

A community growing in Love for Learning and Life



St Francis Catholic Primary School

NEWSLETTER

Issue: 28th March 2025

Dear Parents,

It's hard to believe that the end of the Term 4 is fast approaching! I would like to thank all of you who took the time to fill in the Parent Survey that I shared, I will be sending out some information shortly about the steps forward we are taking based on this information.

Can I please ask all parents who have not yet filled in the form regarding who has permission to collect your child at the end of the day to do so as soon as possible. It is incredibly important that we hold the correct information about children and their families to ensure that we are keeping children safe.

The last few weeks have been jam-packed! I would like to thank Canon Liam who spent a lot of time with us last week. He delivered the Reconciliation Services for each Years 4, 5 and 6 as well as delivering a service to celebrate St Francis School receiving the 'Candle of Hope'.

The 'Candle of Hope' is a candle that is travelling between all schools in the Southwark Diocese as part of the Diocesan programme to celebrate this Jubilee year. The candle was presented to us by St Simon Stock School and, after our Mass, it has travelled across town to be presented to Holy Family School. We were joined in the service by Annemarie Whittle, the CEO of KCSP, for this momentous occasion.

I would like to thank you all for your generosity over the last few weeks in your donations for our fundraising for Red Nose Day and for your donations to Year 6's Bring and Buy sale.

A special mention is needed for Mrs Barker and the PTA, the Mother's Day activities that they organised and ran last week were wonderful. It was so lovely to see so many children have the opportunity to spend time with their Mum's making some very colourful pieces of jewellery as well as beautiful plant pots whilst spending time together.

I hope you all have a lovely Mother's Day weekend celebrating the very special ladies in your lives.

Mrs Ebdon

God our Father,

We thank You for the gift of mothers and children,
for the love that binds families together,
and for the blessings of family life.

We pray especially for those who grieve the absence of a mother,
for those who carry the quiet longing for a child,
and for those separated from their loved ones.
May Your comforting presence bring them peace and hope.

Lord, let every home be filled with Your love,
and may Your Church be ever attentive to the needs of all
who seek comfort and belonging.
Guide us to be instruments of Your compassion and grace.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.



Rooted in God's Love

Mission Tie Awards

St Lucy	<i>Isobel</i>	St Ann	<i>Jawad</i>
St Joseph	<i>Kit</i>	St Matthew	<i>Ivaniya</i>
St Anthony	<i>Kamsi</i>	St John	<i>Mason</i>
St Luke	<i>Hugo</i>	St Mark	<i>Daniel B</i>
St Peter	<i>Elsie</i>	St Paul	<i>Zara</i>
St Bernadette	<i>Roseanna</i>	St Theresa	<i>Zoe</i>
St Margaret	<i>Abel J</i>	St Clare	<i>Tessa</i>



Joy



Trust

St Lucy	<i>Sophia</i>	St Ann	<i>Timur</i>
St Joseph	<i>Ezekiel</i>	St Matthew	<i>Vanessa</i>
St Anthony	<i>Ivasubin</i>	St John	<i>Roma</i>
St Luke	<i>Oscar</i>	St Mark	<i>Isla</i>
St Peter	<i>Zachary</i>	St Paul	<i>Matthew</i>
St Bernadette	<i>Thomas</i>	St Theresa	<i>Reuben</i>
St Margaret	<i>Erin Yeo-Singh</i>	St Clare	<i>Grace</i>

St Lucy	<i>Gian</i>	St Ann	<i>Tommy</i>
St Joseph	<i>Arley</i>	St Matthew	<i>Favour</i>
St Anthony	<i>Max</i>	St John	<i>Alexander</i>
St Luke	<i>Belle</i>	St Mark	<i>Nikita</i>
St Peter	<i>Emily P</i>	St Paul	<i>Katie</i>
St Bernadette	<i>Ranti</i>	St Theresa	<i>Evelyn</i>
St Margaret	<i>Charlie A</i>	St Clare	<i>Abel</i>



