Looking Ahead: Future School Updates

As St Faith's and The Leys continue preparations for the new through-school, we know that families will be keen to stay informed about the plans and developments taking place along the way.

A dedicated Future School Updates page has been created, providing a central place for our community to keep up to date with the latest information as we look towards September 2028.

We encourage parents to visit the page and check back regularly as our plans continue to develop. In our most recent article, C Cubed provides an example of the educational opportunities being developed across the Foundation, encouraging the curiosity, creativity and skills that will serve pupils well in the years ahead.

Visit Future School Updates

Following the Light: Our Advent Service

This week, we marked the approach of Advent with a beautiful service reflecting on this special season of waiting, hope and anticipation.

Advent comes from the Latin *adventus*, meaning 'coming' or 'arrival'. It is a time when Christians prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus, while also looking forward to his promised return. At the heart of the service was the Advent wreath, where the circle symbolises in Christian tradition, God's everlasting love and while the evergreen leaves represent everlasting life. Its four candles mark the four weeks of Advent: three purple candles representing Hope, Peace and Love, and a pink candle representing Joy, associated with Mary's joy as she gave Christ to the world. At the centre sits the white candle, symbolising Jesus and which is lit on Christmas Day, when the waiting is over.

Year 8 pupils read passages from the Book of Isaiah and the Gospel of St John before the two

youngest members of Reception had the special task of lighting the first Advent candle.

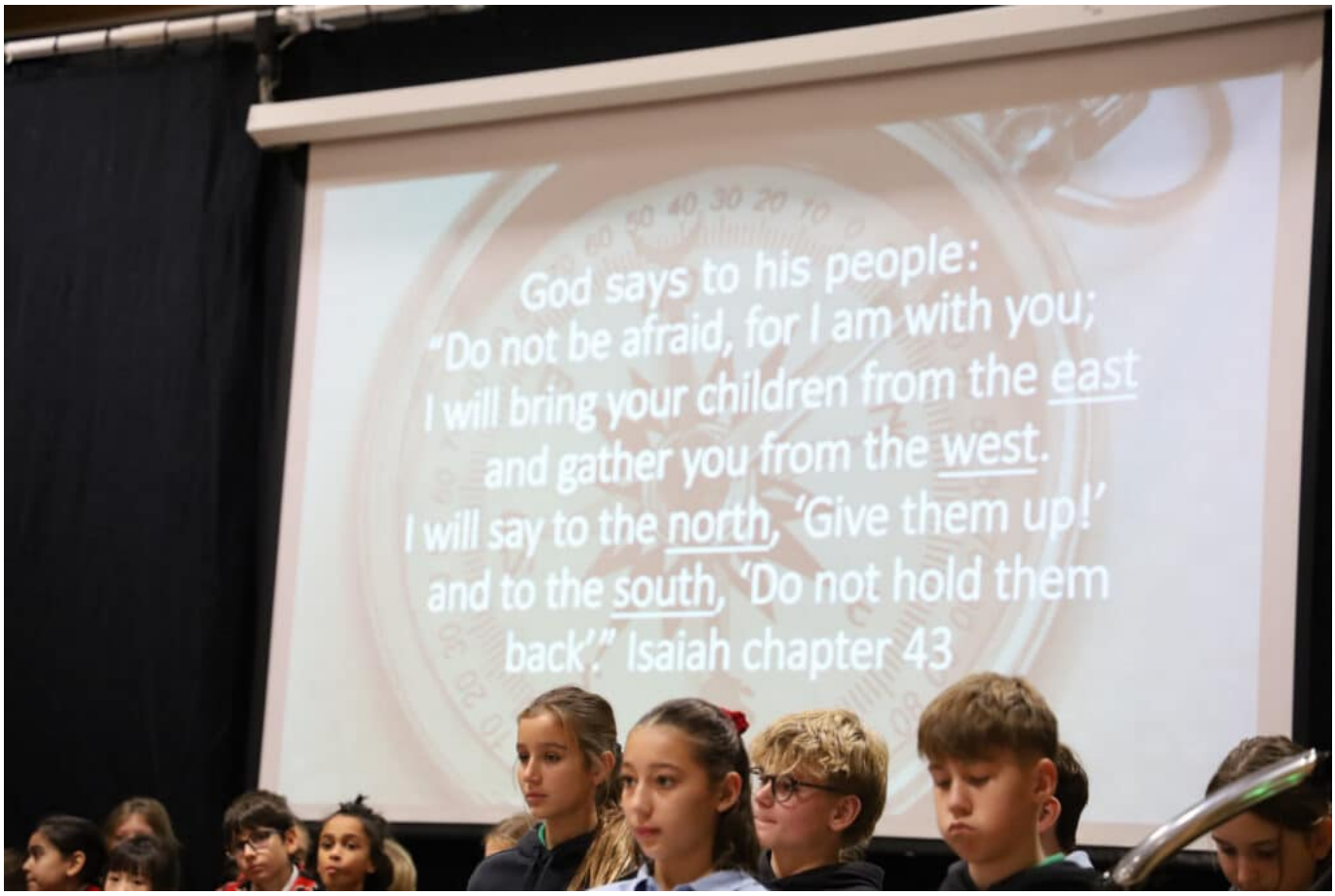
In his address, Reverend Coleman, the Foundation Chaplain, shared a personal story of setting off for a short cycle ride at dusk. As darkness fell, he became lost in woods he thought he knew well and began to feel increasingly anxious and alone. Then, through the darkness, he spotted a bright light ahead. It belonged to another cyclist who knew the way back to his village. With a great sense of relief, Reverend Coleman followed the cyclist's light home.

