



Head Teacher / Principal: Mrs J Downes

# In love, we remember...



*Eternal rest,  
give unto them O Lord,  
let perpetual light shine upon them,  
may they rest in peace,  
Amen.*

We would like to give a special thank you to Father who blessed the Remembrance wreaths. Also, thank you to Mrs Haywood who kindly made the Remembrance Wreaths.

### **Month of Remembrance: Harvest of Love and Hope**

Thank you to all who made generous donations for the Royal British Legion. So far, we have raised over £70, with some donations made online and some in cash. I know that there may be some left to make donations. You can make this payment online via the School Gateway.

Along with this, thank you to the families and children in Y2, who worked together (at a safe distance) in gathering hands and prayers from the children to pray for all our lost love ones. It is wonderful to see such support and commitment. We have seen this done in so many ways at school, with donations, support and the reassurance you are giving to your children at what has been a highly challenging time.

## Remembrance Book

It is not too late to add any family members you wish to for the Remembrance book online. Please email [headteacher@sfxcps.co.uk](mailto:headteacher@sfxcps.co.uk) if you wish to add any of your loved ones. Our page can be found with this link: <http://www.st-francisxavier.sandwell.sch.uk/Page/Detail/book-of-remembrance> or via this QR code...



## Ribbons of Remembrance

Everyone was given a short piece of ribbon to tie around the fence at the front of school (close to our Hands of Hope) and will tie it to the fence as remembrance of a loved one they have lost. We will invite the community to do this also. **We welcome you in adding red ribbon if you wish.**

## Attendance

We are so proud of everyone in our school! Well done. Year 2 and 3 will have 2 house points each.

Nursery	Year 1	Year 5	Year 6	Reception	Year 4	Year 2	Year 3
73%*	95%*	96%	97%	97%	97%	99%	99%

\*Nursery and Reception has been affected by their bubble closing.

## Punctuality

Well done to everyone who is arriving on time. So many are. There are some who are beginning to arrive quite late, which delay the start of what are shorter days currently. Please help your son / daughter in their learning by arriving on time. Thank you.

## Merit Assembly

I am really pleased to hear about the excellent behaviour that is taking place every day. I have been pleased to see such good manners being used and friends supporting one another.

Year Group	Writers of the Week	Stars of the Week
1	Ontario	Abigail Hope
2	Xander	Ben Elliot
3	Lacey-May	Guelia William
4	Tegh	Daiya Chinaza
5	Ben	Emerald Imogen
6	Prielle	Ethan Ioana

## PCSO Online Safety Assembly

Year 5 were wonderful ambassadors for school last week as they took part in an Online Safety assembly. I know that classes were looking at the CEOP site also, which addresses being safe online. The PCSOs were impressed to hear how so many children have safety settings on their devices that they share with mums and dads and other trusted adults at home. Thank you for the support you give here, it is a challenge to keep children safe in the digital world. If you haven't visited the CEOP site, go to: <https://www.ceop.police.uk/safety-centre/>

Please be aware that there are age limits on these apps, such as WhatsApp and Houseparty. We have had to deal with issues relating to irresponsible behaviour of a very small number of children, so please make sure that you talk about safe and respectful online behaviour at home. The advice of the PCSOs is quite right, they say if you wouldn't say it to your Nan or Granddad, then DON'T say it. Good advice, things said in haste or online in text can be misconstrued and cause hurt or embarrassment.

### Anti-Bullying Assemblies – with Mrs Bullock

After having assembly with Mrs Bullock about this the previous week, PCSO James and Scott have shared an assembly about bullying and what to do if you are being bullied or witness it. This is an important issue and we need to ensure that children know that they have a voice and that they have a right to be heard. This will be reinforced through the policy and in teaching and learning in school.

### Christmas arrangements

- Christmas cards – You may want your children to bring in Christmas cards for their friends at school. This can be facilitated, but please be aware that it brings risk, so cards will be quarantined for 3 days before being given out. **PLEASE DO NOT SEND CARDS IN THE FINAL WEEK, IN THE INTERESTS OF SAFETY, THEY WILL NOT BE GIVEN OUT.** The final day to bring cards is **Friday 10<sup>th</sup> December.**
- We will be holding a **Christmas Jumper day on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> December.**
- **Christmas Dinner is the following day,** so please book with Dolce.
- We are not able to hold a Christmas Carol service, but we are working with Mr Shephard to record work that the children are preparing.
- Please follow the link for the calendar and note that when we break up for Christmas holidays on 17<sup>th</sup> December, **SCHOOL WILL CLOSE AT THE NORMAL HOMETIME.**



Calendar link: Please go to <http://www.st-francisxavier.sandwell.sch.uk/Page/Calendar> or use the QR code for all dates for the year.

### Parking

We are pleased that everyone is being supportive to one another in terms of parking considerately and that you are respectful to the residents in the surrounding roads to school. We have noticed however, that there are very small number of drivers not being respectful and have blocked staff and parents in at the Church car park. I have contacted our PCSOs about this who will address the matter. Please note that if there are any issues, that you let me know. We want our school family and neighbouring residents to have a good relationship and will address any issues that stop us from doing this.

### Staffing Update

It is with sadness that I have to say that we will be saying Farewell to 2 members of our staff this term. Mrs Haywood has decided that she is going to leave St Francis Xavier's school family to spend more time with her own. We will greatly miss her, she has done so much for so many of our children and has been an excellent support to staff also. I know that everyone will miss her a great deal. I know you will join me in wishing Mrs Haywood and her family well.

Also, Miss McDonnell is pursuing into another avenue in teaching, where she will be working with children with special needs in a school in Dudley. I know that Year 4 will really miss their teacher who works so hard with them and so supportively. We will miss her at St Francis, but wish her the greatest of luck as she pursues this new adventure.

Please note that there is also a letter following this to inform you about SinglePoint.

Good News! On a really happy note, we are very pleased to welcome Miss Jordan back, who is joining us towards the end of this term. Welcome back, Miss Jordan!



# A Message 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**

## GOVERNMENT CONSULTATION on FAITH ENGAGEMENT

Individual Catholics have been asked to respond to the following open consultation on the way Government engages with faith communities. The link to the online submission is:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/independent-faith-engagement-review-call-for-evidence>

This call for evidence aims to collect views to underpin a Faith Engagement Review.

**This call for evidence opened on 13th November and will run for a period of 4 weeks closing at 11:45pm on 11 December 2020. You may wish to respond to this consultation.**

## 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

St Francis Xavians, we can do this! Stay safe, stay alert.

COMMUNITIES  
STAY ALERT  
TO STAY SAFE