

Virtue: To be COMPASSIONATE and LOVING

Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy and Safe Summer Holiday!

We have successfully reached the end of the year. It has been an unbelievable journey and our children have really achieved so much and have been able to do us and themselves proud. There are many things we have learnt this year and have felt your frustration as well as our own when it has come to bubble closures. Hopefully, we will see better times ahead. At the end of this term, following success on the Superstar Steps, four children from each year were picked from a raffle and received a treat during the last day. For those in Year 3 and 4 who missed this, please do not worry about missing out, they will be waiting for you on your return! Please remember that the last day is a celebration day for ALL children, but four from each class are randomly selected to receive a special experience.

This term, we focussed on **Solidarity** (this is one of the Catholic Social Teaching Values and relates well to British Values, mainly to **Mutual Respect**). Following the journey we have been on since the arrival of Covid, we felt that it was important that we focused on looking ahead for a better future, together as a school family. We see this as important for what is happening in the world around us. For example, the behaviour of some during the recent football events have shown a need for more awareness and the need for respect and equality. We were glad and proud to celebrate how far England had come on 12th July. Wearing red for the team was another sign of solidarity and respect we can show.

I hope that you all get to enjoy some family time together this Summer and that you are all safe and well. Thank you for all the support you have given this year and I am sure that you will want me to thank your teachers and the rest of the staff for their unending efforts and dedication. Have a super Summer, everyone!

What will stay or change following Covid changes?

- **Sacramental Preparation** – Father has found the WhatsApp groups a fantastic way to lead Holy Communion and Confirmation preparation and will continue with this next year. We will continue to work with Father in preparing the children through the teaching of RE and through activities at school.
- **PE Kits** – we will continue with days for PE where the children are allowed to wear their school PE kit. This **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://St Francis Xavier Catholic Primary School - Policies and Forms (st-francisxavier.sandwell.sch.uk)).
- **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.
- **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.**
- **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.
- **Lunchtimes** – children will **ALL eat their lunch in the hall and have shared playtimes.**

This is all subject to any Government advice that is given.

For other arrangements, please bear with us as we work together as Emmaus Catholic MAC, we will let you know in due course.

Volunteers Required

Volunteer Readers may be allowed to come to school to hear read next 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.

Also, during the first couple of weeks during the Summer holiday, we require volunteers to come along to help Mr Shenton do some work in the outdoor area, which will include varnishing the beds and sheds. If this is something that you are able to do, please email me at headteacher@sfxcps.co.uk. Mr Shenton will be on site **until 2-3pm each day**, so please let us know the days and times (any times between 8.30-12.30) you will be able to attend. There will be no children on site, so we will not require you to complete DBS checks.

Attendance for this year

Overall, the attendance for our school this year is **95.54%**.

Well done to everyone who is well enough to come to school. We know these are difficult times, but everyone is in the green and has tried to be in school as often as possible. We look forward to a better year next year.

YR	Y1	Y5	Y6	Y2	Y3	Y4
96%	96%	96%	96%	97%	97%	97%

Punctuality – Well done everyone!

Well done to nearly all of our children! There have been less than 1% in lateness across the school this year, which means an average of **1 or no late marks each day**. This is excellent! Well done!

Merit Assemblies

We were really proud to hold assembly for children in school as well as online this week. Well done to all of the children who received awards.

Merit for those taking part in activities outside of school



We would like to say well done to one of our children from Key Stage 1, who was a lucky winner out of hundreds of people who took part in the social media competition to be creative and avid reader. She created her own Doodling T-Shirt for World Book Day and read good number of Tom Gates books, which include: Ten Tremendous tales, Biscuit band and A Very Big Plan. Epic Adventure and Excellent Excuses. We are very proud of the efforts and determination of such a young reader. She received a personally autographed and a lovely message from the author herself (Liz Pichon). This super, young coder is currently working on other coding activities, which we look forward to seeing in school. Well done, you are a superstar!

Events for the end of term

Please go to our website for updates on dates of events. This will be the route we will use to communicate upcoming events. This is a snapshot of it today, it will be added to as we prepare for future events. The first two days are INSET day, so we will return on **Monday 6th September**.

Nursery and Reception

We are looking forward to seeing our children who are already with us and looking forward to welcoming new children to our St Francis Xavier family. Mrs Kaminski, who is our Early Years Leader, will oversee the teaching and learning across the Early Years.

- Mrs Kaminski along with Mrs Doherty will lead Reception.
- Miss Jordan and Mrs Smallman will lead Nursery.

Farewell and Welcome

We say goodbye to our Year 6 class who had a wonderful party on Friday 16th July for their end of year reward day, which included many treats. They also had a beautiful graduation on Monday 19th July, along with a graduation Mass on their last day. It has not been an easy year for anyone and they have missed some of the experiences other Year 6 classes have had in the past. To try and compensate for not having transition days at secondary, we ran some transition days for the children within school, splitting them into groups and letting them work in different ways across the school, still safely. It was lovely to see how many benefitted from this experience and just in the last few weeks, we have seen so many show maturity and readiness for their next step. We wish every member of Year 6 a bright and successful future.

We also say good bye to Miss Hibbert, who leaves us today to become a Missionary in Papua New Guinea. We wish her a happy and safe journey and a wonderful time in the adventure she is embarking on.

Whilst we say goodbyes, we will also be saying some welcomes. We are very excited about welcoming our new Reception class who will join us during the first couple of weeks in September. We are looking forward to having you in our school family.

We also welcome new staff: Mrs Afzal, who some of you will know from Year 2, Miss Dennis, who some of you will know from Nursery, then also Miss Gulzar. They join us in September, we are looking forward to welcoming them too to the St Francis Xavier family.

Uniform and hairstyles

We will begin in September and expect that children will be in full school uniform and that hairstyles follow the policy. I have noticed a number of children with a grade 1 haircut, please remember that the policy states it should be **no shorter than grade 2**. Also, please make sure **hair accessories have school colours only (green, black, gold, white or red)**. The uniform policy is on the school website. Please continue to support us in making sure your son/daughter has everything they need. **Please also remember that every day, regardless of weather, they must have a suitable waterproof coat/jacket with them.** Thank you.

[Our Parish Links:](#)



Holy Communion

Father was really sad to hear that the bubble closure affected Sunday's Holy Communion at St Francis Xavier Church. He has been as determined as ever and set a new date for these children, which will now take place on Sunday 25th July. Please note that if your son or daughter has missed making their Sacrament for whatever reason, Father has said that he is happy to support you in preparing for a time during the year ahead.

I hope you will join me in thanking Father, who has been a great spiritual support to the school and has done his utmost to ensure that the children still prepare for the Sacraments. Whenever he could, he has been to school to celebrate Mass with us. We are very grateful to Father's dedication and support for our school family and wish him a happy and safe Summer.