



**School Vision:** Our aim at St. Francis Church of England Primary School is to guide our children to live fulfilling lives, rooted in the values taught by Jesus based on the gospel value of love for one another.

**School Mission Statement:** Love Faith. Love People. Love Learning.

**School Values:** love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

**Date:** 04.09.2020

### Worship Theme

We have centred our worship on how Jesus showed kindness through his interactions and his actions to those around him, even when he was tired and when he was busy. We looked at what kindness was and used the following format to show some ideas.

#### Kindness is...

keeping in contact

interested in others

Helping others in need

doing random acts of kindness

noticing a need

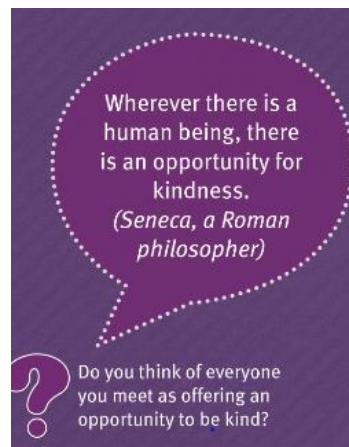
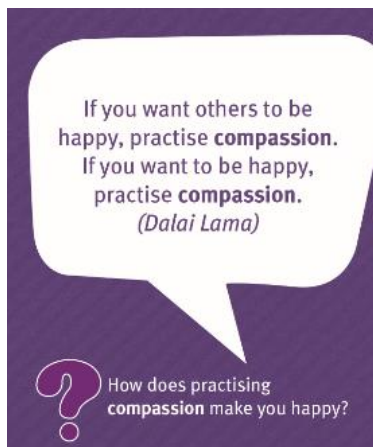
Showing empathy

sensitive to suffering

sharing and smiling

Talk to your child(ren) about:

- What does kindness mean?
- What does kindness look like?
- Should you expect kindness when you show kindness?
- What school rules link to being kind?
- Why is showing kindness important?
- Can you find a bible verse / story that demonstrates Jesus' kindness? What does it teach you?



### Class Charities

Continuing the theme of kindness, we have also launched the class charities for this year. Our charities have been chosen to link with learning of the different classes. Some charities have been chosen as they are local to us and some have been chosen to give more national and global awareness.

Year EYFS: North West Air Ambulance

Year 1: Witton Park Green Gym

Year 2: Blackburn Food Bank

Year 3: Canal and River Trust

Year 4: Allergy UK (Allergy Awareness)

Year 5: Bethany Choir

Year 6: Christian Aid

## COVID-19

COVID-19 continues to be a significant difficulty, however, I am extremely thankful that classes have not had to shut for self-isolation. I am sure it is a when it will happen rather than if, however, I am thankful to all parents/carers who are supporting us to work in a safe way.

At this times of year, it is very normal for children to have coughs, colds, sniffles, sickness, diarrhoea and sneezes. I have taken some further advice from Public Health England this week on their working definition of a 'continuous/persistent cough'. The advice on the NHS website has been updated to try and provide a definition. If your child, or anyone in your household develops either one, some or all symptoms, you must self-isolate and book a test.

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/symptoms/coronavirus-in-children/>

### Symptoms of coronavirus in children

The main symptoms of coronavirus are:

- a high temperature
- a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot, for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours
- a loss or change to sense of smell or taste – this means they cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

### What to do if your child has symptoms

If your child has any of the main symptoms of coronavirus:

- Get a test to check if they have coronavirus as soon as possible.
- Stay at home and do not have visitors until you get the test result – only leave your home to have a test.
- Anyone you live with, and anyone in your support bubble, must also stay at home until you get the result.

Children who display any of the symptoms above will need to be isolated in school prior to collection. The monitoring of a cough is very difficult as we accept that minimal coughing does not match the NHS definition, however, a child who has coughed for an hour before ringing parents/carers, could spread the virus if they were COVID positive. Please work with us as we step through this COVID world together. All staff have been briefed on our risk assessment, which includes alerting senior staff of possible COVID symptoms.

