



# ST. FRANCIS' NEWSLETTER

## November 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'

#### **Sporting Success!**

Well done to our Year 5/6 children that took part in the recent Preston schools (not just small schools) Triathlon competition – as they finished with a silver medal, competing against twenty larger schools in Preston!



#### **Ribble Foodbank Christmas Appeal**

Ribble Foodbank are busy preparing Christmas Hamper Bags for families.

They are asking for donations of: Mince Pies, Christmas Cake or Pudding, Chocolate, Crackers, Tinned Ham / Salmon. The thought is to take the pressure off their household budgets for the Festive season.

There will be a box in the School Hall until Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> December for any donations.

#### ***Please Be Aware – beauty products in school***

Some lip balm products have been found to have nuts as an ingredient. Lip balm is permitted in school, but please be aware of the ingredients before sending them in. Any other products, such as moisturiser is not permitted at school, unless prescribed.

### **KS1 Nativity, Christmas Concert Numbers & Glee Club Assembly**

As you know the church is gaining a new roof, with works continuing until May 2025. Due to capacity restrictions within the hall, for each event there will be a maximum number tickets/attendees, with each event considered on an individual basis. This is after seeking advice of maximum capacity, with the school stage set up in the hall. Listed below are the events that will take place in the hall this month, with information regarding number of family members who may attend. Baby in arms do not required a ticket.

#### ***KS1 Nativity 2pm & 6pm performances – Wed 11<sup>th</sup> December 2024***

*Due to capacity restrictions within the hall, each family will be allocated **3 tickets (maximum) per performance**. In order for us to accommodate 3 tickets per family, per performance, we will have a seating and standing section for the audience. The performance is 30 minutes long. If you are happy to stand for the performance then please do so, otherwise take a seat. Please be courteous regarding seating or standing – we all want to support our wonderful young children. We will open the schools gates at 1:30pm for families to queue at the hall door, with the hall door opening at 1:45pm.*

#### ***KS2 Christmas Concert 2pm performance - Fri 13<sup>th</sup> December 2024***

*Again, due to the size of the hall and demand for tickets **each family in KS2 will be allocated 2 tickets (maximum) for the performance**. We will have a seating and standing section for the audience, if you are happy to stand for the performance then please do so, otherwise take a seat.*

*The band and the choir will perform along with one song from Fairsnape Class and one song from Beacon Class.*

#### ***Glee Club – 9am Fri 6<sup>th</sup> December 2024 (during award assembly)***

*Due to capacity of the Christmas Concert, Glee Club is performing in the whole school award assembly on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December 2024 instead. If you wish to come and watch, **please only 1 member of the family - standing only**.*

We know it is not ideal with restrictions on tickets/attendees, but we do all we can to make sure that the show must go on! Thank you for your cooperation and support.

### **PTFA - Christmas Fair**

The Christmas Fair will be held after school on Friday 13th December from 3.30-5.30pm. Please note that there will be **no afterschool club provision on that date**. Please contact the school office immediately if you cannot make other childcare arrangements.

The PTFA are going to have a second hand Christmas book stall at the Christmas Fair. Donations of Christmas books that you no longer want or are happy to donate are appreciated. Please drop them off at the school office or pass to a member of the PTFA.

We will be having a **non-uniform day and 'Christmas Headwear Day' on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December**. Please donate a raffle prize for the Christmas raffle. Tickets will be sent home soon, please return the completed and not used slips to the school office.

### **Parent Pay**

Please ensure that any monies outstanding on Parent Pay are cleared by the end of this half term. Reminders are often sent out and not actioned. Failure to clear accounts may result in your child/ren not being able to attend breakfast/after-school club or have music lessons until the debt has been cleared and the account is in credit.

### **Polite reminders**

Just to remind all parents that you need to contact the school office directly via email or telephone regarding attendance matters, rather than contacting through Seesaw. The school office does not have access to Seesaw. Please also ensure that any messages for the KS2 staff are passed onto Miss Deakin, Mr Gilmour or Mrs Nuttall at the main entrance, please do not pass onto staff on the Infant door in a morning.

We kindly request that dogs and other animals are not brought onto the school grounds. We have children in school with allergies, thank you.

Please can all children ensure that they bring a coat to school every day and on colder days please bring hats and gloves.

### **Uniform**

Please ensure your child is in correct uniform, with correct school shoes being worn on school uniform days and trainers being allowed on PE days only. Other footwear, such as wellies and snow boots are not classed as school uniform.

