



# ST. FRANCIS NEWSLETTER

## January 2024

St Francis' Catholic Primary School, Goosnargh, Preston, PR3 2FJ, 01772 865369

*St. Francis' Catholic Primary School*

**LIVING FEELING DREAMING**

Living our life as Jesus taught us Feeling the Gospel Values Dreaming of bright futures for all

As children of God, we care for each other and we always try to do our best'

### **A Big Thank You!**

Thank you to Marika for making our new school sign on the driveway, it is greatly appreciated.

### **World Book Day**

SAVE THE DATE! Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2024 – Come dressed as your favourite book characters!

### **Staffing Updates**

Just to let you all know that unfortunately Mr Davies will be leaving us and we will be looking to recruit a full time Teaching Assistant for Year 3/4 Fairsnape Class. We thank Mr. Davies for all he has done and for his hard work and dedication to the children and the school; we wish him all the best for the future. The job advert will be going out this week.

In addition, Mrs Gerrard from Pre-School will be leaving us on her maternity leave at the end of February. We wish her all the best for the future and thank her for her time and dedication to looking after our little ones in Pre-School.

### **School Uniform**

Please ensure your child comes to school in full school uniform, including **plain** socks (sport brands are not allowed). For knee-high socks, it is either white or brown. For short socks worn with trousers, they can be brown, black, dark grey or white. Thank you!

### **Ribble Valley Food Bank Collection**

Our church continues to collect for the Ribble Valley food bank, all year round. Please leave any donations at the front of church – all donations are welcome!

### **Free School Meals**

Your child may be able to get free school meals if you qualify for certain benefits. Check whether you are eligible and apply by following the link:

<https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/children-education-families/schools/free-school-meals/?page=3>

## Latest Headteacher's Blog – Please read the latest [Headteacher Blog!](#)

Including our link with the Linking Network and the visit to Burnley Youth Theatre



### CAFOD Club Update -

St. Francis' School taking part in The Big Lent Walk, please sponsor our school! See the link below! **We have 103 children in school, we aim to raise £1 per child and for each child to walk 1km during our Big Lent Walk.**

**Our aim is to raise awareness of worldwide poverty during this Lent** and to help those in need. Your donations can change lives. Every £1 raised through the Big Lent Walk will help fight poverty globally in countries like Afghanistan, Colombia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and South Sudan.

<https://schools.walk.cafod.org.uk/fundraising/st-francis-just-give-page>

### World Gifts Update

After raising £80 at the Christmas Fair, the CAFOD Club conducted some market research across the whole school to help them decide what World Gifts to buy, to support other brothers and sisters all over the world! The children decided to use the money on:

**£4 Happy Queen Bee**

**£5 Emergency Water**

**£5 Create a Vegetable Garden**

**£20 Chirpy Chickens**

**£21 Sewing Machine**

**£25 School Starter Pack**

A huge thank you to everyone that has donated.



### National Storytelling Week!

This week is National Storytelling Week! The children are completing lots of storytelling (reading, writing, drawing) using a range of stories for inspiration!



## Children's Mental Health Week 2024

Added 24 Jan 2023 | Updated 10 Nov 23



### What is Children's Mental Health Week?

Children's Mental Health Awareness Week will take place from **5 to 11 February 2024**, with the theme of **My Voice Matters**. It was set up by children's mental health charity **Place2Be** and shines a spotlight on the importance of children and young people's mental health.

We're developing new resources designed to help children reflect on wellbeing for ages 5 to 7 (KS1/First level/Progression step 2) and ages 7 to 11 (KS2/Second Level/Progression step 3). These will be available in early 2024.

<https://www.place2be.org.uk/about-us/childrens-mental-health-week/>

## **Safer Internet Day – 6<sup>th</sup> February 2024**

[Click here to view the Safer Internet Website](#)

## **Holiday Dates**

The school/holiday dates are now live on the website, for your convenience; here they are below, for the academic year 2024/2025.

