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| **N E W S L E T T E R**  **Monday 30th September 2019** | * **St Francis Xavier Catholic Primary School**   McKean Road, Oldbury, West Midlands, B69 4BA  **T:** 0121 552 1485 **F:** 0121 544 2483 **E:** admin@sfxcps.co.uk **W:** [www.st-francisxavier.sandwell.sch.uk](http://www.st-francisxavier.sandwell.sch.uk) |

**Head Teacher: Mrs J Downes**

**Richer or poorer**

The Gospel on Sunday taught us to know that it doesn’t matter what we have, it is what we do that matters. We will share this prayer in Gospel assembly this week: ***Dear God, thank you that it doesn’t matter whether I am rich or poor – my true riches come from you. Thank you for giving me my own gifts and qualities. Help me to enjoy them, grow them and to share them with others. Amen.*** Please make time to say this prayer and discuss together at some point.

**PARISH MASS – Everyone is welcome. The Mass this Sunday is for Sacramental children of Year 3 and 6, but also to celebrate Harvest. Please make sure that you come to Mass on Sunday at 11am, for Sacramental children, please go to your class teacher for 10.45am.**

**H A R V E S T**

Please send in one or two (or more if you can!) non-perishables this week for Harvest Mass. We will be collecting throughout the month of October. Tins, cans, bottles (hand in at the front office for safety please), packets, etc. are welcome. Thank you.

**Congratulations to our Pupil Leadership Team!**

We are pleased to announce that they are as follows:

**Head Boy – Izaak**  **Head Girl – Madzia**

**Deputy Head Boy – Marshall Deputy Head Girl – Lily**

**Behaviour and Attitudes**

We have so many of our children who behave outstandingly and never need to be reminded to be polite in saying please and thank you and in holding doors open for teachers as well as other adults in school. We have been talking in assemblies and classes about positive attitudes and how this can help us achieve more in all sorts of ways. This has included talking about wearing the correct school uniform properly, both in and around school, so that they represent St Francis to the highest standard possible. How can you help at home? Please talk to your son/daughter about positive aspects of their day and how they have been able to show excellent behaviour both in and out of their classroom. Also, please continue to send them in smartly in their uniform. The children are rewarded with house points and Learning Friends points, which allows us to celebrate not only their academic achievement, but achievement in the way that they contribute to making our school atmosphere and environment a safe and reflective one. **As always, we will celebrate successes wherever we find them and if there are some who struggle with any aspect of this, we will be letting you know so that it can be rectified.**

The children are generally working well to look after equipment in school, which includes taking care of things on the playground. Doing this will enable us to have the equipment that we can use time and time again. Please support us by encouraging them to show independence in putting away and looking after their own things at home also.

**VACANCIES:**

We have the following vacancies:

* **Parent Governor** (please see details under this newsletter)
* **2 Lunchtime Supervisors** (please ask at the main office for an application form)

 **EARLY BIRDKEEPERS: Well done Year 4!**

Well done, there has been only one record of lateness in Year 4. The other classes have had 2 or 3 late marks within the week last week.

**Super Attendance Update**

We are extremely proud of our boys and girls who are working hard to be in every day that they can. Here is the attendance for last week for each class:

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| **Class** | **Attendance SO FAR** | **Comment** |  |
| **Year 1** | **87%** | **Well below** |  |
| **Year 2** | **93%** | **Below** |
| **Reception** | **96%** | **Well done!** | **Everyone will have 1 House Point for being above 95% - keep going (or coming in!)** |
| **Year 4** | **97%** | **Well done!** |
| **Year 6** | **98%** | **Well done!** |
| **Year 3** | **99%** | **Well done!** | **Everyone will have 2 House Points – well done!** |
| **Year 5** | **99%** | **Outstanding!** |

This is the time of year for coughs and colds, we will be reminding everyone in school of how they can keep themselves safe and well. We will talk about handwashing around mealtimes, after coughing, sneezing, etc.

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| **There are a small number of children whose attendance is well below at this very early point in the year. Please be aware of the school’s attendance policy which states that continuous and persistent absence cannot be authorised without medical evidence.** |

 **Dolce Dinners**

**Thank you for your patience while we still deal with some kitchen issues. We have been able to address the issue with the gas pipe and have also purchased a new freezer for our kitchen, but unfortunately there some issues now with other kitchen equipment. We will deal with this as quickly as we can.**

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| **Safeguarding / Online safety – County Lines – happening to children as young as 7**  No one really knows how many young people across the country are being forced to take part, but The Children’s Commissioner estimates there are at least 46,000 children in England who are involved in gang activity. It is estimated that around 4,000 teenagers in London alone are being exploited through child criminal exploitation, or 'county lines'. Organisations to protect children want these vulnerable children to be recognised as victims of trafficking and exploitation. [They want them to receive the support they need](https://www.childrenssociety.org.uk/our-work-to-stop-county-lines) to deal with the trauma they have been through. Please speak to your son or daughter about being careful with who they speak to outside and around school, especially when playing in areas such as the park. Being vigilant is the key to helping our children and making them aware that they must stay safe and talk to an adult if they see or hear anything unusual, especially if it makes them feel uncomfortable. |

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**PARENT GOVERNOR VACANCY**

**Deadline 23rd October 2019**

We have a vacancy for a Parent Governor which we need to fill.

The governing board’s main tasks are:

* to ensure that the school has a clear Catholic vision, ethos and strategic direction;
* to hold the headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils;
* to oversee the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent.
* Alongside the Foundation Governors appointed by the Bishop to ensure the Catholic nature and ethos of the school.

In looking to fill this vacancy the governors of the school have identified the following skills, experience and attributes that they feel would help strengthen the governing board:

* Performance data analysis
* Financial reporting experience
* Personnel procedures

Parent governors are welcomed as valued members of the team and play a vital role in ensuring the governing board is aware of the views of parents and the local community. We feel sure that there are parents prepared to take on this important role and give their time and commitment to helping us to continue to improve the school’s performance.

Training and support will be available to help you develop into the role. This will include in-house mentoring and support as well as access to external governor training.

If you feel you can help in this capacity please contact the office for an application form which will need to be completed and returned to the school **by 12.00 noon on Wednesday 23rd October 2019.**

**Please note that for the protection of children all governor appointments are subject to an identity check and DBS checks. If there are more applications than vacancies, we will hold an election and you will be sent a voting paper in due course. You may return the ballot paper via your child or by post.**