

A community growing in Love for Learning and Life



St Francis Catholic Primary School

NEWSLETTER

Issue:

7th March 2025

Dear Parents,

We have had a fantastic, and busy, start to Term 4!

Canon Liam joined us on Wednesday for our Key Stage 2 Ash Wednesday service, Year 4 prepared and led the service beautifully and all of the children behaved respectfully and reverently.

Canon Liam then visited our Reception and Key Stage 1 classes, where the children had been having their own class Ash Wednesday mini service, to give them ashes as well.

The children have all made their own Lenten promises that they are working towards as we journey through Lent, preparing ourselves for the celebration of Easter.

Yesterday we celebrated World Book Day and launched our Readathon where the children will raise money through being sponsored to read, to buy new books for children in hospitals as well as money for books for our school. The children brought in their own blankets, pillows, cuddly toys and books and created their own reading dens which they thoroughly enjoyed, perhaps you could let your child create a reading den at home where they can read to raise as much money for books as possible! Year 2 had a special visitor yesterday, author Elisa Peacock came to see our Year 2 classes to talk about reading, being an author as well as her newest book 'The Bum That Barked'.

We would all like to say a huge thank you to Miss Killackey for organising a super World Book Day/Readathon launch!

Kind regards
Mrs Ebdon

Prayer for Lent

Loving God,

As the season of Lent unfolds, you call us to return again and again.

As you invite us to reflect on your love made visible in the person of Jesus, align our lives more closely with you through prayer, fasting and generous giving.

Bless our desire to accompany Jesus' suffering here and now in the crucified people of our world.

With your grace, may we live Lent fully and move with transformed hearts into the abundant life of Easter morning.



Amen.



Rooted in God's Love

Mission Tie Awards

St Lucy	<i>Cameron</i>	St Ann	<i>Mireya</i>
St Joseph	<i>Ezio</i>	St Matthew	<i>Adam</i>
St Anthony	<i>Caolan</i>	St John	<i>Ian</i>
St Luke	<i>Hendrix</i>	St Mark	<i>Jessica</i>
St Peter	<i>Penny</i>	St Paul	<i>Onose</i>
St Bernadette	<i>Amber</i>	St Theresa	<i>George</i>
St Margaret	<i>Lily M</i>	St Clare	<i>Charles</i>



Joy



Trust

St Lucy	<i>Eva</i>	St Ann	<i>Heyden</i>
St Joseph	<i>Yasin</i>	St Matthew	<i>George</i>
St Anthony	<i>Eva</i>	St John	<i>Millie</i>
St Luke	<i>Jessimae</i>	St Mark	<i>Rosie</i>
St Peter	<i>Tomi</i>	St Paul	<i>Evelyn</i>
St Bernadette	<i>Eric</i>	St Theresa	<i>Jayden G</i>
St Margaret	<i>Sahasna</i>	St Clare	<i>Maisy</i>

St Lucy	<i>Ife</i>	St Ann	<i>Rowan</i>
St Joseph	<i>Eliau</i>	St Matthew	<i>Graceson</i>
St Anthony	<i>Oliver</i>	St John	<i>Riley</i>
St Luke	<i>Yaiza</i>	St Mark	<i>Mark</i>
St Peter	<i>Aiden</i>	St Paul	<i>Charlie</i>
St Bernadette	<i>Charlotte</i>	St Theresa	<i>Sophia</i>
St Margaret	<i>Kyrell</i>	St Clare	<i>Tadiwanashe</i>



Respect

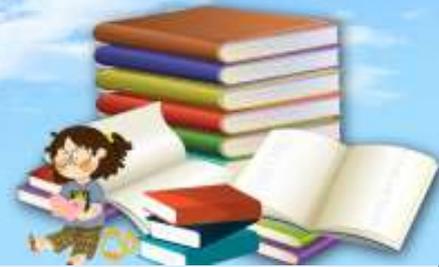


Faith

St Lucy	<i>Henrik</i>	St Ann	<i>Spencer</i>
St Joseph	<i>Nigel</i>	St Matthew	<i>Vihaasan</i>
St Anthony	<i>Arabella</i>	St John	<i>Isla</i>
St Luke	<i>Nova</i>	St Mark	<i>Lorenzo</i>
St Peter	<i>Toyese</i>	St Paul	<i>Hope</i>
St Bernadette	<i>Jacob</i>	St Theresa	<i>Edward</i>
St Margaret	<i>Ciaran</i>	St Clare	<i>Gagan</i>

Star Reader

St Joseph	Ben	St Matthew	Jesse
St Anthony	Reggie	St John	Roma
St Luke	Chloe	St Mark	Charlie
St Peter	Sara	St Paul	Zara
St Bernadette	Rhys	St Theresa	Samuel
St Margaret	Razvan	St Clare	Munachi



Faith in Action

A big well done to Samuel and Sophia who completed a children's race on 2nd March to help raise money for the Heart of Kent Hospice, they raised an amazing **£175!**



Kent Surrey and Sussex Air Ambulance are celebrating 35 years of saving lives. The children of St Francis wore red in Feb to raise money for this worthwhile cause. Thanks to your generosity we raised an amazing

£291.77



The Catholic Social Teaching principle of Solidarity tells us that being in solidarity is recognising others as our brothers and sisters and actively working for their good.

