



ST FRANCIS NEWS

March 2022

March Newsletter



Dear parents and carers,

It was wonderful to see so many parents and carers in school for the Ash Wednesday Liturgy this week. Many of you commented on how it was good to be back in school. We felt greatly invigorated by the chance to share in prayer together. The children were impeccably behaved and enjoyed the calm and reflective nature of the service.

I hope that you have found the recent phonics and SATs sessions useful as well as Mrs Griffiths' SEND coffee morning. We are planning regular events for parents to come together before summer; as well as this being a great opportunity to find out about different aspects of school life it is also nice to get together with other parents and share experiences so please do come along!

A heartfelt thank you to you all for donations of items to send to Ukraine- we were overwhelmed with the response. Our prayers go out at this time to those in our community who have family and friends in Ukraine. I am sure that you share in my heartbreak to see so many people affected by the conflict. Each class will stop each day at 1.05pm to pray for one minute for peace in our world. We invite you to join us by stopping each day at the same time for a short moment of prayer. We pray that the Holy Spirit will work in the hearts and minds of those who have the power to stop this conflict and bring peace to our world.

Kind regards,
Mrs Brown

UPCOMING EVENTS WEST END IN SCHOOLS

On 16th/17th March, West End in schools are coming in to run some workshops on Shakespeare's 'A Midsummer Night's Dream'. This will be an incredible experience for the children and we are asking for a contribution of £3 towards the cost of this. This is payable in parentpay.

COMIC RELIEF

We will be raising money in school for comic relief. Children can come in their own clothes and maybe prepare a joke or two to share with their friends! There is a £1 suggested donation for Comic Relief.

ICED BUNS

The school kitchen will be selling iced buns on a Friday playtime for 50p a bun. Children with the most Dojos each week will receive an iced bun for free.

READING WITH YOUR CHILD

Miss Curley, our English Curriculum lead, has prepared a video which shows her reading with one of our pupils. We hope that this is useful in providing you with strategies to support your child when they are reading.

<https://youtu.be/-0IwCLd-hE4>

The link is to the video on our school YouTube channel.

VIRTUES PASSPORTS

Please continue to encourage your child to complete their virtues passport.

POKEMON CARDS

We are now asking that children do not bring Pokemon, or similar trading cards, into school due to cards being lost and issues after children have traded cards. Thank you for your support with this.



ST FRANCIS NEWS

March 2022

March Newsletter

CATHOLIC LIFE - LENT

What is Lent? Lent is the period of 40 days and 40 nights that precedes Easter and is a time of preparation for the celebration of the passion, death and resurrection of Jesus. The season encourages us to remove the things that cause us to be distracted from our relationship with God and the contrast between the Lenten and Easter seasons help us to recognise that Jesus' resurrection is the biggest cause for celebration in our faith. Lent is an old English word meaning 'lengthen'. Lent is observed in spring, when the days begin to get longer.

This Lent our children will be taking part in Lenten fundraising with their class. Mrs Orridge's class have decided to raise money for Dove Cottage; read their story below.

Mrs. Orridge's year 6 class would like to raise money for Dove Cottage by completing a sponsored silence.

Dove Cottage Day Hospice is a local charity and has been caring for adults since 1996. All of their care services are provided free of charge. Guests usually come to us for one day each week. They have skilled nurses, chaplaincy support, complementary therapies and beauty treatments for those in our local communities who have palliative care needs.



Dove Cottage has five charity shops, located in the towns and villages of the Vale of Belvoir, including Stathern, Bottesford, Cotgrave, Melton Mowbray and Asfordby and two ebay shops which support the work of the hospice.



When Edith's Papa was poorly, he visited the Dove Cottage Day Hospice regularly, made new friends and was able to talk to his old friends. Because of this support, her Papa was able to talk more and was happier in life.



ST FRANCIS NEWS

March 2022

March Newsletter

STAFFING UPDATE

Miss Stapleford is returning to school from next week. This will be a gradual return and we hope that she will be back in the classroom fulltime after Easter.

Ms Tookey and Mr Stevenson are both leaving St Francis to pursue new roles. We thank them both for their service to St Francis and to the school community.

As such, we have vacancies for posts at St Francis which are advertised on e-teach. Please do take a look and consider joining our wonderful team.

