



St Francis Xavier Primary School

Newsletter

Monday 21st February 2022
Term 1 Week 5

PO Box 2027
Ballarat East VIC 3354
Phone: 5331 6311
Fax: 5331 8337

Email: principal @sfxballarat.catholic.edu.au

2022 Key Dates

Term 1 Week 5

Tuesday 22nd February
Getting to Know Your Child
as Person and a Learner
Meeting #2

Wednesday 23rd February
Foundation Children at
Home

Friday 25th February
Casual Clothes Day

Term 1 Week 6

Monday 28th February
School Photos
Year 5 Cyber Safety and
Chromebook Boot camp -
Parent Meeting

Tuesday 1st March
Shrove Tuesday
P&F Meeting

Wednesday 2nd March
Ash Wednesday
Foundation Children at
Home

Friday 4th March
Division Swimming Carnival

Term 1 Week 7

Wednesday 9th March
Foundation children at
home

Friday 11th March
Student Free Day – Staff
Professional Learning

Term 1 Week 8

Monday 14th March
Public Holiday – Labour Day

In the Land of the Wadawurrung People

Dear Parents and Families,

It has been an eventful start to the school year, but I am proud of the way the school community has handled the current challenges with Covid. As a Mercy community of faith, we have begun our school year with hope and confidence that the God who has walked with us in the past will continue to accompany us this year too.

As we enter Week 5, we are proud to see our children are settling in smoothly to Term 1. Despite facing the constant adjustments to COVID regulations, we are continuing our commitment to ensure our children are getting the best out of their school year. For safety, we continue preventing large gatherings such as the whole school assemblies.

Our children have been diligent with wearing masks and staff members have been flexible, adapting to a changing environment. I have appreciated the support of parents as changes occur to how we operate and the school calendar! This week the requirement to QR Code into the school has been removed as per the Premier's announcement of Friday.

This week we also look forward to the second night of our **Getting to know your child as a Person and Learner Meetings** and our first **Casual Clothes Day** this Friday.

Getting to know your child as a Person and Learner Meeting 2022

As teachers, we build up expertise in how children learn and how each child operates within our setting. We acknowledge that it is the parent who knows their child best and therefore sharing information between parents and teachers will ultimately foster the spiritual, physical, intellectual, emotional and social development of each child.



These meetings provide 5 minutes dedicated 1:1 time for parents and teachers to meet and for you to share your child's strengths, passions, your concerns, and aspirations and anything you think will help your child to be successful.

Attached to today's newsletter is a document outlining some question and prompts for you to complete prior to your *Getting to know your child as a Person and Learner Meeting*. This document will need to be handed to your child's classroom teacher at the beginning of your meeting. **Bookings for these meetings are NOW open.**

The web address for booking is <http://www.schoolinterviews.com.au> and the new logon code is: **fc2bq**

- Day 2 3:45pm to 5:30pm Tuesday 22nd February.

Through the mission of Jesus within the Mercy tradition, we are called to action in pursuing fullness of life for all.

Tuesday 15th March
School Open Day #1

Term 1 Week 9

Tuesday 22nd March
School Open Day #2

Thursday 24th March
Year 5 Visit to Sovereign Hill

Friday 25th March
Casual Dress Day

Term 1 Week 10

Thursday 31st March
School Open Day #3

Term 1 Week 11

Tuesday 5th April
P & F Meeting

Friday 8th April
Last Day of Term 1

Term 2

Tuesday 26th April to
Thursday 23rd June
= 9 Weeks

Term 3

Monday 11th July to Friday
16th September
= 10 Weeks

Term 4

Monday 3rd October to
Friday 16th December
= 11 Weeks

**All other Calendar Dates for
2023 have been updated
and can be accessed live on
the Skoolbag App or by
visiting the School Website**

These meetings will **ALL** take place in via Zoom. We look forward to seeing you online on Wednesday afternoon!

Casual Clothes Day – Friday 25th February

This Friday will be our first casual clothes day for the year. At St. Francis Xavier we use the last Friday of each month for casual dress and invite children to bring along a gold coin as a donation to a specific charity and/or religious community. We try to make the donations relevant and at the same time promote awareness and education.

