



# St. Felix RC Primary School

## November 2023 Newsletter



Let us continue to pray for tormented Ukraine, and for the populations of Palestine and Israel. Peace is possible. Let us not resign ourselves to war! And let us not forget that war is always, always, always a defeat: the only ones to gain are arms manufacturers.

*19 November Pope Francis*

Dear Parents and Carers,

This is a magical time of year to be in a primary school – the hall is filled with the sound of Nativity rehearsals, the stage is up and the first celebrations of Advent begin next Friday. Nativities are on the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> December for EYFS and KS1 – you should have received your tickets – please bring them on the day. We will make and put up Christmas decorations on December 8<sup>th</sup> alongside our Christmas Lunch and Christmas Jumper Day. We hope some of you can join us in church on 20<sup>th</sup> December at 1:30pm for our KS2 Carol Service.

We have been asked by the Children's Commissioner to share this link with you:

*By now, I hope that you have seen my national campaign The Big Ambition.*

*Children or parents can complete the survey here:*

[www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/thebigambition](http://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/thebigambition). This [leaflet](#) is for parents.

On Monday 27<sup>th</sup> November our new Office Manager joins the team and will be in all week to see the school in action. Mrs Lisa Costa will be in school on Wednesdays and Fridays from 4<sup>th</sup> December.

Keep warm as the weather gets colder and please ensure pupils have a suitable coat and accessories in school – these need to be labelled clearly as they are easily misplaced by children.

Best wishes,

Mrs A Dodds

### **Upcoming Dates**

Advent Wreath Service in School	Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> December 2:30pm
Nativity Performances EYFS, Y1 and Y2	Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> December
Christmas Experience at St Mary's Y1	Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> December 10:40am
Flu Vaccinations	Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup> December 8:30 -12pm
Reconciliation Service	Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> December 2pm
Christmas Jumper/Turnaround/ Christmas Lunch	Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> December
HSA Christmas Disco	Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> December
Christmas Tableaux & Carols KS2 led	
In Church - Parents welcome	Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> December 1:30pm
<b>End of Term</b>	Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> December

### Ofsted Update

As you know from the recent Parent Partnership focused on Reading, the best way to promote reading is to teach children to read well at an early age. This is securely in place at St Felix.

We promote reading for pleasure, particularly at home, through our Class Book Clubs. This week children from Y1 to Y6 were interviewed to find out what impact this was having.

Children were positive about reading. Our focus on Non-Fiction November had encouraged some children to read different genres. Some children were regularly accessing the local library and finding books they enjoyed – particularly when they had found a genre they had enjoyed and wanted to read more.

The main barriers to reading more at home were the distractions of phone, online games and TV. All children said they were more likely to read when access to these was limited. Only pupils in Y1 were regularly read to by a parent. Having a quiet place to read was seen as important and older pupils talk of reading as a way to calm themselves down.

### Coffee, Cake and Calculate

Thank to those who joined us on 13<sup>th</sup> November.

We are still waiting for feedback from Multiply Suffolk about what services they can offer in school based on the surveys returned. The main area of interest was related to Maths topics taught in class and we hope to develop a programme of drop in sessions in the new year to cover these topics.

### Sleep Helpline

At any given time up to 40% of adults and 50% of children (this rises to 80% with a SEND diagnosis) have difficulties with their sleep. Yet in a recent survey, almost 60% of adults felt there was a lack of support for sleep issues. Sleep problems can leave people feeling isolated and lonely.



### Reading Leaders

Our Reading Leaders have been working to promote Non-fiction November and to contribute to the Haverhill Pantomime Trail.



### Christmas Jumper Day

We will be joining in the Save the Children fundraising by taking part in Christmas Jumper Day on December 8<sup>th</sup>. Children can swap their school jumper for a Christmas jumper. Normal school uniform trousers and skirts. £1 donation please.



### Thinking of applying to join Reception and Nursery at St Felix in 2024?

We are always happy to show parents around.

Just contact the office on 01440 703775 to arrange an appointment.

Please share with other parents who may be interested.

The deadline for applying for a place in Reception in September 2024 is 15<sup>th</sup> January 2024.