Respect

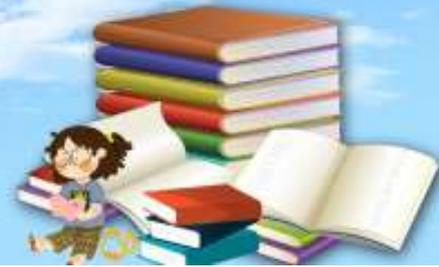


Faith

St Lucy	<i>Mati</i>	St Ann	<i>Kylian</i>
St Joseph	<i>Zara</i>	St Matthew	<i>Aviana</i>
St Anthony	<i>George</i>	St John	<i>Nashla</i>
St Luke	<i>Thomas</i>	St Mark	<i>Ariana</i>
St Peter	<i>Hattie</i>	St Paul	<i>Ashioma</i>
St Bernadette	<i>Bella</i>	St Theresa	<i>Ramiyah</i>
St Margaret	<i>Erin V</i>	St Clare	<i>Faith</i>

Star Reader

St Joseph	<i>Daphne</i>	St Matthew	<i>Maya</i>
St Anthony	<i>Eva</i>	St John	<i>Rosie</i>
St Luke	<i>Imogen</i>	St Mark	<i>William</i>
St Peter	<i>Ethan</i>	St Paul	<i>Mmesoma</i>
St Bernadette		St Theresa	<i>Joann</i>
St Margaret	<i>Alexandra</i>	St Clare	



Jubilee Candle Pilgrimage

On Thursday 20th March we were delighted to be part of the pilgrimage of the Jubilee Candle of Hope.

We received the candle from some children at St Simon Stock Secondary School as a symbol of our united mission to be Pilgrims of Hope.

Together with Canon Liam, the St Francis RE team led us in a beautiful celebration of the word and Canon Liam blessed the candle before it was taken on to the next stage of its journey to Holy Family Primary School. We were incredibly proud of the participation of all our children who absolutely sang their hearts out and brought great joy and hope to those around them.



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.

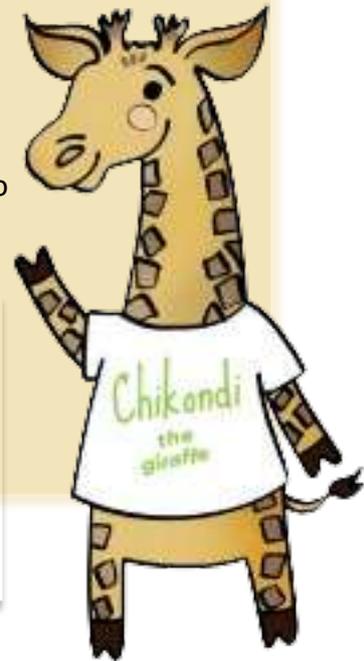
Don't forget to track all your walking and help us reach our target!

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.



St Francis Catholic Primary School



Autism Awareness Fundraising Event

Ausome 1-3 April 2025 sale



Autism Wristbands



Autism Keyrings



Autism Scrunchies

Team Ausome, Rene & Belle
are raising money to help
build a sensory room for
St. Francis students



— THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT —

This sale will be held in the library at lunch time, prices will range between £1 and £2.

Comic Relief - Red Nose Day



Thank you to everyone who wore red for Red Nose Day. All together we raised

£273!



Solidarity

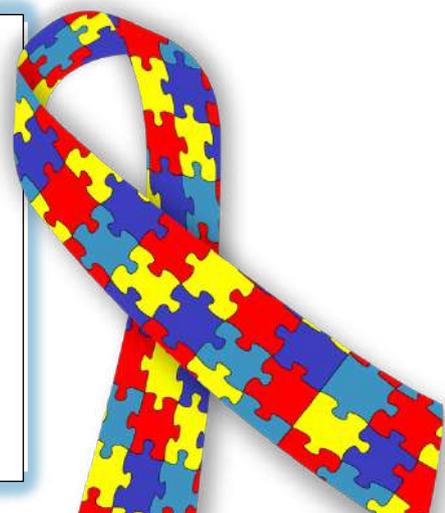
The Catholic Social Teaching principle of Solidarity tells us that being in solidarity is recognising others as our brothers and sisters and actively working for their good.

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

Galatians 3:28

Autism Awareness Day - Thursday 3rd April

In the last Newsletter, you were given information about our new sensory room that we are raising money for. Our first event will be on Thursday 3rd April. Children are invited to wear blue, for a donation. Throughout the day teachers will also spend some time talking to their class about Autism. There will a shop in the library which will be selling all sorts of goodies, this will be open from 1st - 3rd April so be sure to bring your money in. Please see the poster above.



