



Week beginning: 1<sup>st</sup> October 2018

## St John & St Francis Newsletter

### Message from Mr Gordon

As part of the children's learning this week, it has been lovely to see the children working across year groups on a joint art project of creating a St Francis themed stained glass window. As well as being colourful, many of these designs have been quite intricate, so the children have had to display great perseverance and resilience while working. It is no surprise that many of the bird of the week certificates that I handed out at this week's celebration assembly mentioned these values.

As an adult, there is much that we can learn from our fantastic children at school. This weekend I am taking part in a Half Marathon around the streets of Cardiff. I shall use the children's example of perseverance to help me and inspire me as I go around. Have a wonderful weekend and I look forward to seeing you at the school gate next week.

### Questions from the Gate:

"Are there going to be more clubs for all ages of children?" We do value and promote a wide curriculum of learning opportunities. There are currently gymnastics and guitar lessons that can be bought in, plus school staff are providing boys' and girls' football, and poppy art clubs. Some clubs will run for a term, others may be for a number of weeks in preparation for an event. If there is a specific club that your child would be interested in, do let us know and we'll endeavour to support it.

"Can children have squash in their flasks?" We do ask that children's drinks bottle in class should only contain water as children are continually drinking water through a bottle all day water will not damage their teeth. Any drink provided in lunchboxes can be a non-fizzy drink of their choice but should only be drunk during lunchtime. Children do have access to water fountains inside and outside if they don't have a water bottle.

### E-Safety:

Sometimes children find things online that aren't always appropriate—even when they're not looking for them. We have been informed by some parents of occasions where children at home have inadvertently accessed inappropriate materials. Please visit <http://stjohnstfrancisbwmat.org/safeguarding-2/e-safety/> for helpful advice. By using parental controls, you can help protect your child from viewing harmful content—and asking awkward questions. If you need help setting up controls on your child's devices, you can call the free 02 and NSPCC Online Safety Helpline for expert advice on 0808 800 5002. For more info visit <http://bit.ly/2hBrI04> or <https://www.net-aware.org.uk>

### Whole School Attendance:

For each week of this half-term so far, our whole school attendance has remained above our school target of 96%, which as we've previously said is also above the National target. A HUGE thank you to our families and carers for achieving this by ensuring their child/children attend school each day. We recognise that at this time of year, children can suffer from coughs, colds, etc however they are still attending school so again, thank you for helping our school to achieve this successful start to the school year!

### Late Arrivals:

The majority of our children arrive at school in time for the bell at 8:45am, thank you to those of you that consistently do this. This week, we recorded 24 late arrivals into school. It is imperative your children are at school ready for the start of the school day. Learning starts at 8:55am. If your child is even 5 minutes late they will be missing out on a significant part of their education over the weeks. Arrivals after 9.10am will be marked as Unauthorised and will affect your child's attendance.

### Flu Immunisation : 18<sup>th</sup> October:

#### Message from the School Aged Immunisation Nursing Team –

Somerset SAINT (school aged immunisation nursing team) will be visiting your child's school on 18<sup>th</sup> October 2018 to administer the nasal spray flu vaccination. If you have given permission for your child to have the vaccination please could you inform the school:

- if your child is wheezy on the day of vaccination, or has been wheezy in the three days prior to this date
- is asthmatic and has had to increase his or her asthma medication since you returned the consent form
- if there are any other changes in your child's health since you returned the consent form
- if your child has already received the flu vaccine via their GP recently, it is **really important** that you inform the school otherwise your child may be immunised again because Somerset SAINT may still hold a consent form for them

### Friends of the School opportunity:

As a parent and carer of a child at our school, you are automatically a member of our Friends' Association. To aid in the planning of events there is a committee made up from a group of parents. We currently have the opportunity for somebody to take on the role of Co-Secretary. If you are interested, please speak to any member of the committee to find out more.

### Cross Country : 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2018:

A big well done to the cross country runners who took part on Wednesday after school at North Petherton Rugby Club!

