

Value of the month – Forgiveness

Dear Parents and Carers,

Science Week

The children have had a wonderful time this week exploring all things science, which all tied together wonderfully in our "Science Showcase" this afternoon, where the whole school gets to come and see what each year group have been learning about throughout the week. A big thank must go to all the staff for organising such interesting and fun learning enquiries for the children. See photos below.



Week 4 Reflection

We are over halfway through this year's Lent journey, and this week we focus on these words from the Book of Psalms **"The Lord is close to the broken-hearted; those whose spirit is crushed he will save."** Psalm 33:18

During the week, in your prayer time, or time of reflection being to mind those who are in war torn countries, those who are going through extremely hard times, those who are in great need of our prayers and support. Give those in desperate need your thoughts this week, perhaps "doing the extra" as we often do in Lent and visiting some Cafod or Catholic Children's Society or Mary's Meals websites to see how you can get involved. <https://cafod.org.uk> <https://www.cathchild.org.uk/> <https://www.marysmeals.org.uk/>
In the final week of term our Year 6 RE monitors will be focusing on this and raising money through a Toy and Book sale for PACT. More details to follow from them in next week's newsletter.

<https://www.prisonadvice.org.uk/>



Easter Reflections

Starting next Friday, and then each following school day, each year group will be leading reflections for the school to mark Holy Week. These are very special moments for us as a Catholic School filled with acting, narrating, reflective moments and singing by all, as the school remembers Jesus' road to Calvary. We begin with Reception and Year 1 celebrating Palm Sunday and finish with Year 6 leading us in the Stations of the Cross on Thursday (which happens to be Maundy Thursday this year) and we would love for parents and families to join with us - please see the calendar for details of which year group is leading when, and we look forward to seeing many of you join us throughout the week.

Prom Praise

On Tuesday 12th May 54 choir children attended Prom Praise for Schools at the Royal Albert Hall. A wonderful event and fantastic musical experience for all our children. The chosen theme was David's story, from shepherd boy to his crowning as King. The aim of the project was to explore the Bible story through the visual and performing arts. We were accompanied by the live All Souls Orchestra, treating us to a delight and range of music. Well done to everyone and thank you to Mrs Hardy and all staff and Parents who helped. It was a long but very special day!



Big Walk and Wheel Week

Next week we are taking part in the national Big Walk and Wheel Week. This is the UK's largest walking, wheeling, scooting and cycling challenge. It inspires pupils to make active journeys to school, improve air quality in their neighbourhood and discover how these changes benefit their world. In 2023, 3,096kg of nitrogen oxide avoided as a result of the 10-day challenge* In 2023, 1,890 tonnes of CO2 avoided as a result of the 10-day challenge* In 2023, pupils at 1,862 schools made 2,666,937 journeys to school by foot, wheelchair, scooter and cycle *Based on the assumption the journeys logged in the challenge would otherwise have been made by car. Active travel is a great way to build physical activity into children's daily routine. It helps them arrive to school more relaxed and alert, and is great for their mental wellbeing too. We will be counting the numbers of children Walking, Scooting and Cycling each day next week. Children will get a badge on the gate (or in class if it rains!) for each day they do this.



Bags of Hope

Your support for the Green Redeem scheme was quite overwhelming – thank you so much. We are hoping to get the same energy for our Green Redeem project - Bags of Hope. We are delighted once again to be teaming up with the Amara Charitable trust and the Rotary to take part in the 'Bags of Hope' scheme. We will be collecting **2nd hand school bags, drawstring bags, satchels and ruck sacks which must be in good condition and at least A4 size.** The bags will be sent to children in need in Nairobi and other developing countries around the world. Not only is this a wonderful way to help less fortunate children but its also a great way to reduce waste! We will accept donations between **Monday 18th March and Thursday 28th March. Please do not bring bags in before 18th March!** We plan to do one more collection at the end of the summer term of this academic year so please don't throw out any suitable bags. Do spread the word with friends and families - the more donations the better!! Thank you.

Oscar Romero Day

On March 24th it is Oscar Romero's Feast Day (this is a Sunday) we as a school will mark this day on **Monday 25th March.** Where we invite the children to wear colourful clothing to school - this could be your child's house coloured T-shirt, or other colourful and bright clothes - like the El Salvador Crosses. We remember Oscar Romero because, despite the difficulties he faced in his country, he spoke out about social injustice, violence and discrimination. The children throughout the year have been learning about different areas of CST (Catholic Social Teaching) and Oscar Romero is an example of a man who lived out those values. At St Francis we have Oscar Romero El Salvador designed crosses in every classroom. We thank you for your support.

Celebration Assembly

Well done to all those certificate winners this week and to **John Fisher** for winning the House Points Cup.



Best wishes, for a wonderful weekend.
Mrs Wheeler and Staff



Key Dates Holy Week



Friday 22nd 9:15am- Reception and Year 1 Parents-
Palm Sunday reflection

Monday 25th 9:15am- Year 2 Parents-
Jesus in the temple reflection

Tuesday 26th 9:15am- Year 3 Parents-
Washing of the feet reflection

Tuesday 26th 2:45pm- Year 4 Parents-
Last Supper reflection

Wednesday 27th - 9:15am - Year 5 Parents-
Garden of Gethsemane Reflection

Thursday 28th - 9:15am- Year 6 parents-
Stations of the Cross Reflection

Clubs

Reminder: The last session for all after-school clubs is the **week beginning 18th March**.

