



# St. Francis Catholic Primary School

# Newsletter



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21st December 2018

[www.st-francis-p.walsall.sch.uk](http://www.st-francis-p.walsall.sch.uk)

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

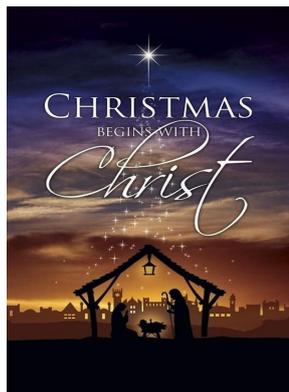
### CATHOLIC LIFE

All children have enjoyed taking part in either a Nativity play or Christmas Carol concert which were attended by parents and relatives. Feedback on the evaluations was very positive and we are glad you enjoyed them. All of the children were fantastic and I would like to express my thanks to all the staff for ensuring a hugely successful couple of weeks and consolidating the real meaning of Christmas to all.

We keep in our thoughts and prayers all those who have died recently or who are poorly at this time.

We celebrating our Whole School Christmas Mass this morning to remind us of Christ at the Centre.

We hope you all have a very happy and holy Christmas.



Dear Parents,

As we come to the end of another term, we look back on the very successful year we have had here at St. Francis.

We thank you for your continued support in making St. Francis a great school. The success was witnessed first hand when we finished as the 3rd best school in Walsall for our results last year. Testament to the wonderful children, staff and Governors we have here at St. Francis.

From next term, we will be giving out golden star stamps to children who are following the expectations of the school, including reading, presentation, behaviour etc.

School opens for children on Tuesday 8th January 2019 as we look forward to another successful term at our school.

Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year!

Miss Richards & Mrs Cox

# THANK YOU!

We say thank you and goodbye to Mr O'Toole who has come to the end of his final placement in Year 2 and heads back to University after Christmas to finish his teaching course. Mr O'Toole has settled into the St. Francis culture well and became part of the team very quickly. We will be sad to see him go and hope that, after he has finished his course, he will come back to see us.

good bye



# Attendance

Class Attendance  
17/12/18– 20/12/18

Year	%
Nursery	90.8 
Reception	96.2 
1	95.8 
2	93.0 
3	96.5 
4	91.7 
5	98.4 
6	92.1 

**Congratulations to Year 5 with 98.4% Attendance this week!**

Whole School Attendance from 3rd September 2018– 20th December 2018 is **95.2%**

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.



It was wonderful to give out 61 certificates to children from Nursery to Year 6 in assembly this week as they achieved 100% attendance for the Autumn term!  
Well done to all those children!

We look forward to seeing if we can beat that figure when we give out attendance certificates at the end of the Spring term.



## 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.



#### Santa visits St Francis

We have had a very special visitor this week in Nursery, Reception, Year 1 & Year 2. Santa arrived and delivered presents and the children spent a long time explaining in depth what was on their Christmas lists! Santa explained that all the children (& staff) at St. Francis Catholic Primary School were on the 'nice' list!



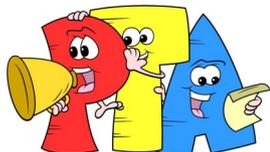
#### Gold Star Stamp awards for reading

During our final assembly of the term, we were able to award 36 children with a 'Gold Star Stamp Award' certificate and golden ticket which they were able to exchange for a book of their choice. These were awarded to children who have read every day and had their homework diaries signed by an adult to show they have also been reading at home. Silver awards were also awarded to those who were nearly there. The focus for next term is changing and is detailed on the front page, a letter will also be sent out in the new year. Let's see how many we can award next term.



## Christmas Fayre

Our Christmas Fayre took place on Thursday 20th December and was a fantastic and well-supported event. A big 'THANK YOU' to our amazing PTA and all the helpers including staff and children for ensuring this was so successful and ran so smoothly. Thanks also goes to all those who attended. There were prizes galore and a visit from Santa which ensured there were lots of happy faces around the hall and Hub. At present the money is still being counted but we'll let you know as soon as the figure has been finalised. All money raised will go towards funding activities and initiatives within school.



Please continue to support our PTA who work so hard to raise money for our children. If you are interested in joining the PTA, or would like more information, then leave your name and telephone number at the school office and Mrs J. Moseley will be in touch.