"...all of you are one in Christ, Jesus"

Galatians 3:28

Solidarity

THE BIG LENT WALK

Some of you may remember a couple of years ago we engaged in the CAFOD Big Lent Walk. This year we would like to aim even higher in the distance that we achieve and target amount.

We are thinking that a new way to achieve this would not only be to participate in a Big Lent Walk at school, which will take place on **Friday 25th April**, but to make a special effort with our families to walk more outside school hours.

To be able to share our achievements with each other and hit our target, we have set up a CAFOD fundraising page that you can add comments to, photos of you enjoying the walk, images from your walking/ running apps i.e. Strava.

Any contributions to the fundraising page are gratefully received but as a suggestion you may wish to motivate your child/ren by offering £1 for each kilometre they achieve.

We have a commitment to supporting CAFOD, Catholic Agency for Overseas Development, who work in some of the poorest communities in more than 40 countries, working together to end poverty and injustice. Being involved with CAFOD reminds our children that we are all brothers and sisters across the world and deserve to be treated fairly and equally.

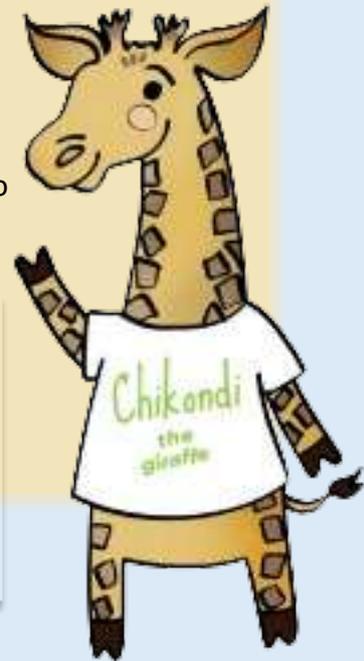
Don't forget to track all your walking and help us reach our target!

Thank you in advance from the St Francis Mini Vinnies



Our actions have an impact on everyone. When we make decisions, we should consider the good of all.

The common good is about respecting the rights and responsibilities of all people and leaving no one behind.



The Common Good

"All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would...distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need"

Acts 2:44 - 45

Contributions can be made by scanning the QR code, which will take you directly to our Big Lent Walk fundraising page.



Your sponsorship can and will change lives. Every £1 raised through the Big Lent Walk will help fight poverty globally in countries like Afghanistan, Colombia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and South Sudan.

CAFOD and SCIAF have a shared project in Ethiopia, and we are working together to respond to the devastating food crisis there. Years of drought caused by the climate crisis means families are no longer able to cope, but your support means we are working with people right now, providing them with water, emergency food and healthcare.

WORLD BOOK DAY

6th March

At St Francis we enjoyed a fantastic World Book Day. The children had lots of fun celebrating the world of books.

We met an author



We got creative



We made reading dens.



We listened to stories

You can find magic wherever you look. Sit back and relax, all you need is a book.

We shared our favourite books



We read stories



Red Nose Day - Friday 21st March

Go Red for Red Nose Day!

On Friday 21st March children are invited to come to school wearing as much red as possible!

Red hair, red hats, red clothes, red socks!

How about red nail varnish or a bit of red lipstick or paint your whole face red! And don't forget your red nose!

In exchange we ask for a donation to the Comic Relief Red Nose Day Appeal. You can either bring cash on the day or simply make a donation on the just giving page by scanning this QR code. Thank you!



Bring and Buy Sale - Friday 28th March

Get ready for a day of fun and fundraising! On **Friday, 28th March**, Year 6 will be hosting their annual **Bring and Buy Sale**, giving children the chance to purchase a variety of toys, games, and books. There will also be exciting game stalls designed by Year 6, along with delicious cakes and cookies for sale.

To help make this event a success, Year 6 is kindly requesting donations of **unwanted toys and games**. If you have any pre-loved items tucked away in your loft, basement, or garage, we would love for you to donate them! This is a great opportunity to pass on once-loved treasures and bring joy to someone new.

All proceeds from the event will go toward supporting our school, so we appreciate your generosity and participation.

Thank you for your support!

