



Week beginning: 17th December 2018

St John & St Francis Newsletter

Message from Mr Gordon



I noticed this poster at the Salvation Army Hall this week whilst they hosted us for our Nativity performances. I was really taken by it, not just for how lovely it is, but also how much it applies to our school as much as the church.

Despite the best of intentions in all that we do, we have made mistakes this term. However, wherever we made mistakes, we have been open, said sorry and have tried to learn from them.

In assemblies and classroom we do prayer and worship, led by the children, staff and leaders from our local community.

In all that we do, we try to follow God's word, with our values underpinning the actions of both staff and children, so that all may live a life in all its fullness.

We do hugs! This half term particularly we have supported and been supported through the unfortunate events that have occurred.

Our compassion for all means that we give people second chances, as we all make mistakes and can learn from them.

This term, I have been touched by the sense of family in our school community. The way the school staff work together, but also how you as parents and carers, together with our

governors are all united in our common goal of providing the best quality of education for our children.

And most importantly, we do love. Our linked bible phrase of Corinthians 13, can be described as "Faith, Hope and Love". Love for each other, love for our children's futures, and love for the wellbeing of our wider community.

May I take this time to wish you all a Happy Christmas and peaceful New Year, however you choose to spend it. I look forward to seeing you all again at the start of our Spring Term.

Thank-you's:

- to our brilliant PTA, for their fireless work throughout this term, raising funds and putting on enjoyable events for our children. Their unwavering support is very much appreciated.
- an additional, and special thank-you to Julie Tomkins for spending this week recording all 7 Christmas performances and then transferring them onto DVD's which our parents/carers have bought. At this busy time of year, this is much appreciated by all.
- to the Salvation Army for hosting our Christmas Performances again this year.

Booking School Lunches-Spring term:

School lunches can now be booked until Spring half-term. Please book online at www.parentpay.com before our return to School after the Christmas holidays, on Tuesday 8th January 2019.

Safeguarding E-Safety Update: Buying devices at Christmas Time:

If you are thinking of buying technology for your children at Christmas, then you might like to read the advice from the UK Safer internet Centre www.saferinternet.org.uk/advice-centre/parents-and-carers/resources-parents-and-carers which includes buying guides to help you choose the best device, screen time boundaries, etc. This is well worth a read.

School Closure – Local Election 2019

As advised in our letter home today, we have been notified that the school will be closed on 2nd May 2019 due to local elections. However, we are asking that year 6 still attend on that day due to upcoming SATs.

Easter 2019 – Miss Dyer:

Miss Dyer will be travelling to India in the Easter Holiday, on a teacher study tour, to bring back resources for the school and make links with other teachers in India. In order to help raise funds for the trip. She will be holding a cake stall on Friday 11th January 2019. If you would like to contribute cakes, please bring these into school on Friday 11th January. The cake stall will be outside of Kestrel class on the day, everyone is welcome to come along and buy a cake, or two!

Christmas Performance Collections:

Thank you for the kind donations given at this week's Christmas Performances. Once the total has been calculated in the New Year, we will let you know how much you have raised for the Salvation Army and St Margaret's Hospice, in memory of Mrs Kendrick,

Message from the PTA:

Thank you to everyone who helped and supported the Christmas Fair. We raised an amazing **£1,371.49!** Your support is very much valued and the PTA would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

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.

School Admission Arrangements 2020/21:

The consultation on St John & St Francis Church School 2020/21 admission arrangements is from 14 December 2018 until 31 January 2019. If you wish to comment on these arrangements please e-mail: office@sjsf.bwmat.org A final copy of the determined admission arrangements will be displayed on the website by 28 February 2019.

After this date objections can be made to the Office of the School's Adjudicator. For further information on how to make an objection please visit their website <http://www.education.gov.uk/schoolsadjudicator/> or phone the office on 01325 735303.

Scooters/Bicycles:

A polite reminder that scooters and bikes should not be ridden on inside the school grounds, for everyone's safety. Please ensure your child pushes their scooter/bike to the school gates.

