



St. Francis Catholic Primary School November/December



Newsletter

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

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

Catholic Life

We celebrated our first week of Advent Mass on Sunday 29th November where the first candle on the Advent wreath was lit. This represents 'Hope' as we prepare for the coming of Jesus, we are asked to 'Stay awake. For the Lord is coming!'

Be Prepared

Advent provides a reminder for us all to make space in our hearts for Jesus: both the celebration of His birth at Christmas, and the joy with which we can look forward to His return.

December of course also marks the end of the calendar year – a year which has had more unexpected upheaval and loss than many of us, adults and children alike have experienced before. Therefore, it is more important than ever for us to make space in our busy, disrupted lives to put Jesus at the centre this Advent and Christmastide.



We would like to wish you all a very happy Advent and look forward to many school based activities around Advent on the lead up to Christmas.



Our children have been busy preparing their classroom Advent doors this week and we all looked a 'picture of purple' on Tuesday to celebrate the beginning of Advent.



Reception Class September 2021



One of the best ways to get to know a school is to visit. Unfortunately, due to Covid-19 restrictions we are unable to host visits to the school at this current time. We are however delighted to be able to share with you a virtual tour video that we have filmed of the school's early year.

Please click on the links below to watch our virtual tour:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kwmO-VrBVtc&feature=youtu.be>

A very warm welcome awaits your child/ren at St Francis Catholic Primary, where they can foster their love of learning in a warm, friendly setting, where our mission is to promote,

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

We teach that Christ is at the centre of all that we do and follow the values and virtues based on the teachings of the Gospel.

We hope the tour and video gives you some insight into life at St Francis and the fun that awaits your child/ren.

If you are looking at entry for Reception in September 2021 Walsall Council online applications are open from 5th November 2020 until 15th January 2021 via:

https://go.walsall.gov.uk/primary_school_admissions

We do hope you'll join us and look forward to welcoming you to our amazing school!

Home Time



If regular arrangements are made for someone other than yourself to collect you child/ren from school please put this in writing so we can attach this to our system. Any ad hoc arrangements should be notified to the school office as soon as possible on the day.

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.





Christmas Cards

Unfortunately, this year we have to say children cannot bring individual Christmas cards into school. They can however bring one card for the whole class! Please ensure it is in school by Friday 11th December to allow for 72 hours quarantine. This will then be shared with their class during the last week on term. If you would like to donate the monies not spent on cards to our

Christmas charity please send a donation into the office, clearly labelled.

Jolly Jumper Day

This year's Jolly Jumper Mufti Day will take place on Wednesday 16th December. Children are allowed to wear their own clothes and the Jolliest Jumper possible! £1 donations are to be sent to school in a clearly labelled envelope. The money raised will be in aid of our Christmas Charity. This year we are supporting a local charity which helps premature babies and their families.

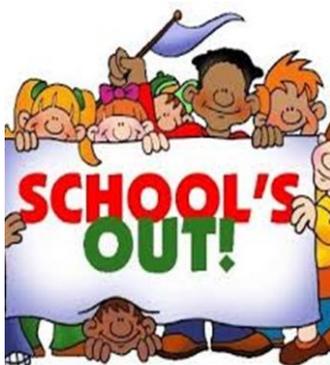


Nativity 2020



2020 will probably be remembered for all the things that were new and different; social distancing, face coverings, 5pm briefings, self-isolation and the list goes on. However, the children of St Francis will still be able to celebrate the Nativity of Jesus, even though it may have to be done a little differently. Activities will be taking place during the last week of term ensuring that as well as understanding the meaning of

the Christmas season, children will have the opportunity to come together to enjoy and rejoice in the birth of Christ.



School will close to pupils and staff at 1:30pm on Friday 18th December for the Christmas holiday. Please see below collection times:

Reception	1:15pm	Mill Road		
Families A-M	1:20pm	Mill Road	Years 2,4,6	Four Crosses Road 1:20pm
Families N-W	1:25pm	Mill Road	Years 1,3,5	Four Crosses Road 1:25pm



PARKING

Yet again we have to mention parking. We are receiving more and more complaints from members of our community and the general public regarding parking issues. Please **DO NOT** park on pavements, over drives or in any way that will endanger our children or anyone else.

What did you do at school today?

Children at St Francis Primary School have been very busy lately! November began with the children remembering all those who have died with the feasts of All Saints and All Souls followed on the 11th November with remembering those who fought and died in war. They have been decorating their Advent doors and lighting the first candle on our Advent Wreath and are now looking forward the all the joys Advent and Christmas time bring.



In the classrooms:

Year 6 have been studying Macbeth in English (even outside!), tackled fractions in maths, made pencil cases and begun researching Saints in preparation for their Confirmation journey!

Year 5 have been learning Spanish to help out at the supermarket and have thought about their God-given talents and who God is calling them to be.

Year 4 had fun acting out scenes from Mary Poppins and really enjoyed hearing the parable of the Three Servants. They have also discussed all the ways of praying.

Year 3 have been studying Forces and Magnets in science and talked about how they would feel if they heard God speak like Samuel did

Year 2 have been thinking about what God is calling them to do and watched a presentation about anti-bullying as part of anti-bullying week. They loved reading Vlad and the Great Fire of London and in maths learnt all about money and identifying coins.

Year 1 have helped Zibb stay safe on the internet and had fun exploring materials in science whilst learning all about 3D shapes. They also learnt about Jesus' first miracle.

EYFS made beautiful firework displays and had great fun with salt dough. They were very relieved when Supertato sorted out the Evil Pea!



Children will return to school from their Christmas holiday on Tuesday January 5th 2020. Entrance for all children will be confirmed later this half term.

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

Yours sincerely

Miss Richards

Miss D Richards
Headteacher

