

St. Francis' Catholic Primary Newsletter

Issue 3 — 9th February 2024



Citizenship Weeks 2024

Equality Matters — Wonderfully Made

The 8th to the 19th January were our Citizenship Weeks here at St Francis'. Citizenship Weeks for this academic year were based on the theme: **Equality Matters - Wonderfully Made.**

The focus was on children's understanding the each of us, in our differences, are wonderfully made by God. We are all entitled to be treated equally no matter who we are or where we come from. During lessons pupils explored the Equality Act of 2010 and the Protected Characteristics, focusing on: age; disability; religion and ethnicity. In all lessons, links were made to the scriptures as a source that guides us in the way we should live and how we should treat others. There were good cross-curricular links with our Religious Education lessons, where the theme was the Bible.

The two weeks of activities included whole school assemblies, exploring the visible and invisible disabilities, celebrating Mass as well as participating in a sponsored 'Welly Throwing' to raise funds for our local charity. As part of their Citizenship studies, the classes in Year 3 and 4 went to visit the Sri Mahalakshmi Temple in East Ham. There, the children got to explore the temple and learn a little about the Hindu Faith.



Important Dates

Monday 19th February 2024
Staff INSET Day—School
closed to pupils

Tuesday 20th February 2024
First day of the new half term
for pupils.

Friday 1st March 2024
Dental Check for Nursery, Reception and Year 1

Thursday 7th March 2024
World Book Day

Week Beginning Monday 18th
March 2024

(Holy Week Assemblies)

Monday 18th: Year 3 Assembly,
9.05am

Tuesday 19th: Year 4 Assembly,
9.05am

Wednesday 20th: KS1 Easter
Musical 'Jesus is Alive,' 9.15am

Thursday 21st: Year 5 Assembly,
9.05am

Friday 22nd: Year 6 Stations of
the Cross Assembly, 9.05

18th March 2024
EYFS Parents' Conference
Meetings
(school closed to EYFS)

20th and 21st March 2024
Parents' Conference Meetings
for years 1—6

Friday 22nd March 2024
End of term (2:00 pm)

Front Row Concert On 7th February, our children who learn ukulele and guitar with Front Row performed for their parents and classes. Our young musicians performed brilliantly, strumming chords rhythmically and even involving their audience in one of their songs! Well done to them all!



A Prayer for Half Term

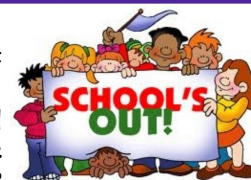
We thank you Lord, for this half term.

For the challenges, the successes, and the mistakes from which we have learnt. Be with us as we spend our time with family and friends. Give us strength and courage to do what is right; to be witnesses of our faith. Help us to be a practical Christian this half term holiday, to appreciate what others do for us, to give time and effort to help others, to be peacemakers in our family.

Keep us safe in our activities; give us good rest and good fun. Bring us back refreshed and ready for a new term.

We thank you for our classmates, teachers, parents and a community that cares for us. May we always be conscious of you in our lives.

Amen



Basket Ball Festival



On 24th January 2024, a number of our Year 5 and Year 6 children took part in a borough-wide Basketball Festival competition at the UEL Sports Dock in Beckton.

This was a fantastic opportunity for our school to enjoy the beautiful game of basketball with a range of other schools. Each school entered three teams, the A team played 5X5 and the B and C teams played 3X3. Our A team placed first, our B team placed fourth and our C team placed first, meaning ***we were the overall winners of the competition!***

A huge well done to all the children who took part, keep up the fantastic effort and achievement.



St Francis'

Going for Gold

To all pupils who have been on Gold since
4th January 2024
Well Done!



School Council Update

School Councillors had an assembly on Wednesday 7th February to encourage children to have healthy snacks. In the second half of the spring term, children will have a healthier snacking challenge. There will be rewards for three children who are making regularly making healthier snacking choices.



Our school is participating in the 'Sustrans Big Walk and Wheel' competition from 11th -22nd March 2024. There will be daily prize draws for rewards if over 15% of our school walk, use a wheelchair, scooter or cycle on each day of the challenge.



Attendance for the this half term:



Gold:	1J	97.4%
Silver:	5B	96.7%
Bronze:	6K	96%

Well done 1J! 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.

Design and Technology Day

St Francis' held our second D&T Day of the school year on Friday 2nd February. This time, we used our studies in History to create some excellent products. D&T is all about solving problems, learning new skills and thinking about how we can improve. Reception, who have been learning about toys and games in the past for their history topic, learnt the practical skill of sewing in order to make some glove puppets. Year 1 used sliding and lever mechanism to make moving pictures for an interactive book all about classrooms and schools in the past. Year 2 designed a model fire engine...but not those bright red ones we have today. They have been learning about the Great Fire of London, and created special models of 17th century fire engines developing their understanding of wheels and axles. Year 3 used complicated mechanisms to make moving pictures all about the Stone Age, while Year 4 used their knowledge of nets to create Egyptian pyramids and sarcophaguses for a mummy. Year 5 learnt how to create strong structures to make model Anglo-Saxon houses for a museum exhibit, complete with thatched roofs! Finally, Year 6 learnt to design and stitch together different fabrics to make a useful utility belt that could have been worn by a fire warden during the Blitz.

The children really enjoyed the day, it was an opportunity to learn new skills and unleash their creative potential. Well done children, your products were fantastic!



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