



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

Friday 29th September 2023

Dear parents/carers,

Thank you for your responses to our home to school communication survey. I have provided a summary of the survey results below and our planned actions/ responses to these responses. We hope that this helps to further strengthen communication.

Great news this week from our first sporting tournament this academic year- we came 4th out of 21 schools in the football competition attended on Monday. Well done to our team and huge thanks to Mr Uttley for taking them.

Thank you for your support of our Macmillan coffee morning. As always, it was a roaring success and the children kept us well entertained with their singing. Well done to Y6 for leading this and a big thank you to the volunteers for their great organisation of the event. We raised an astonishing £502.24 which is an incredible amount. Thank you once again!

We had some phonics meetings in school this week and we hope that you found these sessions informative. Look out for more sessions related to key assessments later on in the academic year.

Have a great weekend,

Mrs Brown

School Communication Survey

Thank you for your responses. Here are the main findings from the survey.

We had 24 responses in total.

75% of respondents favoured a weekly newsletter- we will continue with this format.

Suggestions for other items to add to the newsletter included: house points breakdown (our prefects will be tasked with this now they that have been chosen); results from sporting events (we will definitely share these!); a list of children who have received certificates (we will definitely add this in but will omit full surnames for privacy as the newsletter is published on the website). Thank you for the suggestions.

88% of respondents were happy with the level of communication from their child's class teacher. We value communication as critical to ensure that your child receives the very best from their education and where we have not got this right, we will seek to improve.

From specific comments these are areas we have identified to improve on:

- **Ensure both parents with PR get positive messages and information about red cards/significant incidents**- this may be through a phone call or Dojo message. Teachers are reviewing their class information and it may just be a case of adding someone to Dojo or being clear on who needs to receive each message. If you feel you have been missed on any communication like this, please get in touch with Mrs Brown directly as soon as possible so that this can be remedied.
- **Class teachers will aim to post an update of something that has happened in class each week.** Some parents wanted to know an in depth timetable for the week and we do not think that this is necessary. This is because the timetables do change for various reasons such as special events, the weather (PE may need to change), and because the teachers have made the decision to add in an extra lesson or move on quicker than expected due to the needs of the class. Our half termly overviews are there to let you know what the children are studying in each topic. Maths and English lessons take place daily and all other subjects have at least one slot per week. I have included some useful ideas on how to talk to your child about their day below. I know from personal experience that children will sometimes not recall what they did during the day and/or say very little! This is not unusual and some simple prompts may be helpful.
- **Provide a more thorough breakdown of after school clubs in the next clubs letter**- this will help you to decide if a club is suitable for your child.
- **Live calendar on the website**- This is already set up and ready to go! Our wonderful IT team have made this possible and I will let you know when it is live....

Some things requested are already available and below are some signposts to useful information.

- More information about our curriculum- Our Whole School Curriculum Map is online and can be found here: [Curriculum - St Francis Primary School, Melton Mowbray \(st-francis.leics.sch.uk\)](http://Curriculum - St Francis Primary School, Melton Mowbray (st-francis.leics.sch.uk)) There is information on the website under each subject area. Please take a look.
- As per our new Behaviour Policy, children receive house points which are tracked on a wall chart in each classroom. At primary school, we find this a clear visual for the children and when they get to 20 house points they will receive a special merit certificate which will be sent home. Weekly mission/star reader/star writer/lunchtime certificates and headteacher postcards home will celebrate exceptional work and achievements. We track

these rewards so that we can encourage children who have not yet achieved an award. If you ever want to check on how your child is doing then please send a quick dojo to your child's class teacher. Teachers will get in touch if there is anything causing concern.