School Photos – Monday 28th February

Last Monday you received your child's personalized photo envelope from MSP Photography. If you wish to purchase photos please ensure your child has the photo envelope on photo day with the correct money or alternatively there will an option to order photos online. Family Photo envelopes will be available from the Office.

Photo day is Monday 28th February and children will be required to be in full summer uniform (not sport uniform).



St. Francis Xavier Uniform Shop - Welcome back to 2022!

Would you like to volunteer and help at your child's school? If so, the Uniform Shop would love YOU to join our team.

The SFX uniform shop is run by a friendly team of volunteers. Volunteering in the Uniform Shop requires no experience and relatively low time commitment compared to other volunteering roles.

By volunteering you are supporting a key fundraising function for the school with all profits going back into the Parents and Friends projects and resources for your children.

We are open and need assistance every:

- Monday 8:40am – 9:10am
- Wednesday 8:40am – 9:10am
- Friday 3.00pm – 3.30pm.

Our rotating roster means you only need to be available 1 morning per month. Rosters are sent to volunteers and dates are advised through Newsblasts and the SFX Newsletter.

****We are currently only packing order forms that are returned to the office due to the current COVID restrictions requiring 4 square meters per person and the size of the shop being so small. This could change shortly and we will keep you informed if we are able to go back to face to face trading****

If you are able to help please complete this short online Google Form by clicking on the following link: <https://forms.gle/dNejzbtnMB9Vobw3A>

All parents, carers and grandparents are welcome and any time you can offer is greatly appreciated.

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Foundation Enrolment 2023 - Open Day and School Alive Tours

We are happiest when prospective families pay us a visit to see for themselves what makes us different.



New and Existing Families are invited to join us to learn about St. Francis Xavier Primary School.

Open Days will begin with an Information Session at 9:30 am with **School Alive Tours** to follow at 10:00am:

1. Tuesday 15th March 2022
2. Tuesday 22nd March 2022
3. Thursday 31st March 2022

Event Registration:

To register your attendance for an Open Day, School Alive Tour or Virtual Tour please complete the Registration Form at: <http://www.sfxballarat.catholic.edu.au/enrol/open-days>

Online Enrolment Open from Tuesday 8th February 2022

Attending an Open Day is the first step in the enrolment process. The online **Expression of Interest** is the second step in the enrolment process. If you wish to do so, please nominate St Francis Xavier Primary School as your first preference for your child's education. Please click on this link and fill in and submit the City of Ballarat Catholic School Expression of Interest Form: <https://ceob.edu.au/2022-foundation-enrolments/>

Foundation Enrolment 2023 – Existing Families

Enrolments are open for children of existing families who start Prep in 2023. Parents of existing families who have a child to start in 2023 - please complete the form by clicking on the following link to submit a **City of Ballarat Catholic Primary School Expression of Interest Form**: <https://ceob.edu.au/2022-foundation-enrolments/>

Classroom Helper Information Sessions

Due to our current restrictions we are currently unable to welcome Classroom Helpers onsite. However, as soon as we are able to, we would like to begin welcoming our Classroom Helpers into our learning spaces. So that we are prepared for this, we will be facilitating two Classroom Helper Information Sessions this term:

- **Session 2:** Monday 21st February at 2.00pm via Zoom

The Classroom Helper Information Sessions are for members of our community who would like to be involved as 'Classrooms Helpers' in 2022 when our current restrictions are eased. These sessions will cover aspects of English and Mathematics and provide helpers with important information required prior to supporting in classrooms.

Please note:

- If you are interested in becoming a Classroom Helper, you only need to attend one of the Classroom Helper Information Sessions.
- A valid 'Working with Children's Check' is required prior to commencing classroom support. Office staff require a copy of ALL cards prior to commencement.
- Sign and return the following documents prior to commencement, St Francis Xavier Primary School Volunteer Duty Statement & St Francis Xavier Primary School Safeguarding Children and Young People Code of Conduct

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- If you have attended a St. Francis Xavier Primary School Classroom Helper session in previous years, you do not need to attend another session.
- You will however need to read, sign and return the following documents prior to commencement:
 - St Francis Xavier Primary School Volunteer Duty Statement
 - St Francis Xavier Primary School Safeguarding Children and Young People Code of Conduct

Both documents can be collected from the Office.

