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St. Thomas of Canterbury
CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL



St Francis of Assisi
CATHOLIC ACADEMY TRUST



Spring Term 2023 Newsletter

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to the spring term, we look forward to another successful term ahead. I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of the staff and myself to thank you for the numerous cards and gifts we received at Christmas. I have many updates and news items to share with you:

School Improvement Plan

Mental Health:

We are looking forward to our "Feeling Good Week" (6th to 10th February) to highlight Children's Mental Health, promoting mental health and wellbeing. The theme this year is "Be Kind and Connect". When we have healthy connections – to family, friends and others, this can support our sense of wellbeing. When our need for rewarding social connections is not met, we can sometimes feel isolated and lonely, which can have a negative impact on our health. We are encouraging children to connect with others in healthy, rewarding and meaningful ways. We have many exciting activities planned for this week including Dance, Forest School, Mindfulness and Cheerleading!

Reading:

This academic year, we continue to promote the enjoyment of reading. This term we are focusing on developing our School Library. Each class are currently having library sessions to help the children to understand how to use and benefit from the Library. We are always looking for volunteers to support the children with their library skills; if this is of interest, please contact the School Office.

Forest School:

This half term, with sustainability in mind, the forest needs a chance to recover! Our Forest School leaders, Mrs Overett and Mrs Hennessy are busy planning for the next cycle of our Forest School programme which will recommence after the February half term. I am delighted to share that Miss Newton has recently achieved Forest School Accreditation (Level 2) and Mrs King is in the process of studying for her Level 3 Accreditation.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Best wishes,

Mrs Keating,

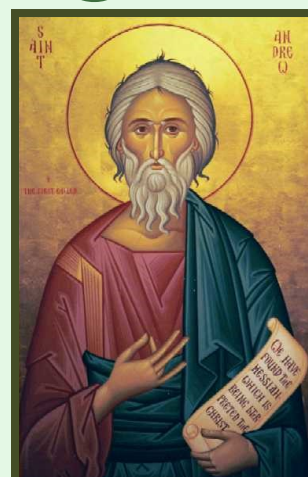
House Points



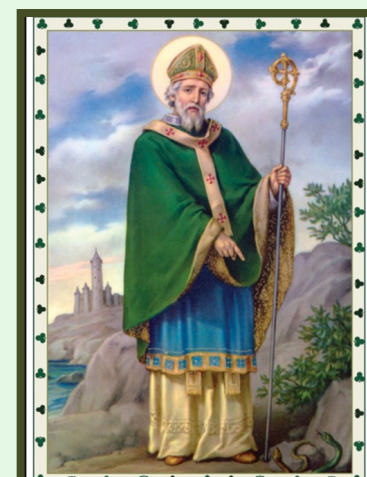
St David: 136



St George: 126



St Andrew: 92



St Patrick: 117

Catholic Life of the School



**During January, we
celebrate the Baptism
of Our Lord and the
Solemnity of Mary,
Our Holy Mother**



Our Chaplaincy Team have made a proactive start to the term, working alongside the seven other Chaplaincy Teams within the CAT. Part of their work has included leading a Virtual Liturgy focused on Epiphany.

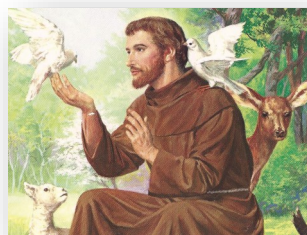
With our commitment to supporting the common good, the Chaplaincy Team are busy organising a Lenten charity fund raiser in support of [the Catholic Children's Society](#) (the chosen charity across the Trust). More details to follow.

We are very excited to welcome Bishop Paul McAleenan who will be celebrating our Ash Wednesday Mass with Years 2 - 6 (Early Years and Year 1 will have an opportunity to receive Ashes). The Chaplaincy Team will be instrumental in preparing and supporting this important day in the Liturgical Year.



FRANCISCAN VALUES AWARD SPRING HALF TERM 1

INFANT AWARD ~ KINDNESS:



NOAH SCHER

JUNIOR AWARD ~ GRATITUDE:



OLIVIA BALLARD

Chaplaincy Prayer

Lord God, Our Father

Thank you for our School Community
Just as you inspired St Francis of Assisi,

Inspire us to work together

To spread your Word within our School

And across our family of schools.

Help us to embrace God's creation

By showing others how to love and care

For our environment as stewards of the earth

Let the world grow as we follow your path

Let us bring peace and care to one another

And listen to God's Good News

May you guide us and our Academy

Today and Always

On a path of a shared mission.

St Francis, Pray For Us

Reminders & Notices:

30 hours funding:

A reminder that Nursery parents in receipt of 30 hours funding, need to ensure that they have confirmed their 30 hours eligibility with the HMRC portal for the summer term. If you have any queries or difficulties, please let us know as soon as possible.

Cypad:

Unfortunately there are still a number of children arriving without a pre-booked meal. This is causing anxiety for the child and adds to the pressures of the School Office.

School Building Fund:

You will shortly receive a letter requesting a contribution to our School Building Fund which helps to finance our 10% contribution to all Capital Projects. We have two current projects involving us needing to find over £48,000, your voluntary donations are much appreciated, however small.

School Council:



GOLDEN RULES

Members of the School Council are working hard to promote the importance of our Golden Rules and Dining Rules to keep us safe in school.



FORTHCOMING DATES:

Date	Event
Monday 6th February 12:45 - 13:15	Chaplaincy Team Virtual Liturgy (led by Sacred Heart)
Week of 6th February	Feeling Good Week - activities planned
Tuesday 7th February 09:00 - 10:00	PTA Meeting at St Thomas'
Tuesday 7th February	Safer Internet Day
Thursday 9th February 15:30 - 17:00	PTA Disco
Friday 10th February 13:30 - 14:30	Reconciliation Act of Worship (Years 2 - 6)
Monday 13th - Friday 17th February	Half Term
Tuesday 21st February 09:00 - 10:00	Shrove Tuesday Pancake Races
Wednesday 22nd February (timing tbc)	Ash Wednesday Mass at St Thomas'
Wednesday 22nd February 15:30 - 19:00	Parent Consultations (Year 6)
Thursday 23rd February 09:15	Year 1/2 Act of Worship
Tuesday 28th February (15:30 - 19:00)	Parent Consultations (Nursery to Year 5)