



St. Francis Catholic Primary School

Newsletter



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25th January 2019

'I am a sign of God's love'

CATHOLIC LIFE

On Wednesday 23rd January 2019, St Francis welcomed Bishop David McGough to celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation. We congratulate Year 6 on a beautiful and very reverent Mass. (Please see page 3)

This term, Year 3 will be receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation and are currently preparing for that very special occasion. Please continue to keep both Year 6 and Year 3 in your prayers.

Year 5 & Year 3 led the whole school in a Mass to start the new year and next week Year 1 & Year 2 will be leading a prayer service in school. We look forward to welcoming parents into school for that event. All Masses are timetabled and in the 'Dates for your Diary' section on page 4.

Vocations Week starts next week (28th January 2019). Please see page 4 for more details.

A word from Pope Francis ... "Saying 'yes' to God's love is the first step to being happy and to making many other people happy."

Dear Parents/Guardians

25th January 2019

Happy new year! We are well into our Spring term and Christmas seems a long time ago now. It was lovely to see so many happy faces returning to school. We have lots of exciting events coming up this term so please check the dates and information provided and speak to the office if you need anything clarifying.

Twitter & Website

Our Twitter account and website are well underway and we have received many positive comments regarding the up-to-date information parents are now receiving via these social media platforms. There are still a number of parents who have not returned permission slips for their child's photographs to be used—this is your choice as parents but please return the form either way. We would appreciate any feedback regarding these platforms— have they helped to improve communication between home and school?

Contact numbers

Some lucky parents have had new phones for Christmas— if you are one of those lucky ones can you please ensure you have updated the office with your new numbers. 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.

Collection from school

Just a reminder that if the arrangements for the collection of your child changes at the end of the day, then please ensure that you, as your child's parent, contacts the school office to inform them of new arrangements. Also, whilst we understand that the occasional late collection cannot be helped, we would appreciate a phone call to inform us and persistent late collection may result in you having to pay additional charges for after school care. The school day finishes at 3:15pm and late collections prevents staff from continuing with their job after school.

School INSET day— school is closed to all pupils

Monday 25th February 2019 is a teacher training day and school will be closed for all pupils. Children are to return after the February half term break on Tuesday 26th February 2019.

Thank you for your continued support and cooperation,

Mrs Cox (Deputy Headteacher)

Thought for the week

*"Your attitude
determines your
direction"*

Attendance

Whole school attendance
3rd Sept to 25th January
2019

Year	%
Nursery	84% ↑
Reception	96.22% ↑
1	95.29% ↓
2	94.91% ↑
3	96.36% ↓
4	92.94% ↑
5	96.12% ↑
6	96.41% ↑

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

Year 6!

Well done Year 6!!!

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

21st – 25th January 2019

Year	%
Nursery	91.58% ↑
Reception	98.72% ↑
1	94.07% ↑
2	9.53% ↑
3	92.01% ↓
4	90.28% ↓
5	96.06% ↑
6	97.32% ↑

Congratulations to Rec with 98.72% Attendance this week!

Whole School Attendance from 21st-25th January is 94.87%
School Attendance from 3rd Sept to 25th January 2019 is 95.26%

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 'Eloquent and Truthful'. All members of our St Francis Community are growing to be eloquent and Truthful in what we say of ourselves, the relations between people and the World.



If you witness your child living out these values and virtues at home then please inform us via their planner.

Year 6 Confirmation 2019

On Wednesday 23rd January 2019, Bishop David McGough was welcomed into school at 2pm to spend the hour with the Year 6 children ahead of their Confirmation Mass. The children were able to speak with Bishop David and asked questions about Confirmation and his life as a Bishop- he is a very inspiring man!

The Confirmation Mass itself was a beautiful celebration, supported well by the choir and all members of staff.

"I really enjoyed going up and doing the bidding prayer because it made me feel confident and special" Emilie.

"I enjoyed my journey to Confirmation. I felt renewed and my heart cleansed" Angelina.

"I liked being blessed by Bishop David because it made me feel nice and loved. It was very calming because we couldn't do anything wrong in the eyes of God" Jake.

"The people who are not Catholic got a blessing by Bishop David and it felt special when he blessed me" Alfie.



St. Francis is a Smoke-

Free school!

Walsall Public Health have launched a 'Smoke free schools' campaign. Our school are supporting this campaign and would like to introduce its new Smoke-free policy to protect the health of the children and the community. The decision to go completely smoke-free on our grounds is supported by The Black Country Tobacco Control Alliance and by doing so we aim to promote awareness around the health dangers and importance of making smoking appear less normal to children. We are aware that some of our parents/carers are smokers, or your child may know someone who smokes. We are politely asking that everyone who visits the school or stands at the school gates is mindful of our smoke-free policy and does not light up a cigarette anywhere nearby. This is to protect children and others passing by from second-hand smoke. Look out for our new signs that will be making an appearance over the next week or so. A letter will also be sent out to parents explaining more about what the campaign involves. Thank you in advance for your support in helping us to ensure your children's school environment is a safe and clean one.



Short Prayer for the day:

Lord, please guide my thoughts, words and actions throughout this day.

Amen.



What has been happening in your child's class this week?

NURSERY: This week Nursery have based all their activities around the story of 'The Gingerbread Man'. We have followed the fox's footprints in the snow and took the Gingerbread Man to the hall to have a ride on the parachute. Today we are baking our own Gingerbread men (and ladies!) -Mrs Keeling.

