

Virtue: Eloquent and Truthful

Welcome Back!

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are really pleased to have all of our girls and boys back in school. We are also happy to have everyone return safely from their Summer holidays. Also, it was lovely to see Reception arrive yesterday morning, this is their first day as a whole class and we are very happy to welcome them in to our school family. We are thankful to have some more steps towards normality. As we go forward with the new Covid rules, we encourage our children and you all to look after yourselves.

Please keep in your prayers those our school family who are unwell, or who have lost loved ones. We know that you will continue to keep us informed of ways we can support you as we all work to find our new kind of 'normal.'

At the beginning of this term, there will be lots of routines in place to learn. There is a lot of information here, but we want to do our best to keep you informed as we begin a new and exciting year. Please read this newsletter with your child, sharing as much news as you can.



We dedicate our prayers to Mary in September

During the month of September, we dedicate our prayers to Mary, our Mother. In school, on 8th September, each class celebrated Mary's birthday in prayer. This half term, our

Virtues focus is to be **eloquent** and **truthful**.

Mary, the mother of Jesus, can teach us through her eloquence and honesty to be truthful and speak about what God wants us to do.

During this month, you may spend time honouring Mary in morning or bedtime prayers together.

Fundraising for Afghanistan Crisis

Thank you to those who have been able to donate on Just Giving. I know that some of you struggled to access the site. If you were not able to donate online, please send your cash to school with your child this week, by Friday 17th September.

Uniform and hairstyles

Thank you for your support in making sure that your child is dressed smartly in their school uniform.

- Please remember that for hair accessories, **hair accessories have school colours only (green, black, gold, white or red).**
- For PE, **shorts or jogging bottoms ONLY** are allowed, **not cycling shorts or leggings.** All **MUST** follow the school's **Uniform and Hairstyle Policy**, which can be found on our school website at [St Francis Xavier Catholic Primary School - Policies and Forms \(st-francisxavier.sandwell.sch.uk\)](http://www.st-francisxavier.sandwell.sch.uk).
- **Also remember that every day, regardless of weather, they must have a suitable waterproof coat/jacket with them.** Thank you.

What do we need to know for this term?

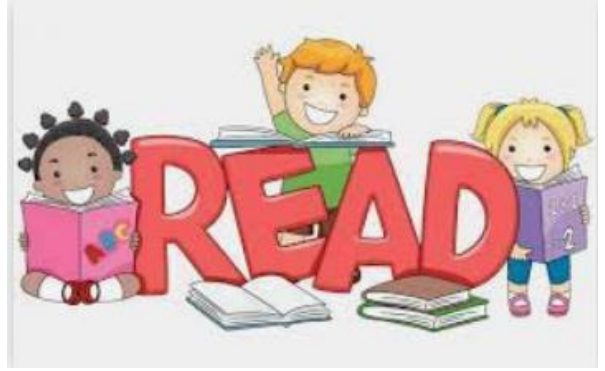
Reading

Please read with your child every day. They must read aloud and must make sure that they fill in their reading diaries with your support. For books for home, they can borrow a class library book, their reading book and a school library book.

Library Visits in school begins next Tuesday (21st September for Years 4, Year 5 on Wednesday and Y6 on Thursday)

Each week it is your child's Merit Assembly, the library will be open for you to pop in to with your child. It will work as follows:

- At hometime, collect your child/ren as normal.
- Make your way to the front of school and come in to visit the school library.
- You are welcome to enjoy reading in the library until 3.45pm.
- **Remember to come the week your son or daughter has Merit Assembly.** Each week it will be **Year 1 or 4 on Tuesdays, Year 2 or 5 on Wednesdays and Year 3 or 6 on Thursdays.**



Homework

After the success of using Teams for homework, we will continue to do this. This can be done on almost any device and we welcome photos of learning or pieces processed on a computer. If you have issues with this, please speak with your child's class teacher.



Year 6 Bikeability

We have been successful in securing a 'Bikeability' course for our Year 6 pupils. This is Sandwell's cycling training programme and this scheme replaces the Cycling Proficiency scheme. The children will be trained over 4 sessions in safe bicycle use on the road. They will be trained by qualified cycling instructors to Level 2 of the National Standards for Cycling. An improvement on cycling proficiency is that there is no theory test or final test and instructors will assess on an ongoing basis. Please complete the consent form sent today.



