



St. Francis Catholic Primary School



Newsletter 5

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

Catholic Life

Our theme for Lent this year is 'Pray, Stop, Go', where children commit to make their prayer life richer, to stop doing some things which in turn will free them to go out to others with acts of service. We will learn about when Jesus was in the temple, angry about the unjust behaviour and practice of the money lenders. He was moved to action, turning over the tables and casting out the dishonest traders. We will think how we can use the Lent theme of 'Pray, Stop, Go' to respond to injustice in our world, for instance homelessness.

- † PRAY – pray for the person on the street
- † STOP – give up treats to save pocket money...
- † GO – ...and give that money to a homeless charity

Why not take a moment to discuss with your child other instances of injustice in the world and how we might respond using 'Pray, Stop, Go'.

- Food banks being necessary
- Families/friends not getting along
 - Old people being lonely
- Children not being properly cared for
- Refugees having to leave their homes and not being welcome at their destination

As we move through, our eyes are fixed on the message of hope that Easter brings. May we take this opportunity to wish you and your families a Lent filled with grace and insight.

Father God,
Thank you for the grace of Lent.
Please help us in our Lent adventure to pray more.
Help us to stop doing some things so that we are free to go out to others with acts of service.
Show us how best to prepare for Easter.
Amen



What we did at school today....

Pupils have been very busy lately! Cafod did a marvellous assembly, 'Water of Life', making us think about how lucky we are to have easy access to fresh running water. Some Families have also signed up for the 'Water for Life' walk. We celebrated Candlemass, the Presentation of the Lord, and talked about hope and how to be a shining light like Jesus.



There has been lots of singing, lanterns and beautiful artwork! Lots of thought has also been put into our mental health. We have worn our favourite clothes, made happy hats, created Positive Thought Stars and focused on doing something that makes us happy every day. Year 6 were even able to find the positives in the pandemic and Year 3 looked at what helps them express themselves. Staff have also been looking after their mental health by reading, walking, baking,

spending time with animals, gardening and painting. What great ideas!

We have also celebrated Mardi Gras in preparation for Lent. We dressed in purple, green and gold and made carnival masks and necklaces. There was even a

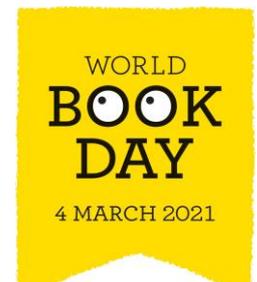


bit of carnival style dancing thanks to Mrs K! Year 1 have made wonderful posters to remind us we are in the season of Lent whilst, Year 5 are thinking about their relationship with God and how they can strengthen it. Year 2 have been busy writing beautiful prayers thinking about forgiveness and Year 4 have been learning about the 40 days and nights that Jesus spent in the desert.



World Book Day

We celebrated World Book Day on Thursday 4th March 2021 and we were so pleased to see the participation and enthusiasm from so many of you! We thoroughly enjoyed 'sharing a story' with different classes across school and participating in the



live author and illustrator events of the day.

A big thank you to WHSmith, who have enabled us to exchange your World Book Day tokens on behalf of the children. This means, on Monday morning, every child will receive a new book to take home!

Despite the unusual circumstances, we hope you had a wonderful time celebrating your love of reading and we look forward to announcing the winners of our 'Readathon' and 'Star Work' on our return to school.

Spellingframe

Key Stages One and Two have been enjoying using Spellingframe.com to practise their weekly spellings. The site has provided us with an opportunity to practise our spellings through a number of different games and styles – keep up the hard work!



We are continuing to use Getepic.com to support our reading at home. As we return to school, this resource will continue to be free to access for up to two hours a night per account holder and accounts are free to make. There are a wide range of fiction and non-fiction texts for all ages to enjoy!



Mrs Cox left St Francis at the end of last term. We wish her all the very best for her future endeavours and thank her for her years of service at St Francis.

We welcome Mrs Dardis onto our staff team at St. Francis. Mrs Dardis is a member of our office staff and Miss Richards' Personal Assistant. She is excellent at making sure Miss Richards is organised and set up for her day. We welcome Mrs Dardis to our family of St. Francis.



Clive Mark school wear have moved. Their new address is: Ground Floor, Saddlers Shopping Centre, 1 Park St, Walsall, WS1 1YS

Equipment Required in School

At the moment children only need to bring in their lunch (if needed), water bottle 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.



All meals must be ordered in advance through SchoolGrid. If meals are not ordered a pack lunch must be brought in with your child.

Easter Dates

Sunday 28th March 2021 - Palm Sunday
Thursday 1st April 2021 - Maundy Thursday
Friday 2nd April 2021 – Good Friday
Sunday 4th April 2021 – Easter Sunday



From Monday 8th March 2021 drop off and collection will be as advised in the letter emailed to parents on 1st March 2021. **All arrivals and departures (with the exception of Nursery's exit) will take place from the Mill Road entrance.**

The one way system that is in place must be adhered to at all times.

The government has confirmed twice-weekly testing using rapid lateral flow tests will be given for free to all families and households with primary, secondary school and college aged children and young people, including childcare and support bubbles, to help find more COVID-19 cases and break chains of transmission. Tests can easily be ordered and collected from local sites.

For more information please visit: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/rapid-lateral-flow-testing-for-households-and-bubbles-of-school-pupils-and-staff>

	Arrival am	Departure pm
Family Groups	8:45-8:55	2:50-2:55 (Group A) Surname of eldest child - A to M 2:55-3:00 (Group B) Surname of eldest child - N to Z
EYFS	8:45-8:55	11:40 (Nursery – Collection at Car Park Gate) 2:45-2:50 (Reception)
Year 1	8:55-9:00	3:00-3:05
Year 2	8:55-9:00	3:00-3:05
Year 3	9:00-9:05	3:05-3:10
Year 4	9:00-9:05	3:05-3:10
Year 5	9:05-9:10	3:10-3:15
Year 6	9:05-9:10	3:10-3:15



We will close for the Easter break on **Thursday 1st April 2021 at 1:30pm** and welcome children back to school on **Monday 19th April 2021**

As always we thank you for all your support in making St. Francis a great school in what we fully understand has been, and continues to be, a very difficult time for everyone.

Yours sincerely

Miss Richards
Headteacher