### St. Francis' Catholic Primary School 2024/25 Term Dates

#### Autumn Term 2024

15 weeks opening

INSET DAY-Children at home	Monday 2nd September 2024
Children return to school-term begins	Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> September 2024
School closes for half term	Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> October 2024
Half term closure	Monday 21 <sup>st</sup> October-Friday 25 <sup>th</sup> October
INSET DAY-Children at home	Monday 28 <sup>th</sup> October 2024
Children return to school	Tuesday 29 <sup>th</sup> October
School closes for half term at 1.30pm	Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> December 2024

#### Spring Term 2025

12 weeks opening

Children return to school	Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> January 2025
School closes for half term	Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> February 2025
Half term closure	Monday 17 <sup>th</sup> February-Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> February 2025
Children return to school	Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> February 2025
School closes for half term at 1.30pm	Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> April

#### Summer Term 2025

12 weeks opening

Children return to school	Tuesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> April
May Day-School closed	Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> May 2025
School closes for half term	Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> May 2025
Half term closure	Monday 26 <sup>th</sup> May-Friday 30 <sup>th</sup> May 2025
INSET DAY-Children at home	Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> June 2025
Children return to school	Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> June 2025
School closes for Summer Holidays at 1.30pm	Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> July 2025
INSET DAY-Children at home	Monday 21 <sup>st</sup> July 2025
INSET DAY-Children at home	Tuesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> July 2025

## **Music Lesson Payments- Don't forget!**

Please ensure you promptly pay for your child's music lesson at the end of each half term.

## **Church closure**

The Church roof is being repaired in spring, therefore the First Holy Communion programme will be delayed until September/October 2024. The church and parishioners are desperately trying to raise funds to support the roof repairs. Any support or incentives for support are most welcome!

## Toast and Fairtrade Days

Toast is on at break time every Wednesday, for 25p per slice.

Fairtrade & ethical sourced Tuck Shop every Friday (juice carton – 45p, wafer bar – 30p, popcorn – 50p)

## The Wednesday Word – bringing the Sunday gospel to you!

Click the link to see month's editions!

<https://www.paperturn-view.com/uk/wednesday-word/healing?pid=MTA101634&v=118.3>

### Good News for Families

**Listening & Learning Together**

Jesus said, "Where two or three gather in my name, I will be there with them."

**1** After teaching and praying in the synagogue, Jesus went to Simon and Andrew's house. There they found that Simon's mother-in-law had gone to bed with a fever. Jesus went to her, took her by the hand and she was healed. She got up and began to serve all those who were there. That evening, the people of the town brought to Jesus anyone who was sick, and Jesus cured all kinds of diseases and sickness. Then very early the next morning, Jesus left the house to find a quiet place where he could be by himself to pray.

**After healing all those who were sick, where did Jesus go and what did he do? Which word or words stood out for you in this Gospel, and why? See the Gospel picture opposite. What does it make you think about?**

**2** Wednesday's Word is ... **HEALING** ... **3** Loving & Growing

"Love is the first ingredient in the relief of suffering." *St Pio of Pietrelcina (Padre Pio)*

This Sunday's Gospel reminds us how, in Jesus, God is active in the world, bringing healing. At differing times and in differing ways, we all need the healing touch of God. Ask your child what the word "healing" means to them. It may help your child if you tell them about the different kinds of healing we can experience in life. Then ask your child who brings healing to them, bringing comfort when they are ill, hurt or upset.

"Prayer is certainly the most wonderful medicine in the world." *St Hyacinth*

As a family, consider if there is anyone to whom you can help bring God's healing in this coming week. What could you do? Perhaps you could: pray for someone and ask them to pray for you too; talk gently and lovingly to someone if there is a problem; take time to listen carefully to them, and try to support them where possible. Can you think of any good ways to bring healing to others?

Dear Lord Jesus, help us to **heal** and bring comfort with kind words and good deeds, sharing your warmth and care every day. Amen.

**FINDING FIVE**

**WEDNESDAY WORDSEARCH**

SMARTSEARCHERS FIND THESE EIGHT WORDS EITHER ACROSS OR DOWN

TOWN EVENING  
PEOPLE BROUGHT  
DISEASES SICKNESS  
JESUS HEALED

SUPERSEARCHERS FIND THESE WORDS BACKWARDS OR DIAGONALLY

Cross out the letters **uiv** in the jumbled words below to find 4 real words.  
**hevaulid wuventi uhavidn tivouk**

Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ to her, \_\_\_\_\_ her by the \_\_\_\_\_ and she was \_\_\_\_\_

It's good to be a "healer". We can hurt people by unkind words, by a look or by refusing to speak to them. But we can heal people by a smile, a greeting or even by asking for their forgiveness or offering them ours.

This week I will try my best to ... \_\_\_\_\_

Write a promise & draw a big smile on Sunday

Share the Good News Print and complete the leaflet with your child & SHARE A DIGITAL COPY with your friends

A Free Weekly Gift for Everyone

### THE Wednesday WORD SHARING SUNDAY'S GOSPEL

A Weekly Gift to Your Family from Your Catholic Parish School

**Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> January 2024**

Dear Parents and Carers,

In this Sunday's Gospel, we read how Jesus healed Simon's mother-in-law. After he brought peace and recovery to her, everyone crowds in on Jesus, wanting to be healed. Finally, Jesus goes off in the early morning to gather strength by praying to his father.

