



St. Francis Church of England Primary School

School Contact Details:

Address: Cherry Tree Lane, Cherry Tree, Blackburn, BB2 5NX

Telephone: 01254 201419

Email: office@stfrancis.blackburn.sch.uk

Website: www.stfranciscep.co.uk

Facebook: @stfrancisceprimary

School Newsletter

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: 18.12.2020

Worship Theme



We have continued to think about advent and explore the meaning of the third and fourth candle. The third candle is pink and symbolizes joy. It is called the "Shepard's Candle," and is pink because rose is a liturgical color for joy. The third Sunday of Advent is Gaudete Sunday and is meant to remind us of the joy that the world experienced at the birth of Jesus, as well as the joy that the faithful have reached the midpoint of Advent.

On the fourth week of Advent, we light the final purple candle to mark the final week of prayer and penance as we wait for the birth of our Saviour. This final candle, the "Angel's Candle," symbolizes peace. It reminds us of the message of the angels: "Peace on Earth, Good Will Toward Men."

The final candle to be lit will be the white candle in the centre of the advent wreath. This candle is called the "Christ Candle" and represents the life of Christ. The colour white is for purity - because Christ is our sinless, pure Saviour.



Speak to your child about...

What does joy mean?

What does joy look like?

How can you spread joy to other people?

Why do Christians link Jesus to 'light of the world'?

What prayer could we say?



British Values / Global Neighbours



British Values

14th – 20th December

Mutual Respect and Tolerance

We can show kindness in many ways, like giving a hug or smiling at someone. When someone is far away, we can write a letter or send flowers to show we care. All acts of kindness, no matter how small they seem, will have a positive effect on those around us!



Positive COVID Test or Symptoms of COVID?

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If your child(ren) develop any COVID-19 symptoms or tests positive, please report this to school by emailing us at: < covid19@stfrancis.blackburn.sch.uk >.

Schools have been requested to continue to support track and trace for positive cases relating to a school setting into the Christmas holidays.

Any cases of COVID-19 symptoms or positive tests, please email the above email address to alert us, this includes weekends. This means appropriate action can take place in a timely manner.

Thank you.

School Dinners



Reminder: CAHNGE of PE Days

For the Spring Term (January to Easter holidays), please note the days for PE are changing.

EYFS: Tuesday & Thursday

Y1: Monday & Thursday

Y2: Tuesday & Friday

Y3: Monday & Friday

Y4: Tuesday & Thursday

Y5: Wednesday & TBC

Y6: Monday & Wednesday



Well done St. Francis!

This Autumn term has been an extremely difficult and tiring term and I am extremely proud of the children's and staff's achievements. The staff have had COVID-19 barriers left, right and centre to juggle and overcome with all the other aspects of their work. The children have had to become used to a different way of working and they have had to slot back into class community working after the Spring lockdown. Children's attitudes to learning, concentration, behaviours and following routines were a focus in settling back into school life. I must say the children have done incredibly well and have thrived over the last term. After reviewing progress of all children across school, it is confirmed that the staff have worked against all the odds to enable effective learning in classes. Thank you to all parents/carers who have listened to their children reading and ensured children have engaged on Mathletics and Purple Mash.

If you have a positive comment that you can share with your child's class teacher, please do! I cannot quite convey how incredibly difficult this term has been compared to others.

An amazing team effort by the St. Francis community!

Christmas Celebration

If you have not seen already, our Year 1 class have produced a Nativity and this has been shared on our school Facebook page. Well done Year 1...you did a MAGNIFICENT job!

The whole school have also produced a Christmas songs, carols and readings festive treat. This has also been shared on our School Facebook page. Well done everyone - you brought the festive cheer to all that saw in the community!

Well done to Year 3, who made an appearance within the St. Wilfrid's Nine Lessons and Carols service!

Staff Change

There is a change in music provider from Spring Term. This will not impact upon music tuition with individual children.

From January, Mrs C Hudson and Miss J Hudson will be leading our curriculum music across Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday afternoon in all classes except Y3. I am awaiting photographs and as soon as I have these, I will share on Facebook and our website so you can recognise our new staff members. Please do welcome them to our St. Francis community when you see them.

PTA

A BIG thank you to all the St Francis families for your generous support with the PTA Christmas events this year. The raffle and the pet photo competition raised over £400! As always, these funds will directly benefit all St Francis children throughout the school year. We are unlikely to be able to run any social events in the Spring and Summer terms again, so we'll be putting our thinking caps on to look for new (COVID safe) fund-raising activities. If you can spare any time at all to help with events this year, please let us know. You can contact us at <pta@stfrancis.blackburn.sch.uk>. We wish you all the very best for the Christmas break and thank you very much for your continued support.

School Facebook Page

If you have not done so already, please like our Facebook page.

@stfrancisprimary

Year 5 Parents' Evening

The Year 5 parents' evening has been rearranged. This will take place across two days - Tuesday 12th and Thursday 14th January 2021. Information regarding the booking of these appointments has been sent out separately to Y5 parents/carers.

PE Clothes

We continue to ask that children come to school in clothes appropriate for PE sessions on their PE days. Please note your child's PE days are changing after Christmas as stated on page 1.

Appropriate PE clothing includes no laces if your child cannot tie laces. Please make sure they have Velcro trainers if required.

No jeans on PE days either!

Online Safety - Christmas Presents

Over the Christmas period, it is common that new technology is bought for the home or for children. Technology is great for so many aspects of life, however, it poses a significant risk if the relevant settings and safeguards are not put in place. Please research the suitability of different apps and games and ensure you don't allow children to watch age restricted content. Please also check whether apps and/or games allow live chatting and whether the app or device is giving away your child's location. Remind your child not to disclose private information - real name, location, address, school name or telephone number.



Online Safety

Check out National Online Safety - #WakeUpWednesday Campaign.

<https://nationalonlinesafety.com/resources/wake-up-wednesday/>

Love People! - Look out for those around you...

Christmas is not always a happy time for everyone. Please remember there are organisations who can help you if you feel you need to talk to someone.



Once again, I cannot thank you for all of your cooperation this term with all of the COVID-19 changes. I wish you and your family a very happy Christmas and a happy new year.

If you are struggling over the holidays, please do contact the COVID email, for example, lack of food. See you back at St. Francis on Tuesday 5th January! Mr Kewley