Some other requests

- Taking photos of work that all children have taken part in for class dojo- the most important thing that our teachers do is spend time working with your children. This is what makes the biggest difference to their education. We aim to take an image per week to give you an insight into the classroom and if the same child is included more than once, this is a pure coincidence. Our family big breakfast morning is coming up and you can spend some time with your child in class and take a look at their work. We hope you can join us.
- Dojo points- we have analysed the use of dojo points over the last two years and after consultation with the teachers and surveys with the pupils, we decided to move away from using them and to use house points to line up with our whole school house system. As this is not a digital system we don't have a way of sharing this with parents but the children will know that they have received house points and they will receive a certificate when they reach 20!
- use of social media for school notifications- our social media pages are for celebration of whole school work. We would like to have a clear separation between this and our communication platform for parents. We are looking into using our Arbor systems for emails to parents so that you can keep a track of information received more easily. We know that this is an issue with class dojo. We will consider how this will work but for now, all information will continue to be communicated through class dojo. We hope that the live events calendar on the website will help.
- spellings to come home half termly with weekly reminders- we adapt our spellings lists based on the information from weekly tests. We find that weekly spellings mean that we can adapt and respond more accurately to how the children are progressing.

Accelerated Reader Scheme

Some parents requested some more information about how the reading levels are worked out for children using the accelerated reader scheme. In Key Stage 2 the children's reading is assessed using Star Reader Tests on Accelerated Reader.

This test will generate a ZPD (Zone of Proximal Development), also referred to as a book level, which the children can then choose books from within that range which will be decodable, accessible, and engaging for them.

These Star Reader tests are conducted 4 times in the academic year. Once at the start of the year, and then at the end of each term to assess children's progress. If children find decoding a challenge, they

will be placed onto the Rapid Catch-Up Phonics scheme and will be given decodable, age related books to read.

If you have any questions in relation to the reading level that your child is on, please contact your child's class teacher who will be happy to speak with you about this.

House Points and rewards

Our House Points are the way that we reward and celebrate exceptional behaviour and work at school.

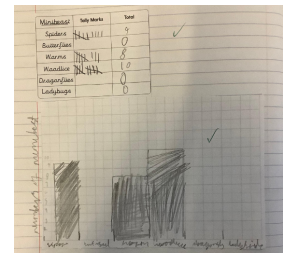


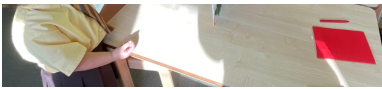


Lunchtime Awards	Caitlin- Y6
Star Writer	Master- EYFS Trixie- Mrs Owen's Class Eva- Mrs Byrne's Class Jayden- Miss Hall's Class Dominic- Mrs Cathcart's Class Maja- Mr Uttley's Class
St Francis Mission	Aryanna- EYFS Noah W- Mrs Owen's Class Heath- Mrs Byrne's Class Fabian- Mrs Cathcart's Class Ella S- Miss Hall's Class Zac- Mr Uttley's Class

Curriculum In Action

As always, it has been a busy week in school with lots of learning taking place. Here are some of the highlights.

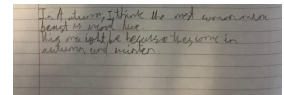




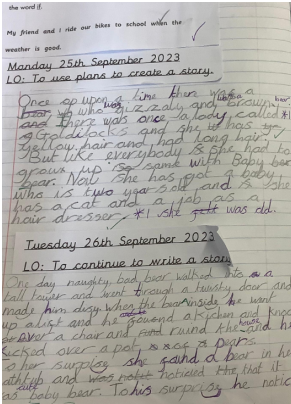
EYFS enjoying the craft station.



Year 3/4- Exploring Mini Beasts



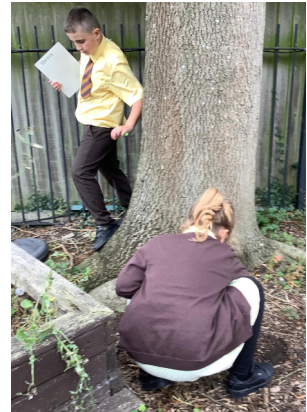
Recording observations in Y1/2



Editing work in Year 1/2!



Jumping and landing skills in Y3/4 PE



More exploring Y3/4



Great singing Y1/2!



A great picture from our coffee morning.



Thank you for all of the support today!

Catholic Life- Mission Statement

Young Leadership

Our Young Leaders visited St Paul's Catholic School in Leicester this week to meet with other young leaders in our Trust. The children enjoyed their time spent with other children in our trust and we all celebrated the achievements of our schools in gaining the Eco Green Flag

Award. Thank you to Mrs Farmer for being our dependable mini bus driver and getting our children and children from English Martyrs in Oakham there!