Please **RSVP** by emailing: rconroy@sfxballarat.catholic.edu.au if you would like to participate so that the Zoom link can be shared with you prior to your chosen session.

COVID Safe Environment

Our school continues to monitor and abide by all COVID safe regulations and recommendations issued by both the State Government and the Catholic Education Office. Density Limits and Good Hygiene practices continue to apply.

Beginning of the Day Drop Off

- Foundation (Prep) parents will be able to accompany their children to their classroom in the first week of school. We ask that the Foundation (Prep) parents drop their child at the entrance to the classroom and then leave in a prompt manner. On entry to the building Foundation parents must QR Code in.
- We continue to request that all other parents (Year 1 – 6) drop their children off in the undercover area and then exit the school in a prompt manner.
- Staff will be present in the undercover area from 8:30am to assist children with walking to their classrooms if required.

End of the Day Dismissal

Please see the table below for staggered pick up arrangements that continue at St. Francis Xavier.

	3:00pm – 3:10pm	3:10:pm – 3:20pm	3:20pm onwards
	Children with Surnames beginning...		
Week 1 to Week 5 Monday 31 st January to Friday 25 th February	A - G	H - P	Q - Z

To minimise congestion, especially among adults, we ask families to adhere to this timetable and to be vigilant when promptly entering and exiting the building. Teachers will not be available to engage in discussion with parents at drop off or dismissal time and we ask parents to refrain from stopping and engaging in conversation with children and adults while onsite.

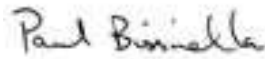
Dismissal / Collections Area

Year Level	Teacher	Collection Area
Foundation	Megan Mullane	Side door of the Foundation MM classroom
Foundation	Tom Willmott	Side door of the Foundation TW classroom
Foundation	Emma Hancock	Side door of the Foundation EH classroom
Foundation	Jessie Simpson	Side door of the Foundation JS classroom
Year One	Gemma Johnson	Enter via school FRONT GATES and proceed to classrooms via flag pole entrance (Please do not enter via the lower laneway)
Year One	Shannon MacKlin	
Year One	Estelle McLean	
Year 2 - 6	Class Teachers	Collect from classroom door

At no stage are parents able to enter any classroom. Red Tape and Distance markers will be outside each classroom door to remind all adults.

Have a great week!

Yours sincerely,



Paul Bissinella
Principal

Catherine McAuley

Do not fear offending anyone. Speak as your mind directs and always act with more courage when the "mammon of unrighteousness" is in question

Letter to Mary Ann Doyle July 24,1842

Religious Education News



Sacramental News

Please don't hesitate to contact the parish if you have any further questions. Please direct all sacrament inquiries and requests to Bronwyn Ballesty in the parish office on 53326611 or via email on ballarateast@ballarat.catholic.org.au . The office is staffed Tuesday, Thursday, Friday between 9:30am and 1:30pm.

St Alipius Parish, Ballarat East & Buninyong
Sacramental Programs 2022
 As parents/ guardians we invite you to enrol your BAPTISED CATHOLIC child into the
Family Based, Parish Coordinated and Parish School supported
 Sacramental Program for 2022.

EUCCHARIST	CONFIRMATION	RECONCILIATION
Term One Eucharist	Term Two Confirmation	Term Three Reconciliation and Eucharist
Those who have been CONFIRMED, celebrated RECONCILIATION and are in Year 5	For children who are BAPTISED who would like to be CONFIRMED and are in Year 3.	Those who have been CONFIRMED in Year 4 and would like to celebrate RECONCILIATION and EUCCHARIST. This will be a continual program for both Sacraments
Parent Information Sessions St Alipius Church Tuesday February 22 nd 2022 7.00pm	Parent Information Sessions St Alipius Church Tuesday March 10 th 2022 7.00pm	Parent Information Sessions St Alipius Church Tuesday July 19 th 2022 7.00pm
CELEBRATION DATES	CELEBRATION DATES	CELEBRATION DATES
March Saturday 26 th Sunday 27 th April Saturday 2 nd Sunday 3 rd	June Wednesday 15 th Thursday 16 th Wednesday 22 nd Thursday 23 rd	RECONCILIATION August Wednesday 24 th Thursday 25 th EUCCHARIST September Sat /Sun 3 rd and 4 th Sat/Sun 10 th and 11 th

PLEASE NOTE: These dates may vary slightly depending on community circumstances. We thank you for your support and understanding.

