



Week beginning: 10th September

St John & St Francis Newsletter

Message from Mr Gordon

This week, we have been thinking about perseverance; keeping going and having a try when things get difficult. It has been lovely to see the children demonstrating this value in a variety of ways resulting in beautiful handwriting, correctly answered Maths questions, coming into class confidently and starting morning routines. This is an important skill to support lifelong learning.

Thank you to all of the parents and carers who were able to attend the information sessions this week. I know that the class teachers enjoy meeting with you and sharing the expectations and opportunities for the year ahead. We do appreciate that not everybody is able to attend these meetings, so will put materials on the class pages of our website to support you.

Questions from the gate:

"We don't like the new format of the newsletter, it is too formal". I am sorry that the new format of the newsletter is not liked by all. The intention is to make it easier to read on mobile devices such as phones and tablets. I have added some additional banners to highlight the children's achievements in this week's edition. To help make photos easier to access, we shall be using the school website and Facebook pages.

Data Collection sheets & consent forms:

We are sending out children's Data Collection sheets, photo permission & medical detail forms next week. Please update and return via the School Office mail box as soon as possible. Please note that it is your responsibility to update us of any changes throughout the school year.

Coats/Jackets:

With the colder weather beginning to emerge, especially in the mornings, please ensure your child has a coat or jacket with them in school. It would be extremely helpful if these were clearly named.

Parent Pay:

Thank you for your continuing support of Parent Pay, our online payment and meal booking system. We are delighted that 93% of our families have activated their accounts. 25 families have yet to log-in, please contact the School Office if you would like a reminder of your log-in information to activate.

Playground Equipment:

Can we please remind you that the children are not allowed on their scooter or bike around the playground or on any of the school equipment before the start and the end of the school day. The school will not take any responsibility for any injuries caused if your child is climbing on anything or in areas that they shouldn't be. Please ensure any younger siblings adhere to these rules as well.

Year One School Vision Screening:

If you do not wish to have your child's vision tested next week, please ensure any opt-out forms (previously sent home to parents) are returned to school in the School Office postbox no later than Monday 17th September 2018. The School Nursing Team will carry out tests for children without an opt-out form on Tuesday 18th September 2018. Further opt-out forms have been sent home with children today.

Free School Meals:

The Government gives money to schools to help children from lower income families do their very best. This funding is called 'Pupil Premium'. For every FSM child registered the school gets substantial additional funding.

If you are registered for Free School Meals your child will receive free lunches and milk and you will also get help with costs of school trips. Your child does not have to have a school meal or meals if they don't want to. Please apply, even if you receive universal free school meals (Reception classes and Key Stage 1).

If you think you may be eligible please obtain an application form from the School Office.

Bringing dogs on site:

A polite reminder that with the exception of Guide/Assistance dogs, we follow the Local Authority's guidance that dogs are not allowed on that school site. This includes carrying small dogs. Thank you for your cooperation with this.

Medical Health Care Plans:

Mrs Crane, our SENCo, is writing to parents of children who have a Medical Health Care Plan for long-term or serious health issues. If you receive one for your child, please ensure this is updated and returned to school as soon as possible. If your child has a health issue which you feel would benefit from a Medical Health Care Plan, please contact the school office to arrange an appointment with Mrs Crane to discuss.

eSafety:

As part of our ongoing safeguarding education, I am aware that children playing online games can be an area of concern. The NSPCC has produced some excellent guidance that can be accessed through this link: [NSPCC Online games: helping children to play safe](#).

Children on site for the start of day, 8:45

Just a quick reminder that school doors open at 8:45am. Please note that we are not able to supervise children before this time, so for everybody's safety, please ensure that unless attending breakfast club, your child does not arrive before this time.

Collecting your child at the end of a school day:

To ensure all of our children's safety, we operate the following system:

- Children need to be collected by a named individual from their classroom
- Children in Years 5 and 6 can walk home providing that we have received signed consent form

If there is a change to the named individual who is collecting your child, please make sure that you inform the school in the morning. We may ring home for confirmation where we have not been informed of any changes.

I appreciate that this might be a slight change from last year, but I am sure that you will appreciate that it is to ensure the safeguarding of all our children.

Amazing attendance:

The class with the best attendance this week is Chaffinch. Well done for achieving great attendance! Chaffinch class can wear non-uniform on Friday 21st September 2018.

Weekly awards:

Bird of the week

Robin	Arthur D
Wren	Regan VH
Blackbird	Jessie G
Sparrow	Jahkiel C
Chaffinch	Lily O
Goldfinch	Stanley C
Woodpecker	Jordan R
Jay	Daniel W
Barn Owl	Liam M
Tawny Owl	Isabella H
Crane	Lucas A
Heron	Sienna H
Kingfisher	Emily H
Eagle	Ella Cook
Kestrel	Ryan S

Class Worship Leaders

Robin	Whole Class
Wren	Whole Class
Blackbird	Whole Class
Sparrow	Star C
Chaffinch	Whole Class
Goldfinch	Whole Class
Woodpecker	Whole Class
Jay	Whole class
Barn Owl	Jorja H
Tawny	Whole Class
Kingfisher	Whole Class
Heron	Whole Class
Eagle	Whole Class
Kestrel	Jay C, Max S & Kelston R

Christian value:

Our Christian value for this half term is: **Friendship**. *"True friendship isn't about being there when it is convenient, it is about being there when it is not"*



Community News

Local Church Services:

Salvation Army, Moorland Road, Bridgwater

- 10am Prayer Meeting
- 10.30am Family Worship
- 11am Sunday Club from 4 years to 11 years

St Francis Church, Saxon Green, Bridgwater

- 10am Holy Communion
- 10am Lighthouse Club for Junior Church activities
- 10am Midweek Communion Wednesday

Extra-curricular opportunities:



Gymnastics:

This is now available to book via Premier Sport's website: premier-education.com Please note sessions are now split for Year Groups, with Monday for Years Reception, 1, 2 & 3 and Wednesday for Years 4-6.