RECEPTION: "I brought in my favourite Batman slippers to show everyone. I talked about when I wear my slippers- at bedtime" Tommy. "We have been learning about Cinderella and we wrote a letter for her" Iziah.

YEAR 1: "In Topic, we have been learning about endangered animals like Pandas and Gorillas" Daisy. "We practised jumping backwards, forwards, left and right in gymnastics" Declan.

YEAR 2: Y2 have been exploring outside areas to find micro habitats. In English, we have been reading 'The Polar Bear Sun' and using it to write expanded noun phrases- Mrs Bush.

YEAR 3: We have been learning about the fossilisation process and have made our own fossils in Topic. We have started researching the Romans to help us write a non-chronological report in English- Miss Shovlin.

YEAR 4: The week started with Bebop the Alien visiting Year 4, asking us to find out about 'Piles of Rocks' (linked to Roman architecture). This week we have been using our research skills to find out about Roman Architecture to create fact-files- Miss Stubbs.

YEAR 5: Year 5 have been testing the insulation of materials. We've also compared Alfred the Great with King Athelstan and using our drama skills to act out parables from the Bible.

YEAR 6: As well as preparing for Confirmation this week, Year 6 have been exploring 'The Highway Man' by Alfred Noyes. They have learned lots of poetic features and dressed up as characters from the poem. "We have had lots of fun as Tim the Ostler" Sean.

Weather Conditions

Please make sure your child comes to school with an appropriate warm coat and hat, scarf, gloves etc.



It has been lovely seeing so many cold, but smiley faces first thing in the morning as you have been welcomed into school. Just a request that on entry to our school, please stick to the path that Mr Poole has cleared and gritted for your safety.

Should we need to close school due to weather conditions, we will do our best to inform you as early as physically possible. In the meantime-

stay safe and stay warm!

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.](#)

Monday 7th January 2018: INSET day.

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

Wednesday 23rd January 2018: Y6 Confirmation at 7pm in Church.

Monday 28th January-Friday 1st February 2019: Vacations Week (dressing up day on 1st February 2019).

Thursday 31st January 2019: Y1 & Y2 Service in School- 10:45am

Tuesday 5th February 2019: 'Sparks' visit for Y4

Tuesday 5th February 2019: Yoga session for Y1

Thursday 7th February 2019: Yoga session for Y2

Thursday 7th February 2019: Y6 & Y4 Mass in Church

Friday 8th February 2019: Safer Internet Day 2019- 'Together for a better internet'.

Friday 8th- Thursday 14th February 2019: Vacations Week assemblies for parents- please see timetable.

Thursday 14th 2019: Y5 & Y6 parent workshop- Online Safety- if you haven't already please confirm attendance.

Friday 15th February 2019: Y3 Reconciliation Service in Church- 1pm.

Friday 15th February 2019: Half term finish at 3:15pm as normal- returning on Tuesday 26th February 2019.

Thursday 28th February 2019: Y3 & Y2 Mass in Church

Tuesday 5th March 2019: PACE workshop for parents at 9am.

Wednesday 6th March 2019: Whole School Mass- Ash Wednesday in Church- 9:15am

Thursday 7th March 2019: St Francis celebrate World Book Day- details to follow.

Monday 11th March 2019: Y5 & Y6 workshop on 'Knife Crime Awareness'.

Thursday 14th March 2019: Y4 & Y1 Mass in Church

Wednesday 20th March 2019: Parents Evening.

Thursday 21st March 2019: Y5 & Rec Mass in Church

Tuesday 26th March 2019: Y5 attending Lenten Service at St Patrick's- details to follow.

Thursday 28th March 2019: Nurs & Rec Service in school.

Thursday 4th April 2019: Y6 & Y3 Mass in Church

Thursday 4th April 2019: Dance festival at Walsall Town Hall- details to follow.

Tuesday 9th & Wednesday 10th April 2019: Easter Productions- details to follow.

Thursday 11th April 2019: Whole School End of Spring term/Easter Mass in Church at 9:15am

Friday 12th April 2019: Break up at 1:30pm for Easter Holidays- No after school club on this day.

Dodgeball

On Thursday 24th January, 11 Year 5 pupils represented our school in a Dodgeball Festival at Streetly Academy and competed against 10 other teams. They used the skills they had developed with Mr Evenson at their after school club. Well done to all who competed, we are extremely proud of how well you competed and the excellent sportsmanship you displayed. Thank you to Miss Peters and Mrs Keeling for organising & all the parents who provided transport!



Vocations Week

Next week (28th January-1st February) is our Vacations Week. There is a dressing up day, in the clothes of your chosen vocation, on Friday 1st February 2019. Parents are invited to attend an assembly on the dates below. If you haven't already sent your attendance slips back, please do so.

Friday 8 th February 2019	9:15am	Y3
Monday 11 th February 2019	9:15am	Y1 & Y2
Monday 11 th February 2019	2:45pm	Y6
Tuesday 12 th February 2019	9:15am	Rec
Tuesday 12 th February 2019	2:45pm	Y4
Wednesday 13 th February 2019	9:15am	Nurs
Thursday 14 th February 2019	9:15am	Y5

Finally...

On behalf of all the staff at St. Francis thank you for all the wonderful cards and gifts that were given at Christmas. We were all overwhelmed by your generosity and are extremely grateful.

We wish you all a very happy and healthy new year!

thank
YOU