It was a simple but powerful illustration of the message of Advent. Reverend Coleman drew on the Christian belief that Jesus offers a guiding light, reflected in his invitation to "Come, follow me".

The service concluded beautifully with Junior Voices singing *Winter Nights* by Lin Marsh, followed by Advent prayers read by Year 8 pupils.

It was a thoughtful and uplifting way for the St Faith's community to prepare for Advent together, reflecting on the themes of light, hope and joy.




God says to his people:
"Do not be afraid, for I am with you;
I will bring your children from the east
and gather you from the west.
I will say to the north, 'Give them up!'
and to the south, 'Do not hold them
back'." Isaiah chapter 43





Road Safety

It is often said that 'a picture paints a thousand words'. As the daylight has decreased, I am still delighted to see so many of our families cycling to and from school. Please remember to check that bike lights are working before you set out and wear clothing that means you are visible to other road users from a long way away. Thank you for promoting sustainability at St Faith's.



Pop-in & Play

There may have been a chill in the air on Wednesday, but that certainly didn't dampen the spirits of the ten families who joined us for our final Pop-in & Play of the term. Our young visitors wrapped up warm and made the most of the Early Years playground, happily exploring and

playing alongside some of our Preschool children. Meanwhile, parents had the opportunity to meet our staff, chat with one another and enjoy a relaxed glimpse of life in Early Years at St Faith's. Look out for our New Year Pop-in & Play dates, which will be published on the website soon.

Year 2 Assembly

Ms Hendry writes,

"Year 2 collaborated together to produce a wonderful assembly on Wednesday. They sang songs, and recited poems about different festivals celebrated at this time of year. We also got into the festive spirit thanks to the Recorder Club's version of Jingle Bells. We couldn't be prouder of how confidently the children spoke, sang and played. Thank you so much to parents who were able to join us as the children were so excited to perform to an audience."

Before the assembly, parents heard from Mrs Walker, Head of Years 3 & 4, who explained about the transition from Year 2 to Year 3 and the exciting opportunities that await them next year.

When Your Teacher Turns into a Troll…

What would you do if your teacher suddenly turned into a troll and started eating the children and even another teacher? That was the wonderfully imaginative premise of *Our Teacher is a Troll* by Dennis Kelly, brought brilliantly to life through four mini plays.

Year 5 followed the story of the terrible twins and their classmates as they desperately tried to find someone who would listen. They told their mum, went to the police and even appealed to the Prime Minister, but still their extraordinary claims fell on deaf ears!

Amid the humour, drama and rather alarming prospect of being eaten by a troll, the production explored some important themes. The characters demonstrated resilience and courage as they refused to give up and worked together to make their voices heard — qualities that we value and celebrate at St Faith's. Thankfully, after plenty of twists and turns, there was a happy ending, bringing a wonderfully entertaining performance to a fitting close. Well done to all our young performers!







Science in Focus

Mrs Pritchard writes,

"**Year 3** have continued exploring the healthy eating plate, learning how foods are organised into different food groups and, importantly, why our bodies need nutrients from each group. They have been considering how a varied, balanced diet helps to keep us healthy.

Year 4 have been busy investigating electrical conductors and insulators, testing a range of materials to discover which allow electricity to flow through them. Building on their understanding of circuits, pupils have also begun designing their own electrical switches.

Year 5 have turned their attention to classification, exploring the characteristics scientists use to group living organisms. They have been learning to distinguish between vertebrates, invertebrates and plants, using observable features to place organisms into the correct categories.

Year 6 have been studying how living organisms are organised, following the hierarchy from cells to tissues, organs, organ systems and, finally, the complete organism. They have also designed and carried out their own investigation into the effect of exercise on heart rate, before considering how lifestyle factors, including smoking and alcohol, can affect the body.

