



# St. Francis Catholic Primary School

# Newsletter



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26th October 2018

## 'I am a sign of God's love'

### CATHOLIC LIFE

This week the children have been celebrating Black History Month. We have celebrated the fact that we are all made in the image and likeness of God and are all equal regardless of the colour of our eyes, hair or skin, the clothes we wear or what we have. We have thanked God for the peacemakers and for all those who have, and still do, courageously strive for equality for all.

On 11th October, Year 1 and 2 led us in a beautiful prayer service where they shared their 'Jelly Bean Prayer' with those who joined us. (See page 2) Last week, Mass was led by Years 5 & 1 and this week our whole school Harvest Mass was led by various children from mixed year groups. They were beautiful celebrations, led confidently by our readers. It has been lovely to hear some very complimentary comments regarding the singing and to see so many of you joining us.

A word from Pope Francis ... "When we listen to the Word of God, we obtain the courage and perseverance to offer the best of ourselves to others"

Dear Parents/Guardians

26th October 2018

The first half term of the academic year has come to an end and after all the hard work and learning that has taken place, I think everyone is in need of the break! We have had a hugely successful half term and made a great start to the new year. All of the children have settled into their new classes and I know that all of the staff are very pleased with their classes and the progress they have made and work they have completed so far. Please check the dates and information and speak to the office if you need anything clarifying.

### Questionnaires

Thank you to all those who completed a questionnaire during our parents evening on Wednesday. They will be analysed over the half term and the findings will be shared with you on our return. A few parents made reference to the fact that our new school website is still not up and running. We apologise! As a staff we are as eager to see it as you are as parents. However, the delay is out of our hands as we are waiting for our web developer to make the site 'live'. Fingers crossed it will be up and running for the start of the new half term. The old site is still available should you need to access items e.g. newsletters, policies, parent information etc. Another item that was mentioned was the communication between school and parents. We try to update you with information via letter or text. We have had mixed feedback regarding our newsletters as it seems a large number of parents do not read it (or receive it). We ensure that every child receives a paper copy of the newsletter so please check book bags for letters sent home. We are working on other forms of communication so please bare with us! (See page 4)

### Staff news

We welcome Miss Chesterton & Mr O'Toole, who will be working in Y2. We hope you will give them a warm St. Francis welcome.

### Medical Appointments

Just a polite reminder, if your child has a medical appointment during the school day, the office staff will need to see proof of that appointment. Failure to provide proof will result in your child receiving an unauthorised absence mark which is then monitored weekly by our EWO.

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 26th October  
2018

Year	%
Nursery	90.48% ↑
Reception	96% ↑
1	96% ↓
2	96.11% ↑
3	98% ↓
4	93.83% ↑
5	95.55% ↑
6	95.24% ↓

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

22nd to 26th October 2018

Year	%
Nursery	91.18 ↑
Reception	86.5 ↓
1	98.33 ↓
2	93.94 ↑
3	99.24 ↑
4	91.85 ↑
5	97.98 ↓
6	88.33 ↓

**Congratulations to Year 3 with 99.24% Attendance this week!**

Whole School Attendance from 22nd October—26th October is 93.27%

School Attendance from 3rd Sept to 26th October 2018 is 95.75%

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 '**Compassionate & Loving**'

Pupils, Families and staff at St Francis are growing to be: **Compassionate** towards others, near and far, especially the less fortunate; and **loving** by our actions and forgiving words.



### The Daily Mile

The Daily Mile has been a massive success amongst the children and the staff over the past half term. This new initiative is to increase physical activity amongst our children which goes towards the Government requirement of 30 minutes of physical activity per day. We have worked out that since starting the Daily Mile, the children have clocked up approximately 5,628 miles between them! Well done to all who have been taking part.

"I like it because it is good to exercise and you can have fun."- Xander, Year 1

"It's fun to run around. I like it because you can talk to your friends while you're doing it."- Lola, Year 4

"I think it's really good because it's a way to get us working out a bit more than we normally would. It's also nice to help the younger children around."- Ruby, Year 6

In total, this half term, we have run

**5,628** miles

Which is an equivalent of running from **Mill Road to Acapulco, Mexico!**



### Jelly Bean Prayer- courtesy of Y1 & Y2

- Red** is for the blood He gave.
- Green** is for the grass He made.
- Yellow** is for the sun so bright.
- Orange** is for the edge of night.
- Blue** is for the sins we made.
- White** is for the grace He gave.
- Purple** is for His hour of sorrow.
- Pink** is for our new tomorrow.

## Harvest donations:

Thank you to all those who contributed to our Harvest collection. We had a massive amount of food products donated which were shared between three very different and worthwhile charities: The Glebe Centre, Walsall (a multifunctional hub where a variety of services serve vulnerable adults in Walsall, including the homeless) The Thomas Project, Aldridge (a local food bank) and St Chad's Sanctuary, Birmingham (a place of welcome for Asylum Seekers and Refugees.) We also sent four Harvest packages to names given in to the office. Thank you to our Charity Committee Representatives Brian & Poppy, Katie, Mr Turner & Mrs Windridge for transporting the items to the three charities. Well done to Year 3 who won the competition set for the most amount of Harvest items donated.

Also, our Mufti on Friday was to support CAFOD and a wonderful amount of £172.80 was raised. Thank you all for your support and generosity- you have made a difference!



## Prayer of the month:

### **Hail Mary**

**Hail Mary, full of grace.  
The Lord is with thee.  
Blessed art thou amongst  
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.**



## Nursery's Scarecrow Festival

This week in Nursery, as part of their harvest activities, the children have been learning the Nursery Rhyme 'Dingle Dangle Scarecrow'. At home they have made scarecrows ready for their Scarecrow Festival. There have been some fab-u-lous Scarecrows that have scared a few members of staff as well as the birds! Well done Nursery and Nursery Parents!



**stalls**

St Francis Catholic Primary School  
invite you to join us for our  
**Christmas Fayre**

**£1 entry**

**refreshments**

**Thursday 20th December 2018**

**face painting**

from

**3:30pm-5pm**

**raffles**



## 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 5th Nov 2018:** *Back to school—Autumn term 2*

**Thursday 8th Nov 2018:** *Mass of Commitment for Y3 & Y6 in Church— all welcome.*

**Week beginning Monday 12th November 2018:** *Anti-Bullying Week*

**Tuesday 13th Nov 2018:** *Open Day for Prospective Reception Parents*

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

**Monday 19th November 2018:** *Y1 & Y2 Fire Safety Talk*

**Thursday 22nd November 2018:** *Mass in Church— 9:15am led by Y4 & Y2*

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

**Wednesday 5th December-Friday 7th December:** *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— details to follow.*

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

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

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

**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.*

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



## Parents Evening

Wednesday's parents evening was a great success. On behalf of all the staff at St Francis Catholic Primary School, may I offer a huge thank you to all parents attending and supporting staff in their endeavour to educate all pupils in all areas of the curriculum. With parents working closely alongside staff, our pupils will enjoy an exciting, successful year ahead of them! It was also lovely to hear so many positive comments about the food taster provided by Dolce.



## 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. Any parents misusing the network will be blocked.

## Finally...

The Governors and all the Staff at St. Francis Catholic Primary School wish you and your family a very happy and safe half term holiday and look forward to welcoming you back on Monday 5th November 2018.

