners were: Amelie Hazell—St Mary Class, Adrian Biju—St Anthony Class, Landon Rocha—St Maximilian Kolbe Class and Alex Mann— St Peter Class

### CLUBS

All clubs will start next week beginning Monday 29th April.

Please note Popsteps will start back on Monday 13th May.



Congratulations to St Therese of Lisieux for achieving 99% attendance

### Sports Day—Tuesday 11th June

Please note if we have to cancel Sports Day due to the bad weather, there will be a reserve day on Wednesday 12th June.

### Sports News—Storm Basketball

Pupils from Years 3 –6, represented Southgate in Battle of the Borough with Storm Basketball over the last term. The team reached the finals in 2nd place and then came 4th out of 7 boroughs represented in the playoffs. They all played brilliantly!



### Advance Notice—May Procession –

**Tuesday 7th May**

Please can children bring in their own set of rosary beads instead of their usual flowers in order to take part fully in the prayers for the May Procession.



Could I remind parents that for the safety and well being of our pupils with severe allergies, parents are asked to **ensure that snacks and packed lunches are free from food items that may contain nuts.**

Thank you.



## The Friary Preschool

### Open Day

If you would like a place for your child in September 2019, please come along to our open day on:

Friday 24<sup>th</sup> May

at

9:30am – 11:30am

Or

12:30 – 2pm

If you would like more information please call

Phone 01295 403873

### Diary Dates

#### April

**Tues 30**—St Pio Class assembly at 9.05am—*Parents Welcome*

#### May

**Mon 6**—May Day—school closed

**Tues 7**—May Procession led by the RE Council at 9.30am—*Parents Welcome*



St. Mary: Amelie Hazell  
St. Joseph: Shaynna Enriquez  
St. Francis: Olivia Raja  
St. Anthony: Sebastian Kaput  
St. Bernadette: Freddie Arstall  
St. Clare of Assisi: Blanka Pacucha  
St. Therese of Lisieux: Annabelle Cast  
St. Vincent de Paul: Emily Tomiak  
St. John Paul: Adrian Kuich  
St Maximilian Kolbe: Kieron Charman  
St. Pio: Dawid Zmuda  
St. Philip Howard: Gabi Malkowska-Dias  
St. Peter: Tommie Hampton  
St. Paul: Seloson Simiyon Raj



St.Mary: Viaan Reddy Kundoor  
St. Joseph: Dominik Kierkalo  
St Francis: Jacob Joseph  
St. Anthony: Archie Redmond  
St. Bernadette: Narun Senthil  
St. Clare of Assisi: Victoria Sztobryn  
St. Therese of Lisieux: Elena Toma  
St. Vincent de Paul: Daniel Macdonald  
St. John Paul: Jakob Harrison  
St. Maximilian Kolbe: Beau Battenberg  
St. Pio: Emilia Marzec  
St. Philip Howard: Neo Soronna  
St. Peter: Leo Bhalodia  
St. Paul: Kailas Gobinathan