



St Francis of Assisi Catholic Primary School

Newsletter—No. 16

Friday 5th January 2018



At St Francis of Assisi we believe God is at the heart of our school. As a school community, we work together to provide a caring, stimulating nurturing environment, where every child can discover their true potential and grow closer to Christ. As pupils and staff we encourage in each other a love of learning. This is a place where we can all belong and where diversity and difference is celebrated. We rejoice in each other's uniqueness and respect the dignity and beauty of each individual. Using our gifts and talents we will actively seek to make a real difference - by caring for one another and caring for our world.

Welcome back to a new term. I hope you had a wonderful Christmas and a welcome rest from the usual hustle and bustle of school days. On behalf of all the staff, may I thank you for your gifts and kind wishes at the end of last term.

This morning, the whole school celebrated Mass of The Epiphany. Thanks to Fr. Simon for celebrating Mass and to all parents/carers who joined us for this celebration. Other Mass times and key calendar dates have been attached.

I should like to welcome Mrs Sharpe to our school who is teaching in Reception class, covering Mrs Wadie during her maternity leave. We wish Mrs Wadie and her family our very best wishes as she leaves St. Francis to commence her maternity leave next Friday.

Note from Fr Simon

This weekend we continue our celebrations of Christmas with the "Epiphany of the Lord". Three wonders mark this day we celebrate: Today the star led the Magi to the manger; today water was turned into wine at the marriage feast at Cana; today Christ desired to be baptised by John in the river Jordan to bring us salvation, alleluia! At the weekend Masses we will distribute the "Epiphany Chalk" so that families can bless their homes for the coming year with the inscription **20 + C + M + B + 18**, while praying: *"the three Wise Men, Caspar, Melchior and Balthazar followed the star of God's Son who became human two thousand and eighteen years ago. May Christ bless our home and remain with us throughout the new year. Amen. Visit, O Blessed Lord, this home with the gladness of your presence bless all who live or visit here with the gift of your love; and grant that we may manifest your love to each other and to all whose lives you touch. May we grow in grace and in the knowledge and love of you; guide, comfort, and strengthen your peace, O Jesus Christ, now and forever. Amen"*. The 20 & 18 refer to the year and the C.M.B. in the first instance refer to "Christus mansionem benecat" (May Christ bless this house), but also for the initials of the names of the three wise men.

Diary Dates

January

- Tues 9**—Early Years 'One Term In' meeting at 6.30pm
- Tues 16**—Class Assembly at 9.05am led by St John Paul—Parents Welcome
- Tues 23**—Class Assembly at 9.05am led by St Clare of Assisi—Parents Welcome
- Tues 30**—Class Assembly at 9.05am led by St Bernadette's Class