Year 6 Kilve meeting:

Teachers will be sending home a letter in the Spring Term, regarding an upcoming Kilve meeting on 18th March.

Amazing attendance:

The class with the best attendance this half-term is Barn Owl Class, 98.10%! Well done for achieving great attendance. Barn Owl Class can wear non-uniform on Friday 11th January 2019.

Weekly awards:

Bird of the week

| | |
|-------------------|-------------|
| Robin | Carter G |
| Wren | Whole Class |
| Blackbird | Evie T |
| Sparrow | Elanie E |
| Chaffinch | Katie F |
| Goldfinch | Lexie A |
| Woodpecker | Cayden J |
| Jay | Zac C |
| Barn Owl | Maison O-S |
| Tawny Owl | Fabien S |
| Crane | James E |
| Heron | Toby M |
| Kingfisher | Jacob T |
| Eagle | Ava F |
| Kestrel | Maria G-T |

Class Worship Leaders

| | |
|-------------------|---------------|
| Robin | Whole Class |
| Wren | Whole Class |
| Blackbird | Whole Class |
| Sparrow | Whole Class |
| Chaffinch | Whole Class |
| Goldfinch | Whole Class |
| Woodpecker | Emie C |
| Jay | Maddison B |
| Barn Owl | Connor & Owen |
| Tawny Owl | Whole Class |
| Kingfisher | Whole Class |
| Heron | Whole Class |
| Eagle | Ella S Jake H |
| Kestrel | Whole Class |

Half Term award:

Star Reader

| | |
|-------------------|-----------|
| Robin | Matas A |
| Wren | Oscar M |
| Blackbird | Jessica S |
| Sparrow | Isla B |
| Chaffinch | Lily O |
| Goldfinch | Carina M |
| Woodpecker | Jordan R |
| Jay | Rafi G |
| Barn Owl | Carlos M |
| Tawny Owl | Freya C |
| Kingfisher | Finley S |
| Heron | Akvile K |
| Eagle | Monika H |
| Kestrel | Natalie R |

Christian value:

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

St John & St Francis Church School

Class Attendance:



Our school attendance target is 96%, and whole school attendance for the school year to date is 95.81%, which has improved since last half term. At this time of the year, with lots of cold bugs around, that is great news!



| Class | % this half-term | % year to date | 100%'ers | Non-uniform days this year | |
|---------------|------------------|----------------|------------|----------------------------|----------------------|
| Robin | 93.44 | 94.72 | 5 | | |
| Wren | 94.58 | 95.12 | 8 | ✓ | |
| Blackbird | 95.5 | 94.34 | 8 | | |
| Sparrow | 97.33 | 96.81 | 9 | ✓✓✓ | Great Attendance |
| Chaffinch | 96.44 | 95.28 | 7 | ✓✓ | Improving! |
| Goldfinch | 97.02 | 95.19 | 9 | ✓ | Improving! |
| Jay | 96.09 | 95.71 | 5 | ✓ | Improving! |
| Woodpecker | 97.76 | 98.24 | 14 | ✓✓✓ | Fantastic 😊 |
| Barn Owl | 98.10 | 97.39 | 11 | ✓✓ | Brilliant! |
| Tawny Owl | 95.31 | 95.24 | 8 | ✓✓✓ | |
| Heron | 92.64 | 93.53 | 7 | | |
| Kingfisher | 96.22 | 96.04 | 9 | ✓ | Improving! |
| Eagle | 95.57 | 97.12 | 8 | | |
| Kestrel | 96.95 | 96.53 | 7 | | Well done! |
| TOTALS | 95.93 | 95.81 | 110 | | Nearly there! |

Barn Owl class have achieved best attendance this half term. In total, 8 classes achieved the school target of 96%, with another 3 close behind. That is a huge improvement on the first half-term!

Today we have handed out 234 certificates for Platinum (100%), Gold (99+%), Silver (98+%) & Bronze (97+%) attendance to children today, as well as certificates for most improved attendance compared to this time last year.

