

Together we are exploring our special gifts; Together we are growing towards God

Your Tuesday News 18th December 2018

'TOGETHER WE ARE GROWING TOWARDS GOD'

In worship yesterday we lit the pink candle on the Advent wreath, which is a symbol of joy. We discussed what joy means and how it is an overwhelming feeling of happiness. We listened to Luke's Gospel which tells of John the Baptist telling us how to prepare for the coming of Jesus by sharing our wealth and belongings with others. We recognised how this reading fits in perfectly with our Advent theme this year of JOY - putting Jesus and Others before



ourselves. We discussed how we have tried to do that during Advent by participating in Advent prayers, our Advent Mass, our Carol service, donating baby items to the Gianna Project and sharing our things with our friends. We then prayed together and set our mission of the week: to bring JOY to others by sharing a smile.

Thank you to the Parent Council, Choir and volunteer readers for a beautiful Carol Service last week. It was a really special occasion and it was wonderful to see so many parents and families supporting this event. In total, £55 was raised. Thank you for all your generosity.

Last week we celebrated our Advent Mass together in the school hall. Thank you to Fr Anthony for leading us in our worship and a huge thank you especially to all the children; they sang so beautifully and read the readings so carefully. We had a beautiful communion reflection which reminded us all of our Advent theme this year – **JOY** = Jesus, Others, You.

Super congratulations to all the children in KS1 for their fantastic Christmas liturgy, 'Mary's Knitting'. The children's singing was amazing and their acting skills and reading out loud skills were also wonderful. We are very proud of you all, well done! Thank you to the KS1 staff team for preparing the children so well.

At this time of year, Mr Copley and Mrs Haines would like to say a huge thank you to all the staff at St Francis for their continued hard work and dedication to our children and families. Our staff team work tirelessly to give the very best education and opportunities to every child, for which we are very grateful. Thank you for all that you do. We would also like to thank our small team of Parent Council members. Though small in number, they work extremely hard to raise much needed funds which go towards providing the very best resources and experiences for our children and their education. Thank you for all your hard work.

God Bless from Mr Copley, Mrs Haines and Miss Burgess

EVERY SCHOOL DAY COUNTS:

Our Attendance Target for this year is 97%



Congratulations to FS2 who are our attendance champions with 98%

CLASS	% ATTENDANCE w/b 10.12.18.	%ATTENDANCE this year to date
FS2	98.00	95.60
Year 1	96.45	96.20
Year 2	97.67	97.89
Year 3	95.71	97.35
Year 4	96.77	97.72
Year 5	97.42	97.61
Year 6	97.04	97.93
Average	97.00%	97.18%
TARGET	97.00%	97.00%

TOGETHER WE ARE EXPLORING OUR SPECIAL GIFTS

There was no Merit Worship last week.

Mrs Duckworth and Mrs Haines would like to say a huge thank you to the choir for all their efforts over the last few weeks. It has been a very busy time with many events in different places but also a very rewarding time. We can see how much the choir are improving each week and we hear so many positive comments from passers by and audience members. We are extremely proud of you all. We would also like to say a big thank you to all the parents/carers of the choir who have ensured their children are at the right place at the right time for all these different events. Without your support, we wouldn't be able to take part in so many events. Thank you very much and we now look forward to Young Voices in Sheffield on Friday 11th January.



Thank you to all the entrants for the Family Ten Book Reading Challenge. It was a great success with 27 entries from Foundation Stage, 23 from KS1 and 11 from KS2. Congratulations to the following people who won a £20 book voucher: FS – Dhillon; KS1 - Lily-May; KS2 - Gracie-Mae. Lily-May was chuffed to bits to win the reading challenge. She was super excited to go shopping, and impressed with her huge array of purchases.

Theo had his grading for his half green belt in kickboxing recently and he passed with flying colours. He managed a joint top score! He did so well, his teacher was very impressed. Well done Theo.



Rose and her CC dance academy friends were invited to sing Carols at Leeds Minster last night for breast cancer haven. She sang clearly and proudly with her team and they were all fantastic!

