St. Francis' Catholic Primary Newsletter

Issue 1 21st October 2022



Black History

This year for Black History at St Francis' we are focussing on Ancient African Kingdoms. For too long, Black History has focussed mainly on the fight for civil rights, immigration and slavery. While these topics are very important and need to be studied, for many, Black History begins and ends with these themes.

At St Francis' we try and delve a little deeper and help our children realise that we cannot truly understand British and world history if we do not think about Africa and people of African descent.

Africa is home to some of the world's most ancient cultures, and was home to various kingdoms and empires before the era of colonialism. With the notable exception of Ancient Egypt, ancient African civilizations do not often appear in our history curriculum. These other kingdoms and empires knew about each other and they traded with each other.

So at St Francis' we are delighted to focus on these kingdoms to widen the children's understanding of world history, a world where Africa was an integrated and equal part. From the Empire of Mali, through Ancient Ghana to Great Zimbabwe and the Kingdom of Aksum, the pupils of St Francis' will shine a light on these amazing kingdoms lost to history.





















Important Dates

21st October 2022 Last day of half term

31st October 2022 No School-Staff INSET

1st November 2022 First day of half term All Saints Day Mass

Week Beginning 15th November 2022 Anti-bullying Week

16th & 17th November

Parents' Conference Meetings for years 1—6

7th December 2021 Panto Years 1—3

8th December 2021 Panto Years 4—6

12th December 2022 EYFS Parents' Conference Meetings (school closed to EYFS)

20th December 2022 End of term (2:00 pm)



Junior Leadership Team

We are proud to introduce the Junior Leadership team for the academic year 2022-2023. The team comprises of 7 members from the year 6 classes. There is a Head boy; a Head girl; 2 Deputy Head boys ;2 Deputy Head girls and a secretary.

The presentations from the children this year, in their applications for the post were of exceptionally high standards. This team of vibrant young leaders will work closely with the Head Teacher during the year ,generating their own ideas on how to improve the school

Stephen Mulhern

On Thursday 8th September, the children of St Francis' were very excited to be visited by a magician, TV presenter and writer Stephen Mulhern. Mr. Mulhern wowed them with his magic tricks! During the assembly, he invited some children to the front, making balls appear in one child's hands and, using a deck of cards, he seemed to be able to read another child's mind!



earth.





Most importantly, Mr. Mulhern - who attended St. Francis' School as a child - shared with the children the importance of reading and writing, telling them about his new book, 'Max Magic T. He even kindly left some signed copies of 'Max Magic' at school, which we now have in our book corners!

Attendance for the this half term:

Gold: 4R 99.3% Silver: 2A 97.8% Bronze: 6B 97.7%

Attendance must be 100% because any absence affects children's learning and the more they miss the harder it will be for them to catch up.

Going for Gold

★ Congratulations to all pupils who have been on Gold since 5th September 2022



Recycling Week

Recycling week is an annual event held each year to help promote and celebrate the importance of reducing waste. The week was celebrated from the 19th to the 24th of September with the theme: Let's Get Real.

As a school community, we celebrated the week through many different activities. From Foundation Stage to Year 6, Recycling Week was explored through everyday lessons. In RE pupils explored how the earth is being destroyed and what they can do to help save the planet from perishing. Reception and Nursery used recycled materials in creative ways e.g. they made beds for their baby doll. Other years focused on the importance and impact of recycling and how they can make a change in today's world. Supplementing the lessons pupils learnt in class, they were given homework to write an essay, create a project or leaflet depending on their year group.







Feast of St Francis

This year the children of celebrated the Feast of St Francis by looking at the Canticles of the creatures. Children had the opportunity to explore St Francis' deep experience of God in creation: How Francis praised God through the sun, the moon, and stars; through the wind and air; water and fire; through the flowers and all the

They spent time generating beautiful art work linked to meditation as a way of creating a quiet space for God to be present, just as how Francis would have done. A Mass was celebrated on the feast day, followed by the children's treat of ice lollies, distribution by Fr. Michael.



