



Newsletter

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

2nd April 2019

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

'I am a sign of God's love'

CATHOLIC LIFE

This week the children have continued learning about Lent; a time for prayer, almsgiving and fasting. There have been some beautiful Lenten prayer services taking place in classrooms and the prayer bags have been going home to encourage prayer at home during this season. (See Kimi's prayer on page 4).

Lenten fundraising is well under way with our final week of fundraising. We have been supporting four different charities this year: Black Country Foodbank, 'Lyttle Moments' (Isabella Lyttle's Charity), CAFOD and Father Hudson's. More details are on page 2.

Our Easter fundraising events are well on their way (see page 3). We would appreciate any feedback regarding how they have run this year. Please see Mrs Cox with any feedback.

We welcomed Jep from the Philippines on Friday who led a very informative assembly based on social justice. He later spoke to the School Council and Charity Committee about the conditions in his homeland and the hardships they were facing. We look forward to welcoming Lucy Davies from Father Hudson's on Monday 8th April to speak to us about the good work that the charity does.

Last week EYFS led our Mother's Day Service in school. Well done to all the children in EYFS, you led our prayers and celebration beautifully. (See page 2) Read about Year 5's visit to St. Patrick's for their Lenten Service on page 2.

A word from Pope Francis ... "If we do not listen to the voice of the Lord, our hearts become like soil without water. This is what the Lord says: "Harden not your hearts" ."

Dear Parents/Guardians

2nd April 2019

What a busy Spring term 2 we have had so far! We have lots to look forward to in our final two weeks as we head towards the Easter holidays. Please make sure you keep an eye on the websites/twitter for updates and news about what our wonderful children are doing in school.

Mental Health workshop for parents

Just a reminder that we are hosting a 'Mental Health workshop' for parents tomorrow (Tuesday 2nd April) at 2pm.

Term dates

Just to remind that children break up for the Easter holidays on **Friday 12th April 2019** at **1:30pm**— there will be no after-school club. All children return to school on Monday 29th April 2019. The date for the end of the Academic Year 2018-2019 has also been moved to **Friday 19th July 2019**. Children will be finishing at **1:30pm**.

Thank you for your continued support and cooperation,
Mrs Cox (Deputy Headteacher)

Thought for the week

The minute you think of giving up, think of the reason why you held on so long.

Attendance

Whole school attendance
3rd Sept to 29th March
2019

Year	%
Nursery	89.98% ↓
Reception	96.10% ↑
1	96.15% ↑
2	95.50% ↑
3	97.28% ↓
4	93.37% ↑
5	96.45% ↑
6	96.32% ↓

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

25th-29th March 2019

Year	%
Nursery	96.84% ↓
Reception	95.77% ↓
1	99.31% ↑
2	96.25% ↓
3	96% ↓
4	98% ↑
5	98.71% ↑
6	99.31% ↑

Congratulations to both Year 1 & 6 with 99.31% Attendance

Whole School Attendance from 25th-29th March is **97.59%** ↓

School Attendance from 3rd Sept to 29th March 2019 is **95.71%** ↑

The expectation is at least 96%.

Please ensure your child attends school unless they are too unwell to do so.

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.



EYFS SERVICE

The EYFS Service took place on Thursday. We received some lovely comments from Parents and Grandparents who were amazed at how much the children's confidence has grown. It was a lovely opportunity for the children to lead us in prayer and song and they certainly brought a tear or two to the eyes of the mums and staff in the audience! Thank you to the Parents/Grandparents who filled in an evaluation sheet- your comments are appreciated!

"Lovely service! Thank you to all the staff for letting all the mommy's have a special treat for Mothers day! Well done children, fantastic!" (Lacey & Ollie's Mum)

"The service was fantastic, emotional as well to see the Children perform in front of people. I am so happy to see my child perform in front of people as she was so shy before" (Tanisha's Mum)

"Absolutely fantastic, the most heart melting service I have seen. All children were incredible. A memory I will treasure! Thank you children and teachers- another amazing job!" (Hallie & Georgie's Mum)

Y5's Lenten Service at St. Patrick's

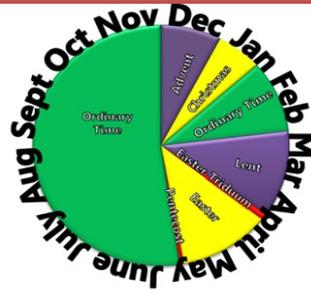
Last week, the Year 5 children attended a Lenten Service for the schools in the Walsall Catholic Cluster. It was a very thoughtful service focussing on Jesus' journey to the Cross. This service was a nice addition to the work the children are doing in class regarding the season of Lent and events of Holy Week.

Some students were chosen to read and all participated in the singing during the service. Y5's behaviour was 'exemplary' so well done Year 5 for showing what fantastic students we have here at St. Francis!

We adore You O Christ, and we praise You..... Because by Your Holy Cross You have redeemed the world.