### Request for raffle prizes:

Planning is currently underway for PTA events to support the school. We are always in need of items as raffle prizes; if you have anything that may be suitable, please bring it to the school office. Your support is greatly appreciated.

### Whole School Photos:

Tempest Photography will be in school on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> October to take photos of each child. Pre-school siblings are welcome from 8.30am.

### Supporting walking, scooting and cycling to school:

We're excited to be working with Somerset County Council on a two year project to support pupils to walk, scoot and cycle to school in Bridgwater, part of a wider project also working with employers and local communities - The Bridgwater Way. Over the next half term, we'll be busy with activities to help inform our action plan, including surveys with pupils, parents and staff, and audits of our school and the surrounding streets. We'll share our action plan with you later in the summer where we'll set out the activities and initiatives we'll be working on to get us all on our feet, our scooters and our bikes! Please do support our project by getting involved in these activities.



Parents – you can help by completing our parents survey which can be found at <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/StJohnandStFrancisTravelSurvey>.

### Vacancies:

There are currently vacancies at our school for 2x Teaching Assistants. Please visit <http://stjohnstfrancisbwmat.org/about-us/vacancies/> for more details including an application pack.

### Carnival Mask Competition:

#### Winners announced by the school council!

This year's theme is 'Space', as advised to children by their Class Teachers, and following much deliberation, the school council have chosen the winning mask designs for KS1 and KS2 that will be transferred into the large display masks to be put around the town centre. Well done to Sasha (KS1) and Ava (KS2) for their enchanting designs!

#### Runners Up KS1:

Katie (Chaffinch)



Daisy (Sparrow)



#### Runners Up KS2:

Issy (Tawny Owl)



Ava (Eagle)



#### KS1 Winner:

Sasha (Chaffinch)



#### KS2 Winner:

Ava (Barn Owl)



### Message from our Chair of Governors:

The school's Local Governing Board has one vacancy for a parent governor, and we are seeking parents/carers who would be willing to put their name forward. If you are interested in becoming a parent governor, please visit the school website at <http://stjohnstfrancisbwmat.org/about-us/governors/governor-vacancies/> and complete the attached application and nomination forms and return to Jess Stedman, Clerk to the Governors by Friday 12<sup>th</sup> October.

### Amazing attendance:

The class with the best attendance this week is Woodpecker with 99.23%. Well done for achieving great attendance! Woodpecker class can wear non-uniform on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> October 2018.

## Weekly awards:

### Bird of the week

<b>Robin</b>	Louis F
<b>Wren</b>	Bethanie E
<b>Blackbird</b>	Jamie S
<b>Sparrow</b>	Leni R
<b>Chaffinch</b>	Tristan C
<b>Goldfinch</b>	Kian D-R
<b>Woodpecker</b>	Isla T
<b>Jay</b>	Maci R
<b>Barn Owl</b>	Crystal R
<b>Tawny Owl</b>	Oliver W
<b>Crane</b>	Courtney P
<b>Heron</b>	Egle S
<b>Kingfisher</b>	Leighton W
<b>Eagle</b>	Oliwier P
<b>Kestrel</b>	Scarlett W

### Class Worship Leaders

<b>Robin</b>	Whole Class
<b>Wren</b>	Whole Class
<b>Blackbird</b>	Bonnie W
<b>Sparrow</b>	Ruby J
<b>Chaffinch</b>	Whole Class
<b>Goldfinch</b>	Whole Class
<b>Woodpecker</b>	Flynn C
<b>Jay</b>	Eleanor S
<b>Barn Owl</b>	Ella S
<b>Tawny Owl</b>	Freya C
<b>Kingfisher</b>	Xaan S
<b>Heron</b>	Toby M
<b>Eagle</b>	Whole Class
<b>Kestrel</b>	Max and Ryan A-S

### Christian value:

Our Christian value for this half term is: **Friendship**. "A true friend is someone who sees the pain in your eyes while everyone else believes the smile on your face."



## 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. This club is now full.

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.



