

## St Francis School Curriculum update – Summer 2

### Pre-Formal and Informal Curriculum Update

The Pre-Formal curriculum continues to develop and evolve. We are currently discussing swimming and how we can enhance these sessions. We are going to create termly games boxes to use alongside physiotherapy plans containing items such as bouncy beach balls and umbrellas. Engagement is still the main driver for our curriculum and we continue to discuss and reflect upon what that means/looks like for each of our pupils.

### EBH- Pre-Formal/EYFS

EBH have had lots of fun celebrating The Queen's Platinum Jubilee. Their interactive story saw them dancing through the decades, making shaving foam crowns and tasting cream scones. To finish of the celebrations they hosted a tea party fit for royalty.



National Bee week saw EBH foraging outside to find natural resources to make a bee house. Kajiri responded well to the long grass, she was using it as a fan.



We are so proud of Thomas and how well he is responding to his physio after his hip surgery. Thomas tolerated his splints for a whole hour. He is accessing his corner seat and responding well to lying on his tummy, especially when lights are involved.



### PCS- Pre-Formal

Klay went to the local café with Kate. He wanted to buy his Mum a huge slice of chocolate cake. Klay vocalises for 'yes and no' and we are modeling the symbols alongside to confirm his choices. Klay's Mum loved her chocolate cake.



The class were also visited by some butterflies. The class next door have had a butterfly house in their classroom. Oscar had to stay really still as the butterfly landed on his arm.



In the class story, Emel listened intently to the sound of the popping candy, even stilling at times to listen to the sound. Emel can sometimes become upset if new stimuli is introduced, we were very proud of her for this.



### PLP/AM- Pre-Formal

PLP/AM have been having lots of fun with bubbles.

Emily communicated a positive reaction to Julie blowing bubbles through a straw. Emily stilled and turned towards the direction of the bubble. Julie moved from Emily's left to right side. Great tracking skills Emily.





Maisie become very vocal when exploring the bubble sock with Frankie. Maisie vocalised for 'more' and concentrated really hard to reach out for the bubbles. Maisie thought it was very funny when Frankie blew the bubbles on her head.



Toby is engaging well with the exploring frame. During the class story, Toby actively reached out to explore. He communicated a preference for the duster and the brushes and spent time exploring with his hands before moving the items towards his head. Great independent exploration.



### *PTC- Pre-Formal*

PTC have been exploring water balloons during their Explore and Discover sessions. Lydia independently explored the water balloons and persevered until she managed to pop one- which she thought was hilarious.



Caitlin is very engaged during small animal care sessions. She watches the animals intently and visually follows them around the room. Caitlin reaches out to initiate stroking. Caitlin is moving through to Upper School in September. I'm sure animal care will be one of her options.



Lloyd has been using his manual chair confidently to move his favourite ball around the hall. Lloyd really struggles with transitions and changes in routine. Class use the ball as a transition aid and this is working well.



### Informal Curriculum Update

The current focus for our Informal curriculum is the development of our outside provision. Over the last year IVS have developed their outdoor space and this has had a positive impact on pupil engagement and progress. ILB will have their own dedicated outdoor space next year and are already planning how this will look. Lauren is planning to deliver some in-house Informal training as we will have some new members of staff joining us in September.

### IVS- EYFS/Informal

IVS had great fun exploring the large bubble ball. It required lots of sharing and turn taking which was a bonus! It felt like slime but bounced really high.



Mahdi was on a secret ice mission to free the Queen's jewels during Platinum Jubilee celebrations. Mahdi can sometimes be a bit reluctant to touch things but he engaged really well the ice block and reach out repeatedly to initiate exploration.



Arianna and Frankie made the Queen a lovely cup of tea. Excellent independent exploration and problem solving skills. Frankie opened the top of the bottle to add green food colouring to her cup of tea.



Patrick was such a kind friend and helped Frankie to put her shoes on so she could go outside and play. We are very proud of you.

