



St Francis Catholic Primary School



A Community Growing in Love for Learning and Life Rooted in God's Love

Collective Worship Parent Newsletter January 2022

New Year, New You

At the beginning of a new year or new term, we often think of making a new start or becoming better at something. It's sometimes thought of as a time to leave old ways behind, with slogans such as 'new year, new you' seen everywhere from gym memberships to language-learning apps.

In the first week back of term, we discussed with children the idea of New Year's resolutions. Check out some resolution ideas we came up with for fictional characters:



What other fictional characters could you and your child/ren come up with resolutions for?

We discussed other resolutions which children might be more likely to make, like eating more fruit and vegetables, being more active, reading more, improving handwriting, and cleaning out the guinea pig more regularly! We affirmed that all these ideas are good and worthwhile actions to take, but they don't make a 'new you', as we can only truly be made new through the life that God offers us through Jesus.

'In the beginning was the Word: and the Word was with God and the Word was God.' John 1: 1 – 18

Through this Gospel reading, children learned that God - Father, Son and Holy Spirit - has always been here and wants us to know Him. God the Father, along with His Son Jesus and the Holy Spirit, make up the Trinity of God: one God, but three persons, which is an amazing mystery!

Just like words give us information, children learned that the Word (Jesus) tells us about God the Father and reveals who He is and what He is like in ways that we can understand. Jesus came to earth to show us the way to God the Father, and through Him, His followers were brought closer to God: it was the beginning of their new life with God.

This first assembly of term reminded children that we are offered a new beginning too. Jesus wants us to follow Him so He can bring us closer to God. He wants to make us new!

The assembly finished with a reflection where children were invited to tell Jesus about their hopes and dreams for the year ahead and make a renewed commitment to trust in Jesus, listen to Him and follow Him.

With your child, why don't you...

Discuss some New Year's resolutions you might make as a household.

Talk about how to be a good follower of Jesus at home/school/work.

Share about times when trusting in and listening to Jesus has helped you.

The Ten Ten Year of Pilgrimage

We're very excited to share with you a special series we've planned for 2022 called 'The Ten Ten Year of Pilgrimage.' This is a series of special assemblies and prayers, with associated cross-curricular activities, that children will be engaging with across the year through Collective Worship in school.

A pilgrimage is often described as a holy or spiritual journey. Over the past 18 months, the journeys that we might normally make, whether that be to a holiday or pilgrimage destination have often been thwarted, but nevertheless our spiritual journey continues. Ultimately, each of us is on a life-long pilgrimage journey to heaven. Between January - December 2022, we would like to take your child/ren on an exciting pilgrimage journey, from the comfort of their very own school.

Like all good journeys, we have a Pilgrimage Map, where there are 8 main 'stopping places' for the Ten Ten Year of Pilgrimage.

1. Launch of the Ten Ten Year of Pilgrimage (January)
2. Lent: Our Pilgrimage to the Cross

3. Our Pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela (May)
4. Our Pilgrimage to Rome (June)
5. Our Pilgrimage to ...?*(July)
6. Our Pilgrimage to Walsingham (Autumn 2022)
7. Our Pilgrimage with St Bernadette (Autumn 2022)
8. Advent: Our Pilgrimage to the Manger

* In case you were wondering, the 'stopping place' for July isn't a mystery or something we've not yet decided! In July, we're encouraging pupils to think of a local pilgrimage, perhaps to the parish church or to a 'shrine' or even just to 'prayer garden' in our school grounds.

We want this Ten Ten Year of Pilgrimage to be a spiritual journey that the children will remember, so we have produced a **Pilgrimage Prayer Journal** to help them reflect at each 'stopping place'. These will mainly be used in school, but they might also be sent home to encourage your child/ren to continue praying at home, and also to share with you what they are learning and how they are growing throughout their pilgrimage. At each 'stopping place' children will receive a 'stamp' as recognition of their participation in that stage of the pilgrimage journey.

We really hope that this will be a rewarding journey for children, teachers and families alike, and we will share different insights from the Ten Ten Year of Pilgrimage with you through these m Parent Newsletters.

Why not...

Share with your child/ren any personal experiences of pilgrimage that you have.

At the start of this new year, 2022, why not pray the following with your child:

***Dear Jesus, Word of God,
Thank you that you care about all my hopes and dreams for this year.
Help me to pray and listen to you. Help me to trust you.
Help me to follow you.
Show me the way to God the Father and new life with you.
Amen***