If you are worried or concerned about the wellbeing of any of our pupils, please ask to speak to Mr Copley, Mrs Haines, Miss Burgess or Mrs Laptew



Last Wednesday evening, the choir had the privilege of singing at the Martin House Light Up a Life Service at Bradford Cathedral, which celebrated the lives of children who have sadly passed away. This was such a special service with some very poignant moments throughout. The choir sang beautifully in memory of Alfie Joe Barraclough and represented our school brilliantly.

Thank you and well done.

Thank you to all our parents/carers and families who have donated so generously to our collection for the Gianna Project. A member of the Catholic Care team will pick up all your donations on Wednesday 19th December and ensure they are distributed to new mothers and expectant mothers in need of help and support.





Our final Babbling Book of the year is read by Emily Jarockyj, our Parent Governor. She is reading 'The Best Christmas Present Ever' by Ben Mantle, which is appropriate for Foundation Stage and KS1 children and is available to listen to on our school website. There will be more Babbling Books in the new year. Thank you to all the volunteers for recording themselves!

Faith in Action is a programme established by CYMF (Catholic Youth Ministry Federation). It is an award scheme, which recognises the achievements of young people as they live their faith, serve their communities and grow in understanding of God's love. This programme has been offered to our Y5 children and so far we have 17 children who have signed up. To ensure parents have all the information they need to support their children on this programme, Miss Trotter will be holding meetings for parents on Tuesday 8th January; one at 9am and one at 5:30pm. More detailed information has been sent home in a letter. Please look out for it.



After School Club

Today parents and families should have received a letter detailing the arrangements for St Francis After School Club which will start on Monday 7th January. If you do not receive a letter, it can be found on the school website under 'Our School'. If you want to book for the first week your booking form should be returned to school by Thursday 3rd January.

Please can we remind parents of children in Foundation Stage to ensure their children have hats, scarves and gloves in school. Children are encouraged to go outside in all weathers so it is important they are equipped with appropriate clothing. Thank you.





On Monday KS1 were very excited to receive a Skype call from Father Christmas! He knew our teachers' names and what we had been learning in school. He also showed us his 'Naughty and Nice' book which has every child's name written in it. We then got to the opportunity to ask Father Christmas some questions. We found out that if your house doesn't have a chimney, he has a magic key that he can use to open your door!

NOTIFICATION OF NEW SCHOOL MEALS PRICES FROM JANUARY 2019

Bradford Council have informed us that in keeping with previous years, an Autumn term review of the school meal prices has been undertaken. The outcome of this review is that, from the 1st January 2019, the recommended school meal prices will be as follows:

For nursery children (F30) - £1.60 For all other children £1.80



School Calendar

(Please note these dates and times could be subject to change)

Date	Time	Class	Event
Thursday 3 rd January	Return to School after the Christmas holiday		
Monday 7 th January	2.30 pm	Y5 / Y6	Skype chat with Piers Torday
Tuesday 8 th January	All day	Y6	Visit to Tropical World
	9.00 & 5.30	KS2	Meeting for parents re Faith in Action
Wednesday 9 th January	9.30 am	KS2	Mass of the Day in Church
Friday 11 th January	8.55 am	All	Merit Worship
	PM	Choir	Young Voices
Tuesday 15 th January	2.30 pm	Y2	SATs meeting for Parents
Wednesday 16 th January	9.30 am	KS2	Mass in Church
Thursday 17 th January	9.00 am	Y6	Class Worship
Tuesday 22 nd January	9.00 & 3.15	EYFS	Parent workshop for Maths
Wednesday 23 rd January	9.30 am	Y6	Mass in Church
Thursday 24 th January	9.00 am	Y5	Class Worship
Wednesday 30 th January	AM/PM	FS1	Stay and Play sessions
	9.30 am	Y3	Mass in Church
Thursday 31 st January	AM/PM	FS2	Stay and Play sessions
	9.00 am	Y4	Class Worship



We would like to wish everybody a very happy, holy and peaceful Christmas. Thank you for your continued support this year and we look forward to returning to school in the new year on Thursday 3rd January.