## Ambassadors of the Mayor

We received a lovely letter on Thursday morning informing us that the applications of two of our Y6 girls, Kadey & Poppy, were successful and as a result, they have been chosen as 'Ambassadors for the Mayor'. The young ladies have been invited to attend the Mayor's Parlour in January to meet with the Mayor and the Mayoress to discuss the Ambassadors Project in more detail. We are immensely proud of these students and they thoroughly deserve this role after displaying and carrying out such thoughtful initiatives for the wellbeing of other pupils in our school. Well done both- we look forward to seeing how you grow in your new roles!



## CHOIR FOR CONFIRMATION—

23RD JANUARY 2019

Children in Years 3, 4 & 5 are needed to sing as part of the choir at the Confirmation Mass on Wednesday 23rd January 2019 at 6pm.



Permission and attendance slips are available from the office. This is a wonderful celebration made even more special by our lovely choir. Thank you to those who have already offered to come and sing!

## KS2 Christmas Carol Service 2018

The KS2 Christmas Carol Service took place on Tuesday this week and to say it was beautiful was an understatement. The children yet again did us proud and their singing, acting and reading was phenomenal! The children gave the choir of Angels a run for their money! Thank you to all the staff and children involved in making it such a beautiful event. Thank you to all those who came to support, who joined in with the singing and who sent back evaluations.

"Oh WOW! A beautiful, reflective production. Very engaging and joyous. Well done everyone at St Francis!" (Mr Shelley)

"What can we say? Absolutely beautiful! Could have listened to the children singing all day!" (Mr & Mrs Gwilt)

"Very enjoyable and lovely carol service. The children looked like they enjoyed the service. Loved getting involved. Well done!" (Mr Parsons)

"Great Carol service. Great way to get you in the Christmas mood" (Alfie & Harry's Mum)

"Outstanding as usual. Exceptional/perfect. Best ever. Well done all!" (Nan Plum)



## Dates for your Diary



### Friday 21st December 2018:

MUFTI DAY

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 2019:** INSET day.

**Tuesday 8th January 2019:** Children return to school for the Spring Term.

**Tuesday 15th January 2019:**

Meeting for ALL Y5 parents at 6pm re: Alton Castle, Sex ed, Confirmation & SATs (letters to follow)

**Thursday 17th January 2019:**

Reconciliation meeting for ALL Y3 parents (letters to follow)

**Wednesday 23rd January 2019:** Year 6 Confirmation at 7pm in Church.

**Monday 28th January-Friday 1st February 2019:** Vocations Week (Friday 1st February is a dressing up day— details will follow)

**Tuesday 5th February 2019**

Internet Safety Day

**Thursday 14th February 2019**

Y5 & Y6 Parent and Children workshop— 1pm in school hall. (details to follow)

**Friday 15th February 2019**

1pm—Y3 Reconciliation

**Monday 18th February—Friday 22nd February 2019**

Half term—School Closed



The intentions this week are taken from our KS2 Christmas Carol Service.

Over the Christmas period we pray for:

all messengers

all mothers and fathers

all those who will be travelling

all those people in our world who are being treated unfairly, right now.

all those who are homeless.

all those who will be working

all those who are on a difficult journey through life. They may be cold, alone, tired. Help them Lord, to be like Mary and Joseph and not give up.

We pray for ourselves. Help us to do God's will.

We make these prayers through Christ our Lord

Amen

Monday 24th Dec	<u>Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord</u> Carols at 6:30pm followed by Christmas Mass during the Night at 7pm
Tuesday 25th Dec	Christmas Day Mass at 10am
Wednesday 26th Dec	<u>Feast of St Stephen</u> Mass of St Stephen at 11am (Patron of Altar Servers)
Saturday 29th Dec	<u>Feast of the Holy Family</u> Mass at 7pm
Sunday 30th Dec	Mass at 11am
Tuesday 1st January	<u>Solemnity of Mary Mother of God</u> Mass at 11am
Saturday 5th January	<u>Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord</u> Mass at 7pm
Sunday 6th January	Mass at 11am
Saturday 12th January	<u>Feast of the Baptism of the Lord</u> Mass at 7pm
Sunday 13th January	Mass at 11am



Please see the table →  
For the list of Mass times over the Christmas period at St Francis of Assisi Church, Sheffield