Difficulties, worries and sickness can sometimes be part of our lives. St Thomas More reminds us that, "Earth has no sorrow that heaven cannot heal."

When we believe in Jesus and we pray and look carefully, we can often learn something about the world and ourselves, and about how Jesus is always there for us. Believing in Jesus and loving others changes how we see the world and brings healing.

Enjoy a very special time with your children this evening, hearing your child's thoughts about this Sunday's Gospel and this Wednesday's word, which is **HEALING**.

*Don Henry Wadsworth*

A Word from Pope Francis "God grants us his love, which gives us strength and heals us."

**THE GOSPEL IN CHURCH**  
Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> February 2024

On leaving the synagogue, Jesus went with James and John straight to the house of Simon and Andrew. Now Simon's mother-in-law had gone to bed with fever, and they told him about her straightaway. He went to her, took her by the hand and helped her up. And the fever left her and she began to wait on them. That evening, after sunset, they brought to him all who were sick. The whole town came crowding round the door, and he cured many who were suffering from diseases of one kind or another; he also cast out many evil spirits, but he would not allow them to speak, because they knew who he was. In the morning, long before dawn, he got up and left the house, and went off to a lonely place and prayed there.

*Adapted from Mark 1:29-39*  
The 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time, Year B

Come and learn more about the Gospel above, and say some prayers for your family & friends, at your local parish church this Sunday.

**Good News for Everyone** God still heals today, through the sacraments of the Church (which remind us of God's love and care for us) and through people: doctors, nurses and, if we let him, through us too. During Lent, many parish churches will be having special Reconciliation services to which all are warmly invited.

To find out more about the Catholic Faith, see: [wednesdayword.org](http://wednesdayword.org) and [cbcw.org.uk](http://cbcw.org.uk)

## Year of Prayer

### The Year of Prayer 2024



*"Prayer unites us; it makes us brothers and sisters. It is in prayer that our hearts find the strength not to be cold and insensitive in the face of injustice. In prayer, God keeps calling us, opening our hearts to charity"*

Pope Francis

In preparation for the Jubilee Year "Pilgrims of Hope", 2023-24 has been designated the Year of Prayer by Pope Francis, with a particular emphasis on the **Our Father**.

Advent 2023 was the start of the Year of Prayer. The Year of Prayer is not a year about prayer, but a year for prayer. The image of Christ in the manger speaks of God who wants a personal relationship with His creation.

Our school goals will be:

- ♥ To encourage us to deepen our own prayer life and love of God;
- ♥ To help at least one other person to pray during the Year of Prayer.

Through **Lectio Divina**, **Visio Divina** and guided meditation, we will encourage and provide opportunities for children to explore:

- ♥ What is my experience of prayer?
- ♥ How can I deepen my prayer life?
- ♥ Can I help or encourage someone else to pray?
- ♥ How can my community grow in its love and devotion in prayer?

**"Prayer doesn't help our relationship with God, prayer IS our relationship with God!"**

and so when we become more devoted to prayer, we are building up that Divine friendship.

## The Linking Network

Children from Year 4 met children from English Martyrs Primary and Claughton Primary at Burnley Youth Theatre from a day of drama and coming together to learn new skills and make new friends!



### Dates for Your Diary:

**Week of the 5<sup>th</sup> February** – Children’s Mental Health Week and Safety Week

**Monday 5<sup>th</sup> February** – CAFOD Lent Assembly

**Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> February** – Safer Internet Day

**Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> February** – KS1 Clitheroe Castle Trip

**Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> February** – Year 3/4 Gymnastics Competition

**Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February** – Break up for half term at 3.20pm

**Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> February** – LENT starts

**Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February** – Children return to school

**Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> February** – NSPCC Workshops in school

**Week of 4<sup>th</sup> March** – Careers Week

**Monday 4<sup>th</sup> March** – Careers Stalls in the hall (Year 1/2)

**Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> March** – Year 5 at Longridge High School

**Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March** – World Book Day

**Week of 11<sup>th</sup> March** -Science Week

**Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> March** – UCLan Trip for Fairsnape Class

**Week of 18<sup>th</sup> March** – Sport Relief Week

**Week of 25<sup>th</sup> March** – Holy Week (class assemblies each day)

**Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> March** – Last Choir Singing Competition at King George’s Hall, Blackburn.

**Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March** – End of term break up for Easter at 1.15pm/1.30pm

**Friday 29<sup>th</sup> March** – Good Friday

**Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> March** – Easter Sunday

**Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April** – Children return to school