### **Car Park**

Please park courteously (not on corners, block other cars or take up more space than is required). We have more cars coming in and out of school this year, so it is more important than ever to park with care and consideration and be prompt when picking up/dropping off your children to allow spaces to be freed up quicker. Thank you for your support and cooperation.

### **Snow White: A Christmas 2024 Panto!**

We are looking forward to a whole school trip to The Lowther Pavilion on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> December. A huge thank you to the PTFA for funding the transport to and from the show.



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### **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)

### **Primary School Applications**

A reminder that primary school applications need to be in by Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2025. A supplementary form must also be completed and returned if applying on faith grounds.

<b>Dates for Your Diary:</b>	
<b>Tues 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2024</b>	Year 5/6 gymnastics competition
<b>Wed 4<sup>th</sup> December 2024</b>	Our Lady's Advent Mass Y3 – Y6
<b>Fri 6<sup>th</sup> December 2024</b>	PTFA Christmas Headwear day – <b>own clothes day</b> (bring in a raffle prize) Glee Club perform in assembly at 9am
<b>Wed 11<sup>th</sup> December 2024</b>	Reception and KS1 Nativity at 2pm & 6pm
<b>Fri 13<sup>th</sup> December</b>	Christmas Jumper Day KS2 mini carols and band performance – 2pm
<b>Fri 13<sup>th</sup> December</b>	Christmas Fair – 3:30pm -5:30pm (Santa to arrive for 4:30pm)
<b>Mon 16<sup>th</sup> December</b>	Pre-School carols around the tree – 1.30pm
<b>Tues 17<sup>th</sup> December</b>	Whole School Panto trip
<b>Weds 18<sup>th</sup> December</b>	Christmas Lunch. Please inform the school office if your child does NOT require a school lunch.
<b>Fri 20<sup>th</sup> December</b>	School closes for Christmas at 1.15pm for Infants and 1.30pm for juniors and Pre-School



STILL WORKING?  
NEED TO GET THE  
REST OF THE  
SHOPPING DONE?  
WANT THE KIDS OUT  
OF THE HOUSE  
WHILE YOU PREPARE  
FOR THE BIG DAY?  
OR JUST WANT  
TO TIRE THEM  
OUT SO THEY  
SLEEP ON  
CHRISTMAS EVE.

GD  
COACHING

JUST  
£16

**Christmas**  
*multi-sports fun day*  
**23rd**  
DECEMBER  
8AM-5PM

ALSTON LANE  
PRIMARY SCHOOL

**Dont miss the festive fun! very limited space**  
**TEXT GARETH TO BOOK 07840193500**

### Wednesday Word

[Click for the Wednesday Word](#)



SHARING SUNDAY'S GOSPEL  
WITH SCHOOLS,  
PARENTS & FAMILIES

**Do you have a child starting  
primary school in September 2025  
and living in Lancashire?**

**Closing date: 15 January 2025**

You **must** apply even if a brother or sister is already at the school, or the school is linked to your child's nursery. Please read the admission criteria for your chosen schools on the website, or get a copy from them.

Apply for a school place now by scanning  
the QR code or visit [lancashire.gov.uk/schools](http://lancashire.gov.uk/schools)



## **Important Update – Changes to Education-related Penalty Notices**

### **Information for Parents**

You may be aware that the Department for Education has recently announced national changes to penalty notices issued for unauthorised absence in term time. These changes will come into effect on 19 August 2024.

The changes to be aware of are:

- Penalty notices issued for offences that take place after 19 August 2024 will be charged at a new rate of £160 per parent per child. This can be paid at £80 if paid within 21 days.
- Any second penalty notice issued to the same parent for the same child within a rolling 3-year period will be issued at the rate of £160 to be paid within 28 days with no option for a discounted rate.
- The threshold at which a penalty notice **must** be considered is set at 10 sessions (equivalent to 5 days) of unauthorised absence within a rolling 10-school week period<sup>1</sup>. This may include absences as a result of arriving late after the register closes. The 10 school weeks may span different terms or school years.
- A maximum of 2 penalty notices may be issued to a parent for the same child within a rolling 3-year period, so at the 3rd (or subsequent) offence(s) another course of action will need to be considered (such as prosecution or one of the other attendance legal interventions).
- Only penalty notices issued for absences taking place after 19 August 2024 will count towards the above thresholds.

### **Absences can have a lasting effect on learning**

Missing a week of school means your child will miss around 25 hours of learning

This creates gaps in their knowledge and could mean they will not meet their full potential

<sup>1</sup> A school week is any week in which a school meets at least once.