



Newsletter

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

15th February 2019

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

'I am a sign of God's love'

CATHOLIC LIFE

This week the children have been sharing what they experienced during Vocations Week with parents and friends during our special Vocations assemblies. We would like to thank all those who came and supported the children- we received some lovely comments in the evaluations. (See page 3) Special thanks to all the staff for ensuring Vocations Week was such a success- it was a wonderful week and thanks also for the lovely assemblies that were prepared.

Today, Friday 15th February 2019, the Year 3 children and a Year 4 child will be receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Please continue to keep all of these children in your prayers.

A word from Pope Francis ... "If we practice seeing with the eyes of Jesus, we will always be able to recognise those who need our help"

Dear Parents/Guardians

15th February 2019

February half term is upon us already! What a jam-packed half term we have had with lots of exciting learning and experiences taking place.

Safeguarding workshops

We have a comprehensive Safeguarding programme timetabled for both children and parents this year. Last week the Y5 & Y6 children took part in a 'Radicalisation Awareness' programme and this week we held an Online Safety workshop for Y5 & Y6 children and their parents. We have invited every parent to a PACE workshop on 5th March 2019 at 9am in the school hall. I would highly recommend you attending to keep you up-to-date with current safeguarding issues. If you wish to attend, but haven't returned the reply slip, then please let the office know. Please take advantage of these courses while they remain free to parents.

Changes to the start of the day and Attendance and Punctuality authorisation

A letter was sent home this week by Miss Richards detailing changes to the start of the day and the authorisation of absences and lates. If you are unsure of any of these new procedures, then please speak to a member of the SLT or the office staff who will be happy to discuss them with you. The changes have been made in light of our school not quite reaching the national expectations. Help us to improve our attendance figures by ensuring your child is in school, on time. See this week figures on page 2.

Online gaming and use of apps and websites

It has come to our attention again that a number of children are being allowed to access games, apps and websites that are not age appropriate. We cannot stress enough the importance of monitoring your child's internet usage and socialisation via social media. Please ensure your child's safety online by monitoring what they are accessing.

REMEMBER- 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

*"Change your thoughts
and you change your
world"*

Attendance

Whole school attendance
3rd Sept to 15th February
2019

Year	%
Nursery	89.31% ↑
Reception	96.29% ↑
1	96.04% ↑
2	95.18% ↑
3	97.3% ↑
4	92.96% ↑
5	96.25% ↑
6	96.48% ↑

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

11th-15th February 2019

Year	%
Nursery	84.21% ↓
Reception	99.04% ↑
1	93.53% ↓
2	96.48% ↑
3	98.33% ↑
4	89.06% ↓
5	95.56% ↓
6	94.83% ↓

Congratulations to Rec with 99.04% Attendance this week!

Whole School Attendance from 11th-15th February is 94.89%
School Attendance from 3rd Sept to 15th February 2019 is 95.60%

The expectation is at least 96%.

Please ensure your child attends school unless they are too unwell to do so. All children should be in class 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.



Vocations Week

Vocations week was a huge success enjoyed by staff and children alike. We wanted to share some of the wonderful feedback we have received from parents- sorry we couldn't include them all! Thank you to all parents who ensured their child/ren came to school dressed up and to those who returned evaluation forms-all feedback is welcomed. We hope you enjoyed the updates throughout the week on our Twitter feed @LittleStFrancis. If you still haven't signed up to Twitter, the posts are also available on our website.

"Obi said the vocations week was 'awesome!' He went ahead to narrate how he visited the vet at school, played a pretend doctor and a delivery man. He learned about various jobs and I was told everybody has a special job they do." (Obi's Mum)

"I am delighted to express how impressed I am. An excellent week of practical life experiences." (Sahib's Mum)

"Owen came home and updated me on our fire safety and that I must shut the doors at night- I now do!" (Mrs Cawley)

"Andrea liked the construction site. She enjoyed designing a house very much. Andrea's favourite part was making the chef hat in Y3. It was interesting to discuss different vocations and their importance for our community and in the world. Thank you" (Mrs Timocko)

"Xander spoke very highly of Vocations week, he loved having professionals visit the school and thought it was funny to pretend to bath 'Batman' like a baby! Xander loved the police station and post office that were set up in different classes. In Y6 I did Yoga" (Xander's Mum)

"The boys were very enthusiastic about the week, hearing the interesting questions and answers they asked external visitors, it was quite impressive to see their understanding and comprehension of different vocations. This will inspire the future paramedics, vets, firemen, police officers. The boys are already planning next years outfits!" (Mr & Mrs Bailey)