Safeguarding is high priority at St John and St Francis Church School. We take every opportunity to ensure that our pupil's safety is paramount. We want our pupils to be healthy and happy and to develop well both physically and mentally. The school follows the latest Government Guidance to ensure we are fulfilling our duties in this important area.

The Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) and contact at School is myself (Mr Duncan Gordon), and our Deputy Safeguarding Leads are: Mrs Claire Craven, Mrs Suzanne Crane, Mrs Karen Kendrick, Mrs Laura Rendell & Mrs Emily Wells. Our Safeguarding Governor is Mr David Durston.

The School's Safeguarding policy can be found online at: <http://stjohnstfrancisbwmat.org/about-us/policies/local-policies/>

If you have any concerns about the safety of a child you can phone Somerset Direct on 0300 123 2224.

There is lots of online safety advice on our website- [please follow this link](#) to help keep your child safe.



Diary Dates

September	
18th	Vision Screen Nurse to see Year 1 children.
26th	Open Morning and Afternoon for parents whose child is due to start school in September 2018. 9.30am & 2pm – to book a place please contact the School Office. Please feel free to bring your child.
27th	Reading Café. Parents are invited into Class for a reading session led by Classteachers, followed by tea and coffee. Please note as this is a working session we ask that younger siblings do not attend. Reception classes and Key Stage 1 (Wren, Robin, Sparrow, Blackbird, Chaffinch and Goldfinch) – 9.00am - 10.00am Key Stage 2 (Jay, Woodpecker, Barn Owl, Tawny Owl, Heron, Kingfisher, Kestrel and Eagle) – 10.00am - 11.00am
October	
1st	PTA Meeting in School Hall @ 6.30pm
8th	Year 6 trip to Fleet Air Arm Museum, Yeovil. Further details to follow.
11th	Eagle Class Community Assembly @ 2.45pm in School Hall for parents and family of children in Eagle Class.
12th	Open Morning and Afternoon for parents whose child is due to start school in September 2019. 9.30am & 2pm – to book a place please contact the School Office. Please feel free to bring your child.

18 th	School Flu Immunisation sessions Years R-5. Consent forms went home with your child w/c 10 th September. Completed forms to be returned to School Office post box by Friday 5 th October.
18 th	Kestrel Class Community Assembly @2.45pm in School Hall for parents and family of children in Kestrel Class.
23 rd	Harvest Service @ St Francis Church. Year 1 and 2 : 9.30am, Year 3 and 4 : 10.10am, Year 5 and 6 : 10.50am. Reception classes (In School Hall) : 2.30pm
25 th	Whole School Photos with Tempest Photography. Pre-school siblings welcome from 8.30am.
26 th	INSET DAY – School closed to all pupils.
HALF TERM 29th October – 2nd November.	
November	
5 th	INSET DAY – School closed to all pupils.
6 th	School re-opens following the Half Term break.
9 th	Maths Cafe. Parents are invited into Class for a maths session led by Classteachers. Please note as this is a working session we ask that younger siblings do not attend. Reception classes and Key Stage 1 (Wren, Robin, Sparrow, Blackbird, Chaffinch and Goldfinch) – 9.00am - 10.00am Key Stage 2 (Jay, Woodpecker, Barn Owl, Tawny Owl, Heron, Kingfisher, Kestrel and Eagle) – 10.00am - 11.00am.
12 th	Parents Evening 3.30pm - 7.00pm. Parents will be given details of our online parents evening system to book an appointment with classteachers.
13 th	Year 3 trip to Cheddar Caves. Please see letter home 14.09.18.
14 th	Parents Evening 3.30pm - 7.00pm. Parents will be given details of our online parents evening system to book an appointment with classteachers.
22 nd	Kingfisher Class Community Assembly @2.45pm in School Hall for parents and family of children in Kingfisher Class.
29 th	Heron Class Community Assembly @ 2.45pm in School Hall for parents and family of children in Heron Class.
30 th	Non-school uniform in lieu of donations for PTA Christmas Fair.
30 th	Festival of Light Day. The children will focus on different religious festivals that celebrates lights.
December	
Our Nativity performances will be at The Salvation Army Hall in Moorland Road.	
17 th - 21 st	Sparkle and Shine Week. Please send in a decorated shoe box.
17 th @ 2.00pm	Nativity - Year R, 1 and 2. Wren, Robin, Sparrow, Blackbird, Chaffinch and Goldfinch classes
18 th @ 9.30am	Nativity - Year R, 1 and 2. Wren, Robin, Sparrow, Blackbird, Chaffinch and Goldfinch classes
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