



# St. Francis Catholic Primary School

## September Newsletter



E-Mail - [postbox@st-francis-p.walsall.sch.uk](mailto:postbox@st-francis-p.walsall.sch.uk)

[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

Going back to school after the summer holidays can feel like a very busy and often stressful time for many families. It's a time of new beginnings: new classrooms, new teachers, new lessons, new schools, new uniform...the list goes on. But this year, school will feel even more different with a 'new normal' after the extended period of school closures. With new start times and new year group bubbles, there will be a lot of 'new' things for children and parents to get used to.

In September every year, we take time to refocus on Jesus - the reason for doing what we do. We are asked to accept the invitation from Jesus to follow Him through everything known and unknown that the year will bring. This seems more pertinent than ever this year, and we ask our Lord to be with us as we continue on our journey to make St. Francis an excellent school.

Over the coming week we will be sharing the following meditation exercise with the children.

<https://www.tentenresources.co.uk/parent-newsletter/> If you would like to share a classroom activity with your child/ren at home.

Dear Jesus,  
We don't know all that this year holds, but you do.  
Help us with our schoolwork and our friendships.  
Help us remember that you are with us in the good times and the bad.  
Amen



### Farewell

During lock-down Mrs Bush made the decision to take early retirement in order to be able to spend time with her family.

We thank Mrs Bush for her dedication and commitment to our school and wish her every success in her future endeavours.

Mrs Bush will be invited in when we are allowed to gather in more numbers for her leaving assembly and Mass.

We look forward to seeing her in the not so distant future.



### Welcome

We welcome to St. Francis Mrs Howell, who is now a permanent member of staff at school and will be teaching the children of Year 3.

We also welcome back Mrs Haywood who will be covering various year groups and Mrs Lane, who will be mainly based in Year 1.

We welcome Mrs Griffiths and Mrs Desai who will mainly be working with Year 3 and 4 over the coming term.

We welcome Mrs Dardis, who will be working in our front office and Mrs Aston who will be covering in various classes.



### **Dates for the Diary**

Due to Covid 19 restrictions we are unable to invite parents in for assemblies/ services until further notice.

We are in discussions with Fr Malcolm as to the best way forward regarding attending Mass.

If you require any information regarding visiting school for appointments etc please call the school office on 01922 682583 or email [postbox@st-francis-p.walsall.sch.uk](mailto:postbox@st-francis-p.walsall.sch.uk)

You will be asked to inform us of your concern briefly and then we will direct it to the correct person who will contact you to arrange an appointment over the phone or face to face. If a meeting is set up face to face, a face covering must be worn and a meeting will last no longer than 15 minutes.

If your child forgets something, please do not turn up at school unannounced. We must ensure we adhere to our risk assessment at all times.

### **Thank you...**

...to you all for observing the new restrictions around school  
...for working with us as we try and get used to the new 'normal'  
...for your suggestions on how we can improve our arrangements  
... to our amazing children who have come back to school with an amazing attitude to learning

### **Please remember...**

...to socially distance when standing outside the gates  
...to wear a mask unless you are exempt from doing so



### **Teacher Days**

The next Teacher Day will be on Monday January 4<sup>th</sup> 2020.

Children will return to school from their Christmas holiday on Tuesday January 5<sup>th</sup> 2020.

### **Year 6- Alton Castle Visit**

One of the first questions our Year 6 children asked when returning to school was whether they would be visiting Alton Castle this year.

We are booked in and we have been in constant touch with Alton Castle over the last six months regarding safety measures on site. Mr Turner has put a questionnaire regarding the visit to Alton Castle online to which most parents have responded, so thank you. If you have not responded, we will send the text out again with the link for you to open and answer the questionnaire.

Once we have an idea of numbers interested we will be able to make an informed decision as to whether the trip can go ahead or not.

The dates that we are planning on visiting Alton Castle are Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> December - Friday 4<sup>th</sup> December 2020.

### **Online Safety**

A polite safeguarding reminder:

Most online social media sites have an age limit that is above primary school age.

Please ensure your child is not on these sites.



## Class Dojo

### Years 1 – 6

Your class teachers will be inviting you to join Class Dojo soon.

**PLEASE SIGN UP FOR THIS AS ALL HOMEWORK WILL BE SET ON THIS PLATFORM.**

EYFS children will continue to use Tapestry.



## Welcome!

It is lovely to see all of the children back in, whether new or not and beautiful to see so many happy faces coming through the gates in the morning.

We have welcomed eighteen children since lockdown week, with thirteen of them joining us since September.

All have settled in very well and are very welcome to St. Francis.

We ask that you remind your children regularly about the need to socially distance and to wash/ sanitise their hands frequently.



## Equipment Required in School

At the moment children only need to bring in their lunch (if needed) and a coat. They do not need to bring a bag into school and on the days when they have P.E. they can come into school wearing their kit.

We ask for as little as possible to be brought into school to further limit any risk of infection.

## Coughs and Colds

Most of our children have not been in school for six months and since coming back there are a lot of colds and coughs going around.

If your child has a new continuous cough, a high temperature or a loss of smell and taste, please call 111 for advice and book them in for a Covid test ASAP. If the results come back negative, they are allowed back into school straight away.

## Feast of St. Francis celebrations

The feast of St. Francis is on 4<sup>th</sup> October, which falls on a Sunday this year. We will be celebrating our Patron Saint's feast day on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> October as this coincides with a themed lunch day and fits in with some of the restricted celebrations we can fit in with our diary. On this day, all children will be completing some work during the day based on St. Francis of Assisi. This will be a non-uniform day for all but please ensure children are dressed appropriately for their age. The children will hopefully be able to have a slot to visit our Church during the day within their bubble.



### UNIFORM

Please remember the Governors' expectations of uniform and presentation at St. Francis.

A proper school shirt and tie must be worn by all children from Reception to Year 6.

Trainers or boots of any description are not allowed with the formal school uniform, black sensible school shoes must be worn at all times unless the children have their P.E. kits on and only then should trainers be worn.

We have a P.E. kit of a white round neck t-shirt or white polo shirt and navy sports shorts and black plimsoll pumps, (trainers during Covid restrictions)

On P.E. days children must wear their kit and can wear navy, black or grey tracksuit bottoms over their shorts. Their school jumper should be worn on these days.

We do not accept any extreme hairstyles of any description at all.

Earrings should be small studs only. Please see our website for further details.

### P.E Timetable for Years 1 – 6

Year 1 - Wednesday & Thursday

Year 2 – Monday & Wednesday

Year 3 – Tuesday & Friday

Year 4 – Wednesday & Thursday

Year 5 – Monday & Friday

Year 6 – Wednesday & Friday



Thank you for all your support in making St. Francis a great school.

Yours sincerely

*Miss Richards*

Miss D Richards  
Headteacher

