



# St Francis Catholic Primary School Newsletter

*In Jesus we will do our best as we love, pray, learn and play because this is the St Francis way*

## **Welcome Back**

### **September 2023- Advent Term**

Dear parents/carers,

Welcome back to school after what has been a restful summer. I appreciate that many parents/carers work over the summer break and I hope that you managed to have some family time. A very special welcome to our new children and families.

We are looking forward to the term ahead and have lots to share with you already from the recent awards received by the school, such as the silver Equalities Award, the Eco Green Flag Award (with distinction!) and the RHS Gardening for schools award. More on these below.

I will be sharing a separate letter with a list of all of the clubs for this half term. The clubs for Monday and Tuesday, as well as the reading club, have been loaded on to parent pay. Mrs Culley is working on her own in the office at the moment as Mrs Arthur is unwell and will load up the remainder of the clubs early next week. Thank you for your patience with this.

I am sure that some of you may have noticed, but I am delighted to share that Mrs Byrne is expecting a baby, due in the new year. We wish Mrs Byrne and her husband all the very best as they prepare for their new arrival.

Wishing you a good rest this weekend ready for the first full week next week!

Best regards,

Mrs Brown

## RAAC in Schools

You may be aware from media coverage that the government has asked some schools to close or partially close due to the presence of reinforced autoclaved aerated concrete (RAAC) in their school buildings. We understand that this is an unsettling news story and that it may naturally have led you to wonder about the safety of our school building.

**Our school building does not contain RAAC and is fully safe to be open.**

I hope that this provides reassurance, but if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Mrs Brown in school.

## Behaviour Policy

We have adapted our behaviour policy for this academic year to introduce some simple school rules and to change our consequence system. We previously had a 'steps' system and we wanted to streamline this more. We now have a yellow and red card system. We have spoken to the children about expected behaviours and about unexpected behaviour and significant misbehaviour. It was really encouraging that in our assembly yesterday, the children were easily identifying the things they know are unexpected in our school community.

Children know that they will receive a reminder if they are displaying an unexpected behaviour.

After a reminder, if the behaviour persists, children will receive a 'yellow card' and will have a reflective discussion with their teacher at break or lunch. This will be logged in our behaviour system.

If unexpected behaviours persist, or significant misbehaviour occurs, children will be issued with a 'red card' which means visiting a member of SLT at break or lunchtime. The 'red card' will be logged and parents will be informed when a red card is issued.

Note: The cards won't be physical cards but the language here is easy for the children to understand.

Our policy can be found in full on our website- it is currently in draft form and we welcome any comments or suggestions from parents/carers ahead of it being adopted after our first Governor's meeting this month.

[Draft-Behaviour-Policy-September-2023.pdf \(st-francis.leics.sch.uk\)](https://www.st-francis.leics.sch.uk/Draft-Behaviour-Policy-September-2023.pdf)

# Child Protection Policy



## Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy 2023-4

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is defined in Keeping children safe in education (2023) as:

- protecting children from maltreatment;
- preventing impairment of children's mental and physical health or development;
- ensuring that children grow up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care; and
- taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes.

Child protection is part of this definition and refers to activities undertaken to prevent children from suffering, or being likely to suffer, significant harm.

Our updated Child Protection Policy is now on our school website. Please follow the link to see the policy in full.

[Safeguarding-and-Child-Protection-Policy-23-24.pdf \(st-francis.leics.sch.uk\)](https://st-francis.leics.sch.uk/Safeguarding-and-Child-Protection-Policy-23-24.pdf)

We have a duty to report any safeguarding concerns using the guidance contained within this policy.

Paper copies of this policy can be obtained from the school office if required.

# Catholic Life

## Catholic Virtues

At St Francis we teach the children to live out the Catholic virtues as part of our Character education. As a school, as well as aiming for academic excellence we want to develop the whole child so that our children can come to know their own dignity as well as learn how to serve others for the flourishing of human society in the world.

We have refreshed our St Francis Way to include some Catholic Virtues that reflect inclusivity. Last year, in our house family meetings, the children looked at our virtues and wanted to include some words which reflected that our school's diversity.