If the child who attends school is identified as a contact to a positive test, they must self-isolate for 14 days. If a parent/carer is identified as a contact to a positive case, the child can still attend school, unless the parent/carer starts to display symptoms. This is also only if the child can be dropped off at school and picked up not be the parent/carer identified as the contact.

Sickness and Diarrhoea – please note that sickness and diarrhoea in itself does not require self-isolation or a COVID test, unless accompanied with one of the symptoms of COVID. Please remember that a child absent due to sickness and/or diarrhoea must only come back to school after 48 hours from the last episode of sickness/diarrhoea.

For further information, please see the following central government / NHS websites:

Coronavirus in Children – NHS: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/symptoms/coronavirus-in-children/>

Stay at Home Guidance: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance>

## Reminder: School Readiness

As classes settle back down together and learn how to negotiate and navigate their learning, please continue to support your children in the following areas. The following areas feature heavily within our RESTORE model. We want to ensure children feel safe and secure and we also want to ensure our children are ready to learn and progress quickly. For children to be able to do this, they need to be skilled in the following areas:

- 1) Listening and Attention skills
- 2) Independence skills
- 3) Cooperation and collaboration
- 4) Following tasks and routines

## Reminder: Upcoming Change – Communication Method

We have continued to review our communication method and we are moving our website, parent communication (email, parent bookings and forms) over to a company named 'School Spider'. After demonstrations of this system, I really do feel it will further support communication with parents. At present, parent accounts have not been fully set up, however, we are asking that you download the app (available on apple and android stores) in preparation.



As soon as we have integrated School Spider with your details, we will send you your login details. We will be using School Spider for the following services:

\* Emails \* Smart Phone Messages \* Parents' Evening bookings \* Completion of forms and surveys

Once we have set up our new school website, the app will also integrate with the calendar and newsletters online. In the future, we will look to bring the payment system under this umbrella too. All with a view to make life a little easier for a busy parent/carer!

## Reading Books – When will they be changed?

Due to COVID-19, your child's reading book will be processed differently. All children will need to bring their books into school every day, however, on Friday, your child's book will remain in school. On Monday, your child's book will be changed and then reissued. Please connect with the local libraries and sign up to the digital library which will give you access to hundreds of books and audio books.

## Welcome Meetings

We usually hold 'Welcome Meetings' (previously called: Meet the Teacher) early on in the Autumn term. This is not possible this year due to our current risk assessment. Welcome Meetings will be pre-recorded meetings that will be available on our school website from Monday evening. Communication will be sent to you once the class pages, curriculum pages and 'Welcome Meeting' videos are available. We would appreciate feedback about this as it might be something we continue with!

## Science & Future Aspirations



To support the development of children's science knowledge and interest and to further the work of future aspirations, we want to share different jobs that require science. If you would not mind featuring to support this campaign, please speak with Mr Carter.

**Name:** Danny Finney

**Job Title:** Electrical Service Manager

What do you remember about science at school?

"I don't really remember science at primary school because it was so long ago...when I think of science at school I remember the rows of Bunsen burners and gas taps on the benches in the science lab. I always looked forward to science because it was more interesting to me than the other subjects as you could carry out experiments yourself."

What is your favourite aspect of science and why?

"I find the most interesting aspect of science is the way you can apply it to nearly everything you do, if you think about all the things you do during the day science is always involved. Something as simple as brushing your teeth is only possible because of science, whether it be the Physics that enables the water to flow in your pipes, the Chemistry that formulated your toothpaste or the Biology that taught us that teeth need cleaning. Without science it would be impossible to live the way we do today."

How is science involved in your job?

"My job is an Electrical Technician; Physics plays a major role in my job. My job is to design circuits that take electricity around your home or school. Without these circuits, you would have no lights or power, making it impossible to watch TV, play video games or use the internet. The world would be a much less interesting place without electricity."

Why would you recommend your job as a future occupation for children at our school?

"If you enjoy solving problems and working in interesting places then being an electrician might be the job for you. Whether it is wiring the Xmas star on top of the town hall or fixing the lights in your school every day is different."