Teaching and non-teaching jobs at St Francis Catholic Primary School, Melton Mowbray, Leicestershire | Eteach

CURRENT HOUSEPOINTS

Our current Housepoint totals are below. Children earn housepoints for showing that they are living out our Catholic Virtues at lunchtimes. The children love to visit the office and pop their coloured ball into the Housepoint totaliser.



SCHOOL DINNER MENU

The kitchen have now reverted back to a three choice menu and this can be found on our school website.

School Dinner Menu - St Francis Primary School, Melton Mowbray (st-francis.leics.sch.uk)

SATS MEETINGS

We hope that you have found the SATs meetings useful and that the information shared has provided strategies for you to support your child at home. Information is available on a new SATs information page on our website.

SATS Information - St Francis Primary School, Melton Mowbray (st-francis.leics.sch.uk)



WORLD BOOK DAY

World book day was a great success with children and staff dressing up as their favourite characters from books. We raised a total amount of £163 for the school.



WEAR BLUE FOR LOURDES

Thank you for your kind donations for the Wear Blue for Lourdes Day. We raised a total of £137.00 for the Trust Pilgrimage to Lourdes.

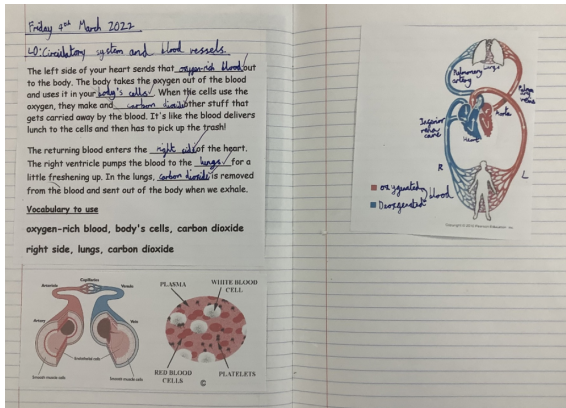


ST FRANCIS NEWS

March 2022

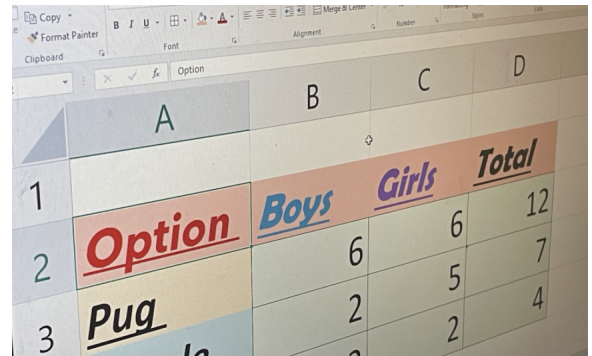
March Newsletter

CURRICULUM IN ACTION



Exploring how the circulatory system works in Y6 Science.

Learning how to format cells in ICT.



Impressive art work in Y5



ST FRANCIS NEWS

March Newsletter

March 2022

CURRICULUM IN ACTION



An incredible class picture from World Book Day!.



A walk in our local area



Learning about the digestive
system.



ST FRANCIS NEWS

March 2022

March Newsletter

PARENT/CARER SURVEY FEEDBACK

Thank you for taking the time to complete our parent survey last term. This provides us with useful feedback and we really do value your responses.

Headlines

94% of respondents said their child feels happy at St Francis.

We are delighted that parents report children are happy at school. Please always let us know if there is anything that your child is not happy about and we can discuss ways that we can support your child and resolve issues.

96% of respondents said that their child feels safe at St Francis.

School should be a safe place and at St Francis we strive for all children to feel safe. If you ever feel that your child feels unsafe for any reason at all, please directly contact Mrs Brown. It is most important that you feel your child is safe in school.

98% of respondents feel that at St Francis we ensure that pupils are well behaved. This is excellent and visitors to our school always comment on the super behaviour of our children.

Of 18 respondents who felt their child had been victim of bullying, 94% felt that we dealt with this effectively.

If you ever feel an issue has not been fully resolved then please get in touch with us so that we can support your child.

81% of respondents felt that we make parents/carers aware of what your child will learn throughout the academic year.

We would like to improve this so as well as publishing detailed curriculum maps on our website, we are also sending home half termly overviews in Class Dojo. If you ever want any more information, please get in touch with your child's class teacher.

75% of respondents said that when they raised concerns they were dealt with properly.

