



Head Teacher / Principal: Mrs J Downes



Yesterday was Ash Wednesday. The children took part in Mass beautifully. We pray for everyone in our school family during Lent. Living out the Word of God in the way that we give without expecting anything in return may be something extra some choose to do during this time of sorrow/repentance.



## Sacramental Preparation update for Year 3

Monday 30<sup>th</sup> March at 3.45pm at our Church

The Year 3 children will make the Sacrament of Reconciliation at Church. Please look out for the letter about this today.

**For ALL children: Stations of the Cross (during the Sacrament of Reconciliation)**

**Monday 30<sup>th</sup> March at 3.45pm at our Church**

We will also be inviting children to take part in a service at Church, the Stations of the Cross at the same time as the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Please look out for the letter that will come after this newsletter.



## British Science Week

We will be completing activities during Science week. On Friday 13<sup>th</sup> March, we would like everyone to dress as up as a scientist or to bring in an object to represent a scientist, for example, if it was Louis Pasteur, they could bring a carton of milk! Mary Anning was a palaeontologist, a fossil hunter from Lyme Regis. Apparently, the famous song, She Sells Sea Shells on the Sea Shore was written about her.

Please do not spend money on a costume, the more creative and imaginative, the better. The cost for taking part is £1.00, all funds raised will go to Cafod World Gifts, the Mini-Vinnies will lead in finding out from classes what we would like to purchase. For more information, please go to:

<https://worldgifts.cafod.org.uk/collections/frontpage>

## Staffing Update



We are very pleased to welcome our Deputy Head and SENDCO, Mrs Bullock back this term after her spending time with her family whilst on maternity leave. She will be working with Year 6 as well as leading SEND and Well-Being for All across our school.

It is with great sadness to inform you that we will be saying farewell to some staff in our school. Mrs Garratt and Mrs Kopiec are valued members of staff within both our school and MAC. We are very sorry to say that after Easter, they will both have left our school, but will be working within other schools across the MAC, so won't be too far away from us!

Mrs Kopiec has worked very hard in our school office for 4 years and has been a great help to so many of our family. Mrs Garratt will be with us Mondays and Fridays until Easter and Mrs Kopiec will be with us on Fridays until then too.

Mrs Garratt has been with us for 5 years and has served as a Class Teacher with us as well as spending some time as Acting SENDCO whilst Mrs Bullock was on leave. She has worked very hard with so many of you in this role as well as leading well-being in our school. I know you will want to join me in saying thank you for being such a great part of our school family and we will miss them. We wish them the very best of luck in their new pursuits and keep them close to our hearts, as they are always members of the school family of St Francis Xavier.

## Safeguarding: Online Safety – Tik Tok

We are finding a lot of problems with children's online activity outside of school time. We teach the children and advise you as school families about staying safe online; we have become worried by some of the behaviour we are hearing about when children are online. Often, children are using Tik Tok to socialise and are telling us that they are not always in the same room as parents/carers when online. Please remember that this site is not recommended for children under the age of 14, yet we have children as young as 7 and 8 using it. The age limit has been set for a reason. There may be issues that arise that are too mature for them and they may find it difficult to handle mentally/emotionally. Your son/daughter may not have any issues online and they are confident enough to tell you when something makes them uncomfortable, which is great, when used safely, the internet is a wonderful part of our lives.

Some staff have spent a lot of time dealing with children who are upsetting others whilst online. We would advise that you continue to be vigilant in making sure that your children are not left unsupervised whilst on the internet, so that you can monitor what is happening. We know that so many of you are so careful and already do this. I am sure that you would rather us spend time focussing on your son/daughter's learning than on time dealing with issues that have upset them whilst online at home over weekends and evenings.

For more information about internet safety, please go to our website pages relating to online issues: <http://www.st-francisxavier.sandwell.sch.uk/Page/Detail/safeguarding-and-well-being>

## EARLY BIRDKEEPERS: Well done Year 1 and Year 4!



Well done, there have been **0** late marks in these classes, everyone in those classes can have a house point. Across the whole school, there have only been **8** late marks **BEFORE** the register has closed in the week before half term. Thank you for your support in being so aware of the difference being early makes.

### Attendance Update – WOW!!!

We are extremely proud of our boys and girls who are working hard to be in every day that they can.

Class	Reception	Y3	Y6	Y2	Y1	Y4	Y5
Attendance	96%	97%	97%	98%	99%	99%	99%
Comment	Everyone will have 1 house point for being above 95% - keep going (or coming in!)				Excellent! Everyone will have 2 house points.		

#### Remember:

If there is sickness or diarrhoea, your son / daughter must remain at home for 48 hours.

Everyone is encouraged to wash hands with soap (rather than sanitizer) before and after eating as well as coughing and sneezing.

If there is sneezing / coughing, it is important to carry tissues – catch it, kill it, bin it.

At school, everyone is being encouraged to cough/sneeze onto arms/sleeves as opposed to hands.

Your son/daughter's health is important and we wish to support you with giving you as much information as we can to prevent the spread of nasty bugs that will make our boys and girls feel unwell.

Thank you for your continued support in this.

#### REMINDER: REQUESTS FOR HOLIDAYS DURING TERM TIME

Leave of absence request meetings can take place every fortnight at 2pm. You will notice them in the dates for the diary. You will need to contact the school office should you wish to book an appointment. Please note that penalty notices **will** be enforced **FROM THIS TERM** in adherence to our school policy and government legislation. The cost of Penalty Notices are **£60** per parent, per child.

**DATES FOR YOUR DIARY: PLEASE NOTE THAT FROM MARCH 2020, IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUR DIARY WILL BE FOUND ON THE SCHOOL'S WEBSITE ONLY INSTEAD OF YOU RECEIVING A SEPARATE COPY VIA EMAIL.**

**IF YOU WOULD LIKE A PRINTOUT OF THIS, PLEASE ASK AT THE OFFICE.**

**FOR THE SCHOOL'S WEBSITE CALENDAR, GO TO:**

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