



Newletter 1- 2020-21

Dear parents,

It has been wonderful to have the children all back at school and we are delighted that they have settled in well. Thank you for supporting us with our new routines and we are making tweaks as we go to ensure that everything runs as safely and as smoothly as possible. Please continue to join us in our weekly celebration liturgy- it is lovely to see parents and younger children tuning in to see what we have been doing in school.

Drop off and Pick Up Times

We have reviewed our procedures for drop off and pick up and have decided that pick up times need to remain the same for safety reasons. Drop offs can now become more flexible and we will be transitioning to this over the next couple of weeks. As you can see the main change is that **KS1 (not EYFS) children will be expected in school by 8.45am and KS2 will be expected in school by 9am.** KS2 enter the building independently and an adult is on the door from 8.45. When it is raining we try to get all of the children in as soon as they arrive.

	Drop Off	Pick-up
EYFS	8.30am	2.45pm
Y1	By 8.45am	2.55pm
Y2		3.05pm
Y3/4	From 8.45 and by 9.00am	3.10pm
Y5/6		3.20pm

Curriculum Drivers

At St Francis, we have identified the key skills and aspirations that we would like our children to experience and develop during their time with us. Our key drivers are:

Community
Joy and Spirit
Knowledge and Enquiry
Responsibility
Ambition
Communication

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We use these 'drivers' to underpin the learning and experiences that we undertake in all areas of school life and ensure that our curriculum offer is ambitious and gives all learners the knowledge and cultural capital they need to succeed. More details about our curriculum offer, including a map for the whole year, can be found on the school website.

Home Learning and Class Dojo

If your child is absent from school because they are self-isolating then they are still required to continue with their school work from home and submit work to their class teacher using class dojo.

Please can you let the school office know if you have not been able to set up class dojo for your child or if you do not have a way to access online learning- we may be able to help.

KS2 children will all be getting access to teams

Foodbank Services

We are delighted to have been awarded a grant to continue to provide food bank services in the community. Since lockdown, staff have voluntarily supported vulnerable families by delivering food items collected by the school community and parish. We are currently installing a foodbank collection point in our school foyer. We welcome any donations and we will distribute the food items to families in our community. If your family would benefit from these services then please email Mrs Brown in confidence and we will add your name to the list. gbrown7@st-francis.leics.sch.uk

Term Time Holidays

We have had a couple of requests for holidays recently and while we understand that this year has been challenging, we will not be authorising any term time holidays. Government guidelines which came into effect September 2013 prevent schools from granting term time holidays except in exceptional circumstances. Any cases where holidays are taken in term time from now on will be referred to the Local Authority to issue a fine. More information on this can be found in our attendance policy.

https://st-francis.leics.sch.uk/GalleryEntries/Office_folders/Documents/Attendance_Policy_2019.pdf

Uniform

I would like to remind you all of the uniform expectations in school, particularly the expectations in relation to PE and coats. I appreciate that it is expensive to purchase a coat separately for school use as well as having one for use at home and therefore do not mind if children have a coat in a different colour. However, coats must be suitable for the weather- raincoats/coats with a hood. Denim jackets are not permitted. In PE tracksuits must be plain with no logos. Leggings are not allowed.

Boys	Girls
Brown school fleece (optional item)	Brown school fleece (optional item)

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Gold shirt (tailored- long or short sleeved)	Gold blouse or shirt (long or short sleeved)
Brown pullover	Brown cardigan/pullover
Brown trousers/tailored shorts	Brown pinafore/skirt
	Candy striped/checked summer dress or skirt dress
Brown, black, fawn, white socks	Brown, black, fawn, white socks
Brown or black shoes	Brown or black shoes
PE	PE
Black plimsolls/optional trainers for outdoors	Black plimsolls/optional trainers for outdoors
White t-shirt/polo shirt	White t-shirt/polo shirt
T-shirt in house colour with logo (optional)	T-shirt in house colour with logo (optional)
Hoodie in house colour with logo (optional)	Hoodie in house colour with logo (optional)
Black* Tracksuit (no logos)	Black* Tracksuit (no logos)

*We have previously allowed navy and grey- these will still be permitted for this academic year but black is preferred

Homeless Project

The school has donated 10 washbags full of essential toiletry items to a homelessness project in Oakham. The Year 5/6 class came up with the ideas of things to include in the washbags and these have been gratefully received by the project organisers. The project is part of Churches Together and has provided a fully furnished house to support homeless people back to independent living. Many children have created pieces of artwork to be displayed in the house for the residents to admire!