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EUCCHARIST

Term One

Those who have been CONFIRMED, celebrated RECONCILIATION and are in Year 5

Parent Information Sessions
St Alipius Church
Tuesday
February 22nd 2022
7.00pm

Preparation
Preparation will be run through 4 Sunday Mass Time Dismissals. These will run over the following weekends:

February 26th and 27th

 March 5th and 6th
12th and 13th
19th and 20th

Children will need to be booked into a class through sapliturgy.net.au
 All Parents are welcome to attend.

CELEBRATION DATES

March Saturday 26th
Sunday 27th

 April Saturday 2nd
Sunday 3rd

PLEASE NOTE: Whilst the Parish aims to ensure that there will be no interruptions to the program we ask for your patience and understanding should adjustments be needed. Thank you.

BAPTISM

If your child has been baptised since he/she started at St Francis Xavier Primary School, make sure you have informed us and you have sent a copy of the Baptism certificate to the school office.

If you are seeking Baptism for your child, please call the St Alipius parish office on 53326611. If you wish your child to convert to Catholicism from another Christian faith, also call the parish office.

Bernadette Luckman
 Religious Education Leader

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SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR C

Gospel

Lk 6:27-38

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

Be merciful as your Father is merciful.

Jesus said to his disciples: 'I say this to you who are listening: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who treat you badly. To the man who slaps you on one cheek, present the other cheek too; to the man who takes your cloak from you, do not refuse your tunic. Give to everyone who asks you, and do not ask for your property back from the man who robs you. Treat others as you would like them to treat you. If you love those who love you, what thanks can you expect? Even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who do good to you, what thanks can you expect? For even sinners do that much. And if you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what thanks can you expect? Even sinners lend to sinners to get back the same amount. Instead, love your enemies and do good, and lend without any hope of return. You will have a great reward, and you will be sons of the Most High, for he himself is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked.

'Be compassionate as your Father is compassionate. Do not judge, and you will not be judged yourselves; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned yourselves; grant pardon, and you will be pardoned. Give, and there will be gifts for you: a full measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over, will be poured into your lap; because the amount you measure out is the amount you will be given back.'

The Gospel of the Lord



REFLECTION by Greg Sunter

The radical teaching that was begun in last week's gospel as the beatitudes and woes is continued in this week's challenge to be forgiving, compassionate and generous in the same way that God expresses abundant love. As with the blessings and curses of the Beatitudes passage, this teaching continues the challenge to act against cultural and social expectations. Who would be surprised if you were to express hatred for an enemy or for someone who hates you or treats you badly? But Jesus tells his disciples to love their enemies and to do good to those who hate them. His instruction is contrary to the 'normal' way of doing things – and that's exactly the message Jesus wanted to convey! Rather than a spiteful, vengeful God who keeps score and punishes wrongdoing, Jesus presents a compelling image of a God of unbounded compassion and abundant generosity.

In this passage we find one version of the Golden Rule that appears repeatedly throughout the gospels (as well as most other religious traditions): 'Treat others as you would like them to treat you.' It is followed up with a comment that it takes no effort to treat well people whom you like – anybody can do that. The challenge is to treat people you don't like as you would like to be treated yourself. In a society that had very strict rules about the way to treat different people and clearly established boundaries between different groups, this was a tough ask by Jesus. Bear in mind also that there was an occupying army in the country and Jesus was encouraging the people to treat even their enemies, the Romans, with love, compassion and forgiveness. This was a radical and challenging teaching!

Historical Context – In the midst of oppression

What a powerful message Jesus delivered to people who were subjugated and oppressed by an invading army. It would have been easy, and somehow 'natural', for the people of Palestine to hate the Roman occupiers and to seek revenge upon them. How confronting then for Jesus to say, 'love your enemies'! He tells the people that the way to live God's way in this situation

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was to be compassionate towards the oppressors; that when they rob you of your cloak to present them with your shirt as well. To do otherwise is to become like the oppressors themselves. Meeting hatred with hatred never ended hatred.

