



Week beginning: 17th September

St John & St Francis Newsletter

Message from Mr Gordon

This week, I have been taken aback by the amount of collaboration that is going on throughout the school. On Tuesday I visited BCA for the first time, meeting with their senior teachers and the Headteachers from Westonzoyle and Kingsmoor schools to plan enrichment activities for our children. Opportunities to try new things and work with different groups of children. Our teachers will be meeting with colleagues from the other BWMAT Taunton schools next month to share expertise and ideas; something that I am sure will generate lots of exciting new learning.

Our children too have been working together to support each other's learning. Year 6 children have been working in groups in science lessons, Year 1 children making butterflies for the outside learning spaces and older children supporting poetry writing by designing their own lunchtime competitions.

On Wednesday, our school Governors held their first meeting of the year, allocating officers and reviewing the key areas that the school will be working on this year. Already I have been impressed with their enthusiasm and commitment in providing the best for all children at our school.

By working together, we can all achieve more, overcome barriers and achieve everybody's potential.

Questions from the gate:

'What medical evidence do I need to provide to support my child's absence due to Sickness and Diarrhoea?'

We have sought the advice of the Education Welfare Service on this, and other contagious illnesses, who advise: 'If the parent phoned the GP, which we would advise them to do if medical evidence has been requested, and they say stay at home, this call should be recorded on the child's record and a screenshot print out could be provided by the surgery or an appointment card provided. A copy of a prescription or labels from prescribed medicine could also be provided.'

Primary & Secondary Admissions – September 2019

In previous years the Admissions and Entitlements Team at Somerset County Council have written to every parent/carer of children due to start or transfer school explaining how to apply, key dates and where to find further information. In a change this year, parents will not receive a letter from the Admissions and Entitlements Team and will need to apply online. Information can be found on their website www.somerset.gov.uk/admissions including the 'Primary or Secondary Admissions Guide' in 2019. Parents/carers are advised to read this booklet thoroughly before making an online application.

For children due to start school for the first time or transfer to a junior or middle school the closing date for applications is 15th January 2019 and the national offer day is 16th April 2019.

For children due to transfer to a secondary or upper school the closing date for applications is 31st October 2018 and the national offer day is 1st March 2019.

Data Collection sheets & consent forms:

Please check your child's book bag, as Data Collection sheets have been given out to every child in a sealed and named envelope. Please check these and return where amendments are required. Also enclosed are various consent forms, which we kindly ask are completed and returned for our records. It would be appreciated if these can all be returned to the School Office.

Important Notice: Term Time Leave:

The school's Attendance Policy can be found online on our website: <http://stjohnstfrancisbwmataunton.org/about-us/policies/local-policies/> In line with Government expectations, any request for term time leave of 10 sessions or more, with an attendance of less than 96% on return, a Penalty Notice of £60 will be applied per parent/carer per child.

Attendance:

As a school we are proud of our children's attendance and year on year, our whole school attendance is improving. Our school target is 96% and we are currently above not only this, but also the national average - Thank you. We are keen to maintain this achievement throughout the year.

As we have recently made families aware, children's attendance below 90% is classed by the Department for Education as Persistent Absence. We are of course only at the start of the school year so only one day's absence (two registration sessions) could drop attendance below 90%. There may be many reasons for this such as unauthorised term time leave, sickness, medical appointment, late arrival, etc.

We do know that it can be easy to lose track of how many days your child has been away over the year. So that we can help you, at the end of each month we will let you know if your child's attendance has dropped below 90%. We hope that you will find this useful.

If you have any questions about attendance during the year, do pop in and speak to a member of staff.

