



St. Francis Catholic Primary School

Newsletter



E-Mail - postbox@st-francis-p.walsall.sch.uk

23rd November 2018

www.st-francis-p.walsall.sch.uk

'I am a sign of God's love'

CATHOLIC LIFE

The children were celebrating 'Anti-bullying' week between 12th-16th November. The theme was 'Choose Respect' and the children took part in a range of activities including an 'odd-sock day' where we were all celebrating our differences.

This term, Year 3 and Year 6 celebrated their Mass of Commitment, which was well attended by parent and family members. This wonderful celebration marks the start of their very special year in their faith journey as they prepare to receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation, First Holy Communion and Confirmation. Y5 & Y1 and Y4 & Y2 have also led us in beautiful Masses over the past two weeks. We celebrated the Baptism of Ayden and welcomed Obi into our Church on 22nd November. Please continue to keep all of our children in your prayers.

A word from Pope Francis ... "Praying means knocking at the door of a friend. God is our friend."

Dear Parents/Guardians

23rd November 2018

We are well into our second half of the Autumn term and the Christmas countdown is nearly upon us!

The next couple of weeks are extremely busy so please check the dates and information provided and speak to the office if you need anything clarifying.

Prayer bags

Our Advent Prayer bags will be starting to journey to your homes during the Advent season. There are activities provided but please do not feel that you have to do all of them. They are sent home to provide you with some ideas of how you can pray or reflect on Advent together as a family. If you are unable to complete any activities, please do not worry, just return the prayer bag the following day to allow another child to take it home. The children's own prayers, that they record in the class prayer book, is shared with the whole class on return back to school so if you can, please try to ensure this is completed before sending back in. We look forward to featuring some of the prayers in the next newsletter.

Contact numbers

Just a polite reminder, school should have at least two telephone contact numbers for your child in case of an emergency. Texts are also sent out frequently using the mobile numbers given so please ensure the numbers are current and in use.

Thank you for your continued support and cooperation,

Mrs Cox (Deputy Headteacher)

Thought for the week

"Service to others is the rent you pay for your room here on earth."

Congratulations

I'm sure you will all be delighted to hear that Mrs Cox and Mr Cox are expecting a baby in May next year. Many congratulations to them and please keep them both in your thoughts and prayers as we look forward to Baby Cox being welcomed into the world and becoming part of the St. Francis family.

Miss Richards



Attendance

Whole school attendance
3rd Sept to 23rd Nov 2018

Year	%
Nursery	88.05% ↓
Reception	96.14% ↑
1	95.87% ↓
2	94.12% ↓
3	97.5% ↓
4	92.76% ↓
5	95.58% ↑
6	96.08% ↑

Class with the best attendance so far this Academic Year is ...

Year 3!

Well done Year 3!!!

What's your attendance grade?

- A = 100% Excellent
- B = 98% Very good
- C = 95% Good
- D = 92% Satisfactory
- E = 90% Below Average
- F = 85% Poor

Class Attendance

19th Nov—23rd Nov 2018

Year	%
Nursery	89.9% ↓
Reception	94.02% ↑
1	91.11% ↓
2	88.89% ↓
3	96.53% ↓
4	91.20% ↓
5	89.96% ↓
6	92.96% ↑

Congratulations to Year 3 with 96.53% Attendance this week!

Whole School Attendance from 19th—23rd November is 91.98%
School Attendance from 3rd Sept to 23rd November 2018 is 95.21%

The expectation is at least 95%.

Please ensure your child attends school unless they are too unwell to do so.
All children should be in school by 8.55am at the latest.



What's been happening?

We have a lot to celebrate!!!

VALUES & VIRTUES

Our Values and Virtues for this half term are 'Faith-filled and Hopeful' - perfect at this time of year when we prepare for Advent and Christmas

Pupils, Families and staff at St Francis are growing to be: **Faith-filled** in our beliefs; and **hopeful** for the future.



Visit from West Midlands Fire Service

On Monday 19th November 2018 West Midlands Fire Service came to visit Years 1 and 2 as part of our 'Great Fire of London' topic. They spoke to us about fire safety and how to spot hazards in the home. They also told us about what to do in an emergency to keep ourselves safe. We then got to go out and see the fire engine. We climbed inside to have a look and even got to spray the hose!

"I liked spraying the hose and I loved looking in the fire truck." - Leon, Year 1

"I think it was really fun. We learned a lot and I loved spraying the water." - Lily, Year 2



Nursery's egg investigation

Nursery have been learning about 'Humpty Dumpty' and as part of their investigation as to why he couldn't be put back together again, they have been exploring eggs. They have been exploring them using their touch, sight and smell senses and even used their sense of taste as they sampled a boiled egg. The children

experienced cracking an egg and have also explored raw, fried and scrambled eggs.

