

## Value of the month – Forgiveness

Dear Parents and Carers,

### Palm Sunday Reflection

Today we watched the Reception and Year 1 classes Palm Sunday Reflection. The children acted, said prayers and sang so beautifully. It was wonderful to have so many parents and carers join us too. Thank you for coming.



### Golden Ticket Winners

Our lucky golden ticket winners, alongside those children who were given certificates for fantastic World Book Day outfits joined Mrs Wheeler and Mr Murphy for tea. The children enjoyed plenty of biscuits, juice and hot chocolate. Jokes were shared and a good conversation was had! Well done to all!



### Cross Country Rally

On Thursday afternoon, the juniors took part in the cross-country cup hosted by Warlingham School, competing against several other local schools. In the Y3/4 cup, St Francis finished in 3rd place. In the Y5/6 cup, they finished in 1st place and collected another trophy for the cabinet! All the children ran incredibly well and should be immensely proud of their performance! Special mentions go to Finley, Sienna and Xavier for finishing 2nd in their races! Thank you to Mrs Couch for organising the event and to all the parents who helped out on the day. We'll be back next year to defend our trophy!

### Earth Hour

This Saturday, 23<sup>rd</sup> March, from 8.30 - 9.30pm sees the return of 'Earth Hour'. As those of you who have taken part in this before, it's a great excuse to get everyone in the house to switch off their devices, turn off the lights and light some candles, then enjoy some quality family time playing cards/ board games/ lego..or even just having a chat! We encourage as many of you as possible to take part in order to help raise awareness of saving energy, looking after our planet and the enjoyment of family time!

If an earlier hour is more suitable for your family, that is fine but we would love the children to share their experience with their class and teacher next week. Thanks and Happy Earth Hour!

### Bags of Hope

Thanks to everyone who has brought in a pre loved bag so far - a reminder that the bags need to be in school by next **Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March**. All rucksacks, satchels, schoolbags & drawstring bags etc...are suitable as long as they are in good condition. They will be sent to school children in Africa thanks to the Rotary club and the Amara Charitable Trust. Many Thanks!

### PACT Book and Toy Sale

St Francis RE monitors have decided to hold a nearly new/new toy sale and books.

We are asking our families to have a look at home for any new/nearly new clean toys and books that could be donated for the sale. With the money we raise, we will be able to share a bit of joy and brighten another family's day. If possible, we would like all donations brought in by Wednesday 27th March and we will be having our toy/book sale on the afternoon of Wednesday 27th March Please could they bring their donations to class and the RE monitors will come to collect them.

Children will be able to bring in their pocket money to buy toys during the day. We suggest a maximum of £2. As always, we thank you for your continued support.

### Parents' Coffee Morning

On **Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> April** from **9-10.30am** in **Acorns** (The hut on the playground) This time we will once again welcome the Mental Health Support Team. They will be providing a workshop on Managing Challenging Behaviours. All parents are welcome. Please complete the online form sent out earlier this week to confirm your attendance so we have an idea on numbers. Please arrive **after 8.50** - we will take a register in Acorns so you do not need to sign in at the office. Any questions please ask Mrs Dommett or Mrs Hamilton.

### Oscar Romero Day Reminder

On March 24th it is Oscar Romero's Feast Day (this Sunday) we as a school will mark this day on **Monday 25<sup>th</sup> March**. Where **we invite the children to wear colourful clothing to school on Monday**.

Best wishes, for a wonderful weekend.

Mrs Wheeler and Staff



## Calendar Dates

25 <sup>th</sup> March	<b>PM Y5 &amp; Y6</b> Young Shakespeare Mid-Summer Nights Dream Performance
22 <sup>nd</sup> March	Easter Liturgy Week-See below
27 <sup>th</sup> March	Cross Country Rally Home- Details to follow
28 <sup>th</sup> March	<b>School finishes @ 1pm for the Easter Break.</b>
15 <sup>th</sup> April	<b>School Reopens @ 9am</b>
18 <sup>th</sup> April	Football Fixture Home & Netball fixture Home -Details to follow
22 <sup>nd</sup> April	Coffee Morning 8.45- 10.30am - Managing Difficult Behaviors.
25 <sup>th</sup> & 26 <sup>th</sup> April	<b>Year 3</b> Feet First
8 <sup>th</sup> May	<b>Year 4</b> to High Ashurst
13 <sup>th</sup> May	<b>Year 6</b> SATS Week
15 <sup>th</sup> May	<b>Year 3</b> to Frylands Woods
16 <sup>th</sup> May	<b>Year 5</b> Gatton Park
20 <sup>th</sup> -25 <sup>th</sup> May	Five- Day Walking Challenge- Details to follow
27 <sup>th</sup> May—31 <sup>st</sup> May	<b>Half Term</b>
3 <sup>rd</sup> June	<b>School Reopens @9am</b>
10 <sup>th</sup> June	<b>Year 6</b> Kingswood Residential Trip
11 <sup>th</sup> June	<b>Reception</b> to Bocketts Farm
14 <sup>th</sup> June	<b>Year 1</b> to Horniman Museum
17 <sup>th</sup> June	<b>Year 6</b> Bikeability
28 <sup>th</sup> June	Whole School Sports Day
29 <sup>th</sup> June	PTA Summer Fayre
1 <sup>st</sup> July	District Sports Field - Details to Follow
4 <sup>th</sup> July	District Sports Track - Details to Follow
5 <sup>th</sup> July	Reserve Sports Day
12 <sup>th</sup> July	<b>Year 6</b> Disco
15 <sup>th</sup> July	Changeover Day TBC
18 <sup>th</sup> July	Leavers Mass TBC
19 <sup>th</sup> July	Leavers Assembly <b>School Finishes @1pm For the Summer Holidays.</b>
3 <sup>rd</sup> September	<b>School reopens @9am</b>