House Families

We held our first house family meetings this week which were focused on our school mission statement. House family meetings take place half termly and they include all children from Y1-6 until the final term when we begin to bring in EYFS children. The children meet with their house family group and spend a bit of time together to discuss some whole school issues and think about solutions. This time we looked at an idea for a new school mission statement as well as some quotes from the saints so that we could have a think about what we think is important for our school and what would make a good mission statement. The children came up with some lovely ideas- here are some from one of the house groups!

Some words the children thought were important.

God

actions

heaven

prayer

everything

teach

Earth

soul

totally

preach

impossible

serve

love

speak

words

Ideas to feed into our mission inspired by some of the quotes from the Saints:

Teach with your words and love with your actions.

Nothing is impossible if you serve your love to God.

You teach us your love, we speak your love.

You teach the love and your love will be your everything.

Actions teach words as you teach others words.

Love one another as I have loved you.

God teaches us to serve him and love him.

We love God as his soul gave us Earth, Heaven and love.



We warmly welcome you to attend our Harvest and Feast of St Francis Mass in school on Friday 6th October at 9.15am.



Census Menu

Census Day Menu

Thursday 5th October 2023

Main Course

Sausages or
Margherita Pizza (V)

Chips or 1/2 Jacket Potato
Peas, Beans or
Mixed Salad

Dessert

Ice Cream or



Fresh Fruit Platter

Why not join us for our
theme day lunch

 LTS Catering Services Part of  Leicestershire
County Council

www.leicestershire.gov.uk/school-food

Local Events and News

**OCTOBER
17,18,19**

PSA OCT HALF TERM WORKSHOPS

PERFORMING
STARS
ACADEMY

£25/DAY

10% Sibling discount
9am-3pm

Dancing, Acting, Singing Acro, Arts & Crafts, Games!

Delivered by DBS checked teachers



Classes held at
Space 2B Studios, George Street
Melton Mowbray, LE13 1AX

07947092875

Info@performingstars.co.uk



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Principal: Christopher Haggett BSc PGCE NPQH

Ambleside Way
Melton Mowbray
Leicestershire
LE13 0BN
Tel: 01664 561234

part of
The Spencer
Academies Trust

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

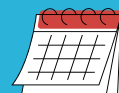
Please help us spread the word to any parents of children in Years 5 & 6 please give them this e-mail address or ask them to call the school to get booked on.

Yours faithfully

Aisling Marshall & Lindsay Wilce
Reception Team

Long Field Spencer Academy
help@longfield.leics.sch.uk

Calendar



October	
Tuesday and Wednesday 3rd/4th	Parents' Evenings
Friday 6th October	Feast of St Francis and Harvest Mass at 9.30am followed by tea/coffee for parents/parishioners
Tuesday 10th October	SEND review meetings in school
Friday 13th October	NC class to mass in chapel- 10am 2.40pm Celebration Liturgy
Half Term Break	Monday 16th to Friday 20th October
Monday 23rd October	School opens to all pupils
Tuesday 24th- Thursday 26th October	Book Fair- Note new date
Friday 27th October	Y1/2 BB class to mass in chapel- 10am 2.40pm Celebration Liturgy
Tuesday 31st October	Family Breakfast- more details to follow
November	
Friday 3rd November	Mass in school at 9.30am
Friday 10th November	SO class to mass in chapel- 10am 2.40pm Celebration Liturgy

Friday 17th November	School Closed to Pupils- INSET DAY
Friday 24th November	EYFS class to mass in chapel- 10am 2.40pm Celebration Liturgy
December	
Friday 1st December	Mass in School at 9.15am Menphys' Carol Service
Saturday and Sunday 2nd/3rd December	Parish Wreath Festival and other parish events- look out for more information.
Tuesday 5th Decemeber	School Disco straight after school
Friday 8th December	Y5/6 AS class to mass in chapel- 10am 2.40pm Celebration Liturgy
Tuesday 12th December	EYFS Nativity 2pm
Thursday 14th December	Year ½ Nativity- 2pm
Friday 15th December	Christmas Fair 3.15pm
Tuesday 19th December	Year ¾ Carol Concert
Thursday 21st December	Y5/6 Carols by Candlelight- TBC
Friday 22nd December	Last Day of Term- Christmas Jumper Day