"A great idea especially for Y6 who may be thinking about their future careers as they approach their new journey into senior school" (Mrs Tolley)



Vocations Assembly feedback:

NURSERY: "Was so lovely seeing children so young standing up and giving it a go. Big well done to all the children, the dancing was lovely. Can imagine it was a lot of extra work with children so young so well done staff! We never got invited in much with my older children, only at Christmas, I think it's lovely only a few months at school and we're being invited in many times to see them. Thank you." (Mrs Cawley)

RECEPTION: "Was an amazing session. Gives the children an insight on the many professions out there and the ability to choose what they want for themselves. Also great for parents to witness them participate and be a part of it." (Chiamaka's Mum)

YEAR 1 & 2: "Lovely to see what they did during the week— lovely assembly. Well done to all, confidence is growing" (Mrs Bennett)

"Lovely service as always. Vocations week has been a huge hit in our house, all the children have really enjoyed meeting people from different professions" (Mrs Pandhal)

YEAR 3: "Well done Year 3! It was lovely to hear all about your vocations week and it was lovely to hear about all the wonderful jobs you want to do when you grow up" (Mrs Gwilt)

YEAR 4: "Great assembly! All the children spoke very clearly & the songs were lovely! Well done to all the children and staff involved. It was great hearing all about vocations week" (Alfie's Mum)

YEAR 5: "Carried through superbly. I wondered how this subject would be carried out— once again I am amazed at the schools talent— well done all!" (Noah's Nanny)

YEAR 6: "Lovely to see Year 6 giving their own opinions in their own words on vocations week during the assembly. It was also nice to see how each child has grown and become individuals in their own ways. Well done to you all!" (Evan's Mum)



Assemblies

Prayer of the week: Act of Contrition:

O my God, because You are so good,
I am sorry that I have sinned against You,
And with the help of Your grace,
I will not sin again.
Amen.

Online Safety Day—

Friday 8th February 2019



Nursery: We looked at the story of Hector's world and talked about how to play on a computer game with an adult.

Reception: We talked about age appropriate apps, games they use and games they could use. We played 'Hector's World'.

Year 1: We looked at and created rules for staying safe online. We talked about the different games and websites the children use and how to use them safely. We explored internet safety scenarios and how to deal with them.

Year 2: We looked at and discussed Pegi ratings on games and the games children play. We also created internet safety posters and how to stay safe online.

Year 3: We created posters about internet safety and how we can make a better internet. We made rules for staying safe online and discussed who to talk to when unsure etc.

Year 4: We created online character profiles, looked at different scenarios and how they would respond to them.

Year 5: We discussed a range of online scenarios and discussed how the children would respond to them. Children created posters about Internet safety.

Year 6: We discussed the importance of a secure password and how to create one. Children designed a poster of 'Do's and Don'ts when creating a secure password'. These will be displayed around the ICT suite over the coming weeks.

These are all very important things that even as adults we need to be mindful of to keep us safe online and ensure digital wellbeing.

'Together for a better internet!'

Services, Productions & Assemblies

Please note, no latecomers will be admitted to any of the above under any circumstances. Once the children have entered the hall, the gate is locked and you will not be allowed in.

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 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.**

February Half Term

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– board will be in the foyer in the week commencing 11th March 2019.

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: Nursery & 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.



Multi-skills

On Wednesday 13th February 2019, pupils from Y1 and Y2 repre-



sented our school at The Streetly Academy in a multi-skills competition. Thank you to Miss Peters and all the parents who provided transport! Lovely to receive such positive feedback about our young people too! "I really liked throwing the ball against the wall. It was my favourite station." (Harry Y2)



Streetly SGO @StreetlySGO · 18h
Replying to @LittleStFrancis
Well done team @LittleStFrancis brilliant effort from all, you did yourselves and your school proud!

Yoga

As part of our Sports Premium Spending, Miss Peters arranged for



Yoga sessions in Years 1

and 2. These were a huge success and something we are looking into for other year groups later in the year. "It was lots of fun. I really liked doing the polar bear pose!" (Andrea- Y1)

Thanks to Sally from Yoga Stars who came into school and led the sessions. We have had lots of interest from parents regarding after school yoga sessions. Please contact Sally at:

yogastarskids.com Sally@yogastars.org



Yoga Stars @yoga_stars · 5d

I had so much fun with the fantastic children at St Francis! Awesome sessions with Year 1 and Year 2.



Finally...

EYFS have been learning all about it and we couldn't let it pass by without wishing you a



Happy Chinese New Year!

2019 is the year of the pig!

Have a wonderful Spring half term holiday!

Stay safe and we'll see you on Tuesday 26th February 2019.