## Key Dates Holy Week

**Monday 25<sup>th</sup> 9:15am- Year 2 Parents-** Jesus in the temple reflection

**Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> 9:15am- Year 3 Parents-** Washing of the feet reflection

**Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> 2:45pm- Year 4 Parents-** Last Supper reflection

**Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> - 9:15am - Year 5 Parents-** Garden of Gethsemane Reflection

**Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> - 9:15am- Year 6 parents-** Stations of the Cross Reflection



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**ST FRANCIS SCHOOL SPEECH AND DRAMA**  
Supporting Literacy and the Curriculum since 2007



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# POETRY BY HEART



Over the lunchtimes of Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> March talented St Francis pupils from Reception (as young as 4) to Year 6 took part in an inspiring competition designed to encourage pupils in England to choose poems, learn them by heart and perform them out loud.

The internal **Poetry by Heart** Classic (two poem) solo or **Freestyle** (one poem solo and group) competitions were hotly contested and adjudicated by Head Teacher, Mrs Wheeler. Some 60 pupils participated in a mixture of solo, duo, trio and group presentations.

Assessed on four critical areas: **Voice, Understanding, Performance, and Accuracy** the following pupils achieved 100 per cent and will go forward to the regional competition

### Classic (two poem) Competition

Francesca (Yr 4 Lois (Yr 5), Amber (Yr 6), Chloe (Yr 6)

### Freestyle (one poem) Competition

Kamshika, Lola, Erica – Macbeth "Witch" (Yr 3) Taylor (Yr 2) and Chloe (Yr 6) "I'm Famous" Violet (Year 5) "Smile" "Riddle" Group "Fairy Dust" Group "Queue at the Zoo" Group "Sweet" Group Natasha (year 6) – Slovakian Poem

### Runners Up (Solo) Classic and Freestyle

Archie E. (Yr 3) Ivy (Yr 3), Dominic (Yr 3), Lola (Yr 3) Sebastian Yr 4, Aaliyah (Yr 5) Archie (Yr 6) Esme (Yr 6) Max (Yr 5) Own Poem: Scarlett (Yr 2) and Bea (Yr 6)

Max (Yr 5) presented Mrs Wheeler with his LAMDA **Reading for Performance Recital** on Football and was commended for his American accent, Whilst Ivy (Yr 3) presented her **Brownie Pet Shop** LAMDA Acting Exam piece for which she scored an exceptionally high Distinction. Mrs Wheeler complimented Ivy for her acting and memory and gave her 100 per cent for accuracy and performance. She particularly enjoyed this piece as it transpired Mrs Wheeler is a Brownies "Brown Owl".

The competition gave many children the opportunity to showcase recent LAMDA exam poems and other pieces as well as forthcoming Reigate and Redhill Festival poems and individual talents. Mrs Wheeler enjoyed all the presentations and was very encouraging to the children who overcame their nerves to stand and recite or read a poem (some at the very last minute having been inspired by watching their friends and saying to themselves "I CAN do this"). Mrs Wheeler particularly enjoyed **Bed in Summer** by Robert Louis Stephenson performed by Archie (Yr 3) which she remembered word for word from her own childhood. She also enjoyed the Fairies from *Midsommer Night's Dream* (Daisy, Orla and Olivia), as well as Scarlett's (Y 2) beautifully handwritten and illustrated own poem about her special friends. Mrs Wheeler was transfixed by Natasha's (y 6) Slovakian Poem. Special mention to Archie (Yr 6) for memorising such a long poem and Bea (Yr 6) for writing a poem. The children thank you Mrs Wheeler for all your feedback/pointers.

Impossible to list all the children by name but all will participate in the Freestyle groups. Well done to all and to your parents/guardians who support you throughout including at additional practice sessions. You are ALL WINNERS by taking part and will all receive a Poetry by Heart badge and official Poetry by Heart certificate to add to your burgeoning certificate files. It is all EVIDENCE to keep for the future that you can add to your CVs

The former Poet Laureate Sir Andrew Motion, who set up Poetry By Heart with co-founder Dr Julie Blake in 2013, says, "In ten years, Poetry By Heart has grown from strength to strength: since 2013 thousands of students have not only learned great poems for life but they have also shared them with friends and families in the inspiring and moving performances that are at the heart of every competition. I am constantly surprised and delighted by the quality of the students' achievements."

Daljit Nagra, Poetry By Heart Advisor and Judge, says, "I am always stunned by our children and their ability to stand before an audience of strangers to deliver a poem with an intimacy and intellectual authority that gives the poem fresh meaning while bringing it utterly alive."

### Congratulations

As members of either or both Freedom Academy (run by Mrs Henry and team) and Palmer Drama (Mrs Palmer) a number of St Francis speech and drama children listed above achieved great things at the Purley Festival last Saturday. Through taking opportunities with outside groups they are continuing to develop and hone their performance skills acquired through St Francis Speech and Drama whilst adding to their repertoire and wider knowledge of literature and theatre. Well done!

**Good Luck to Chloe and Taylor who are performing in Love Theatre Arts Production of "And the Winner is?" at Dorking Halls on Saturday (2.30 and 7.30), Do support if you can!**

[Event Detail – Dorking Halls](#) [Event Detail – Dorking Halls](#).



## 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.

01798 873077

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

### Our Locations

Ample free parking at all sites

### Active Fun!

#### SPORTING ACTIVITIES

- Football
- Cricket/Kwick 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

### 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

**email:** [mail@whizzkidsclub.co.uk](mailto:mail@whizzkidsclub.co.uk)

**www:** [www.whizzkidsclub.co.uk](http://www.whizzkidsclub.co.uk)

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