Magistrates Visit - Year 6



Year 6 had a fascinating visit from Alvin and Margaret of the Maidstone Magistrates on Friday, 14th March! With plenty of engaging discussions (and maybe a few surprised faces!), they walked the children through the ins and outs of responsibilities, liabilities, and how the criminal court system works. It was an eye-opening session that brought the world of justice to life—who knew learning about the law could be so intriguing? A huge thank you to Alvin and Margaret for their time and wisdom!

MAGISTRATES' COURT

Bring and Buy Sale



A huge well done to the year 6 classes for organising a successful bring and buy sale. It's always a highlight of the year and this year did not disappoint. The children sold toys and games as well as organising games stalls and cakes.



We would also like to say a massive thank you to our wider community and all the amazing parents for your donations of toys, time and money to make this event a success every year.



A particular well done and thank you to Alex, Lily E., Anna, Fearne, Riona, Esther, Lily M. and Darcie for all their hard work making slime and bracelets. They were very popular!!



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

Year 6 Bring and buy sale	Friday 28 th March
Mother's Day mass at St Francis church	Sunday 30 th April
Stations of the Cross – Year 5 parents invited to attend starting at 9.30am	Wednesday 2 nd April
Parents evening – 3.50pm – 6.20pm	Wednesday 2 nd April
Parents evening – 4.50pm – 7.20pm	Thursday 3 rd April
Autism Awareness Day – children wear blue	Thursday 3 rd April
Ausome shop – lunch times (library)	Tuesday 1 st April – 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
Staff inset day	Monday 1 st Sep – <u>no pupils in school</u>
First day back for all pupils	Tuesday 2 nd Sep

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!

sen@stfranciscatholicprimary.com

01622 771540

SEN Information form

We have sent a link by email and through class dojo to complete a google form. This is to gather information about Special Educational Needs in the school. Even if you believe your child doesn't have additional needs it is still important for this to be completed.

Could you please use the link below or scan the QR code to complete the form as soon as possible.

<https://forms.gle/z8TQXSz>



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



Parents Evening

If you would like to see Mrs. Neill during Parents' Evening, she will be holding 10-minute drop-in sessions. Simply come to her table and let her know you'd like to speak with her.



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



The Balanced System

Everyone working with children and young people plays a role in supporting their speech, language, and communication.

KCC, along with the NHS in Kent, have adopted *The Balanced System*[®], developed by Marie Gascoigne through Better Communication CIC. This framework ensures children with speech, language, and communication needs (SLCN) receive the right support at the right time to achieve meaningful outcomes.

The Balanced System[®] – Five Key Areas:

1. **Family Support** – Parents are equipped to support their child, and young people can make informed choices.
2. **Environment** – Settings are designed to foster effective communication.
3. **Workforce Development** – Professionals understand how to support SLCN.
4. **Identification** – Needs are recognised early and effectively.
5. **Intervention** – Children receive the appropriate help to progress.

Three Levels of Support:

- **Universal** – Available to all children to develop communication skills.
- **Targeted** – For those with identified concerns or emerging needs.
- **Specialist** – For children with complex needs requiring expert support.

Children may receive support at multiple levels as needed, though most will have their needs met through universal and targeted provision.

A new mixed specialist day school, providing an education for pupils aged 5-18 years, with an Education, Health and Care Plan and a diagnosis of Autism and wider SEND. Located just off the M20 and are in the heart of Maidstone.



The poster for Serenity School Maidstone's SEND School Admission 2025 features a tree logo and a circular inset showing students working. It lists key benefits and contact information.

Serenity School Maidstone Springfield House, Maidstone ME14 2LP

SEND School Admission 2025

Serenity School
A Holistic Approach to Education and Childhood Development

Why Choose Serenity School?

- Challenging Curriculum-3 pathways
- Dedicated team
- Broad intervention offer
- Part of the SED group of OFSTED Outstanding schools

- Free uniform
- Free school meals
- Investor in me- Bespoke reward program

Enroll Now!
Spaces available for September 2025
Excellence from Enrolment to Graduation

More Information
maidstoneoffice@serenityschool.org.uk
www.serenityschool.org.uk

We aim to be nut free



We do not allow nuts or nut products at St Francis to protect children with allergies. Please ensure that you do not bring any nut products into the school.

Full details about how we manage this can be found in our Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions Policy.

Thank you for your help in keeping everybody safe in our school.