Clubs

Clubs are due to start next week, which are led by Fit 4 Schools. There will be the following on offer:



- Monday: **Multi-skills for Years 1-2**
- Thursday: **Archery for Years 5-6**
- Friday: **Street Dance for Years 3-4**



Each club will be available from **School Comms (from Wednesday)** on a first come, first served basis and cost £2.00 per session. There will be 10 sessions that begin week beginning Monday 20th September and the last week will be week beginning **Monday 29th November**. The cost is £20.00, a one-off payment must be made. You will also be asked to complete a permission slip for your son or daughter to attend.

Water

Thank you to all who are sending your child in with 2 bottles of water each day. Please make sure that you do not send squash in as a drink as this is not a healthy option for them do drink throughout lessons.

If your child has a packed lunch, they may bring water or other non-fizzy drinks to have at lunchtime.

Snacks

We have noticed that some children are bringing share bags of crisps and sweets in. Please remember that we aim to promote healthy eating, so **reasonably sized, healthy snacks should be brought in for playtimes.**

End of day arrangements

Please be aware that to remain safe, we will open the gates very close to the bell for the end of the day. When you enter the school to wait, please make sure that you try to maintain distance and that you do not wait by the classroom windows. It is difficult for staff to safeguard their children and can also be distracting for them.



Masses and Assemblies

At this time, we sadly cannot ask you to join us for Mass as we are having Mass with all children every two weeks. But for Merit Assembly, we are meeting in smaller groups, a maximum of 2 people per family are welcome.

CAFOD Go Green Assembly

We will be taking part in a national assembly on Thursday 16th September, it is an assembly to explore how we can help to protect the Amazon rainforest and support communities who live there., where the children will learn about taking better care of their environment. Please ask your son or daughter about it when they get home on Thursday.



School Meals



Thank you to those ordering via Dolce. Mrs Marshall is happy to help if you are struggling to log on.

Also, could we ask that your payments are up to date. If they are not, you will be asked to bring a meal for your son or daughter.

Are eligible for Free School Meals?

For some times in our lives, circumstances can change. If you feel at this time that you may be eligible for free school meals, please ask for help with the form at the office, where we will be happy to help you.

Bags – book bags are preferred

If your child has a different bag, they must only bring a small bag and only bring essentials for the day. These include: reading books (class library book, library book and a levelled book), reading record, snack and a bottle of water), homework/home learning and a lunchbox if they do not have school dinners. Please do not send them in within anything else, it is unnecessary.

Parents' Evenings

Phone calls or Teams meetings for Parent/Carers evenings will still be an option. Face to face meetings are preferable to many, but we will wait for guidance on this. Please look out for dates as they will be coming soon.

Volunteers Required

Volunteer Readers may be allowed to come to school to hear read from this term. If you are able to, please let the school office know or email headteacher@sfxcps.co.uk. Please state days and times you will be able to attend and be aware that we carry out DBS checks as Safeguarding is our first priority.

Attendance for last week

Well done to everyone who is well enough to come to school. It is important that everyone attends school every day they are able to.

Y3	Y6	Y4	Y1	Y5	Y2	YR
92%	97%	98%	99%	99%	100%	100%

Punctuality – Well done Year 4 and Year 5!

It is great that Year 4 and 5 have NO LATE MARKS for last week, well done!

