



## Value of the month – Patience

### Dear Parents and Carers

On Monday, the Advent Liturgies were thoughtful and holy occasions. The children led the services and read well. They placed their silver coins, for the charity Shelter, in front of the Nativity scene. Thank you to the parents and grandparents who joined us for the liturgies.

The Junior Carol Service was a wonderful occasion with the Year 3 children making the Nativity tableau. The children and Choir sang beautifully and it was wonderful for staff and families to join together to sing with them. Thank you to Father Sean and our readers for leading us in prayer and to the PTA for helping us with the refreshments afterwards.

Our charity for the Advent season has been 'Shelter' and we have raised £412.00 for this charity that supports the homeless.

Yesterday was our Christmas jumper and lunch day. We had fun pulling crackers and sharing the jokes with each other and eating a tasty lunch! We are very fortunate to have a fantastic kitchen staff team and send our thanks for all they do.

The staff and I wish you all a Happy Christmas and Peaceful New Year with your families and send our thanks for the wonderful cards and generous gifts you have given us.

Best wishes,

Mrs M Wheeler  
Headteacher

### Faith Schools and Discrimination

Dear Parents

We have been asked by the Diocese to bring the following matter to your attention. I believe that it has also been in the Parish Newsletters. **Please do click on the link – it really does only take a minute to add in your details and click the submit button after the letter - it sends a pre-generated letter directly to the MPs.**

There is considerable concern that the Education Secretary Justine Greening is considering renegeing on the Government's promise to lift the 50% cap on faith admissions for new religious schools. The policy of imposing a 50% cap on admissions has effectively banned new Catholic schools, as our Bishops ruled that opening a Catholic school that turned away Catholics for being Catholic contravened Canon Law. **The Catholic community needs to make its collective voice heard and tell Justine Greening this discrimination is absolutely unacceptable.** Please may I urge you to **encourage your entire school community to support this.** I know this is an exceptionally busy time of year but simply by **clicking on the link provided**, you can contact Ms Greening and your MP expressing concern that this manifesto pledge could be broken. **The process takes less than a minute in total.** Please visit <http://catholicnews.org.uk/education-cap> insert your details and click 'send'. We hope that through a concerted effort on the part of all members of the Catholic community, we can effect real, and much needed, influence.

Mrs Wheeler

### Mobile phones

We have had reports of parents using mobile phones while driving in the school grounds. Please be reminded that it is illegal to use your phone while driving or riding a motorcycle unless you have hands-free access, such as a Bluetooth headset, voice command or a dashboard holder.

The law still applies to you if you are stopped at traffic lights, queuing in traffic or supervising a learner driver. Thank you.



Please do not park on the Sunnydown 'Keep clear'. When parking, please be considerate of all pedestrians and other road users. Thank you.

### Cafod World Gifts.

Congratulations to Oak, Elm, Cedar Hazel, Maple and Linden classes who achieved their World Gifts targets. Thank you to everyone who has donated to and supported to this worthy cause.

This year, we have donated the following gifts:

- 1 Immunise a child
- 1 Community toilet
- 1 Pig that provides
  - 1 Goat that gives
- 1 School starter pack
  - 2 Trees for life
  - 2 Fabulous football
- 3 Teach someone to read
  - 3 Nets that protect
- 4 Vegetable Gardens
  - 4 Chirpy chickens
  - 4 Water for a family
  - 8 Happy queen bees



Thank you again for your support.



**World Gifts**  
by CAFOD



### **Lunch Money**

The amounts due for the Spring term are as follows:

Weekly - £11.25

First half term - £60.75

Second half term - £63.00

Whole term - £123.75

Payment can be made online via Tucasi.

### **School Fund**

The suggested amount is £25 per family per term or £75 for the year. Payment can be made online via Tucasi. Alternatively, please send your voluntary contributions to the school office, with cheques payable to St Francis School Fund.

Thank you.







## Lost and found

These items can be collected from the school office.



## School Association

### Winter Disco

All children should have received a letter in their book bag regarding the **Winter Disco** which is on the 19th January.

KS1 - years 1 & 2 - 5pm to 6:45pm.

KS2 - years 3,4,5,6 - 7:15pm to 9pm

Tickets are £4.00 and include a hot dog and refreshments.

Please complete the slip at the bottom of the letter to let us know if you require tickets and also if you are able to help out on the night.

Please note the disco is for St Francis pupils only.

### Save the Date

KS1/KS2 Disco - 19/01/2018

Quiz night - 10/03/2018

Summer BBQ - 25/05/2018