PTA News:

The children are busy designing their Christmas cards in class and they will be coming home soon for you to order. Orders need to be in by FRIDAY 5TH OCTOBER VIA THE SCHOOL OFFICE to give time for them to be sent away and printed. Please make sure your money is in a named envelope and the order form is completed fully. MINIMUM ORDER £4.00.; Many thanks PTA

Upcoming PTA Diary Dates – these have now been confirmed for the year, and are included within the whole school Diary Dates on our website: www.stjohnstfrancisbwmat.org/dates-for-the-diary/

Amazing attendance:

The classes with the best attendance this week is Tawny Owl & Wren. Well done for achieving great attendance! Tawny Owl & Wren class can wear non-uniform on Friday 28th September 2018.

Weekly awards:

Bird of the week	
Robin	Mai W
Wren	Jazzmin C
Blackbird	Kornel K
Sparrow	India H
Chaffinch	Finley R
Goldfinch	Alysha M
Woodpecker	Lily-Rose M
Jay	Silvia M M
Barn Owl	Molly S
Tawny Owl	Caitlyn C
Crane	Charlie G
Heron	Mckenzie K
Kingfisher	Esther A
Eagle	Aleksandra B
Kestrel	Holly C

Class Worship Leaders	
Robin	Whole Class
Wren	Whole Class
Blackbird	Taliha E
Sparrow	Star C
Chaffinch	Whole Class
Goldfinch	Whole Class
Woodpecker	Anyia J
Jay	Jade M
Barn Owl	Brogan L
Tawny	Whole Class
Kingfisher	Whole Class
Heron	Whole Class
Eagle	Freiya & Ella S
Kestrel	Kurtus, William and Oliver

Christian value:

Our Christian value for this half term is: **Friendship**. *"Walking with a friend in the dark is better than walking alone in the light."*



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:

Monday : Gymnastics Club, run by Premier Sports for Years R-6. Please visit <https://schools.premier-education.com/>

Monday : Girls Football, run by Miss Bryant. Please complete a consent form available from the school office.

Thursday : Boys Football, run by Miss Bryant. Please complete a consent form available from the school office.

Thursday : Choir, run by Mrs Elson. This club is now full.

*Please note that all clubs finish at 4.15pm

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

FULL DIARY DATES ARE ALSO AVAILABLE ON THE SCHOOL WEBSITE:

<http://stjohnstfrancisbwmat.org/dates-for-the-diary>

September	
26 th	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.
27 th	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	
1 st	PTA Meeting in School Hall @ 6.30pm
8 th	Year 6 trip to Fleet Air Arm Museum, Yeovil. Further details to follow.
11 th	Eagle Class Community Assembly @ 2.45pm in School Hall for parents and family of children in Eagle Class.
12 th	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.
12 th	PTA Friday Night Film Club – further details to follow nearer the event.
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 29 th October – 2 nd 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.
12 th	PTA Meeting in School Hall @ 6.30pm
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.
30 th	PTA School Disco – further details to follow nearer the event.
December	
Our Nativity performances will be at The Salvation Army Hall in Moorland Road.	
3 rd	PTA Meeting in School Hall @ 6.30pm
14 th	PTA Christmas Fair – further details to follow nearer the event.
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
18 th @ 2.00pm	Nativity - Year R, 1 and 2. Wren, Robin, Sparrow, Blackbird, Chaffinch and Goldfinch classes
19 th @ 9.30am	Nativity Year 5 and 6 Heron, Kingfisher, Kestrel and Eagle classes
19 th @ 2.00pm	Nativity Year 3 and 4 Jay, Woodpecker, Barn Owl and Tawny Owl classes
20 th @ 9.30am	Nativity Year 3 and 4 Jay, Woodpecker, Barn Owl and Tawny Owl classes
20 th @ 2.00pm	Nativity Year 5 and 6 Heron, Kingfisher, Kestrel and Eagle classes
21 st	Christmas Jumper Day. Children are invited to wear their Christmas Jumper with their normal school trousers/skirt.
21 st	Parents invited into Class to make a Christmas decoration with their child. 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
21 st	PTA Christmas Parties. These will be held in children’s classes during the school day.
Christmas break 23rd December – 4th January	