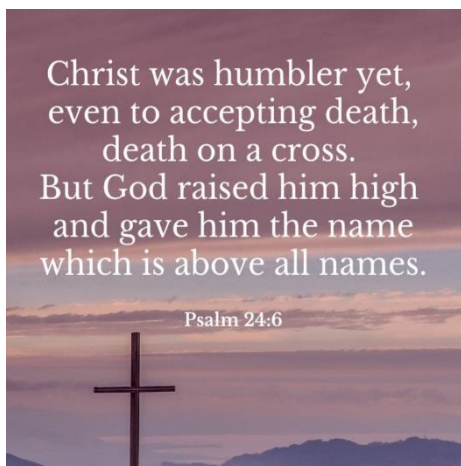


Head Teacher / Principal: Mrs J Downes



Good Friday

Good Friday Mass was celebrated by Father today at English Martyrs as well as at St Francis Xavier. I was really pleased to see some of our families at Church taking part in what was a beautiful and solemn Mass. It gave us time to reflect on the sacrifice Jesus made for us and to reflect on the challenges that the pandemic brings. But as Father says, we must not let this pandemic define us, it is in Christ we trust. Knowing this will help us through these very dark and troubling times.

Parent/Carers' Progress Meetings

Thank you to all the parents/carers who were able to meet/speak with our teachers. If you were unable to make this time, I know that staff were arranging other times. If you have still not spoken with your child's teacher, please telephone the school office on Monday 19th April to arrange this. For those in Year 2, I will arrange for Mrs Edge or Mrs Bullock to speak with you.

Next Term

Now that it is safe to attend, Year 5 will be going swimming next term, each Thursday. This allows our boys and girls to catch up on the learning missed last year due to school closures. For next year, we will notify you of which classes will attend.

We are very pleased to inform you that we have secured an excellent Early Years Professional for Nursery for next term, her name is Mrs Mamujee. We look forward to welcome her to our school family.

We also welcome Miss Dorricott to lead Year 2 to the end of the Summer term. Miss Dorricott spent the last day of term with us and is really looking forward to getting to know our girls and boys and their families.

As you know, Mrs Edge will leave us on Friday 30th April and we will be very sad to see her leave the St Francis Xavier family, I know you will join me in sending her good wishes for her retirement.

Attendance

We are very happy to see how many of our children come to school on time each day and are so ready for their learning. They are a credit to you. By the end of this term, we achieved over 95% attendance. Well done everyone!

For those wishing to take term time holidays, please remember that you must request a leave of absence form from the school office. This is regardless of what length of time this is for. This can then be discussed with me.

Uniform

Thank you to all those who have taken so much care to ensure that full school uniform is worn. Please remember that children must wear **black, white or grey socks (girls may wear tights of these colours)** and that everyone has a **waterproof jacket/coat to wear, even in warm weather**. Please also make sure that **hair accessories are school colours only**.

For hair, please remember that long hair must be tied up and for styles with shaved hair, it must be **no shorter than grade 2**, with no lines cut through the hair.

I know that for some, finding uniform has been a struggle with shops being so limited. Could any of you help by donating any school uniform that is in good or better condition please? If you are able to make any uniform donations, please ensure that each item is washed and put in a separate, labelled bag handed in to a box in the main school office. If you are able to help, we would be very grateful.

Our Parish Links:



Father Joseph is delighted to hear from past pupils of Year 6 from last year who are requesting Sacramental preparation. Depending on numbers and as long as it can be done safely, these children will join with our Year 6 to celebrate Confirmation on 1st July.

Please note the following information regarding Masses this Easter weekend.

Holy Saturday 3rd April – Easter Vigil

St. Francis Xavier Oldbury only: 5pm

- Easter Offering-Second Collection for the Priest will be taken. Envelops are available.

Easter Sunday 4th April – The Resurrection of the Lord

English Martyrs: 9am

St. Francis Xavier: 10.30am

English Martyrs: 12pm

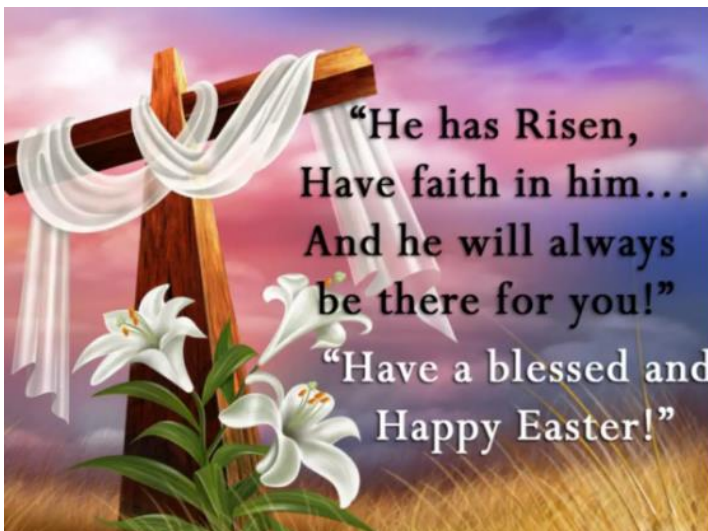
- Easter Offering-Second Collection for the Priest will be taken. Envelops are available.

Covid-19 Impact Survey

You are encouraged to complete a new survey reflecting on your experiences during the pandemic. Responses will help the Archdiocese to understand what effect the pandemic has had, and how we move forward. The survey takes about 10 minutes to complete and can be found on the homepage of the diocesan website <https://www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/>

Fr Joseph

Happy Easter



Finally, I would like to wish all of our families a Happy and Holy Easter. It is a big difference to the last Easter we celebrated and we look forward to life getting easier for everyone. We ask that God blesses us all in this very special season and the staff and myself wish you and your families an enjoyable time this holiday.