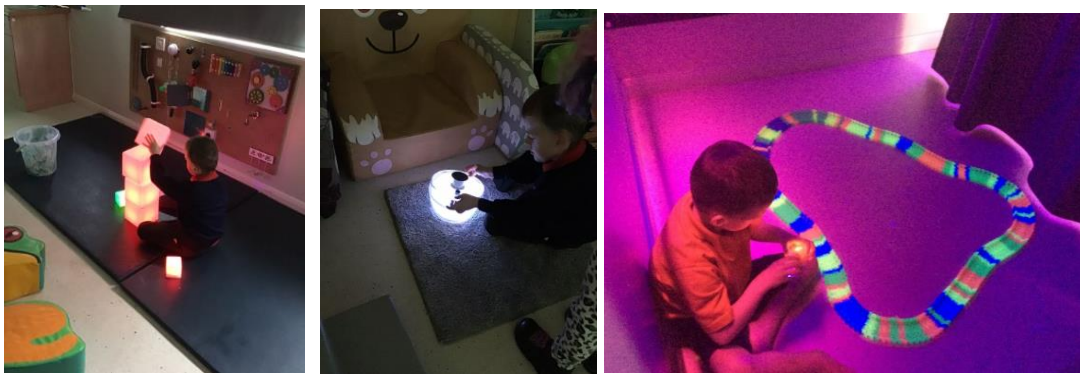


### ILB- EYFS/Informal

Pupils' in ILB/JR have been engaging well during their Core Skills and Explore and Discover sessions.

Jack has been really motivated by light work this term. Jack explored the light spinner for over five minutes. He realised how to stop and start it and took it apart to further explore how it worked. Jack initiated stacking the light up cubes. He realised if he rotated them in different directions they changed colour. Jack purposefully explored the glow race track. He persisted to problem solve why the car wasn't moving and realised that he needed to push the button and then place the car back onto the track. Brilliant engagement Jack.





In Explore and Discover, Annabelle displayed a preference for the spring. She preserved to use both her hands to aid her exploration- one to hold the slinky down on her tray and the other to pull. The class are exploring things that push and pull.



Riley displayed a preference for the pop tube. He realised that he needed to pull the tube to create a sound.



## Semi-Formal Curriculum Update

### Introduction

Semi-Formal have had a fantastic final Summer term so far, with lots of exciting things to come. The younger Semi-Formal learners are exploring 'Animals that live far away' and have enjoyed stories and sessions around zoo animals. One particular story they have enjoyed is 'The Zoo Vet'.

The older Semi-Formal learners are looking at the theme, 'What can I recycle?' They have collected lots of recyclable materials and used these to incorporate into their Art sessions. Some classes have also read about recycling and explored how and what they can recycle and also how this has a positive impact on the planet.

### Phonics Update

Classes have completed all training and baselines (placement assessments). Regular phonics sessions are being implemented appropriately and the phonics working party are now in the process of re-organising the reading library. Some Teaching Assistants have also undertaken the full training and have observed Teachers delivering Phonics. They have now started to lead phonics for small groups. The next development is to begin to incorporate 3 Little Wandle reading sessions within the timetable to embed their phonics knowledge and develop fluency in their reading.

### Physical Wellbeing Day

Semi-Formal thoroughly enjoyed our Physical Wellbeing day. We had a rotation of activities which included; fitness circuits, mindfulness, parachute games, healthy smoothie making, yoga/physio and Just Dance. We all joined together to do a warm-up in the hall to music before going off onto our activities.



### Upcoming Semi-Formal Days

Wednesday 29 <sup>th</sup> June	Semi-Formal's Drama Performance of Harry Potter	Expecting over 100 parents to attend the event which the pupils are really looking forward to.
Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> July	Sand and Water Day	The area have been working really hard on the 5 school values and have worked together to fill their sheet for an end of term Semi-Formal treat. We have arranged an ice cream van to come along to Sand and Water day as a reward for working well together this term.

Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> July	Big Art Day	The art work produced will be incorporated into the 50 <sup>th</sup> celebration day. It will be themed as art from the 1970's.
Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> July	Music Morning and Afternoon Disco	

## SAH

We have had another exciting year in SAH, with the children enjoying some lovely experiences and showing wonderful progress. We have visited the trampoline park JUMP, Lincolnshire Life Museum and Wolds Wildlife Park as well as local walks into the Bailgate and Castle grounds. JUMP would probably be the children's favourite, they were amazing flying around the place! Communication and independence continue to be a key point of development, with the children taking on more responsibilities around the classroom. Among other things, the children take their own chairs to the storage cupboard, take the lunch trolley back to the kitchen and hand out and collect in resources during some sessions.

