



Week beginning: 19<sup>th</sup> November 2018

## St John & St Francis Newsletter

### Message from Mr Gordon

On Monday's collective worship I talked to the children about compassion and how this is illustrated through the story of Jesus healing the leper. In particular, we talked about the importance of thankfulness being shown to those who have shown us compassion. Our children are really good at both of these. We have started to add photos of children demonstrating our values throughout school life, beginning with the paired reading that is going on between our oldest and youngest children.

This has made me reflect on how often I say 'thank you' to you as parents and carers for your support to our community. Not necessarily for the big things, like your phenomenal support for this year's Children in Need, but the little day to day things. How many phone calls have I made to parents this term to say 'thank you' or 'well done'? So I am going to make a commitment to you to do just that. If you see me approaching you for a chat in the playground, or the school number appear on your phone, don't be unduly alarmed, it could well be good news.

### Questions from the gate:

"After the devastating news of Mrs Kendrick's passing. It's been a very tough time for everyone and she has left a big void in the school. I was just wondering what you thought of maybe doing a collection so parents and staff can contribute to buying perhaps a bench that can be placed in the playground?" At the moment, we are supporting the family through the arrangements for Mrs Kendrick's funeral. Once this is completed, we will ask how they would best wish Mrs Kendrick to be remembered at school and let everybody know.

Not so much a question as a request: It has been noticed that some children are petting other family's dogs outside school, raising the concern that this might cause distress. For everyone's wellbeing, it may be worthwhile reminding children not to approach and pet animals without the owner's permission.

### Children in Need 2018:

We are extremely proud to confirm that thanks to the overwhelming generosity of our families, we have raised a new record for St John and St Francis Church School of **£1,020.44!** Thank you all so much for supporting this worthy cause.

A special well done to our children for taking part, and thank you to Miss Bryant for organising, the week-long activities to achieve a target of 423 miles. In Miss Bryant's own words: 'As a school we achieved an incredible 613.32 miles, smashing our target of 423 miles!'

### Children starting school in September 2019:

A reminder that if your child is due to start school for the first time in September 2019, the closing date for applications is 15<sup>th</sup> January 2019. Please apply online at [www.somerset.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.somerset.gov.uk/admissions)

### Children transferring to secondary school in September 2019:

The closing date for applications was 31<sup>st</sup> October 2018. If you have not yet applied for a school place for your Year 6 child, you can still make a Late Application at [www.somerset.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.somerset.gov.uk/admissions)

### \*\*\*Reminder\*\*\* School closure:

Some advanced notice that the school will be closed on **Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> December**. This is to allow all who wish to attend Mrs Kendrick's funeral and pay their respects to do so. I am sure that you will appreciate the importance of this act and hope that with the advanced notice, you will be able to arrange any child care required. On behalf of the school, thank you for your understanding.

### Autumn Term Menu:

Please note that in a change to previous arrangements, our Caterers Aspen have advised their current Autumn Term menu will now run for the whole of Winter, until half-term in February 2019. Our online booking system: [www.parentpay.com](http://www.parentpay.com) has been amended accordingly, therefore you can now book meals up until 15<sup>th</sup> February 2019.

### Christmas Performances:

These are open for booking from 3.30pm Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> November, on our usual online booking system: [www.stjohnstfrancischurch.parenteveningsystem.co.uk](http://www.stjohnstfrancischurch.parenteveningsystem.co.uk)

Two tickets are available per family per performance. When accessing the system, please ensure you enter parent details exactly as you have advised the School Office on your recent Data Consent forms (with the correct Mr/Ms/Miss/Mrs) as we are asking all parents to book their tickets online.

**\*\*Extra tickets will be available to parents from 9.30am on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> December, on a first come first served basis. Please note that waiting lists will not be kept in the School Office, and all tickets must be booked online after this time and date\*\***

### Communication during school trips:

As advised in last week's newsletter, in a change to our previous arrangements, we will no longer be sending regular texts to parents during a school trip. Instead, texts will be limited to alerts such as delayed return to school. Where practical, we will update our Facebook page with photographs of children taking part in activities. Please note this applies to all trips.

### PTA Christmas DVD filming:

The PTA will once again be filming the Christmas Performances, for DVD's to be sold to families. Children, for whom we have received a consent to be photographed or filmed, will be included in the DVD. We have sent a text to parents this week if a consent form has not been returned, or parents/carers have declined to give consent, advising their child will not feature in the DVD recording as we do not have permission. If you have received a text, and would like your child to be included, please complete a consent form available from the School Office.

