



Week beginning: 3rd December 2018

St John & St Francis Newsletter

Message from Mr Gordon

Common with many other establishments across the country and globally, we have lit the first candle of our Advent ring. This reminds us of the hope; the hope of the prophets that darkness would soon be lifted and there would be better times ahead. Hope is also part of school mission statement, Corinthians 13, 'Faith, Hope and Love'.

I strongly believe that we are a hopeful school. This doesn't mean that we keep our fingers crossed that things go well, but that being hopeful in the face of barriers, we can release an energy that lifts us to a higher standard. This hope comes from trust in one another, compassion, stability and finally direction.

As I sit in my office, writing this, there is a rainbow arching above the school sign. A sign that perhaps others have hope for our school too.



Question from the gate:

'Why has the costs of swimming gone up to £42.50?' This is in some part due to the cost of coach travel increasing but in the main it is down to having more sessions at the pool. I appreciate that our wallets may be a little light after Christmas, so payment can be made per session at £4.25 via ParentPay.

Mrs Warner, Deputy Headteacher:

We are very pleased to welcome Mrs Tamar Warner, our new Deputy Headteacher, to our school from the New Year and we are looking forward to working with her. She is coming into school for a few days before the Christmas holidays, please do feel free to come up and say hello.

We are aware that we have not had as much presence outside at the start and end of the school day in recent weeks. Normal service will be resumed from the new year!

Poppy Appeal 2018:

We are still awaiting the final total of our staff, parent and pupil contributions this year from the British Legion. In the meantime, we are proud to confirm that Mrs Kendrick raised £43.32 by crocheting poppies and selling them in the staff room before half-term. Many of these poppies were worn in Mrs Kendrick's memory at her funeral yesterday.

For the attention of all parents/carers with a child due to start school in September 2019:

If your child is due to start school for the first time (born between 01/09/2014 and 31/08/2015) then it is very important you make an on time school place application.

Deadline for primary admissions : 15th January 2019

To download the primary booklet for parent's, to make an on-line application and for further information please visit our website www.somerset.gov.uk/admissions and choose the page Apply to Start School.

Children's mobile phones:

Children in Years 5 and 6 who walk to/from school alone and carry a mobile phone with them are asked to hand this into the School Office each morning, and collect at home time. Please ensure these phones are clearly labelled with your child's name.

Crossing Patrol next week:

As per our text sent out earlier today, please note that there will be no crossing patrol on the afternoon of Monday 10th December, and all day Tuesday 11th December. Please take extra care when crossing the road.

** Reminder*** 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 has been amended accordingly, therefore you can now book meals up until 15th February 2019.

Permanent Teaching Assistant Vacancy

26.5 Hours per Week

Grade 14 SCP 14-16 (£9.16 - £9.50 per hour)

St John and St Francis Church School is part of the expanding Bath and Wells Multi Academy Trust and this is an exciting time to join us. We are seeking to appoint a skilled Teaching Assistant with proven experience of working with children in a Primary School setting. The ideal candidate will encompass an ELSA approach (training will be provided), be compassionate to the needs of children, will have the ability to work within a team, be able to work with individuals and small groups of children and will have an empathy with children who are experiencing emotional difficulties.

Candidates are invited to contact the school and arrange to visit and meet with the Headteacher. If you would like to arrange this please book an appointment via phone 01278 456918 or email naomi.chandler@sjsf.bwmat.org.

Benefits of working for the Bath & Wells MAT include; a generous pension scheme, enhanced sickness and parental benefits and a supportive working environment.

The Bath & Wells MAT is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, young people and vulnerable adults and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. This post is subject to an enhanced DBS and all relevant pre-employment checks.

Please download an Application Pack from our website and return, accompanied by a full letter of application to the school office by post, or email the School Business Manager: naomi.chandler@sjsf.bwmat.org

Closing date: Thursday 10th January 2019 at 12 noon

Interview date: Thursday 17th January 2019

This post will commence: As soon as notice period dictates

Hats, Coats, etc:

With the changeable weather please make sure that your child has a warm, NAMED, coat in school every day. Please also make sure that your child has a warm hat with them. Thank you.

Christmas Performance Collections:

There will be a collection at each of the upcoming Christmas Performances, with donations to the Salvation Army and St Margaret's Hospice, the latter in memory of Mrs Kendrick.

Christmas Fair-class stalls:

Please could you and your child sign up for a 15-minute slot on your class stall. It's a really good opportunity for your child to handle money and work as a team. Sign-up sheets are in the classroom. Many thanks.

