

# St. Francis News

Dec 2018



## **School Mission Statement**

As a Catholic School we come together to celebrate our love of God and each other.

Through prayer, we follow Jesus' example of love, forgiveness and truth.

We are a safe and happy community where every individual is supported and encouraged to achieve their targets.

We believe, that with God, everything is in our reach.

Dear Parent / Carer

How quickly did December pass us by? Here we are at the end of another highly successful and enjoyable term...

On behalf of all the staff I would like to thank you for all the lovely gifts that we have received. Yesterday, I received a very thoughtful present from a family in Y5. I would like to share it with you.....

This is the Monkey King.....

He is the main character in a Story called "Journey to the West" - what some people say Is "The greatest story in classical Chinese literature"



Almost everyone with a Chinese background has grown up learning the folktale Journey to the West, the story of an epic pilgrimage of a Buddhist monk and his three disciples, the legendary monkey god Sun Wukong, the greedy and mischievous Zhu Bajie and man-eating demon Sha Wujing.

Together with a dragon prince -transformed into a white horse - the party travels on a mission to bring ancient Buddhist scriptures from India back to China. Along the way, they encounter monsters and other obstacles, triumphing through their wit and teamwork.

The story made me think of the journey that so many of our families have made and the sacrifices they endure to be here in "the west". I am sure that for many, Christmas is a time to reflect on the people who mean the most to us, many of whom may not possibly be with us for various reasons. When we remember them, I hope that we remember the good times and then we must enjoy the present. For we now make memories for our children.....

Have a happy holiday!

Mrs Frize

xx

## **CELEBRATING PAST ST FRANCIS SUPERSTARS**

**It is always lovely to hear of the amazing achievements of our past pupils and a real pleasure to be able to pass on good news. This month, I have heard of Ketsia Efoloko at St Peter's who passed her GCSE English at grade 9 (the highest possible grade....a year early!) Wow! GO Ketsia!**

**We also heard that Crystal Pidowe had been selected to throw javelin at the National Athletics final in Birmingham. Fantastic!**

**If you have good news, please let us know.**

## BREAKFAST AND AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS

Thank you to all the staff who have made our before and after school clubs so successful and happy.

Yesterday, special presents were made by the after school club for their families.



## News round-up....

This month has been extremely busy.

- Year 2 have been on a lovely trip to the monastery
- Our teaching practice students completed their final year placements in Years 2,3 and 4. They were an absolute pleasure to host and they will all make outstanding teachers. We wish them lots of luck in their new schools.
- The EYFS unit performed a wonderful Nativity for the children and parents earlier this week. Thanks to the staff for all their hard work in preparing this.
- The children took part in a reverse advent calendar this year. This is where, instead of opening a door on the calendar and receiving a gift / chocolate, the children brought in an item of food to put into a specially made box, depicting each day of the month. At the end of term, all the items were given to a homeless charity. A truly wonderful Christmas thought. Thank you everyone.
- The EYFS held a lovely breakfast with Santa for all the children and parents.
- Each term we ask the children to complete a BLEEP test. This is a measure of the children's fitness. Sometimes the staff join in and record their scores. Mr Knapper has been boasting that he is the fittest member of staff for quite some time. However, this term, Mr Mee joined in and out ran and out lasted Mr Knapper !!! As did Bendito ! Sorry Mr Knapper....back to the gym this Christmas!!

## **SCHOOL RE-OPENS AT 8.45am ON MONDAY JANUARY 7th.**

**From the staff and governors of St Francis, may I wish you a peaceful Christmas and a very happy New Year.**