## SBS

SBS have had a fantastic year with their most impressive achievement being how far they have developed their independence skills. All children have worked hard at trying to organise their own belongings, find their own equipment and put their own coats on. Many of our children are also mastering toilet training and self-care skills such as wiping their own mouths, blowing noses etc. Throughout the year we have also been working on developing the skills needed to do the shopping. Each week we have visited either the school shop or one of our local food shops and the children are gaining confidence to find their items, greet the shopkeeper, pay for their item and return with it successfully to class.

A highlight of our year has been having caterpillars in class which we enjoyed watching grow and change and eventually be released into the wild as beautiful butterflies. This week we were lucky enough to visit Yorkshire Wildlife Park and we learnt lots of facts about animals that (usually) live very far away.

We are very proud of our progress in all subjects but in particular the amazing improvement we have seen in phonic knowledge. We are just beginning to adopt the 'Little Wandle' phonics scheme and children are adapting to this excellently. Many of our children now recognise their single letter sounds and two are even beginning to read.

## SDR

SDR have had an amazing time this year enjoying the opportunity to get back to normality and integrate with all our friends and teachers in different classes. We have loved engaging and participating with our Semi-Formal curriculum focusing on lots of interesting topics such as our independence and social skills. Within class we have been learning and developing our attention and sitting skills both with thinking and problem solving and communication, building the time our personalised schedules last when in lessons. Within our social skills session we have been learning about our bodies and consent developing our understanding that our bodies belong to us and we have autonomy to decide what to do with them. This has been amazing and helped the pupils to develop a greater understanding of themselves and how they can keep safe. Our independence session have revolved around road safety this year with us now being much more aware and confident in understanding the dangers of roads and how we can safely and appropriately cross them. Being fully back in school this year has been spectacular and all staff and pupils have adored it and being able to once again play and chat.



## SSM

In SSM we have been using stories to support communication. Recently we have explored the story 'Whatever Next' by Jill Murphy to predict what would happen when the bear went into space in his 'rocket' box. The students enjoyed creating their own 'rockets' from recycled materials, linking to our My World topic. They then used their 'rockets' to fly to the moon where they had a picnic and sent a postcard home using Clicker Writer software and dictation on Widgeit Online. The students love songs, so we use number songs to practise counting and number recognition. The students have been applying this knowledge and understanding to practical situations such as counting out the correct number of plates for the picnic on the moon.

## SCM

During our Little Wandle phonics sessions, pupils are enthusiastic and keen to practise the new sounds that they have been learning. They particularly like reading the focus words using 'quiet' or 'loud' voices, which is part of the scheme. Pupils have then been using the new skills that they are learning, in both their reading and writing, outside of sessions which is fantastic to see! Over the last couple of weeks, pupils have had the chance to access specialist bikes/trikes in My Physical Wellbeing sessions. They have loved spending time outdoors, learning a new skill that many in our class have never accessed before. One of the boys in class picked up this skill quickly and was zooming around the playground in no time!

## SLM

SLM have had a fantastic year. The pupils in class have been trying really hard to work together to achieve success. Pupils are beginning to understand emotions in others and also pick up on different body language as to how others are feeling. They are learning to accept each other's differences and also respect others opinions. The class have matured over the year and this is evident on how well they are working together during this Summer Term.

Pupils are continuing to work hard and focus themselves on being independent during their core lessons (My Communication and MY Thinking and Problem Solving Skills). Most students are now beginning to use ICT and assistive technology to aid their writing and further promote their independence during lessons. SLM are really looking forward to their class trip to Whisby Nature Reserve.

## SEW

In SEW this year there has been some great personal and whole class achievements. The pupils have been working hard on their independence across the year. All pupils are becoming more independent both in the classroom and around school, with many supporting each other before asking an adult where possible. For example, if one pupil is struggling to open a packet at lunch time, they will ask a friend before asking an adult to help. Similarly, pupils are using their voice and eye gazes to communicate what they need rather than waiting for another pupil or adult to do it for them. All pupils in SEW are becoming more confident when given a task to do independently. One pupil has made remarkable progress in his reading which has also made significant improvement on his spelling of simple words. This has allowed them to become a more independent when completing reading comprehension and simple writing tasks. Whereas others are now more confident working independently using Numicon and can explain to others what they are doing.