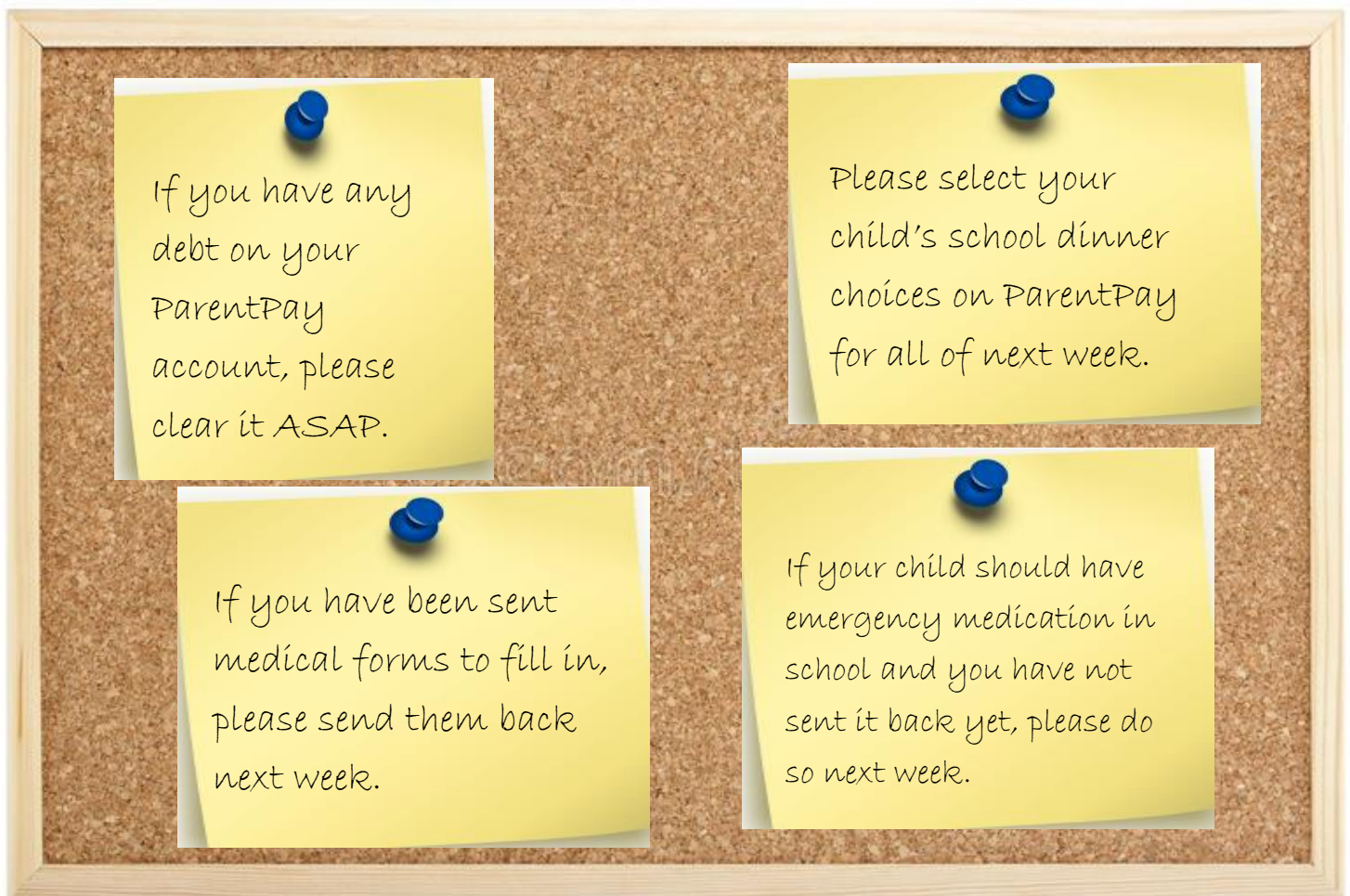
Thank you Mr  
Finney!