Scriptural context – Compassion

The compassion of God is a very strong theme that runs through the Gospel of Luke. Throughout the gospel, the compassion and mercy of God is emphasised and a defining feature of the gospel is the number of healings and parables that relate to people who were regarded as the outcasts of society. In this gospel, Jesus is the embodiment of God's compassion. Jesus wants all people to experience first hand the abundant love God holds for them. Today's gospel passage is a reminder that when we experience God's compassion we are also called to show it to others.

Different View – Turn the other cheek

Presenting your other cheek when someone has already struck you is usually seen as a pacifist action. However, a completely different interpretation can be made. If a man were to strike an inferior, it would be as a backhand strike – only equals fought with fists or open hands. Having been struck on one cheek with a backhand, offering the other cheek makes it impossible to again be struck with a backhand. The only option for the striker would be with an open hand – as equals fight. So, turning the other cheek can be interpreted as claiming your status as an equal.

A beginning point for discussion of this week's Gospel with children:

- Q. Which line of today's gospel do you find most challenging for your own life?
- Q. When have you ever tried to treat someone positively when they were treating you badly?
- Q. What consequences can flow from treating others as you would like to be treated?
- Q. When have you experienced genuine compassion from another person?
- Q. What does it mean to you to know that God is willing to forgive anything and not judge you?

Greg Sunter has worked in Catholic Education (Brisbane) for many years, most recently as a member of the Religious Education team and Mission and Formation team. He has extensive experience of praying with young people and forming others to lead prayer with young people. He is the author of books on adolescent faith, is a regular speaker at youth and evangelisation conferences, and is a retreat and reflection facilitator and presenter. His areas of interest include religious education, theology, scripture, spirituality, Catholic ethos, prayer, and ministry with young people.

Curriculum News



What's happening around the classes with our teaching and learning?

Trends in Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS)

St. Francis Xavier has been selected to participate in the IEA's (Institute of Education Sciences) Trends in **M**athematics and **S**cience Study (**TIMSS**) field trial which will be conducted in a few weeks' time with a sample group of Year five students.

This NAP assessment (National Assessment Program) field trial will test the performance of a range of TIMSS questions which will then be used to develop the final test for the main study in 2023. Thank you to the staff and children who will be involved with this. More details to follow for Week 8.

2022 NAPLAN

Preparations are also beginning for 2022 NAPLAN. I will be attending a meeting all about administering NAPLAN Online this week. It will inform me how to prepare students for the tests and support staff to successfully manage the administration and delivery of NAPLAN Online.

Enjoy the week ahead!

Jane Clark
Deputy Principal - Learning Enhancement



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Wellbeing News



Getting to Know Your Child as a Person and Learner” Meetings

The school has been abuzz this week with the “Getting to Know Your Child as a Person and Learner” Meetings - I’ve had both teachers and parents comment on how valuable it is to take time to build these healthy and respectful relationships together.

As a parent, you know your child better than anyone else does! Your child’s teacher wants to get to know your child too, so they can work with you to support your child’s learning and wellbeing.

Sharing information about your child’s interests, strengths and challenges is a key part of good parent/teacher relationships; and the chance to view each other as partners in the education process builds a wonderful base for future communication and trust.

It's important for the teacher/school to know anything that might be affecting your child’s wellbeing, for example a health condition, social issues or changes in the family, like a death, separation or divorce.

The attached article has some great tips for ways to build strong relationships with your child’s teacher. Parent-teacher relationships require effort and energy from both parties, however when everyone works together the social and academic benefits for your child are immense.

Christine Meneely
Wellbeing Leader

Physical Education News



Sporting Schools Updates

Sporting Schools - after school program continues this Monday Feb 21 (Hockey) and Thursday Feb 24 (Cricket). Those that are participating have been notified and the names are below:

Monday's (Feb 14, 21, 28, Mar 7, 21 & 28)

Maggie, Harriet & Emma Locke, Michelle-May & Ella-Sam Lunn, Sahesi Kariyawasam, Oscar, Charlie & Xavier Kersley, Flynn & Sully Boyd, Mabel Rush, Violet Toohey, Vivienne & Edith Young, Molly & Cooper Danaher, Mylo Robertson, Cooper Manning, Maeve & Isla Tongs, Claudia & Lucy Cochrane, Oakley & Macklin Smith, Jasper Patterson, Thiago Motta Crespo, Jensen, Bailey & Devon McCartin, Tom Anderson,

Lily Rice, Rahui Munokoa.

