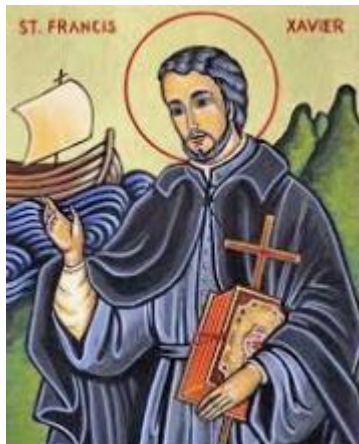


Be Awake and Ready!



Dear Parents and Carers,

Today, we celebrated the Feast Day of St Francis Xavier. We will be completing some activities around St Francis Xavier and his life and work after Whole School Mass next Thursday. Father is hopeful that we will be able to hold Mass in Church from his return from visiting his family in February.

Links around the world

We have had some exciting contact from a teacher called Miss Gunson, who teaches at St Francis Xavier Catholic Primary School in Whangarei, New Zealand. Whangarei is about 180km north of Auckland, on the east coast. When they were looking for prayers about St Francis Xavier to celebrate his feast day, our school website popped up. Their school looks very similar to theirs and they have also had some challenging times with Covid. We are going to look at how we can build some links across the seas with us as we share our patron saint. The children wrote some simple prayers of the faithful about St. Francis Xavier to share with our school. The Te Reo (Maori) response 'E Te Ariki whakarongo mai' means Lord hear us. We will look forward to completing some work with them.

Staff changes in school

Yesterday, you received a letter regarding changes in leadership at St Francis Xavier. We will all miss Mrs Bullock, who is going to a new venture and we wish her the very best. Mr Boodell will be joining us in January and has a lot of leadership experience, there are robust plans in place to help the school move forward and to achieve the best. We are very much looking forward to welcoming him to our school family and I am sure you will too.

Miss Wood will also be leaving, she has is pursuing work in a different school after being with us for 6 years. Miss Wood has been a dedicated member of the staff and will be missed by us all. She has made so many wonderful contributions to school life and our school and Church community. I know that you will wish her well in her ventures too. We have secured a teacher to work with us for the term, who will be visiting the class before Christmas to meet everyone.

Mrs Holmes sadly won't be able to work with us after Christmas as she has already been committed to work elsewhere. I am sure that you will wish Mrs Holmes well, she has worked very hard with Year 6 and supported them well in making good progress after difficult times from Covid absence. We have secured a teacher who will also come to visit before Christmas to meet the children.

There are times in our lives when things change and they can seem difficult to understand. We have to respect that change is inevitable and that if God plans different pathways for us, we must follow them. Please be assured that there are plans in place to ensure that the school thrives and makes great steps forward. Stay safe and well this weekend.

Best wishes,

Mrs Downes
Principal



Advent Encounter

We are nearly at the end of the term and are completing Advent work in school. We will be fundraising for the sick and housebound in the parish on Christmas Jumper day (which is on the calendar list below). You may want to complete prayer and fun activities at home, the Bible Society are offering prayers you can take part in along with things to do. If you are interested, please go to https://www.biblesociety.org.uk/get-involved/the-advent-encounter/?source_code=50218_tae21_s&gclid=Cj0KCOiAnaenBhCUARIsABEee8Uc33JCxJVkHXOhdPmvOkOZBNSsxBOqDOALLvGzKfHVP3_f_MDX3QaAtYbEALw_wcB.

School Discos

We are also holding a school disco for the children, which is a lovely way for them to spend time with their friends at this festive time. On the day of their disco, the children can come in non-uniform. The cost of the disco will be £4.00 which can be made on the School Gateway, this will be set up early next week. The children will stay in school and will be given a drink and snack to enjoy at the disco.

Any profit made will be spent on books for school and games/toys for the playground. The discos are as follows:

Tuesday 14th December – Key Stage 1

Wednesday 15th December – Nursery and Reception

Thursday 16th December – Key Stage 2

Please collect your child from the front entrance of school at 5pm.

Our Parish Links:



Father is looking forward to celebrating Mass with the whole school next week.

Holy Communion and Confirmation

Father has been really pleased with the start that the children have made in their preparation with him. He has said that due to the amount of tasks that they have completed, he will not be able to offer any more places from now. If you have not joined, you may wish to ask him about joining next year instead.

Are eligible for Free School Meals?

For some times in our lives, circumstances can change. If you feel at this time that you may be eligible for free school meals, please ask for help with the form at the office, where we will be happy to help you.

Attendance for this week

YR	Y1	Y4	Y6	Y5	Y3	Y2
88%	89%	92%	93%	94%	95%	97%

We know that there is illness in a lot of families and appreciate that you bring your child to school each day that they are well enough. Please keep reminding your son or daughter to wash their hands regularly and to take care of themselves.

TERM TIME ABSENCE – PLEASE REMEMBER THAT IF YOU WISH TO TAKE YOUR CHILD OUT OF SCHOOL FOR ANY LENGTH OF TIME, YOU MUST ARRANGE A MEETING WITH ME AND COMPLETE A LEAVE OF ABSENCE FORM.

Punctuality

Most of the children in our school are arriving well on time, well done. Thank you to all who help support your child's start to the day by making sure that they arrive on time.

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>

Wed 8 Dec 2021	All day 9.30am: Key Stage 1 Christmas Performance This is to be held outside, weather permitting. If not, it will be filmed and shared.
Fri 10 Dec 2021	14:45 - 15:15 Merit Assembly for Years 4, 5 and 6 Please note that this is the final assembly of the term.
Tue 14 Dec 2021	All day 3.15-5.00pm: Key Stage 1 Disco Please look out for a letter with details about this.
Wed 15 Dec 2021	All day Christmas Dinner and Jumper Day Please pay £1 to wear your Christmas jumper, money raised will be used to prepare packages for those unwell and/or housebound in our Parish
Wed 15 Dec 2021	All day 9.30am: Year 3 and 4 Christmas Performance This is to be held outside, weather permitting. If not, it will be filmed and shared.
Wed 15 Dec 2021	All day 10.30am: Year 5 and 6 Christmas Performance This is to be held outside, weather permitting. If not, it will be filmed and shared.
Thu 16 Dec 2021	All day 3.15-5.00pm: Key Stage 2 Disco Please look out for a letter with details about this.
Fri 17 Dec 2021	All day 2pm: School closes for Christmas Please note that you will need to collect at the earlier time of 2pm.