



St Francis Xavier Catholic Primary School

Part of the St Catherine of Siena Multi Academy Company
(Company number: 09497062)

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Friday 5th January 2018

Head Teacher:

Mr A Dickinson BA Hons, PGCE, NPQH

Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy New Year – I hope you had peaceful and special family time with your children over the Christmas break. Thank you for all of the cards and gifts that you gave to staff last term – they were very much appreciated.

Spring Term Values

This term the children will be growing to be more **curious** about everything; and **active** in their engagement with the world, changing what they can for the better.

Inclement Weather

Thank you for your understanding and support last term when we had to close due to the heavy snow and icy conditions. Here is a reminder about what we do when we have to close school due to inclement weather:

How will parents notified about a school closure?

- Parents will be sent a text message (as soon as a decision is made) using the school's text messaging service.
- A notice will be displayed on the homepage of our school website by 7.30am.
- Our school will be listed on Sandwell's 'school closure' website page as well as their Facebook page: [facebook.com/sandwellcouncil](https://www.facebook.com/sandwellcouncil) and on their twitter feed: [@sandwellcouncil](https://twitter.com/sandwellcouncil).

Closure during the School Day

Should the weather deteriorate during a school day parents will be notified by text message that they have the opportunity to collect children early if they are able and wish to do so.

Please note:

- It is the responsibility of all parents to ensure that contact details are up to date, especially mobile phone numbers for our text message system.
- *There is no need for parents to contact the school to check whether or not the school is open. Unless announced on the radio stations, displayed on Sandwell's or our website or you have received a text message the school will be open.*

Dates for this term

Please see the attached document that provides key dates for your diaries for the spring term.



Upcoming Dates:

- THERE IS NO MERIT ASSEMBLY THIS FRIDAY 5TH JANUARY
- Saturday 6th January – Epiphany
- Monday 8th January at 3.30pm – 1st Holy Communion meeting in school
- Wednesday 10th January – Nursery phonics workshops for parents (am and pm)

Welcome

I am delighted to welcome Mrs Cullen to the St Francis Xavier team. She started this week as a Lunchtime Supervisor. I can also inform you that Mrs Bullock will be officially returning to work after the February half term break.

Y4 Swimming

Year 4 will be starting their swimming lessons again on Tuesday 9th January. Please make sure that your child's swimming kit is in school.

School Attendance

Thank you for ensuring that your children are in school on time every day. It is important that no learning opportunities are missed unless there are unavoidable circumstances.

There are a few children currently classed as 'persistent absentees' in school – this means that their attendance has fallen below 90% for the year. The parents of all of these children will be receiving a letter from me inviting them to a meeting to discuss the reasons for their child's absences from school.

- *It is vital that all parents inform school if their child is off school for any reason. There have been a number of cases recently when we have not known why children are off school and have not been able to make contact with parents. This is a safeguarding issue for school and might result in us having to make a referral to children's services to check on the wellbeing of your child.*

Topic Webs

You will be receiving your child's topic web next week outlining what they will be learning about over the spring term. It will also be available to download from our school website.

Epiphany

The feast of the Epiphany marks the arrival of the three wise men to the baby Jesus and the end of the Christmas season. They were not Jews – they came from lands far to the east. They knew of prophecies of an infant king to be born, a Saviour. Through them, his arrival was announced to the world. Jesus the saving Lord has come not just for the Jews but for all people.



Epiphany Prayer

Like the three wise men, we are here today to worship you, Jesus.
We have no gold, but we give you our love.
We have no frankincense, we give you our prayers.
We have no myrrh, so we give you ourselves.

Amen

O Come
Let us
Adore
Him



New Website Launch

I am delighted to let you know that we have revamped our school website. It is now mobile compatible and much easier to navigate and find information on. We will also be maintaining the website ourselves from now on and so can put information on it immediately. The old web address (www.st-francisxavier-sandwell.sch.uk) will soon be redirected to the new site but if you would like a sneak preview (it still needs a few finishing touches!) you can access it at stfrancis.sch.life

Car Parking

Unfortunately at the end of last term a member of staff's car was quite badly damaged on the church carpark. I am also aware of some damage being caused to other cars last term owned by residents and parents as well. Please can I ask that all parents park considerately around school and are honest if they cause any damage to cars so that insurance claims can be submitted. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "A. Dickinson".

Mr A Dickinson
Head Teacher