Thursday (Feb 17, 24, Mar 3, 10, 17 & 24)

Oscar & Joe Trigg, Aria & Mannix Treacy, Mia Hamill, Nicholas Green, Alexander Fitzpatrick, Eli & Darci Prebble, Alexander, James & Grace Hocking, Laura & James Bodnar, Sophie & Pippa Dalton, Reg & Baz Fitzpatrick, River Fedke, Xavier & EvieStaley, Noah Rice, Addilyn Simpson, Wentworth & Jameson Campbell, Jude Reus, Noah Osciak, James Bosworth, Sam Hill, Christopher Martin, Jed Hynes, Noah Chibnall

Division Tennis

Conditions were perfect at the Ballarat Regional Tennis Centre on Wednesday for our tennis team. It was fantastic to see all of the students show skill and sportspersonship all while having fun. All four teams played in great spirit throughout the day and all achieved amazing results!

Congratulations Liam Patterson, Lachlan Patterson, Will Steinhuis, Jack Fraser, Jameson Reus, Lenny Driscoil, Eva Cummins & Lola Roney. Well done to Liam and Lenny who finished as the 3rd ranked boys team overall.

Divisional Swimming

Divisional swimming is open for those in Yr 4-6 and who meet the qualifying criteria, to be held on Friday 4th March. Please see Operoo note for more details or contact me should you have any questions. Entries must be submitted by Wed Feb 23 at the latest.

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Calendar Events 2021

Term 1:

- Week 6 - Division Swimming - Friday 4th March (Yr 3-6) @ Eureka Outdoor Pool

Have a great week everyone.

Shaun Carroll

Sports Co-ordinator

Uniform Shop Update

NEWS from the Uniform Shop:

Uniform Shop Sales during Term 1

For the time being and until further notice the Uniform Shop is CLOSED and will only accept orders submitted by completing the attached order form and emailing back to office@sfxballarat.catholic.edu.au or by dropping it into the school office.

Payment can be made by filling out your credit card details on the order form or by cash. Please indicate your preferred payment method on the order form.

Price List & Order Form

The price list and order form is downloadable from the schoolbag app.

Orders **with full payment** may be left at the front office. **EFTPOS available**

DONATIONS PLEASE

Please check your cupboards for any uniform items you no longer need. Donations of second hand uniforms can be left at the shop with Sam. All donations are appreciated. Thanks.

Community News

Guitar lessons are back!

Tim will be returning next week to resume school guitar lessons.

Any parents that would like their child to continue lessons this year, or enquiries regarding new enrollments please contact Tim by phone/email on 0490314621 or Timothysmol@gmail.com



TERM 1 PROGRAM

MULTI-SPORTS (90 MINUTES)

Wednesdays After-School 3:25pm - 4:55pm

(2nd of Feb) to (6th of April)

Tennis, Soccer, T-Ball, Basketball and Cricket
Preps to Grade 4

\$220 for the 10 week program

Enrol online www.kellysports.com.au

Any queries call or text Dom on 0417 967 621

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Friday Lunches are back this week - Friday 4th February.

The P & F are pleased to announce that Golden Nugget Bakery will be providing our lunches whilst our wonderful friends at Stewart's Bakery rebuild over the next few months. We send the whole team at Stewart's Bakery all the very best and can't wait to see them reopen!

Don't forget to order your child's lunch before 10:00 am each Thursday via your Flexischools account.

Please note:

No late orders are accepted and our suppliers will not take any late orders.

We are also looking for volunteers each Friday to help pack the orders if you can spare an hour from 11:00am each Friday. Please sign up using the link below:

<https://signup.com/go/rZwXBiz>

Thank you in advance for your support!



Go to our **St. Francis Xavier Facebook** page for more photos:

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/St-Francis-Xavier-Primary-School/273229632859103?ref=hl>