As mentioned in our newsletter earlier in the school year, we are writing to parents on a monthly basis, whose children have either fallen below 90% attendance so far this school year, remained below 90%, are improving above the Department for Education's Persistent Absenteeism threshold of 90%, or have improved above the school target of 96%. In comparison to the beginning of the school year, we have noticed a third less children whose attendance is below 90%. This is a terrific result, and one which we are proud our families have achieved. Well done!





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

Christmas Events

- Friday 21st Dec – 7pm. Community Carols on Saxon Green with St Francis Church.
- Sunday 23rd Dec - 6pm. Candlelight Carol Service (Reflective)
- Tuesday 25th Dec – 11am. Morning Service.

St Francis Church, Saxon Green, Bridgwater

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

BRIDGWATER LIBRARY PRESENTS
FIREBIRD
A SECOND CHANCE TO DO OUR
FESTIVE CRAFTS
AND A BRAND NEW
WINTER CRAFT
THURSDAY 3RD JAN

£1 PER CHILD | 11AM-12 NOON
BOOK IN PERSON OR ONLINE!

Missed out on our festive crafts the first time around? Fear not! We will be running a special session on the 3rd January where you can experience everything you missed out on! There will also be a **BRAND NEW** winter craft (involving SLIME!!)

WINTER CRAFT
A brand new winter craft to keep the holidays going!

PHOENIX & EGG CRAFT
Decorate your own phoenix and egg!

FAIRYTALE LANTERN
Create a beautiful candle lantern with Christmas designs.

TREASURE HUNT 22 DEC - 5 JAN
A Firebird themed treasure hunt will be running over New Years!




BRIDGWATER LIBRARY PRESENTS THE
FIREBIRD TREASURE HUNT
DEC 22 2018 TO JAN 5 2019

Keep the festive season going with our **SECOND CHANCE CRAFTS!**

Missed out on our festive crafts the first time around? Just want another go? Fear not! We will be running a special session on 3rd January where you can give everything a try! (Booking required).

Extra-curricular opportunities:

Details of clubs for Spring Term will follow in the New Year.

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>

| Christmas break 23 rd December – 4 th 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. |
| 24 th | Year 6 SATs meeting @ 6.00pm. Please see letter home w/c 10.12.18 |
| 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 | |
| 25 th | INSET DAY – School closed to all pupils. |
| 26 th | School re-opens following the Half Term break. |
| March | |
| 4 th | PTA Meeting in School Hall @ 6.30pm |
| 5 th | Parents Evening 3.30pm - 7.00pm. Parents have been given details of our online parents evening system to book an appointment with classteachers. |
| 7 th | World Book Day. Please come to school dressed as your favourite book character. |
| 7 th | Parents Evening 3.30pm - 7.00pm. Parents have been given details of our online parents evening system to book an appointment with classteachers. |
| 14 th | Chaffinch Class Community Assembly @ 2.45pm in School Hall for parents and family of children in Chaffinch Class. |
| 15 th | Red Nose Day 2019. Further details to follow. |
| 15 th | PTA Easter Disco – further details to follow nearer the event. |
| 18 th | Year 6 Kilve meeting @ 6pm in the School Hall. Please see letter home from teachers in January 2019. |
| 21 st | Goldfinch Class Community Assembly @ 2.45pm in School Hall for parents and family of children in Goldfinch Class. |
| 28 th | Barn Owl Class Community Assembly @2.45pm in School Hall for parents and family of children in Barn Owl Class. |
| April | |
| 1 st – 5 th | Easter Focus week – 40 acts of Kindness |
| 1 st | PTA Meeting in School Hall @ 6.30pm |
| 3 rd | Reception & Year 6 Class Photos with Tempest Photography. |
| 4 th | Easter Service @ St Francis Church. Year Reception, 1 & 2 : 9.30am, Year 3 & 4 : 10.10am, Year 5 & 6 : 10.50am. Bonnet Parade on the School Playground. All children are asked to make an Easter Bonnet. Parade will be at 2.00pm followed by hot cross buns in the school hall. |
| 5 th | Parents invited into class to make an Easter 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 |
| Easter Break 8th-22nd April | |
| 23 rd | School reopens following the Easter break. |