# St Felix Dates for 2023-24

Back to School  
Meet the Teacher Open Morning  
New Term Mass at School  
Y5 Swimming Starts  
Y5/6 Class Mass  
Kingswood Info / KS2 Information Evening  
Y4 Class Mass  
Flu Vaccinations  
Kingswood – Y5 Residential  
Y6 Class Mass  
Diocesan Schools Mass  
Harvest Service in School/CAFOD /Food Bank/  
Wear something bright  
HSA AGM  
Individual Photos  
HSA Non-uniform day  
Governor Monitoring Morning  
Y3 Class Mass  
Autumn Parent Consultations  
*Half Term*  
All Saints Mass  
EYFS/KS1 Class Liturgies  
Remembrance Service in school  
Coffee, Cake and Calculate  
EYFS Open Morning– New Parents  
HSA Bags2School  
HSA Advent Raffle  
Advent Wreath Service in School  
Nativity Performances EYFS, Y1 and Y2  
Christmas Experience at St Mary's Y1  
Flu Vaccinations  
Reconciliation Service  
Christmas Jumper/Turnaround/ Christmas Lunch  
HSA Christmas Disco  
Christmas Tableaux and Carols KS2 led  
**End of Term**

## **Back to School**

New Year Mass in Church  
KS2 Mass  
KS1 Liturgy

Wednesday 6th September  
Friday 8<sup>th</sup> September 9am Y1-Y6 only  
Friday 8<sup>th</sup> September 2pm  
Monday 11<sup>th</sup> September 10am  
Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> September 2:15pm  
Monday 18<sup>th</sup> September from 4:30pm  
Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> September 2:15pm  
Monday 25<sup>th</sup> September 12:30 -3pm  
27<sup>th</sup>- 29<sup>th</sup> September  
Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> September 2:15pm  
Friday 29<sup>th</sup> September  
  
Friday 6<sup>th</sup> October  
Monday 9<sup>th</sup> October 8pm via Zoom  
Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> October  
Friday 13<sup>th</sup> October  
Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> October  
Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> October 2:15pm  
Monday 16<sup>th</sup>– Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> October  
*Friday 20<sup>th</sup> - Friday 27<sup>th</sup> October*  
Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> October 2pm  
Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> November 1:15  
Friday 10<sup>th</sup> November  
Monday 13<sup>th</sup> November 9am  
Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> November 9:30-10:30  
Friday 17<sup>th</sup> November  
Monday 27<sup>th</sup> November  
Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December 2:30pm  
Monday 4<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> December  
Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> December 10:40am  
Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> December 8:30 -12pm  
Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2pm  
Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December  
Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December  
Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> December 1:30pm  
Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> December

Thursday 4th January

Friday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2pm  
Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2:15pm  
Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> January 2:15pm

EYFS Liturgy	Thursday 1st February 2:15pm
NSPCC Number Day	Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> February
Children's Mental Health Week	5 <sup>th</sup> -11 <sup>th</sup> February
Ash Wednesday Distribution of Ashes	Wednesday 14th February
Stations of the Cross	Fridays in Lent 2:45
<i>Half Term</i>	<i>19<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> February</i>
Spring Parent Consultations	Monday 26 <sup>th</sup> - Thursday 29 <sup>th</sup> February
World Book Day	Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> March
St Felix Day Mass	Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> March
Reconciliation Service	TBC
HSA Bags2School	Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> March
LKS2 Easter Play	Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 26 <sup>th</sup> March
Y4 visit Easter Experience	TBC
<b>End of Term</b>	Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup> March

### **Start of Term**

PD Day – no pupils	Friday 12th April
Pupils return	Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> April
Resurrection Mass	TBC
Y4 Swimming Starts	TBC
Class Photos	Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> April
Spring Bank Holiday	Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> t May
KS2 SATS Week	Monday 13th May – Thursday 16th May
Ascension Mass in Church	TBC
Kingswood Information Evening	TBC
<i>Half term</i>	<i>27<sup>th</sup> May – 31<sup>st</sup> May</i>
Year 1 Phonics Check	10 <sup>th</sup> – 14 <sup>th</sup> June
Year 4 Multiplication Check	3 <sup>rd</sup> - 14 <sup>th</sup> June
Sports Day and Picnic	Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup> July
UKS2 Play at Arts Centre	Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> July
Reports out to parents	Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> July
Y6 Ignite Retreat	Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> July am
Y6 Leavers Mass – Parents welcome	Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup> July TBC
Move Up Morning	Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> July TBC
End of Year Thanksgiving Mass	Friday July 19 <sup>th</sup> TBC
<b>End of Term</b>	Friday 19th July

### **2023-24**

#### **Autumn term**

PD Days	Monday 4th and Tuesday 5th September
Pupils In	Wednesday 6th September
PD Day	Friday 20th October
Half term	Monday 23 October 2023 to Friday 27 October 2023
Ends	Wednesday 20 December 2023

**Spring term**

PD day            Wednesday 3rd January 2024  
Pupils In        4th January 2024  
Half term        Monday 19 February 2024 to Friday 23 February 2024  
Ends              Thursday 28 March 2024

**Summer term**

PD Day           Friday 12th April 2024  
Pupils In        Monday 15th April  
Half term        Monday 27 May 2024 to Friday 31 May 2024  
Ends              Friday 19 July 2024