'We get egg yolk and egg white out of an egg'. Lux, Nursery



Strictly Come Dancing comes to St. Francis!

Over the last half term, Year have been dancing through the ages from 1920's to the present day. They enjoyed the 'Charleston', hailing from South Carolina, USA, so much that they, along with Mrs Keeling, thought it would be fun to host their own version of 'Strictly Come Dancing'. The dances were of an extremely high standard making it very difficult for our very own Darcey Bussell, Shirley Ballas & Bruno Tonioli aka Mrs Cox, Miss Richards & Mr Mulligan! The competition was fierce with fantastic partner work demonstrating many features of this roaring 1920's dance style including the 'step and swing' and 'swivel' steps- the 'floss' even made it into one performance! The children had made such an effort both in their dances and in the costumes they had brought in. Thank you to Mrs Keeling for organising this experience for the children too.



All dances were fabulous but there had to be a winner- the winners were awarded their own

glitterballs in our Celebration assembly on Friday. Well done Brian and Jake! Keeeeeeep dancing!!!!



Prayer of the month:

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them.

May the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

Amen.



Gardening Club

Over the last two weeks, the Gardening Club of 2018-2019 have been busy planting trees donated by the 'Woodlands Trust'. These have been planted around the circumference of our school grounds. We have also received a tree donated to our school in memory of our past pupil Reagan Asbury, which is currently on our memorial display and will be planted in our garden in the spring term. We shall be selling some of our trees at the Christmas Fayre to raise funds for our gardening club-we hope you will support us!



stalls

St Francis Catholic Primary School

invite you to join us for our

Christmas Fayre

on

Thursday 20th December 2018

from

3:30pm-5pm

Free entry!

tombolas

raffles

refreshments



Dates for your Diary



Details for various events will be sent out to those involved. Please be aware that sometimes events may be cancelled or dates changed at short notice. We will endeavour to inform you asap.

Friday 23rd November 2018: *Chocolate mufti*

Thursday 29th November 2018: *Nursery & Reception Advent Service in school at 10:45am*

Wednesday 5th Dec-Friday 7th Dec: *Y6 Residential to Alton Castle*

Thursday 6th December 2018: *Mass in Church— 9:15am led by Y5 & Y1*

Tuesday 11th December 2018: *EYFS Christmas Production at 10am— details to follow.*

Tuesday 11th December: *Y4 attending the Christmas Carol Service—details to follow.*

Wednesday 12th December 2018: *KS1 Christmas Production at 2pm— details to follow.*

Thursday 13th December 2018: *Christmas Dinner— make sure you order!*

Friday 14th December 2018: *Bottle mufti*

Friday 14th December 2018: *Mass in Church— 9:15am led by Y3 & Y4*

Tuesday 18th December 2018: *KS2 Carol Service in Church at 2pm— details to follow.*

Thursday 20th December 2018: *Christmas Fayre— 3:30-5pm.*

Thursday 20th December 2018: *Christmas Jumper Day— either £1 donation or bring in a cake for the Christmas Fayre!*

Friday 21st December 2018: *Whole School Mass in Church at 9:15am.*

Friday 21st December 2018: *Break up for the Christmas Holidays. School closes to pupils at 1:30pm. There will be no After School Club on this day.*



Monday 7th January 2018:

INSET day.

Tuesday 8th January 2018: *Children return to school for the Spring Term.*

Wednesday 23rd January 2018: *Year 6 Confirmation at 7pm in Church.*

Mufti Days

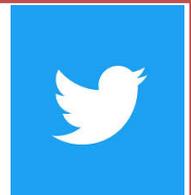
'Mufti Days' are 'wear what you like days' which are used to raise funds for school or as part of our charity work.



Please ensure that your child still wears sensible footwear as they will continue to go outside for playtimes and will also continue to take part in the 'Daily Mile'. They also need a coat!

- Chocolate Mufti will be on **23rd November**
- Bottle mufti will be on **14th December**
- And **20th December** is our Christmas jumper (or Christmas fancy dress/Christmas colours day)- please donate either **£1 OR a cake for the Christmas Fayre.**

TWITTER



As an initiative to improve communication, we have signed up to 'Twitter'. There will be regular up-to-date information & reminders. To access you will need to:

- 1) Set up a Twitter account
- 2) Search for our school page **@LittleStFrancis**
- 3) 'Follow' our page to receive updates.
- 4) Let us know via the office what your Twitter username is so we can approve your request. You will only be able to see our page if your follow request have been accepted.

Please be aware that this is a parents/carers only site and note this is not a forum to discuss any concerns or complaints.

Finally...

Thank you to all those who contributed to our memorial display for the month of November. The poppies and photographs were a beautiful addition to the display. Please continue to pray for all those who have died and all those dealing with the death of a loved one.



Please remember to send your child into school with their full PE kits. Tracksuits, during the winter period, are advisable.