



St. Francis Catholic Primary School



Newsletter

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

'I am a sign of God's Love.'

Catholic Life

Hidden Treasure Like many people today, Jesus faced rejection. From His friend Judas who betrayed Him, from the religious leaders who didn't like His teachings and from the crowd who called for His death over the murderer Barabbas.

During the month of October, we will be sharing a film with children which highlights that even in people who seem to be rejected by society, we can find hidden treasure.

Watch the film with your children: www.tentenresources.co.uk/parent-newsletter/

In the film, 'Hidden Treasure', the people who rejected the gift from the homeless man missed out on the most delicious fruit, just like many people missed out on recognising Jesus' true identity as the Son of God when He was on earth.

Children will hear that sometimes we don't recognise the value in others, simply because they are different from us. We might turn away from them, causing them to be rejected or excluded.

Sometimes we may want to welcome the weak or the vulnerable, perhaps because we feel sorry for them, or we think we may be in their position someday and imagine what it would be like if we were them.

These are not bad reasons to show compassion and kindness, but we hear that Jesus offers a greater reason to treat vulnerable people as our brothers and sisters: because **Jesus is living in them, just as He is living in us.**

Why not take a moment to discuss with your child how you might reach out to the vulnerable in your community?

October- Month of the Rosary

Week beginning Monday 19th October all children took part in 'One million children praying the Rosary'.

It was a lovely way of celebrating the beautiful Prayer of the Rosary.



Harvest Festival

Unfortunately due to the pandemic, we have been unable to celebrate the Harvest Festival in our usual way and celebrate Mass as a community.

We have however, still collected Harvest products and sent them out to The Thomas Project in Aldridge, which is a local food bank.

Thank you to all our children, parents and staff for being signs of God's love and donating to our Harvest. The Thomas Project were very grateful to receive all of our donations.



A HUGE THANK YOU to all the staff at St. Francis who have worked relentlessly during the pandemic, to ensure the children at St. Francis receive the very best care, attention and education. I am very lucky to have such a committed team around me and I feel very blessed and honoured to lead such a fantastic team.

Thank you to each and every one of them.



A big thank
you to all
the staff



Dates for the Diary

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

It is great that we have been able to arrange Class Masses every Thursday morning. At the present moment it is a closed Mass with only children, staff and Fr Malcolm, in attendance. We are very grateful to Fr, for continuing to help us to build on the spiritual development of our children.

Please note, in Walsall we are currently in Tier 2 of the Covid 19 criteria, we request that you keep visits to the school as limited as possible.

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

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 required. 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.



Teacher Days

The next Teacher Day will be on Monday January 4th 2020.

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

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.

Flu Vaccination

Please note, we will not be allowing NHS nurses into school under the present circumstances to administer flu vaccinations to our children. At the moment we do not have the capacity to accommodate several nurses and this would mean crossing bubbles which is totally against our risk assessment. Once we feel that we can accommodate them, we will but at the moment Governors are ensuring the safety of all children and staff in school.

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/ Google Classroom

Years 1 – 6

We are now set up to deliver remote lessons should there be a need to lock-down again.

Some classes will continue to use Class Dojo while the others will be transferring their learning over to the Google Classroom Platform. Your class teachers will be in touch after half term.

Thank you to Year 6 who have been trialling Google Classroom for a couple of weeks. There has been great feedback.

EYFS

EYFS will continue to use Tapestry as part of their remote learning.

Dropping off and Collection of children.

We will continue with our dropping off and collection procedures after half term but please note that both gates will be closed at 8:55am every morning after half term.

If your child is late you will need to use the side gate off the Church car park after 9:00am.

Please do not come onto the premises when dropping your child off, the entrances must be kept clear for other children to walk into school.

We are in Tier 2 of the Covid 19 criteria- please adhere to social distancing at all times and encourage your children to do this too.

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.

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.

Smart uniform and appearance are very important in our school as this provides our pupils with a corporate identity, encouraging pride in appearance, allowing for positive community recognition and developing good habits for life in the future.

We accept that fashion changes and new styles have become very popular in retail outlets. However, as a school we do not change our uniform code to adhere to fashion, instead we expect pupils, under the guidance of their parents or carers, to meet our expectations, and wear correct uniform.



Thank you to all parents who are adhering to the new Covid 19 risk assessment. It is new to us all and we do appreciate your continued support and cooperation.

Famous People from Multi-Cultures Week

This week every class has celebrated various famous people from different cultures. There has been an emphasis on the fact we are all different and made in the image and likeness of God.

Here are just some of the famous people our children have focussed on this week.

Year 6- Peter Henlein- a German craftsman who was the first to make small ornamental watches.

Raman Parimala- female Indian Mathematician who was a Professor known for her contribution to the study of algebra.

The Greatest Showman- children discussed differences and acceptance.

Year 5- Stephanie Kwolek- Famous Chemist who was Polish American and invented Kevlar.

Mary Seacole- Crimean War Nurse who was from Jamaica.

Year 4-Giuseppe Mercalli – a Catholic Priest who developed an earthquake intensity scale.

Benjamin Zephaniah- famous writer and poet, born in Handsworth, Birmingham.

Year 3-Rose Ann Tahe- a Native American Poet

Year 2- Mary Kom- an Olympian boxer from India. She was told she was 'too tiny' to train but she persevered and won lots of medals during her career.

John McAdam – created new road surfaces by mixing different materials together to make tarmac.

Year 1- Mae Jemison- a scientist, doctor, teacher, inventor and astronaut. She was the first black woman to go to Space.

EYFS-Edward Tingatinga- from Tanzania and created the 'Tingatinga' style of painting.

We have very much enjoyed our multi-cultural week and loved learning about famous people from different backgrounds and cultures.

We have learnt that we are all equal, no matter our colour, religion, gender or differences.

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

Yours sincerely

Miss Richards

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