SPORTS NEWS

On Thursday 21st March, 9 children from Years 5 and 6 represented our school at a Tag Rugby tournament at St Thomas of Canterbury. They competed against 8 other schools and showed great determination and resilience throughout their games. Well done to the team for representing our school so well and thank you to the parents who provided transport!



Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee; blessed art thou among women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.



UP AND COMING SPORTS EVENTS:

If your child is involved in these events, they will be sent home with a letter to sign and return.

Y3 & 4 football festival on Thursday 11th April 2019
Dance festival on 3rd April

WATCH THIS SPACE FOR MORE DETAILS

SPREAD THE HAPPINESS



Mrs Cox & Mrs Wright are currently working towards obtaining accreditation to make our school a 'School of Happiness'. Over the next few weeks, there will be 'Happiness Challenges' set for teachers, children, parents and the wider community. Please try to get involved and if you see someone not smiling (teachers included!)- give them one of yours, they're infectious! This week is the turn of the children! Ask your child what their happiness challenge was today. Each class will be choosing a class anthem too so listen out to your child singing theirs!

Tying in with our 'Spread the Happiness', the children were asked what their favourite joke was- we had some hilarious contributions.

One that got Mrs Cox chuckling was from Poppy in Y6 'Why did the tortoise cross the road? I don't know because he isn't there yet!'



BRITISH VALUES

The whole school have also been set weekly questions on the whiteboard in the hub. These questions are based on 'British Values' assemblies that have been held on a Monday morning.

Details of the British Values and how we are tying them into our school 'Values & Virtues' will be sent home in the coming weeks.

Last week we focused on **Resilience** and ways we could build our own resilience including: asking for help, trying and trying again and not giving up, staying calm, being thankful, believing in ourselves, laughing and finding the bright side and most importantly working hard and remembering that our best is **always** good enough.

One of the questions the children were asked included: 'What have you to be thankful for?' We had some lovely responses including 'chicken nuggets!' Snippets of the boards have been featured on our Twitter page.

This week we have looked at **Tolerance**: the ability to get on with each other and respect each other regardless of race, religion, opinions and differences. We have explored how our differences should be celebrated and how and what we can learn from each other.

What can you do to show tolerance to others?



Democracy Law Liberty Respect Tolerance

Our Values Tree

'A tree is known by its fruit'

Matthew 12.33

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.](#)

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.

Year 3 & 4 production:

'Here Comes Jesus!'

We look forward to welcoming you to the Year 3 & 4 production 'Here Comes Jesus!' which takes place on Tuesday 9th April 2019 at 2pm and Wednesday 10th April 2019 at 9:30am. Tickets are available for £1 each but are limited to two per child. Tickets are on sale from the office now but please be aware that they go on general sale on Monday 8th April 2019. The children and staff have been working really hard so if you haven't already, get yourself a ticket, grab your palm leaves and join us to see the story of Easter with a few hand jives along the way!

PRAYER BAG PRAYER:

written by Kimi in Y6

Dear Heavenly Father,

Help us to be more like

Jesus in this time of Lent.

Give us the strength to help people around the world.

Pray for us now and forever,

Amen.



Lenten Fundraising

We are in our final week of our Lenten fundraising and want to thank you all for the support so far. Please see below for how the fundraising has gone over the past 3 weeks and look for the Lenten fundraising events for this coming week.

- **WEEK ONE: Week beginning 11th March 2019:**

CHARITY: Black Country Foodbank.

Year 1 & 2 were leading the 'Lent 80 Can Challenge' - 53 cans were collected and sent to the Black Country Foodbank - thanks to those who contributed.

- **WEEK TWO: Week beginning 18th March 2019:**

CHARITY: 'Lyttle Moments' (Isabella Lyttle's Charity)

We raised a staggering £276 for Isabella and she sent us a lovely message via our Twitter page:

LyttleFight @LyttleFight

@LittleStFrancis Sending a massive thanks to you all for raising such a wonderful amount of money for Isabella's lyttle moments to allow her to have little treats as and when her treatment allows.

You are all such special people and Isabella misses you all so much ❤️

- **WEEK THREE: Week beginning 25th March 2019:**

CHARITY: CAFOD

The crisp and cake sale went well and the items went flying off the shelf. £125 was raised and the display showing all those who contributed is looking fabulous in our school hall. There are more fish to be added so keep an eye out for our growing display.



- **WEEK FOUR: Week beginning 1st April 2019:**

CHARITY: Father Hudson's

This week - bring in your 1p and 2p coins to take part in the 'Copper Challenge' - which class can make the longest line using the change they have collected?

Also, there will be an Easter egg rolling competition on Friday 5th April 2019 - bring your 10p coins to see who can roll their 10p the closest to the Easter Egg prize. The winner wins the Easter egg.

Finally...

Happy Mother's day to all the Mums, Grandmothers, Foster Mums, Step-mums, Mother figures, mothers-to-be, Aunties and to all the men who are doing the mother and father jobs too.

I hope you all had a wonderful day!