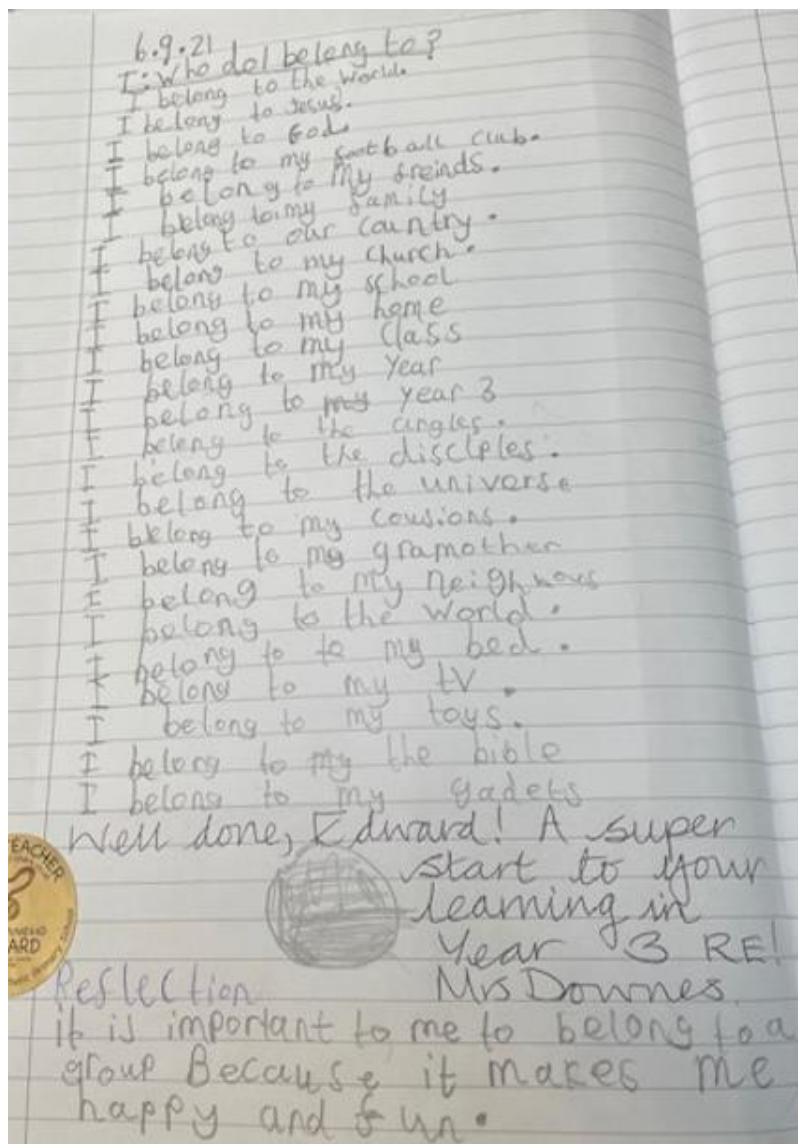
I am disappointed to see that there have been **13 late arrivals** across the school last week. Please remember the importance of arriving at school on time. Arriving late is not only disruptive for your child, but disrupts the whole class' learning. With time missed last year, we do not have the luxury of time to spend making up for lost minutes when some children arrive late.

Superstar Learning!

I have been really pleased to give out some house points already to a number of children. Well done to Edward, who has produced some excellent RE work. He has thought carefully about who we belong to and has worked well in his reflection work.

Merit for those taking part in activities outside of school

We are interested to hear about wider learning outside of school and your child's achievements. Please send them in with their awards on their given Merit Assembly day. Merit assemblies will take place every two weeks for Years 1-3 and Years 4-6, this is to maintain safety. **You are welcome to join us for these assemblies, but please make sure that only one or two family members attend.**



Events for the year

Please go to our website for updates on dates of events. Here is a printout of what is currently on the calendar.

Please go to the website for events, as they will be added throughout the year. For the calendar, go to:

<http://www.st-francisxavier.sandwell.sch.uk/Page/Calendar>



**St. Francis Xavier Catholic
Primary School**

Mrs J Downes - Principal

HOME

OUR SCHOOL -

KEY INFORMATION -

OUR COMMUNITY

OUR FAITH -

Calendar

Fri 17 Sep 2021	14:45 - 15:15 Merit Assembly for Years 1, 2 and 3
Fri 24 Sep 2021	14:45 - 15:15 Merit Assembly for Years 4, 5 and 6
Fri 1 Oct 2021	1 October 2021 00:00 - 31 October 2021 00:00 Black History Month
Fri 1 Oct 2021	1 October 2021 00:00 - 31 October 2021 00:00 Month of the Rosary
Fri 1 Oct 2021	14:45 - 15:15 Merit Assembly for Years 1, 2 and 3
Fri 8 Oct 2021	All day School Closed for Staff INSET day
Sat 9 Oct 2021	09:00 - 12:30 Hagley Catholic High School Open Morning
Fri 15 Oct 2021	14:45 - 15:15 Merit Assembly for Years 1, 2 and 3
Fri 22 Oct 2021	14:45 - 15:15 Merit Assembly for Years 4, 5 and 6

Our Parish Links:



Masses

Father will be celebrating Mass with us as a whole school every other week. We are waiting for news from him regarding Holy Communion dates, along with Confirmation. He is awaiting advice and will let us know as soon as he can for this.

Sunday Mass

Some of you have already returned to Church for Sunday Mass. Please see Father's message below.

Dear All,

Just to inform you that our Saturday Vigil Mass for Sunday at St. Francis Xavier Oldbury restarted on Saturday 4th September 2021.

This means that we now have 3 Masses. Namely:

Saturday 5.00pm Oldbury

Sunday 9.30am English Martyrs
11.00am Oldbury

I would like you to consider volunteering as a steward or a cleaner to help make our liturgical services well organised and safe. Thank you for all that you do for God and his Church.