



Week beginning: 6th January 2019

St John & St Francis Newsletter

Message from Mr Gordon

Welcome back! I do hope that you have all had an enjoyable and restful holiday; batteries are recharged and ready for all that 2019 has in front of us. The children have come back really well and are already getting stuck into their work. The broad range of curriculum subjects is clear with children investigating crime scenes, the streets of London in flames, dragon eggs being found in the playground, new class novels started, and Indian inspired pots, dancing and t-shirts made. It has been a busy first week back!

We are exploring our Christian value of 'Perseverance' this half term. Lots of children received certificates in collective worship this morning for demonstrating perseverance in class Maths and English lessons. This is an important virtue to have, so it is great to see the children excel at it. There is guidance on the Christian Values page of our website about how you can help your child with this at home.

Questions from the Gate:

There is a buildings theme to questions this week:

"When will the roof repairs be completed?" The storm damage has been repaired and we have been told that the scaffolding will be coming down in the next day or two.

"What is being done to reduce the risk of trapped fingers?" Unfortunately, much though I would love to be able to guarantee that children won't ever suffer accidents at school, this is simply not the case. However, following a finger trapping incident last term, we have carried out the following actions in a bid to reduce the chance of any reoccurrence as much as possible: Door closures have been checked and adjusted so that doors close slowly, foam padding has been stuck on cubicle doors/frames to prevent full door closure, additional door stops have been purchased and will be installed in the coming weeks, adults are reminding children about being safe around doors, not bunching up etc. I toured the school with the Trust's H&S officer who was satisfied that all actions were in place. We are due to have the toilets refurbished with modern cubicles. This is being paid for by the Trust, so I will have more details as to style and number etc near the time.

School Closure – Local Election 2019:

As advised in our letter home at the end of last term, 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.

Spring Term 10:10 Entitlements:

You may have noticed our Teachers have been hard at work uploading links to the new Term's topics on our website. Please take a look to see what your child will be enjoying learning for the Spring Term, their upcoming challenges, Christian Values explored, and opportunities for collaboration to mention just a few. Visit www.stjohnstfrancisbwmat.org and click on Children, Class Pages and select your child/ren's class.

School Website:

Our website is regularly updated and a great way to keep informed of what has been happening in school, diary dates, and other important information.

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.

Attendance:

Following our great start to the school year, our whole school attendance continues to improve at the start of the Spring Term compared to this time last year. Our school target is 96% and we are currently just slightly under this, even with the cold weather and bugs that are prevalent in Winter - Thank you. We are keen to continue improving this achievement throughout the year.

As we continue to make families aware, children's attendance below 90% is classed by the Department for Education as Persistent Absence. There may be many reasons for this such as unauthorised term time leave, sickness, medical appointment, late arrival, etc. However, as we start the Spring Term, attendance below 90% equates to 8 days of absence, and therefore 8 days of missed education.

If your child's attendance has fallen below 90% so far this school year, we hope you have found our letters at the end of each month, informing you of their current level of attendance, informative and useful in keeping track of their absences.

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

Severe Weather Procedure:

A timely reminder, with the colder weather continuing next week, that our procedure for Severe Weather can be found at: www.stjohnstfrancisbwmat.org/parents/severe-weather-procedure/

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.

Important Notice: Term Time Leave

The school's Attendance Policy can be found online on our website: <http://stjohnstfrancisbwmat.org/about-us/policies/localpolicies/> 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.

Christmas Performance Collection:

Thank you for your generosity once again with the retiring collections at our Christmas Performances. You raised £439.15 which has been shared between the Salvation Army and St Margaret's Hospice.

Uniform reminder:

Firstly, thank you to all parents/carers who ensure that their children wear the correct school uniform into school each day. Unfortunately, a small number of pupils are not following our uniform policy, with examples being boots worn instead of black school shoes, leggings instead of grey/black trousers, nail varnish worn, shoulder length hair worn down instead of tied up and 'tribal' patterns shaved into hair. If For a reminder on our school uniform expectations, please visit www.stjohnstfrancisbwmat.org/parents/school-uniform We do expect all children to wear the correct school uniform and would appreciate your assistance with this.

Home School Diaries:

At the start of the school year, every child was provided with a Home School Diary, at a considerable cost to the school. We are finding that some children are not bringing these into school every day, or parents are advising they have been lost. A replacement Home School Diary is available for £2.80 from the School Office. Please note from next week, children who do not bring in their Home School Diary will be given a slip for parents advising that a replacement should be purchased.

Packed Lunches:

A reminder that morning snacks should be fruit or vegetables only, not cereal bars, crisps or nuts. Please note: we are a nut free school. Packed lunches should also be healthy, and not contain chocolate bars, fizzy drinks, etc. For some helpful advice, and ideas for lunchboxes, please visit: www.bbcgoodfood.com/howto/guide/school-packed-lunch-inspiration

Year 5 & 6 mobile phones:

Further to our text to parents earlier this week, unfortunately there are still a number of mobile phones being handed into the School Office unnamed. Please ensure your child's phone, if they walk to/from school alone, is clearly named. Thank you.

School Crossing:

A polite reminder that children on bikes and scooters, etc. should please dismount before crossing the road. This is for everyone's safety. Unfortunately, it has been noted this week that children on bikes and scooters are riding across the crossing.

Message from the PTA:

Christmas Performance DVD's can still be ordered (form available from the School Office) until Friday 18th January.

Updated school policies:

There have been some updates to our published school policies, including RE, collective worship and Safeguarding. Please do take a look.

Amazing attendance:

The class with the best attendance this week is Kestrel Class, 99.52%! Well done for achieving near perfect attendance. Kestrel Class can wear non-uniform on Friday 18th January 2019.

Weekly awards:

Bird of the week

Robin	Gracie-Jane H
Wren	Saskia P
Blackbird	Shanujan S
Sparrow	Lily Y
Chaffinch	Ezmee P
Goldfinch	Alfie G
Woodpecker	Louis H
Jay	Ashden W
Barn Owl	Liam M
Tawny Owl	Lilly-May O
Crane	Taylor H
Heron	Toby M
Kingfisher	Olivia W
Eagle	Kaden H
Kestrel	Oliver C

Class Worship Leaders

Robin	Whole Class
Wren	Whole Class
Blackbird	Whole Class
Sparrow	Whole Class
Chaffinch	Whole Class
Goldfinch	Whole Class
Woodpecker	Whole class
Jay	Whole class
Barn Owl	Whole Class
Tawny Owl	Whole Class
Kingfisher	Whole Class
Heron	Whole Class
Eagle	Whole Class
Kestrel	Whole Class

Christian value:

Our Christian value for this half term is: **Perseverance**. "Perseverance is the hard work you do after you get tired of doing the hard work you already did."



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:

Clubs start back w/c 14th January 2018 with the exception of Netball Club which starts Wednesday 23rd January.

Monday : Gymnastics Club, run by Premier Sports for Years R-6. Please see leaflets sent home w/c 08.01.19 and book online at www.premier-education.com

Wednesday : Year 3-6 Netball Club, run by Miss Bryant. Please see letter home 10.01.19. Places are available,

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 Tamar Warner, 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/school-calendar-dates/>

January	
14th – 18th	Science Focus Week.
14th – 15th	Year 5 Bikeability Cycle Training.
14th	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.
	Epidemiology Survey of 5-year olds. Please see letter home from Bridgwater Dental Access Centre w/c 08.01.19
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.