**Please note due to safeguarding reasons, we ask that parents and carers do not take their own photographs or videos of the Christmas Performances. Your cooperation with this is appreciated.**

### PTA Christmas DVD Design reminder:

A reminder that entries for the DVD design competition must be returned no later than Friday 7<sup>th</sup> December to the School Office. If your child would like to enter please draw their design on an A4 piece of plain paper, colours look good, and no writing is necessary. Children's full name and class must be written on the back of the drawing.

### Amazing attendance:

The classes with the best attendance this week are Chaffinch & Tawny Owl Class. Well done for achieving great attendance! Chaffinch & Tawny Owl Class can wear non-uniform on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> November 2018.

### Weekly awards:

#### Bird of the week

<b>Robin</b>	Megan L
<b>Wren</b>	Bethanie E
<b>Blackbird</b>	Whole Class
<b>Sparrow</b>	Not provided by Class Teacher
<b>Chaffinch</b>	Not provided by Class Teacher
<b>Goldfinch</b>	Carina M
<b>Woodpecker</b>	Jasmine C
<b>Jay</b>	Collette G
<b>Barn Owl</b>	Jay S
<b>Tawny Owl</b>	Beau H
<b>Crane</b>	Keira C
<b>Heron</b>	McKenzie K
<b>Kingfisher</b>	All of Kingfisher class!
<b>Eagle</b>	Harry G
<b>Kestrel</b>	Ayana I

#### Class Worship Leaders

<b>Robin</b>	Whole Class
<b>Wren</b>	Whole Class
<b>Blackbird</b>	Erin K
<b>Sparrow</b>	Malachi C
<b>Chaffinch</b>	Whole Class
<b>Goldfinch</b>	Shaniya B-S
<b>Woodpecker</b>	Harvey T
<b>Jay</b>	Whole Class
<b>Barn Owl</b>	Jorja H
<b>Tawny Owl</b>	Whole Class
<b>Kingfisher</b>	Ella D, Hannah C & Esther A
<b>Heron</b>	Elsie R & Lorna G
<b>Eagle</b>	Lillie S
<b>Kestrel</b>	Whole Class

### Christian value:

Our Christian value for this half term is: **Compassion**. "Compassion is the wish to see others free from suffering."



## 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 see leaflets which were sent home 16<sup>th</sup> November 2018 and book online at [www.premier-education.com](http://www.premier-education.com)

**Monday** : Year 3-6 Girls Netball & Football, run by Miss Bryant. Please see letter home 24<sup>th</sup> October 2018. Places are still available, Club starts Monday 19<sup>th</sup> November.

**Monday** : Year 3-6 Tag Rugby Club, run by Miss Webber. Please see letter home 24<sup>th</sup> October 2018. Places are still available, Club starts Monday 19<sup>th</sup> November.

**LADIES, HAVE YOUR SAY!**

Tell us what you need to help you achieve your ambitions.

The 100 Women First project will help women in Sedgemoor achieve their goals for work, life, family, health and well-being. Be part of it!

Project launch from 9:30 at Under Construction, Lions House, West Quay, Bridgwater.

Come along for a friendly chat and give feedback about the types of opportunities you'd like to see for women in Sedgemoor...

**Coffee Morning**  
Thurs 13th Dec  
9:30-12:00

**How to Find Us**  
Under Construction,  
Lions House,  
West Quay,  
Bridgwater  
TA6 3HW

**100 FIRST** **SSAL**  
Sedgemoor Skills and Support for All

**Wednesday** : Street Surfing Club, run by Premier Sport for Year 3-6. Please see leaflets which were sent home 16th November 2018 and book online at [www.premier-education.com](http://www.premier-education.com)

**Thursday** : Boys Football, run by Miss Bryant. This club is now full.

**Thursday** : Choir, run by Miss Smith. 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 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>

