



24 September 2024

Dear Families

Blessing of the Animals

On Friday 4 October it is St Francis' Feast Day. St Francis is remembered for his generosity to the poor, his willingness to minister to the lepers, and for his love for animals and nature. He is the Catholic Church's patron saint of animals and the environment.

On this afternoon, our Laudato Leaders will be leading a Celebration of the Word and Father Michael will be joining us. As part of the Celebration of the Word, Father Michael will be blessing the pets of children in our school.

If you have a small pet at home which can stay in a cage for a long period of time and you would be willing for your pet to come into school for the day, please contact the office by **Thursday 26 September**. A pet from each class will be chosen to come into school on Friday 4 October to join us for our blessing of the animals. If there is more than one pet per class, a name will be drawn from a hat to make it a fair process. Any pets that do come into school will be kept in Mrs Binney's office for the day/afternoon due to any allergies we may have in school. During the Celebration of the Word, they will be placed at the front near the focal point.

Alternatively, we would also like to welcome photographs of your pets from home. If you have a pet, please can you send a picture of your pet into school with your child before **Tuesday 2 October** and I will use all pictures to create a focal point for our worship. All photographs will be returned to children.

Yours sincerely

K Binney

Mrs Binney
Deputy Head Teacher