Don't forget to book your spaces for the Summer Term if you wish your child to continue in a club

Head Lice

We have an outbreak of head lice in several classes Please can we ask that you check your child/rens hair tonight and treat if necessary. As a reminder, children with hair that is long enough to tie back, should be tied back fully every day.

If you would like extra advice, please visit [NHS - Head lice](#)

Calendar Dates

18 th March	Parent Coffee Morning 9am- 10.30am Mental Health Support Team in
25 th March	PM Y5 & Y6 Young Shakespeare Mid-Summer Nights Dream Performance
22 nd March	Easter Liturgy Week-See above
27 th March	Cross Country Rally Home- Details to follow
28 th March	School finishes @ 1pm for the Easter Break.
15 th April	School Reopens @ 9am
18 th April	Football Fixture Home & Netball fixture Home -Details to follow
25 th & 26 th April	Year 3 Feet First
8 th May	Year 4 to High Ashurst
13 th May	Year 6 SATS Week
15 th May	Year 3 to Frylands Woods
16 th May	Year 5 Gatton Park
20 th -25 th May	Five- Day Walking Challenge- Details to follow
27 th May—31 st May	Half Term
3 rd June	School Reopens @9am
10 th June	Year 6 Kingswood Residential Trip
11 th June	Reception to Bocketts Farm
14 th June	Year 1 to Horniman Museum
17 th June	Year 6 Bikeability
28 th June	Whole School Sports Day
29 th June	PTA Summer Fayre
1 st July	District Sports Field - Details to Follow
4 th July	District Sports Track - Details to Follow
5 th July	Reserve Sports Day
12 th July	Year 6 Disco
15 th July	Changeover Day TBC
18 th July	Leavers Mass TBC
19 th July	Leavers Assembly School Finishes @1pm For the Summer Holidays.
3 rd September	School reopens @9am

Children's Holiday Activity Club

4-12 year olds

Established in 2005 with the view of offering both sports and creative activities throughout the day. Starting with just one venue in Chichester we have built on our reputation and now have five venues around West Sussex and Surrey.

only £32 per day
* Bulk booking discounts available

Venues

- 1 St Joseph's CE Junior School, Chichester
- 2 Shoreham College, Shoreham
- 3 Steyning Grammar School, Upper Beeding
- 4 Leechpool Primary School, Horsham
- 5 St Francis Catholic Primary School, Caterham

Active Fun!

Operating Dates

FEB HALF TERM: Sites 1, 2, 4, 5
EASTER: Sites 1, 2, 3, 4, 5
MAY HALF TERM: Sites 1, 2, 4, 5
SUMMER: Sites 1, 2, 3, 4, 5
OCTOBER HALF TERM: Sites 1, 2, 4, 5
CHRISTMAS: n/a

SPORTING ACTIVITIES

- Football
- Cricket/Kwix Cricket
- Tennis/Short Tennis
- Basketball
- Rounders
- Mini Sports
- Team Games
- Adventure Playground
- Field Activities
- Mini Olympics
- Dodge Ball
- Tag Rugby

CREATIVE ACTIVITIES

- Cooking
- Face Painting
- Painting & Sticky Stuff
- Play Dough Modelling
- Story Telling
- Arts and Crafts
- Dance and Drama
- Treasure Hunts
- Themed Days
- Picnics
- Easter Egg Hunts
- Board Games

Ample free parking at all sites

TIMES & PRICES

Day Activities
9am - 4.15pm (per day) £32.00

EXTRAS

Early Birds
8.15am - 9.00am (per day) £4.50

Late Leavers
4.15pm - 5.00pm (per day) £4.50

Late Leavers +
4:15pm - 6.00pm (per day) £7.00

Tuck
£1.00 (per day)

Sickness & Flexibility Insurance
£2.00 (per day)

Whizz Kids
01798 873077

Whizz Kids

If you are looking for a treat, or for someone to entertain your child, Whizz Kids is the perfect opportunity for children to really enjoy their school holidays. With fully qualified sports coaches on site teaching new skills providing the finest in sporting activities, together with a whole host of creative activities and much much more.

email: mail@whizzkidsclub.co.uk
www.whizzkidsclub.co.uk

For exact dates please visit our website.
 We accept Childcare Choices, Childcare Vouchers, Working Tax Credits & Tax Free Childcare.
 Whizz Kids is registered with Ofsted, see website for details and recent reports.

We are certified
 Ofsted
 Checked Disclosure & Barring Service

Find us on facebook:
 DPD Coaching/Whizz Kids



The PTA is a Parent Teacher Association, an organisation with a mission to make the school a better place for children to learn. It brings together parents, teachers and children to raise funds and strengthen the school community.

Money raised is usually spent on things that the school budget does not cover.

Whether it is a Quiz, Disco or Christmas Bazaar, these things all require resource and collaboration. The PTA Committee remains committed to coordinating and working with the school in delivering these events, which are invariably enjoyed by all.

That said, I need to expand the PTA Committee and to ask perhaps for one or two volunteers to put their names forward to join us. In doing so, it would enable Russell and I to share out the responsibilities collectively for such events and build for the future also. The tasks that the PTA Committee coordinate should not impact anyone's daily or weekly schedules. It is to support the coordination, delivery of events and commitment to raising funds as a result.

As parents of children at St Francis, we are all part of the Parent Teachers Association. We remain grateful to parents who provide support at events held. Please consider joining the Committee and let me know.

Thank you all in advance.

Best

On behalf of the PTA Committee

Alastair

PTA Chair