## Celebrating Success:



SAH went to the Lincolnshire Life Museum one morning. Pupils were encouraged to access the museum independently. Their confidence has grown during their multiple visits, with some exploring the outdoor playground equipment completely independently.



Ben has been working really hard during his My Independence and My Thinking and Problem Solving lessons. Ben has been going to the St Francis shop area with a shopping list and is able to find the items from the list with full independence. Well done Ben!



Reggie has blown us all away this term with his attitude to learning. He is showing real progress in all aspects and is trying really hard with his Reading and communication sessions. Reggie has started this term to use assistive technology to put his thought onto paper during comprehension activities. Reggie is beginning to use dictation software which creates symbolised writing which he is then able to print and attach with his work.

## Upper School Curriculum Update

This half term has seen lots of examinations taking place in Functional Literacy and Numeracy, in which we are hopeful we will receive some excellent results for the students, which in turn will allow them to progress onto the next working level within both subjects. For the students in Year 14 that have sat their examinations and are transitioning onto the next phase of their educational journey these examinations will give them a good solid foundation of what to expect from life at a Further Education provider and will give them a real sense of achievement when they find out their results. We will invite all of the school leavers back to school in the Autumn term to receive their certificates.

For September 2022 we have 51 confirmed students in Upper School. New students to school have now all had their Care plan meetings and have also spent time as part of their transition within Upper School to which they have thoroughly enjoyed. All students and staff in Upper School have now been placed into their tutor groups for September and we are looking forward to welcoming all our families into school on the morning of Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> June, where they will have an opportunity to meet with the staff, talk through any apprehensions they may have and to choose some of the subjects that they would like to follow, that will make up their individual timetable within their curriculum pathway. On this day also, I have been working hard to build links with external services, in particular within the Adult sector to support and guide our families with the support and information they may need as they move through their educational journey. The agencies attending on this day are:-

- Department for Work and Pensions
- The Maximising Independence Team
- The Pelican Trust
- Liaise
- Abbey Access
- Travel Training
- Kids
- The YPLP

As part of our continued involvement with the Local Authorities 'Supported Employment' Project we have had some real successes at St Francis. The first was Telshia Smart and her involvement with Aaron Services, since I last wrote Telshia has been to Old Trafford in Manchester to be part of Aaron Services corporate Apprentice event where she delivered her speech in front of 250+ people and 'Stole the show', this was one of those moments that I will never forget. She was also announced as their 'Community Champion of the Year'. We also now have 1 young man in Upper School, Joshua Midgley who has gained paid employment at 'Black Cat Travel' (please see Case Study of JM and Black Cat Travel) and we are so proud of how Joshua has excelled at work and has not only continued to focus on his education at school, to sit his examinations, but at the same time learn to drive and now move onto paid employment when he finishes school at the end of term.

Continuing to work closely with Kirstie Payne at Aaron Services, we have had an excellent 'Industry Day' called 'Have a Go' on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> June, where all students in Upper School had many opportunities to engage in activities that were Industry related and will hopefully inspire some of our students to understand what they can do in the 'World of Work' with the right level of support from the employment sector.



This day was also a good day for me to network with businesses to build links within this tough sector to provide as many work experience opportunities for our students as possible. Both 'Plum Products' and 'Danfloss' have already planned meeting for the Autumn term to set up opportunities for our students. You will see from the attached article 'Have a Go', what a real success the day was and how really engaged all our students were and how supportive these businesses were to school. Plum products donated the trampoline to Upper School and Lindum's donated all the tools and wheelbarrows that they had used on the day. Lindum's have also offered to return to school and help us to build a wall. This is such a lovely gesture, and we are already planning next year's event.

Extended Curriculum- We won 'The Collection' project, that was a competition between St Francis and St Christopher's where with support from The NCS and our Year 14 students. They wrote a letter and provided a presentation to Anita Fox at The Collection, to see how many more families with additional needs would go to The Collection to see 'The Gaia' project. The students through their work with the NCS suggested ways in which footfall could be increased to see 'The Gaia'. It was recognised that with our students input there was a 20% increase in footfall at The Collection.

Finally, on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> July all of Upper School will be going bowling for their Summer trip in which they are all really excited about and it will be the first trip that we have been able to do Post Covid. Below are a few pictures of the students in Upper School showing some of the activities/events that we have been part of this past term.