October	
8 <sup>th</sup>	Year 6 trip to Fleet Air Arm Museum, Yeovil. Further details to follow.
12 <sup>th</sup>	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 <sup>th</sup>	PTA Friday Night Film Club – further details to follow nearer the event.
16 <sup>th</sup>	Eagle Class Community Assembly @ 2.345pm in School Hall for parents and family of children in Eagle Class. **Rearranged from 11 <sup>th</sup> October.**
18 <sup>th</sup>	School Flu Immunisation sessions Years R-5. Consent forms went home with your child w/c 10 <sup>th</sup> September. Completed forms to be returned to School Office post box by Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> October.
18 <sup>th</sup>	Kestrel Class Community Assembly @2.45pm in School Hall for parents and family of children in Kestrel Class.
23 <sup>rd</sup>	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 <sup>th</sup>	Whole School Photos with Tempest Photography. Pre-school siblings welcome from 8.30am.
26 <sup>th</sup>	<b>INSET DAY – School closed to all pupils.</b>
HALF TERM 29 <sup>th</sup> October – 2 <sup>nd</sup> November.	
November	
5 <sup>th</sup>	<b>INSET DAY – School closed to all pupils.</b>
6 <sup>th</sup>	School re-opens following the Half Term break.
9 <sup>th</sup>	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 <sup>th</sup>	Parents Evening 3.30pm - 7.00pm. Parents will be given details of our online parents evening system to book an appointment with classteachers.
12 <sup>th</sup>	PTA Meeting in School Hall @ 6.30pm
13 <sup>th</sup>	Year 3 trip to Cheddar Caves. Please see letter home 14.09.18.
14 <sup>th</sup>	Parents Evening 3.30pm - 7.00pm. Parents will be given details of our online parents evening system to book an appointment with classteachers.
22 <sup>nd</sup>	Year 1 trip to Bristol Zoo. Further details to follow.
22 <sup>nd</sup>	Kingfisher Class Community Assembly @2.45pm in School Hall for parents and family of children in Kingfisher Class.
29 <sup>th</sup>	Heron Class Community Assembly @ 2.45pm in School Hall for parents and family of children in Heron Class.
30 <sup>th</sup>	Non-school uniform in lieu of donations for PTA Christmas Fair.
30 <sup>th</sup>	Festival of Light Day. The children will focus on different religious festivals that celebrates lights.
30 <sup>th</sup>	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 <sup>rd</sup>	PTA Meeting in School Hall @ 6.30pm
14 <sup>th</sup>	PTA Christmas Fair – further details to follow nearer the event.
17 <sup>th</sup> - 21 <sup>st</sup>	Sparkle and Shine Week. Please send in a decorated shoe box.
17 <sup>th</sup> @ 2.00pm	Nativity - Year R, 1 and 2. Wren, Robin, Sparrow, Blackbird, Chaffinch and Goldfinch classes
18 <sup>th</sup> @ 2.00pm	Nativity - Year R, 1 and 2. Wren, Robin, Sparrow, Blackbird, Chaffinch and Goldfinch classes

<b>19<sup>th</sup> @ 9.30am</b>	Nativity Year 5 and 6 Heron, Kingfisher, Kestrel and Eagle classes
<b>19<sup>th</sup> @ 2.00pm</b>	Nativity Year 3 and 4 Jay, Woodpecker, Barn Owl and Tawny Owl classes
<b>20<sup>th</sup> @ 9.30am</b>	Nativity Year 3 and 4 Jay, Woodpecker, Barn Owl and Tawny Owl classes
<b>20<sup>th</sup> @ 2.00pm</b>	Nativity Year 5 and 6 Heron, Kingfisher, Kestrel and Eagle classes
<b>21<sup>st</sup></b>	Christmas Jumper Day. Children are invited to wear their Christmas Jumper with their normal school trousers/skirt.
<b>21<sup>st</sup></b>	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
<b>21<sup>st</sup></b>	PTA Christmas Parties – these will be held in children’s classes during the school day.