



Head Teacher / Principal: Mrs J Downes

THANK YOU TO OUR FAMILIES

We are working hard from home going through calls and emails as school leaders and in partnership with Single Point staff. It's been great to talk so far, to just some of you, and some children. Please bear with us if you haven't heard from us, we are working hard to reach you. All the staff are really keen to keep in touch too and very much miss everyone in our school family. I know you would want to join me in thanking them for the hard work they are doing in preparing learning for the girls and boys. Also, they are completing training online at home so that they can continue to develop their knowledge and skills.



At this very difficult time, I feel privileged to be at St Francis Xavier, we have fantastic staff and brave, positive families at our school. Everyone is trooping on with a lot of positivity, thank you for this. We will keep going!

St Francis Xavier Church

Father Joseph has been praying for all our families of our school. Here is a message from him last week:

Dearest in Christ,

The Lord is Risen! Alleluia!

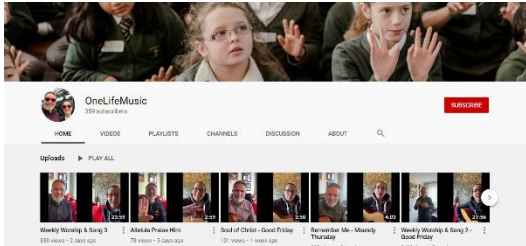
It is my prayer that you have a blessed Easter!

Know that I offered today's Easter Mass for your intentions. Even though we do not see each other like before, let us continue to meet each day in our prayers!

Just inform you that we now have parish Facebook: Oldbury Blackheath. You can also find it with sfxandtheem@gmail.com.

Please feel free to add us as soon as you can we would like all our parishioners to do this. Hope you have a spirit filled Tridium and a Happy Easter!

Fr. Joseph



Let us pray together

Dan Callow and his colleague Emily have been to our school many times now and may be some familiar faces our boys and girls at home would like to see.

To join them in their daily worship they are offering, go to their You Tube

page at

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCAeRJgWgOJDFhIjNdy2R_tw

Congratulations

In these worrying times, it is wonderful to hear good news. Miss Jordan had a healthy baby girl on Monday, both baby and mummy are doing well.



HELP OUR NHS – HELP CHILDREN IN HOSPITALS



As we know from some of our own families, the NHS are doing a sterling job as always, and especially now. We have decided to raise money for the NHS too. Please look out for the letter for how you can take part.

Website

We are using our website to keep in touch with you and add news. We have added a feature for you to access, which is access for every child in school. It is early days at the moment, but we are aiming to upload home learning/homework, a facility for children to message their teacher and possibly one another, along with some possible meetings with their teacher and classmates. Our website designer is looking at developing this with us, so please look out over the next few weeks, where **we will be asking for input from children for the design on their individual page to begin with and then for ideas about what we should include on our school website.**



Home Learning

Some you have asked about home learning – please use **Week 3** until the end of this week and complete online activities as well as exercise as and where you can. New learning will come next week with the launch of class pages.

Advice from GOV.UK

We thought that some of this may useful for you, it comes from guidance set out in <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers>

What support is available to parents to help them educate their children at home?

In addition to school's advice, available support includes:

a list of online educational resources which have been identified by some of the country's leading educational experts to help pupils to learn at home

the BBC enhancing its education provision to include daily lessons, starting from 20 April 2020

For parents with children under 5 years old, who have not yet started school, the Department for Education (DfE)'s Hungry Little Minds campaign features tips and practical activities that you can do at home with children to support their early learning. There are many simple ways to help your children learn and it does not have to feel like 'learning'. Having everyday conversations, make-believe play, and reading together, all make a big difference to your child's development.

You can find more ideas and content from the BBC's [Tiny Happy People campaign](#) and the [National Literacy Trust Family Zone](#).

There is too much pressure on broadband connections in my area - how can my child do online learning?

The government is having regular calls with the major fixed and mobile operators, and with Ofcom, to monitor the situation and ensure that any problems on the networks are rapidly addressed and rectified.

We fully understand the importance of having reliable internet connectivity, particularly at this time, so that people can work from home wherever possible, and access critical public services online, including health information.

Where can I go to get support to help keep my child safe online?

There is support available to keep your child safe online. Below are some useful links to help parents and carers:

[Thinkuknow](#) (advice from the National Crime Agency to stay safe online)

[Internet matters](#) (support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online)

[Parent info](#) (support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online)

[LGfL](#) (support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online)

[Net-aware](#) (support for parents and carers from the NSPCC)

[Let's Talk About It](#) (support for parents and carers to keep children safe from online radicalisation)

[UK Safer Internet Centre](#) (tips, advice, guides)

What support is available to parents to help them maintain their family's wellbeing while their children are at home?

Social connections, alongside exercise, sleep, diet and routine, are important protective factors for mental health. Materials to promote and support mental wellbeing are included in the list of [online resources](#) we have published to help children to learn at home. Public Health England's [Rise Above](#) platform supports young people. The Department of Health and Social Care is providing £5 million of additional funding to support mental health charities to increase their provision for adults and children at this time.

Social isolation, reduced exercise, and bereavement, may affect children's wellbeing in this period.

Resources to promote and support children and young people's mental wellbeing include:

[MindEd educational resources for adults about children and young people's mental health](#), which is relevant for parents and carers as well as volunteers, teachers, and other professionals working with children Every Mind Matters platform which supports looking after your own and other's mental health

guidance on looking after wellbeing and mental health during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak

guidance on supporting children's wellbeing and mental health

All NHS mental health trusts are setting up 24/7 helplines, and seeking to use digital and virtual channels, to continue delivering support during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak.

If you need help finding your way around the website, or you would like us to talk to your son or daughter, we can arrange a phone appointment. You can email or call St Hubert's and leave a message for us to get back to you. the number is 0121 422 2629.

**St Francis Xavians,
we can do this!
Stay safe and well.**