



Head Teacher / Principal: Mrs J Downes



# Merry Christmas to one and all!



December is dedicated to the Immaculate Conception O Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee. Amen



A Year dedicated to St Joseph – last week on 8th December the Pope instituted a Year of St Joseph and it runs until 8th December

**Thank you everyone in our wonderful school family!**

I have been amazed with the generosity of you all. Look at how much money we have raised across our school. Since lockdown, you have worked hard not only to take care of your own families, but you have helped others by raising a total of **£285.60**. The cheques have gone to each of the organisations below and they are very grateful for your donations. In addition to this, there have been a number of parents, initially in Year 2, who have raised £200 for school fund. This is super, we are so grateful, thank you to all of our wonderful families. We will be buying items for the playground in the New Year along with books also so that our boys and girls can enjoy this.

<b>Help for Heroes for NHS workers</b>	<b>Harvest of Love and Hope for the Royal British Legion</b>	<b>Christmas Jumper Day for Brushstrokes</b>
Raised £70.50	Raised £99.60	Raised: £115.50

### **WELL DONE FOR WELL-BEING!**

For what has been quite a long time now, Mrs Bullock and Mrs Garratt had begun work to achieve a quality mark for wellbeing. This is called Sandwell Well-Being Chartermark. A LOT of work took place by both of them along with the support of pupils, staff and families. We are very proud to say that we achieved this charter mark. This is wonderful recognition of the hard work that everyone does for all.

We have children who are happy to come to school, feel safe, know that they can talk to people if they are worried or upset. We have a staff who support one another and are sensitive to others' needs as well as their own. We have parents and carers who communicate so well with their children and school.

Also, I think it is very important to recognise that we have achieved this with the work of SinglePoint. Their commitment to the pupils, families and staff of our school goes beyond what is expected and they have supported us in being able to achieve this award. Whilst we may not be able to work with them in the way that we have over the years, we will not stop singing their praises as we know how much they have done and what a dedicated group of people they are. Well done to everyone in our school family!



## Attendance and Punctuality

Well done to everyone who is arriving on time. So many continue to do this. Our attendance for this term is **97.33%**, this is truly magnificent considering the difficult year we have all had. We are happy to have your children in school and appreciate that everyone is taking care of themselves and staying safe.

## IMPORTANT NOTICE REGARDING SAFETY ON OUR SCHOOL SITE AS WELL AS OVER THE CHRISTMAS PERIOD

I am very thankful to all of you who take great care to arrive at the correct time to drop off or pick up your children. There are some however, who ignore these rules and enter the school site without care. Some are not wearing masks. Some are not coming alone, more than one adult INCREASES RISK. Some are having to overtake parents/carers in queues due to the fact that timings are not adhered to.

Also, I have been made aware that some parents/carers are gathering to talk and not being safe in social distancing. Please be aware that whilst there have been a lot of our school family who have had Covid 19 and recovered, there are a high number who have not. Well over 10 of our staff and children have experienced loss and the tragedy that this cruel disease has brought. We want everyone in our school family to be safe, do NOT abuse this by not following the rules. Others' carelessness is the cause of others' heartbreak and loss.

I hope that you will take care over the Christmas break too. While restrictions are eased, this does not mean that people cannot contract Covid 19. Taking care of yourself will in turn take care of others. We want all of our school families to be safe.

### Parking

I am disappointed to say that not all of our parents and carers are being considerate when parking. We had a complaint last week that a resident had politely pointed out to 2 parents of children in our school that they were parking on double yellow lines. Apparently, the resident reports that both parents were verbally aggressive and left her feeling intimidated. This is unacceptable if this is the case. As you know, we expect the very best from everyone in our school family and behaviour like this is damaging to the reputation of the school. We have always worked hard to be good neighbours to our residents. If you see anything that you are not happy with, please let me know at [headteacher@sfxcps.co.uk](mailto:headteacher@sfxcps.co.uk).

Please also be mindful that I will be sharing this information with the PCSOs. Thankfully, this is only a minority and I am grateful that the majority of our families are considerate with parking.

### Staffing Update

You know that we said a fond farewell to **Mrs Haywood and Miss McDonnell**. We also said a fond farewell (for 2 terms) to **Mr Leese** as he goes to a secondment at Our Lady of Fatima, which is one of our MAC schools. We wish all of our staff the best of luck in their new ventures. While Mr Leese is not at our school, Miss Ward will be taking over from where Mr Leese left off in Mathematics. **Miss Ward** will be supporting everyone across the school to continue with their brilliant work.



### Wraparound Care

Please be aware that an advert went out for staff to work in Wraparound Care. While staff are being recruited, we will not be able to open at the beginning of January, but will let you know as soon as we have more information.



# A Reminder from Father Joseph

Dear All,

## COMMUNAL WORSHIP RESTARTING

I hope you are keeping well. As you will be aware the current lockdown is due to end on the 2nd December. We have now received guidelines that confirm that communal worship will be able to restart from the 2nd December in all Local Restriction Tiers. We will return to the COVID-secure principles that existed in our churches as at the 5th November. I urge you to continue to support us in creating safe environments in our church buildings for our liturgical worship by applying all COVID safety measures.

**Please remember to book for next Sunday masses: 9.30 am at English Martyrs, Blackheath and 11.00 am at St. Francis Xavier, Oldbury**

## CHRISTMAS PERIOD

**Our booking systems will continue to help us to limit numbers.  
You may like to book for Christmas Eve and Day masses now.**

### Christmas Eve -

**5.00 pm at SFX Oldbury**

**8.00 pm at EM Blackheath**

### Christmas Day -

**9.00 am at EM Blackheath**

**11am at SFX Oldbury**

## JUST A REMINDER

A gentle reminder for so many of you who many have forgotten to set up their standing order or send their cheques or cash to cover their weekly offerings and parish projects since March 2020. If you are able, please help support our parish financially in our most difficult moment. Together we can really do so much with your help, no matter how small.

With many thanks for your continued Sacrifices for God and his Church.

Fr. Joseph

First Sunday of Advent

Maranatha! Come, Lord Jesus! Amen

29th Nov 2020

**CORONAVIRUS**  
**STAY ALERT**  
**TO STAY SAFE**