

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are the end of what has been a really challenging and busy term. I hope that you are all ready for Christmas and that you have the opportunity to spend with your family.

I would like to say thank you for all the support you have given your children and the school. We are very proud of our children and know you are too.

### Thank you St Francis Xavier Families

I am really pleased to share with you that there have been a group of parents who have been working hard behind the scenes to raise money for school. They have raised **£185**. As Reading is so important, we felt that it would be wonderful to use this money to purchase books for the school library. Thank you to all of our parents and carers who supported.

### Fundraising at St Francis Xavier

Normally, we would have held a Christmas Fayre this term. We have been more cautious this year due to safety restrictions. But we would really appreciate your support on ideas for what we can do safely throughout the year. If you are interested in offering your ideas, please let the school office know. It would be helpful to meet with a group of interested parents/carers in the New Year and explore some ideas together.

I would like to wish you all a wonderful Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

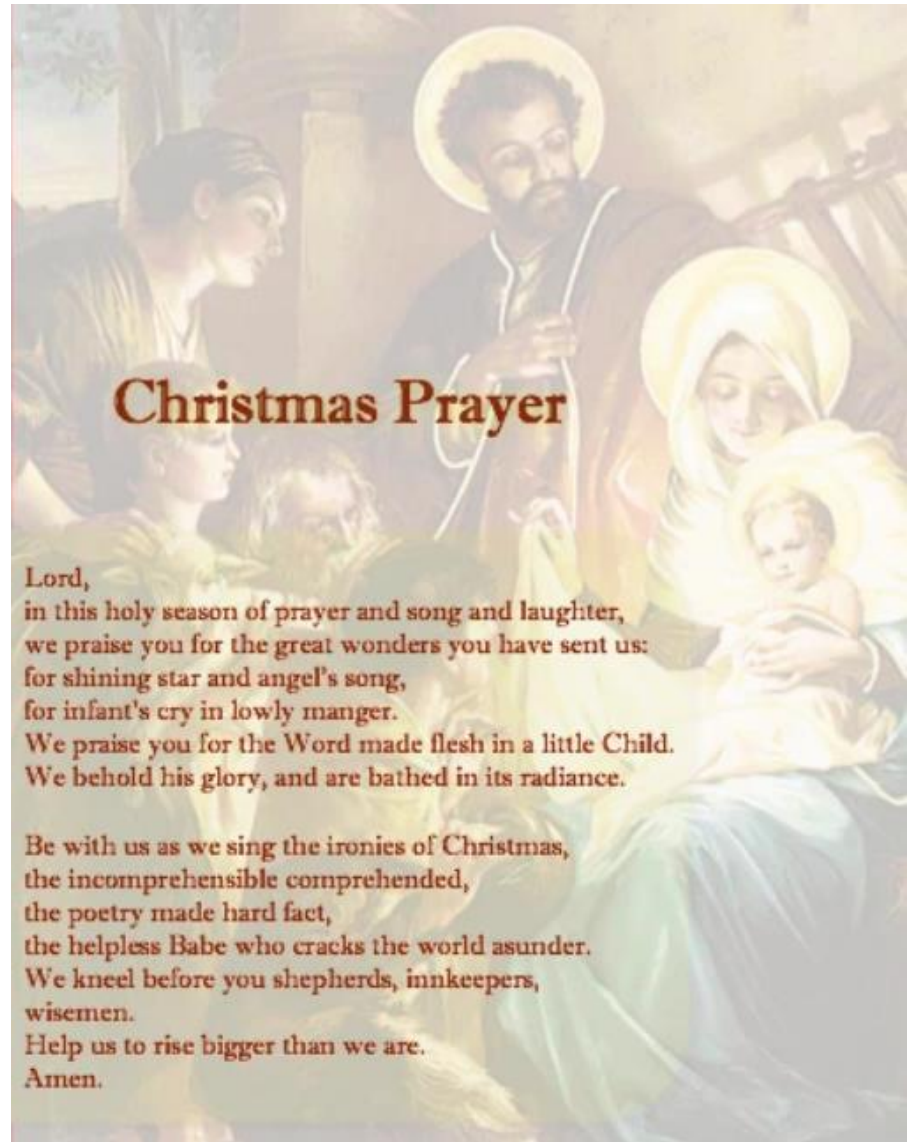
Best wishes,

Mrs Downes  
Principal

## The Year of St Joseph

The year from **8<sup>th</sup> December 2020 to 8<sup>th</sup> December 2021** was proclaimed by Pope Francis, as the Year of St Joseph, recognising the special virtues of St Joseph that make him an inspirational Saint relevant today. It also marks the 150th anniversary of blessed Pope Pius IX's declaration of St Joseph as the Patron of the Church.

Ten Ten has produced various resources for schools across the Year of St Joseph, culminating in a novena reflection - nine days of prayer usually asking God for a specific intention or cause - to be concluded on the 8<sup>th</sup> December 2021, which is also the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception.



Novenas are a tradition dating back to the Early Church, when Jesus' disciples spent nine days in prayer after Jesus' ascension into heaven. At the end of the nine days, Jesus sent the Holy Spirit on Pentecost, giving the disciples strength and courage to continue His work.

*We have made this novena to mark the end of the Year of St Joseph freely available to parents. Why not check it out [here](#) and use it at home with your family!*