St Francis Children Serving Others

I will be sharing the Service Record sheets in Class Dojo so that children can continue with their acts of service. I will be looking out for children who have made 'outstanding' contributions to the community and they will receive a special award at Christmas. All children who complete 10 acts of service will receive a bronze badge which they can wear on their uniform.

Harvest Liturgy and Feast of St Francis – Thursday 8th October 9.30am (Zoom)

Our Harvest Liturgy will be on Thursday 8th October at 9.30am in Zoom. More details about this will follow.

Parent's Evenings- Tuesday 13th/Wednesday 14th October

We are hoping to host our parent's evenings in a new online system. If you cannot access this service then teachers will give you a call to discuss your child's progress this term. Unfortunately, due to current restrictions, we cannot hold face to face parent's evenings in school.

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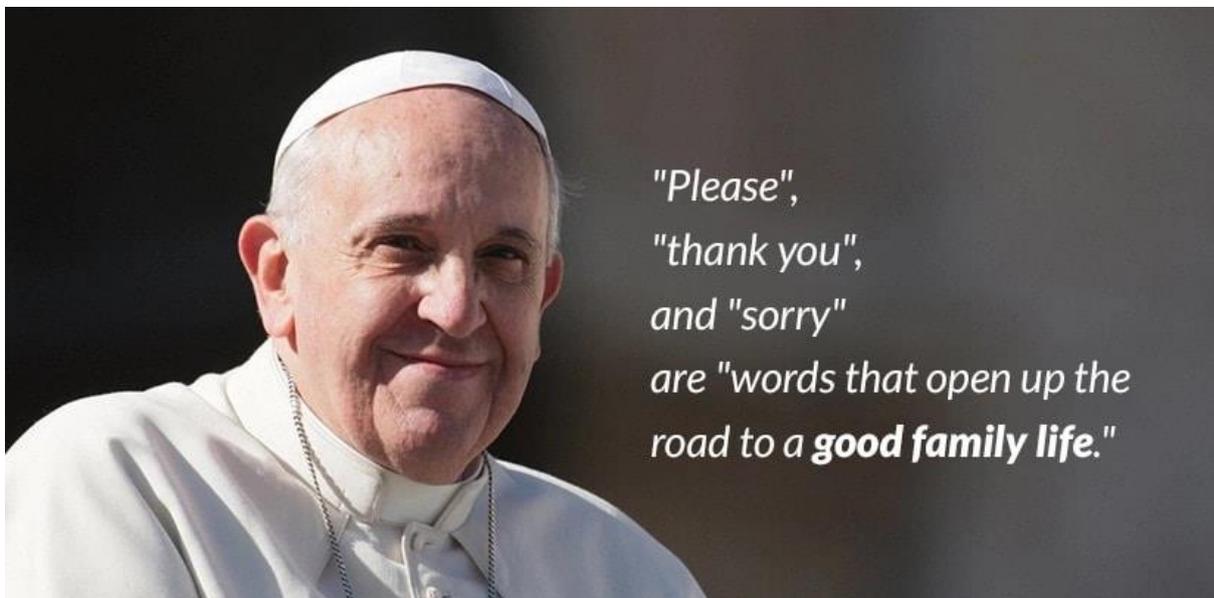
Parent Governor

We are still seeking to appoint two parent governors to join our Local Governing Body. If you have been considering this role and would like to know more about what this entails then please contact Mrs Brown for an informal chat.

Thank you all for your continued support of the school.

God Bless

Gosia Brown
Head Teacher



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