



St. Francis Xavier Catholic Primary School

McKean Road, Oldbury, West Midlands, B69 4BA

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Principal: Mr. G. J. Linford



Friday 30th September 2022

Dear Parent/Carer,

Here we are, at the end of the month already! The colder, damper days are a real sign that Autumn is upon us, and it won't be long before the darker nights begin to set in.

I was delighted that so many of you took the time on Wednesday to come into school to meet me, and others too who have sent messages by email or on Class Dojo. Thank you, all. Listening to your thoughts and ideas has really helped me to ensure we are focusing our school improvement planning on addressing those things which you have found frustrating and difficult in recent times. Our hope is that you will quickly begin to see positive impact from the changes we are making, and I am excited to be sharing this journey with you all.

COMMUNICATION

Many of you have told us that communication needs to improve and far more notice needs to be provided with regard to trips, events and requests for money!

Firstly, I must apologise that my first newsletter did not include a reminder that next **Friday - 7th October - is a Staff Training Day and school will be closed** to children. This date was published before the summer holiday and is listed on the school website.

Thank you to everyone who has already connected to your child's profile on Class Dojo. This was a communication tool which I used very successfully at previous schools, and can be used in so many ways to enhance the partnership between home and school. At the time of writing, these are the proportions of families who have connected so far:

Nursery: 73%	Reception: 79%	Y1: 69%	Y2: 77%
Y3: 85%	Y4: 72%	Y5: 63%	Y6: 61%

Please do your best to connect before Thursday 6th October. There will be a treat for the children in each class once you hit the 100% mark!

HOMEWORK

Many of you have also asked us to review how we set homework, and the plan is to introduce a straight-forward system which focuses on the practice of key skills in English and Maths weekly, in a paper-based format. There will still be a place for web-based learning tools such as Numbots, Times Table Rockstars, Letter-join etc, and for children to research and develop skills in other curriculum subjects, but this needs to be realistic and progressive so that it prepares the children well for their next stage of learning (i.e. high school). The new system will be launched after the half-term holiday.

START OF THE SCHOOL DAY

Please do your very best to get your child into school by **8:40 every morning.**

Many of you expressed a concern for the junior children having to wait outside in the cold, so for the Autumn and Winter months we're going to allow children to come straight into school from 8:30, once the gates have been opened. **This will start from Monday 10th October.** This will give a 10 minute window for the children to arrive at school. The gates will be locked at 8:45 and anyone arriving after this time must be brought to the school office to be signed in by an adult. You can help to ease congestion around school by moving away from school once the children have come in and not waiting near the gates or blocking the pathways. If you need to speak with the class teacher, quick messages can be relayed at the start of the day or on Class Dojo, but longer discussions should be arranged through the school office.

Please **DO NOT** stop on the yellow lines outside of school to drop your children off. Other than Year 6 children whose parents have provided written permission for them to walk to school on their own, all other children should be accompanied to the school doors by a known adult. This is a serious safeguarding issue - it can only take a few seconds for a stranger to entice a young child away with sweets or toys!

GOLDEN TICKET DAY: Thursday 6th October

All children who have a school meal on Thursday have a chance of winning one of two prizes for the whole family, with a small sweet treat for every participant. I will post more information about this on Dojo, but we basically need as many children to take a dinner day on School Census Day as possible. If the dinner uptake is low, then we lose funding for the forthcoming year which will impact negatively on staffing, resources and opportunities we can provide for the children. Please book a meal now!

Mr. Linford and the SFX Team

HAGLEY CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL
SINCE 1084

OPEN MORNING

Saturday 8th October 2022 9:00am-12:30pm

We will be offering personal tours of the school site, an opportunity to hear from the Principal and staff, try out some of our facilities and discover the wonderful education that is awaiting you and your child, as part of the Hagley family.

Tours must be pre-booked via Eventbrite at:
<https://hagleycatholichighschoolopenmorning2022.eventbrite.co.uk>

Called as God's family,
we strive to achieve our personal
best, by living and learning in Christ.

EMMAUS CATHOLIC MAC

Dates for the diary:

Thursday 6th October: School Mass
9:15 a.m. start in Church (led by Year 5)

Sunday 16th October @ 11 a.m.
School Parish Mass in Church.
This will be a Mass of Commitment for all children in Year 3 who wish to receive their First Holy Communion in the summer, and for our Year 6 children who will be preparing to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation.
Attendance is compulsory.

Thursday 20th October: School Mass
9:15 a.m. start in Church for **HARVEST**
(led by children in Year 4)

OCTOBER HALF-TERM HOLIDAY
Monday 24th to Friday 28th October

PARENTS' EVENINGS
Tuesday 22nd and Thursday 24th November
3:30-6:00 p.m.

CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR HOLIDAY
Monday 19th December to Monday 2nd January

STAFF INSET on Tuesday 3rd January

As advertised on the school website and communicated at the end of the summer term,
SCHOOL WILL BE CLOSED on **Friday 7th October** for **STAFF TRAINING.**

School will reopen to pupils as normal on Monday 10th October until the end of this half-term.

St Thérèse of Lisieux
Patron of Mission
Feast Day:
1st October



As a child Saint Thérèse dreamed of being a missionary. With age she understood that very few of us are called to make big and radical gestures, but that through small, loving actions we too can deliver God's love to the world.

Dear Jesus,
Today we remember St Thérèse of Lisieux. With your help, St Thérèse showed us how little acts of kindness can make a huge difference. Help us to follow her example so that, no matter how small we may be, through our kindness the world will see how great God's love is.
Amen.



**Community
Coffee Morning**

Thursday 13th October 2022
Drop in anytime between
10am-2pm

SinglePoint Plus
66-68 Birmingham Street,
Oldbury,
B69 4DZ
(Entrance on Simpson Street)

There are worse ways to start the day than a free cuppa, chat & biscuits in the warmth!

**Coffee and Relax
and Chat**

Join us for a
tea or a coffee
and a biscuit...



Come and meet the team, see the centre and talk as much or as little as you like in a relaxed environment.



SinglePoint Plus Family Hub
66-68 Birmingham Street, Oldbury, B69 4DZ
Tel: 01215441393
Email CRC@singlepointplus.org

<https://www.facebook.com/SinglePoint2/>