Message from the PTA:

Thank you to all the staff and parents who helped at the disco, without your support we would be unable to put these events on for the children. Also, a big thank you to the children and parents who supported us. We made an amazing £509.89!

We hope you liked your Christmas card orders they raised £191.40 for the PTA pot. We have already agreed to fund something exciting for Science Week and half the subscription for the PlayPod membership.

Please ensure the DVD orders are returned, with payment, in a named envelope before 12th December.

Amazing attendance:

The class with the best attendance this week is Sparrow Class, 99.05%. Well done for achieving great attendance. Sparrow Class can wear non-uniform on Friday 14th December 2018.

Weekly awards:

Bird of the week

Robin	Ayla E
Wren	Myla R
Blackbird	Claire G
Sparrow	Tallulah G
Chaffinch	Tyler H
Goldfinch	Grace K
Woodpecker	Vesile K
Jay	Charlie P
Barn Owl	Miley C
Tawny Owl	Megan H
Crane	Tristan B
Heron	Dominic C
Kingfisher	Libby J
Eagle	Rebecca B
Kestrel	Kaden H

Class Worship Leaders

Robin	Whole Class
Wren	Whole Class
Blackbird	Evie T
Sparrow	Daisy
Chaffinch	Whole Class
Goldfinch	Whole Class
Woodpecker	Connor
Jay	Charlie P
Barn Owl	Molly S
Tawny Owl	Whole Class
Kingfisher	Whole Class
Heron	Charlie W and Kamile A
Eagle	Joshua and Harvey
Kestrel	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

St John & St Francis Church School present,

Christmas Fair

Friday 14th December
3.15pm—5.00pm

Many Stalls, Inflatable, Raffle ,
Hot Dogs, Refreshments, Santa's
Grotto

Father Christmas will be appearing in his
Christmas cottage. £3 per child including a
gift. **PAY ON THE DAY**

PADDINGTON'S TREASURE HUNT



Bridgwater Library
NOV 21st - DEC 8th 18

BRIDGWATER LIBRARY PRESENTS

FIREBIRD STORYTELLING & CRAFTS

FAIRYTALE LANTERN CRAFT
SATURDAY 8th DECEMBER
£1 PER CHILD | 11AM-12 NOON
BOOK IN PERSON OR ONLINE!

Our second craft in the run-up to our festive 'Firebird' Storytelling session will involve making candle jars with cutouts of characters from the fairy-tale! These mystical lights will bring you some festive warmth as winter draws in...

As ever with our lantern crafts, space is limited (we only have so many jars!) - so please book your place as soon as possible to avoid disappointment.



SATURDAY 15th DECEMBER

STORYTELLING - FREE | NO NEED TO BOOK | 10:30AM
CHRISTINGLE ORANGE CRAFT - £1 PER CHILD | NO
NEED TO BOOK | STARTS AFTER STORYTELLING

Guest storyteller Irena will weave a mythical tale about the mysterious Firebird, with the storytelling followed by our Christmassy Christingle orange craft! There's no need to book for this craft but there will be a small charge for materials.

Extra-curricular opportunities:

Monday : Gymnastics Club, run by Premier Sports for Years R-6. Please see leaflets which were sent home 16th November 2018 and book online at www.premier-education.com

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

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

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

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://stjohnstfrancisbwm.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.



December	
Our Nativity performances will be at The Salvation Army Hall in Moorland Road.	
14 th	PTA Christmas Fair – please see note home 22.11.18
17 th - 21 st	Sparkle and Shine Week. Please send in a decorated shoe box or bag.
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	Christmas Lunch. Please book online at www.parentpay.com
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	
January	
7 th	INSET DAY – School closed to all pupils.
8 th	School reopens following the Christmas break.
14 th – 18 th	Science Focus Week.
14 th – 15 th	Year 5 Bikeability Cycle Training.
14 th	PTA Meeting in School Hall @ 6.30pm
17 th	Tawny Owl Class Community Assembly @ 2.45pm in School Hall for parents and family of children in Tawny Owl Class.
18 th	Year 4 swimming sessions begin at 1610 Chilton.
21 st	Science Showcase. Parents invited into class to see work from our Science week @ 2.45pm.
28 th – 1 st	Storytelling Week. More details to follow.
February	
1 st	PTA Friday Night Film Club – further details to follow nearer the event.
4 th	PTA Meeting in School Hall at 6.30pm
6 th	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 th	Jay Class Community Assembly @ 2.45pm in School Hall for parents and family of children in Jay Class.
18th – 22nd Half Term break	