## Purple Mash

Children were sent home with an A4 letter detailing their Purple Mash account login details and some information about the site. As we progress through this half-term, we will become more proficient at using it. We are aiming for all homework to be completed through this system. This system will also be used if school was to be closed for remote learning.

Purple Mash hosts times tables games and because of this, we will be ending our subscription to TT Rockstars.

## Quick Notes - To do...



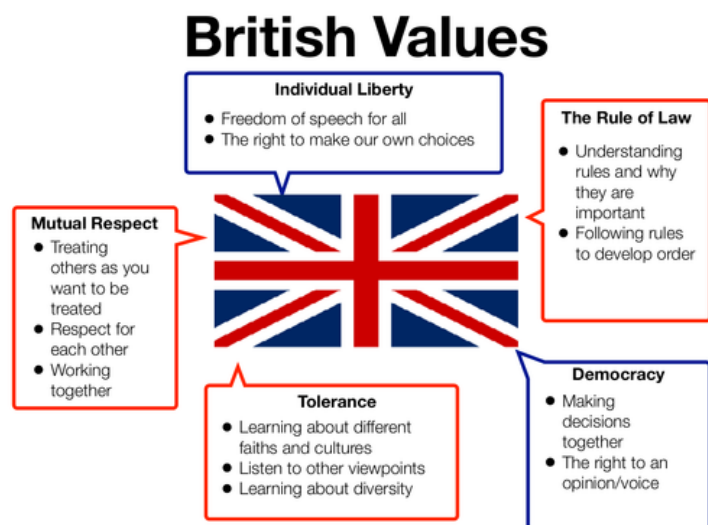
### Celebration Worship

If your child(ren) achieve any awards outside of school and they wish for them to be presented at Celebration Worship, please take a picture of the award/certificate and send it to [head@stfrancis.blackburn.sch.uk](mailto:head@stfrancis.blackburn.sch.uk) with a bit of writing us informing what the award is for. This will then be included in our virtual Celebration Worship. Once we have got a little more confident with our virtual worship, we will be inviting parents/carers to join virtually.

### Leadership Roles

A huge congratulations to all of the children who have been elected to represent their class for school council and eco-council. We have also filled positions for Worship Wardens, Digital Leaders and various other Year 6 leadership roles. We have linked this process to the Fundamental British Values.

Speak to your children about these values and make links to our school values and rules.



### Year 3 Learning – visit to the canal

Year 3 went on a walk around Cherry Tree as part of their Geography learning. The purpose was to look for and recognise physical and human features of our local area (ask your children what these phrases mean). The children were also set the task of deciding what the land was used for and learned some new geographical vocabulary such as residential, leisure and green space. They were particularly interested in the new housing development on Tower Road - ask them what they think about this.



### Picture News:



Please visit the following link to find a newspaper and further information to discuss with your child in regards to the above information. [School Website: Picture News at Home](#)

### Staying Safe Online:

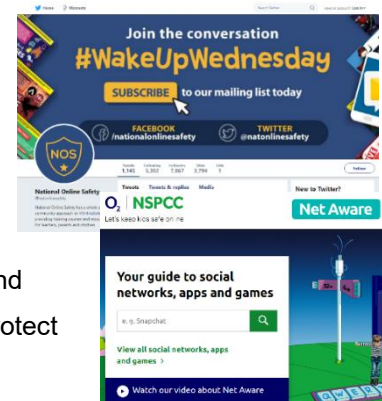
#WakeUpWednesday from National Online Safety. The focus this week is: 'What Parents Need to Know About Trolling & Online Abuse'.

The link to their website is <https://nationalonlinesafety.com/resources/wake-up-wednesday/>

Net-Aware

<https://www.net-aware.org.uk/>

This is an excellent website that supports your understanding of a variety of apps and social media platforms. By keeping yourself up-to-date, you will be able to better protect your child(ren).



Have a great weekend! Thank you once again for all of your patience and understanding. It is very much appreciated. As always, if you need to speak to one of the St. Francis team, please do get in touch! Mr Kewley