We would really like to improve on this. If a concern raised with a class teacher is not properly resolved, please escalate your concern to Miss Curley, Mrs Orridge or Mrs Brown. If your concern relates to SEN provision, please raise this with Mrs Griffiths. We will always do our best to resolve any concerns. If you have any urgent concerns, please contact Mrs Brown directly as sometimes teachers do not have access to Class Dojo during the school day.



ST FRANCIS NEWS

March 2022

March Newsletter

PARENT/CARER SURVEY FEEDBACK CONTINUED

Of respondents whose children have SEND, 46% felt their child was properly supported and 15% were unsure.

We really would like to communicate effectively around the provision we have in place for SEND children. Mrs Griffiths has put together some useful information which she is sharing with parents at our SEN coffee mornings and there is a detailed section around SEND provision on our school website. We will hold more of these over the academic year. If you are ever unsure about what is in place for your child, please contact Mrs Griffiths or your child's class teacher.

80% of respondents felt that the school has high expectations for their child.

We would like all parents/carers to be confident in our high ambition for their child. Teachers meet regularly with the Head Teacher to discuss the progress of all children in their class, with a sharp focus on aspirational targets in all areas. Our ambition is for all children, regardless of their starting point, to make excellent progress, academically, socially, emotionally and spiritually.

91% of respondents felt that their child does well at St Francis.

We aim to work in partnership with parents so that we can do the very best for your child so that they can achieve to their full potential. We are putting on more information evenings so that you can learn more about our curriculum and how we assess outcomes. We hope that you find these useful and also use our guidance to support your child at home.

71% of respondents felt that they knew how well their child is doing at school.

Our parents evenings are termly and we send home a full report before the end of the academic year. We are looking at how we can increase communication around pupil attainment without increasing teacher workload. If you would like more information at any stage, please do contact your child's class teacher.

85% of respondents felt there is a good range of subjects available for their child at St Francis. 14% were not sure.

At St Francis, we follow the national curriculum and our curriculum is designed to ensure that the children cover the full breadth of subjects. We carefully design our curriculum to maximise opportunities for children. There is lots of information around the curriculum on our school website.



ST FRANCIS NEWS

March 2022

March Newsletter

PARENT/CARER SURVEY FEEDBACK CONTINUED

87% of respondents agreed that there is a good range of clubs for their children to take part in at school.

We are proud of our clubs offer and as well as offering some academic support through our morning reading club (this is free of charge to all families and now includes a light breakfast!), we also have a range of clubs to cater for our children's interests. We are continually seeking to improve our offer.

73% of respondents felt that the school supports their child's wider personal development; 11% were unsure of how we do this.

As well as having high academic ambition for all of our children, we also want them to develop as young people. This is supported through our catholic virtues and values, our PSHCE curriculum and through a focus on developing cultural capital. More information around these areas is available on our website.

91% of respondents felt included in the life of the school.

We really hope that this increases as restrictions are lifted. Our PTA are always looking for new volunteers to get involved with fundraising and we love to welcome you for whole school celebrations. Please share any ideas you have for being more involved with Mrs Brown!

80% of you would recommend our school to another parent and 9% of you were unsure.

We hope that for those parents new to the school, you feel more confident to recommend us now your children have been with us for more than half the academic year. We truly want your child's school experience to be the best that it can be, so if there is any further feedback then please do not hesitate to get in touch with us.



March 2022

ST FRANCIS NEWS

March Newsletter

Loving God,
We pray for the people of Ukraine,
for all those suffering or afraid,
that you will be close to them and protect them.

We pray for world leaders,
for compassion, strength and wisdom to guide their
choices.

We pray for the world
that in this moment of crisis,
we may reach out in solidarity
to our brothers and sisters in need.

May we walk in your ways
so that peace and justice
become a reality for the people of Ukraine
and for all the world.

Amen.



March 2022

ST FRANCIS NEWS

March Newsletter

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

March

- Friday 11th March- Y3/4 (CS) to perform a poem
- Weds/Thurs 16th/17th March- West End in School £3
- Friday 18th March- Comic Relief £1 donation
- Friday 18th March- Y3/4 (RL) to perform a poem
- Friday 25th March- Y1/2 (RC) to perform a poem
- Friday 25th March- Mother's Day Pop Up Shop PTA
- Wednesday 6th April- Easter Liturgy in school
- Thursday 7th April-School Disco (TBC)
- Friday 8th April- Y1/2 (EH) to perform a poem