We are accepting:

- ✓ Cuddly toys
- ✓ Books (fiction and non-fiction)
- ✓ Trading cards (e.g., Pokémon, Match Attax)
- ✓ Board games
- ✓ U-rated DVDs
- ✓ Figurines and action figures
- ✓ Jigsaw puzzles (complete sets)
- ✓ Stationery (e.g., notebooks, pens, pencils, stickers)
- ✓ Small craft kits (unused)
- ✓ Unopened party bag toys



We cannot accept:

- ✗ Clothing
- ✗ Console-related items
- ✗ Electronic items that require a plug
- ✗ Broken or incomplete games/puzzles

Please start bringing in donations from Monday 17th

Term 4 Clubs

SG17 – football club

Starts Monday 3rd March
3:15pm to 4:15pm, Y3 to
Y6 only

Spanish Club

Starts Tuesday 4th March
3:30pm to 5:00pm,
YR - Y2 only

Crafties Club

Starts Thursday 6th March
3.20pm to 5.00pm,
Y3 – Y6 only

Diary Dates

Y6 Assessment Week:	Monday 10 th March
Candle of hope comes to St Francis	Thursday 20 th March
Mother's Day Arts and Craft event	Friday 21 st March
Red Nose Day – Children to wear red	Friday 21 st March
Year 6 Bring and buy sale	Friday 28 th March
Parents evening	Wednesday 2 nd April
Stations of the Cross – Year 5 parents invited	Wednesday 2 nd April
Parents evening	Thursday 3 rd April
Autism Awareness Day – children wear blue	Thursday 3 rd April
Last day of term 4:	Friday 4 th April
Easter break starts:	Monday 7 th April – Monday 21 st April
National Primary admissions offer day:	Wednesday 16 th April
<u>Good Friday:</u>	18 th April – <u>no pupils in school</u>
<u>Easter Monday:</u>	21 st April – <u>no pupils in school</u>
First day back for pupils (term 5):	Tuesday 22 nd April
May bank holiday:	Monday 5 th May
Last day of term:	Thursday 22 nd May
Staff Inset Day	Friday 23 rd May – <u>no pupils in school</u>
Half term	Monday 26 th May to Friday 30 th May
First day of term 6	Monday 2 nd June

Inclusion News

Hello! My name is Mrs Neill, I am the Special Educational Needs Coordinator (SENCO) at St Francis. My role is to support children with additional needs, ensuring they receive the right help to thrive and succeed. I work closely with staff, parents, and external professionals to create an inclusive and supportive learning environment for every child.



If you ever have any questions or need support, please don't hesitate to reach out—I'm always happy to help!

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World Autism Acceptance Month

April is World Autism Acceptance Month, and we will be kicking things off on 3rd April by celebrating Autism Awareness Day. We are inviting all children to wear blue to school for a donation. All money raised will be going towards an exciting new project at our school. Please see details below.

A big thank you to Mrs Turner and Rene for helping to organise this



Upcoming Changes to SEND Provision

The government is planning major changes to the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) system, as councils across England struggle with large funding deficits. Many local authorities face financial difficulties due to the rising demand for SEND support, with some at risk of bankruptcy.

A new government proposal, expected in spring, may introduce changes to SEND laws, including prioritising state school provision and reducing council spending on private specialist schools. However, concerns have been raised about the potential impact on children's rights to support.

With the number of Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) increasing significantly, there is an urgent need for sustainable funding and reform. Parents and campaigners continue to call for improvements that ensure every child with SEND receives the support they need.



Full article can be found using the following QR code



For more information regarding Kent's local offer please scan the QR code to navigate to their website



Exciting News - Sensory Room Project at St Francis!

We are thrilled to announce that we are working on an exciting new project at St Francis – a sensory room designed specifically for children to enjoy and benefit from. However, as with all great initiatives, it comes with a cost, and we need your help to make it a reality!

Our goal is to raise £5000 by December 2025 to fund the sensory room. To kick off our fundraising efforts, we'll be holding a series of events throughout the year, starting with **Autism Awareness Day**. On this day, the children are encouraged to wear blue in support, and we will also be selling wristbands and keyrings as part of our fundraising efforts.

We are grateful for the support of our school community and encourage you to keep an eye out for future fundraising events. Together, we can make this incredible project happen for the children of St Francis!



Why are Sensory rooms so important?

Sensory rooms are specially designed spaces that provide a calming environment to help children engage their senses in a positive way. These rooms are filled with equipment and activities that stimulate sight, sound, touch, and even smell, which can be especially beneficial for all children and especially those with autism or sensory processing disorders.

The sensory room at St Francis will offer a safe and soothing space where all children can unwind, regulate their emotions, and improve focus. By engaging with the sensory elements, children can enhance their motor skills, communication, and emotional well-being.

Sensory rooms also provide a much-needed retreat for those who may feel overwhelmed in traditional classroom settings, helping to create a sense of calm and balance.

With your support, we can give our students the opportunity to thrive in an environment that caters to their sensory needs and promotes overall well-being.



KENT EDUCATIONAL
PSYCHOLOGY SERVICE

PARENT CONSULTATION LINE

The Parent Consultation Line is for parents to access a free 30-minute telephone or video consultation with an educational

psychologist to discuss issues regarding their children's wellbeing and/or learning that are causing concern.

For more information please scan the QR code



We aim to be, nut free!