November	
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 - please see note home 22.11.18
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 – please see note home 22.11.18
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
6 <sup>th</sup>	<b>SCHOOL CLOSURE – School closed to all pupils. Please see newsletter 16.11.2018</b>
14 <sup>th</sup>	PTA Christmas Fair – please see note home 22.11.18
17 <sup>th</sup> - 21 <sup>st</sup>	Sparkle and Shine Week. Please send in a decorated shoe box or bag.
17 <sup>th</sup> @ 2.00pm	Nativity - Year R, 1 and 2. Wren, Robin, Sparrow, Blackbird, Chaffinch and Goldfinch classes
18 <sup>th</sup> @ 9.30am	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
19 <sup>th</sup> @ 9.30am	Nativity Year 5 and 6 Heron, Kingfisher, Kestrel and Eagle classes
19 <sup>th</sup> @ 2.00pm	Nativity Year 3 and 4 Jay, Woodpecker, Barn Owl and Tawny Owl classes
20 <sup>th</sup> @ 9.30am	Nativity Year 3 and 4 Jay, Woodpecker, Barn Owl and Tawny Owl classes
20 <sup>th</sup>	Christmas Lunch. Please book online at <a href="http://www.parentpay.com">www.parentpay.com</a>
20 <sup>th</sup> @ 2.00pm	Nativity Year 5 and 6 Heron, Kingfisher, Kestrel and Eagle classes
21 <sup>st</sup>	Christmas Jumper Day. Children are invited to wear their Christmas Jumper with their normal school trousers/skirt.
21 <sup>st</sup>	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 <sup>st</sup>	PTA Christmas Parties – these will be held in children’s classes during the school day.
<b>Christmas break 23<sup>rd</sup> December – 4<sup>th</sup> January</b>	
<b>January</b>	
7 <sup>th</sup>	<b>INSET DAY – School closed to all pupils.</b>
8 <sup>th</sup>	School reopens following the Christmas break.
14 <sup>th</sup> – 18 <sup>th</sup>	Science Focus Week.
14 <sup>th</sup> – 15 <sup>th</sup>	Year 5 Bikeability Cycle Training.
14 <sup>th</sup>	PTA Meeting in School Hall @ 6.30pm
17 <sup>th</sup>	Tawny Owl Class Community Assembly @ 2.45pm in School Hall for parents and family of children in Tawny Owl Class.
18 <sup>th</sup>	Year 4 swimming sessions begin at 1610 Chilton.
21 <sup>st</sup>	Science Showcase. Parents invited into class to see work from our Science week @ 2.45pm.
28 <sup>th</sup> – 1 <sup>st</sup>	Storytelling Week. More details to follow.
<b>February</b>	
1 <sup>st</sup>	PTA Friday Night Film Club – further details to follow nearer the event.
4 <sup>th</sup>	PTA Meeting in School Hall at 6.30pm
6 <sup>th</sup>	Safer Internet Day. Parents invited into school to work 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
14 <sup>th</sup>	Jay Class Community Assembly @ 2.45pm in School Hall for parents and family of children in Jay Class.
<b>18<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> Half Term break</b>	
25 <sup>th</sup>	<b>INSET DAY – School closed to all pupils.</b>
26 <sup>th</sup>	School re-opens following the Half Term break.
<b>March</b>	
4 <sup>th</sup>	PTA Meeting in School Hall @ 6.30pm
5 <sup>th</sup>	Parents Evening 3.30pm - 7.00pm. Parents have been given details of our online parents evening system to book an appointment with classteachers.
7 <sup>th</sup>	World Book Day. Please come to school dressed as your favourite book character.
7 <sup>th</sup>	Parents Evening 3.30pm - 7.00pm. Parents have been given details of our online parents evening system to book an appointment with classteachers.
14 <sup>th</sup>	Chaffinch Class Community Assembly @ 2.45pm in School Hall for parents and family of children in Chaffinch Class.
15 <sup>th</sup>	Red Nose Day 2019. Further details to follow.
15 <sup>th</sup>	PTA Easter Disco – further details to follow nearer the event.
21 <sup>st</sup>	Goldfinch Class Community Assembly @ 2.45pm in School Hall for parents and family of children in Goldfinch Class.
28 <sup>th</sup>	Barn Owl Class Community Assembly @2.45pm in School Hall for parents and family of children in Barn Owl Class.
<b>April</b>	
1 <sup>st</sup> – 5 <sup>th</sup>	Easter Focus week – 40 acts of Kindness
1 <sup>st</sup>	PTA Meeting in School Hall @ 6.30pm
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Reception & Year 6 Class Photos with Tempest Photography.