One of the week's highlights was a practical demonstration for Years 6 and 7. Members of the Science team demonstrated the preparation of blood-smear microscope slides, allowing pupils to observe the necessary care, precision, safety measures and technique involved. Pupils were then able to examine the prepared slides under the microscope, identifying red and white blood cells. It was a fascinating opportunity to see laboratory techniques in practice.

Year 7 have had a particularly memorable week investigating organs and organ systems, including seeing the structure and arrangement of the lungs and associated organs first-hand. They also watched the lungs inflate as air was introduced, providing a striking demonstration of what happens during inhalation.

Year 8 have concluded their study of light by turning their attention to the eye. Pupils have examined the structures of the eye and the functions of its different parts, including understanding how lenses and refraction works."

Rugby Season Review: A Season to Celebrate

Mr Gillick writes,

"As we approach the end of another rugby season, this week offered a glimpse into our future.

Our U13s took part in an inter-foundation triangular fixture against Moulton House in the cold winter sunshine on The Leys rugby pitches before lunch, then made the short stroll across Cambridge to watch the historic Steele Bodgers fixture at Grange Road.

Relentless competition on the pitch, smiles and laughter shared off it. A wonderful example of everything we hope sport can represent and the values we want our young people to take from it. Memories that will live far longer than the results.

The U13s have been an absolute joy to coach this season, although they still have one final opportunity to showcase their ability as they head to Cambridge RFC for the annual IAPS tournament. One more chance to compete, challenge themselves and enjoy being part of something together.

Across the programme, from Year 3 through to Year 8, we've seen huge progress. From touch to contact, from individual development to collective understanding, and from victories to defeats, the learning opportunities have been plentiful. We have had training, fixtures, house matches and even the 'Caven Cup' which have all provided a wide range of opportunities and environments for learning.

Of course, results will always form part of the sporting experience, but they have never been our sole measure of success. The environment created, the friendships developed, the confidence gained and, above all, the enjoyment experienced both on and off the field are what make a season truly worthwhile.

Even the shortening days and dropping temperatures haven't managed to extinguish the enthusiasm. There has been plenty of energy, commitment and laughter right through to the final weeks.

A huge thank you to all the players, staff, parents and supporters who have contributed to another brilliant season. Rugby is at its best when it brings people together, and this season has been a wonderful reminder of that.

And while we might be putting the boots away for a little while, I, for one, can't wait for the 7s variant of the game! ?





Year 7 House Football

Mr Mageean writes,

"Congratulations to all of the Year 7 boys who took part in a goal-fest of House Football on Wednesday afternoon. There were smiles all round at the end of an enjoyable afternoon, with Latham crowned as victors after every House had played each other. A huge thank you to parents, grandparents and other supporters who braved the chilly weather to cheer on the boys."

This Week at St Faith’s



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Year 7 & 8 Swimming Gala

Mrs Critchley writes,

"We travelled to Kimbolton School on Thursday afternoon for a Year 7 and 8 swimming gala. It was a fantastic occasion, with both schools enjoying some excellent racing.

Kimbolton proved to be a strong side and came out on top in many of the events, but our pupils produced some superb performances, with many achieving personal bests. A special mention goes to those swimmers who stepped up to compete out of their year group, showing great commitment and team spirit.

Well done to all who took part and represented the school so positively. Final score was Kimbolton 125 St Faith's 85



IAPS Boys and Girls National Gymnastics Championship

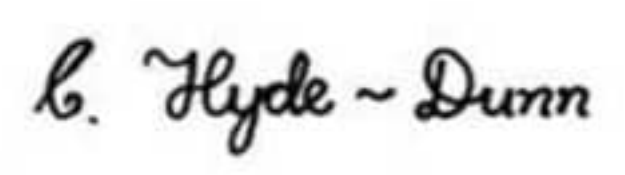
Today and tomorrow, we have the great pleasure and honour of hosting the IAPS National Gymnastics Championship. The competition includes Two-Piece, Four-Piece and Group events, with our U9 and U13 girls competing on Friday and our U9, U11 and U13 boys on Saturday. The gymnastics continues on Sunday, when our U10 and U11 girls will take part in the Four-Piece IAPS National Gymnastics competition at Stamford Junior School. We wish all our competitors the very best of luck!

And Finally…

With Advent Sunday approaching and December almost upon us, the first signs of Christmas are beginning to appear around school. The Year 2 assembly has already given us a rendition of *Jingle Bells*, and I suspect it won't be the last time we hear it over the coming weeks!

Wishing you a peaceful and enjoyable weekend.

With all best wishes,



Crispin Hyde-Dunn