Some of the meanings of the virtues:

**SOLIDARITY** – We see all human beings as members of one family, all are brothers and sisters who depend on each other for everything. If you see that someone or a group of people are in need, in solidarity with them you help them. You treat everyone with respect and you treat whoever you meet or help as another 'you' or self. You see other people's needs and act to meet their needs before meeting your own. Solidarity is a cure for selfishness.

**LOVE OF NEIGHBOUR**- We do not think only about yourself, but are ready to help meet the needs of other people. You understand that anyone who is in need, whoever they are or wherever they live, is your neighbour. Jesus asks you to love everyone which is sometimes not easy, but if you practise love when it is easy to do, you will become, with God's help, able to love even when it is difficult and when you are not loved in return.





## Masses in School

This academic year, as well as the children attending Mass on a rota within the parish, we are going to host a monthly Mass in school with the parish. The first Mass will be on Friday 8th September at 9.30am. After Mass we welcome you to join us for tea and coffee. On days when there is a parish Mass scheduled, there will be no whole school celebration liturgy. Please see the dates below.

# Awards

Over the summer, we were delighted to learn about the outcomes from some of our work last academic year.

### Silver Equaliteach Award

We are pleased to share that we have been awarded the Silver 'Equalities Award'. The awarding organisation 'Equaliteach' commented that the work that we are doing towards equality and diversity is exemplary. We will continue to work on this so that we continue to teach the children about the important issues of equality and diversity and continue to develop as a school so that everyone feels included and supported during their time with us. This was a huge piece of work which involved many staff members and has led to changes in our curriculum, our behaviour strategies as well as the environment in our school. Thank you to all of the staff involved.

### Eco Green Flag award with distinction

A huge congratulations to the Eco Team for being awarded the eco green flag award with distinction!!

Here are some of the comments from the assessor:

**It's clear your Eco-Committee are constantly considering what actions they can take to improve their local community and benefit our planet.**

**Your hard work and dedication has inspired young people and empowered them with the belief that they can positively impact our planet – this is something incredibly special.**

### School Gardening Awards - Level 3

As a result of work completed by Mr Partington and the eco team, the school has been successfully awarded a Level 3 in the Royal Horticultural Society's campaign for gardening in schools. A few

students, the eco team and Mrs Bowes were also involved in this work- well done for their contributions.

## Local Events



Dear Parents/Carers

**The dates for the Year 5 & 6 Workshops this academic year are below. Each Workshop is from 4pm – 5pm. Please come to Reception on arrival.**

### 2023/2024

- English – Weds 13<sup>th</sup> September
- Science – Weds 11<sup>th</sup> October
- Modern Foreign Languages – Weds 22<sup>nd</sup> November
- D&T – Weds 6<sup>th</sup> December
- Computing – Weds 14<sup>th</sup> February
- Performing Arts – Weds 20<sup>th</sup> March
- PE – Weds 24<sup>th</sup> April
- Maths – Weds 8<sup>th</sup> May
- Social Sciences – Weds 19<sup>th</sup> June

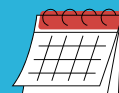
Please help us spread the word to any parents of children in Years 5 & 6 please give them this e-mail address or ask them to call the school to get booked on.

Yours faithfully

Aisling Marshall & Lindsay Wilce  
Reception Team

Long Field Spencer Academy  
[help@longfield.leics.sch.uk](mailto:help@longfield.leics.sch.uk)

# Calendar



<b>September</b>	
Friday 8th September	Mass in school at 9.30am followed by tea/coffee for parents/parishioners
	Hardy's School Photography- Individual

Tuesday 12th September	Photos
Thursday 14th September	2.45pm Parent Forum- all welcome-school library
Saturday 16th September	Potential date for Welcome Fair- TBC
Thursday 28th September	Phonics Meeting in Hall 3.15pm- All welcome- aimed at EYFS and KS1
<b>October</b>	
Friday 6th October	Feast of St Francis and Harvest Mass at 9.30am followed by tea/coffee for parents/parishioners
Week beginning 9th October	Book Fair in school
Half Term Break	Monday 16th to Friday 20th October
<b>November</b>	
Friday 9th November	Mass in school at 9.30am