## Date for your Diary!

You might not know, but Ten Ten, in addition to providing **Collective Worship** resources in schools, is also the leading provider of RSHE resources to Catholic schools in England and Wales.

"What is RSHE?" you may well ask! Well, on **Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> February at 7pm** you can attend our webinar to find out all about Relationships, Sex and Health Education, the changes to the curriculum regarding this, and what it means for Catholic schools and parents of children in these schools.

This instructive and inspiring webinar puts the dignity of the human person at the heart of the discussion and is open to parents of children in all Catholic schools, not just those subscribing to our RSHE programme **Life to the Full**.

*Find out more and book your place [here](#).*

## New Year, New Term

We are really looking forward to welcoming you back in the new term, welcoming you back on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> January at normal time.

### Our Parish Links:

**Father is looking forward to celebrating Mass over the Christmas Season with you all.**



**The Masses are as follows:**

#### Christmas Eve

**5pm at St Francis Xavier Church**

**8pm at English Martyrs Church**

#### Christmas Day

**11.00am at St Francis Xavier Church**

### Events for the year

Please go to our website for updates on dates of events. On the next page is a printout of what is currently on the calendar. Please go to the website for events, as they will be added throughout the year. For the calendar, go to: <http://www.st-francisxavier.sandwell.sch.uk/Page/Calendar>

**Please see the next page...**

Tue 4 Jan 2022	All day <b>School starts today - children to return at normal time</b>
Mon 7 Feb 2022	7 February 2022 00:00 - 13 February 2022 00:00 <b>Children's Mental Health Week</b>
Mon 7 Feb 2022	7 February 2022 00:00 - 18 February 2022 00:00 <b>Many Paths (Other Faiths) Fortnight</b>
Tue 8 Feb 2022	All day <b>Internet Safety Day</b>
Sat 19 Feb 2022	All day <b>Break up for half term holiday today</b>
Mon 21 Feb 2022	21 February 2022 00:00 - 8 March 2022 00:00 <b>Fair Trade Fortnight</b>
Mon 28 Feb 2022	All day <b>School opens to all pupils</b>
Thu 3 Mar 2022	All day <b>World Book Day</b>
Sat 5 Mar 2022	5 March 2022 00:00 - 12 March 2022 00:00 <b>British Science Week</b> Innovating for the Future
Sun 10 Apr 2022	10 April 2022 00:00 - 18 April 2022 00:00 <b>Holy Week</b>
Mon 9 May 2022	9 May 2022 00:00 - 15 May 2022 00:00 <b>Mental Health Awareness Week</b>