



Term 1 April 2026

ST FRANCIS XAVIER COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

admin@sfx.wa.edu.au



LEADING COMMUNITY

JUSTINE SMITH - PRINCIPAL

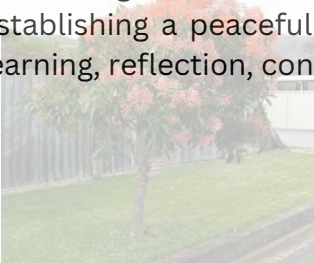
Dear Parents and Caregivers,

As we come to the end of Term 1, I would like to take a moment to thank our entire school community for the calm, organised, and supportive way in which we prepared for Cyclone Narelle. The way our staff, students, and families worked together was a wonderful reflection of our strong community spirit here at St Francis Xavier. While we were fortunate to avoid significant impact, our thoughts and prayers remain with those who have been affected.

It has truly been a fantastic start to the year. Across the term, our students have shown great enthusiasm for learning, built positive relationships, and embraced the many opportunities provided to them. As we finish the term, I encourage you to take time to celebrate the small wins with your child, these moments of growth, effort, and progress are incredibly important and worthy of recognition.

At St Francis Xavier, we are committed to nurturing the whole child. We strive to support each student in developing their unique gifts and talents, whether they are musical, sporting, academic, creative, or social. Every child has something special to offer, and it is a privilege to see these strengths continue to grow.

Next term will see exciting progress in the development of our school garden, particularly within the Early Years play area. We are working towards creating a rich, engaging outdoor environment with the addition of trees, plants, garden boxes, and play trails. Around the school, we will be planting trees, trees, and more trees! Stage 1 of our school garden planning is underway, with a focus on composting, growing herbs, and establishing a peaceful prayer space and yarning circle. This space will continue to grow as a place for learning, reflection, connection, and care for creation.



"LEADERSHIP IS UNLOCKING PEOPLE'S POTENTIAL TO BECOME BETTER."

BILL BRADLEY

LEADING COMMUNITY

JUSTINE SMITH - PRINCIPAL

Consistent attendance and predictable routines play a vital role in your child's success at school. Establishing strong habits helps students feel secure, confident, and ready to learn each day, and we thank you for your ongoing support in this area. The chart below gives a breakdown of the amount of time missed in a year, and if maintained, how it impacts on the future education of your child. If you or your child are experiencing any difficulties related to attendance, we would like to be able to support you - please contact Simon Place or myself

Period of Absence (Years 1 – 10)	Rate of Attendance	Equivalent School Missed	Level of Educational Risk
	Above 95%		Optimum attendance to achieve full potential
Average of 5 Days per Term	90%	1 Year	Acceptable attendance
1 Day per Week	80%	2 Years	Indicated At-Risk
1.5 Days per Week	70%	3 Years	Moderate Risk
2 Days per Week	60%	4 Years	Moderate Risk
3 Days per Week	50%	5 Years	Severe Risk
5 Weeks per Term	40%	6 Years	Severe Risk

As we enter Holy Week and prepare for Easter, we are reminded of the heart of our Catholic faith. This sacred time invites us to reflect on the life, sacrifice, and love of Jesus, and the hope and new life that Easter brings. Within our school community, this is an opportunity to continue fostering compassion, kindness, forgiveness, and service to others, values that sit at the core of who we are.



Thank you for your ongoing partnership and support throughout the term. I wish all families a safe, restful, and happy holiday break, and we look forward to welcoming everyone back for Term 2.

Justine Smith

'Families are the compass that guides us. They are the inspiration to reach great heights, and our comfort when we occasionally falter'

Brad Henry



Three-Week Mid-Year Term Break FAQs

Catholic Education Western Australia Limited (CEWA) will be moving toward the implementation of a three-week mid-year term break for its 150 schools for the 2027 school year. The three-week mid-year term break is part of CEWA's ongoing commitment to the wellbeing of staff and students.

To help with the implementation of the initiative some schools may be required to make small adjustments to their term calendars and/or school timetabling as required. Students will continue to have the same number of contact hours across a school year as they currently do.

1. What are the term dates for CEWA Schools

in 2027?

Term 1: 28 January – 9 April 2027

Term 2: 26 April – 25 June 2027

(pending ANZAC Day observance)

Term 3: 19 July – 24 September 2027

Term 4: 11 October – 10 December 2027

2. How is the three-week mid-year term break being accommodated in the school year?

Consideration of the diverse needs across the CEWA system of schools (including size, location, demographic), along with Principal feedback, informed the decision to move to a new CEWA annual calendar, by:

- redistribution of four instructional days to elsewhere in the school year; and
- compensation of one day through increasing the daily school timetable by 2 minutes per day (as required by some schools).

3. What is the impact of the change for students?

- Students commence Term 1 two days earlier than Department of Education schools.
- Reduction of two pupil free days during term time (a benefit for working parents).
- Adjustment of the school timetable by two minutes per day (for some schools).

Importantly, the amount of instructional time for students remains the same and the total number of term weeks remain the same. The number of pupil free

days for students (mid-term) reduces by two days in the year (seen as a benefit for working parents).

4. What is the impact of the change for teaching staff?

Teachers will deliver the same instructional teaching time over the course of the year and will continue to receive the same number of professional learning opportunities.

The Three-Week Mid-Year Term Break will enable teachers to have a longer break from delivering instructional teaching to students. The calendar allows for teachers to engage in some professional development during the mid-year term break.

5. How can working parents make the most of the additional week of leave for their children?

The CEWA system of schools, which includes 150 schools and approximately 75,000 students, has adjusted term dates to better align pupil-free days for families across multiple CEWA primary and secondary schools.

By knowing the term dates in advance, parents can plan more effectively.

Additionally, a standardised calendar highlights the community demand for independent OSHC services and holiday programs, providing a genuine opportunity for service providers to respond to community needs.

6. Will students in the country still be able to participate in Country Week?

Students would still be able to participate in Country Week sporting activities during the mid-year term break, with no interruption to their schooling.

7. How can I find out more about the research of the benefits supporting CEWA's decision for the three-week mid-year term break?

CEWA's [Vision for Learning](#) and [Strategic Wellbeing Framework](#) documents may be accessed [here](#) or on the [CEWA website](#) under 'Publications'.



8. How will I know if my child's school timetable will be adjusted?

The Principal will communicate the school timetable and any changes required from 2027 onwards, to the school community through their normal channels.

9. Will the change of the term dates impact school fees?

The amount of instructional time for students remains the same and the total number of term weeks across the year remain the same. The change of Term Dates to create a three-week mid-year term break will not result in any changes to school fees.

10. How will the WA Government's review of public holidays impact this change?

The information of any changes to public holidays in WA will be reviewed and assessed for impact, once an update is released by the WA Government.



A FAITH COMMUNITY

SIMON PLACE - ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

As we reach the end of a rich and rewarding Term 1 at St Francis Xavier Primary School, I would like to thank our students, staff, and families for contributing to a term filled with learning, celebration, and strong community spirit. Our school continues to grow as a place where faith, respect, and belonging flourish.

First Reconciliation – A Beautiful Step in Faith

One of the most significant moments this term was watching our Year 3 students celebrate the Sacrament of First Reconciliation. Over the past weeks, the students have been learning about forgiveness, mercy, and the unconditional love God has for each of us. They prepared with sincerity—reflecting on their choices, exploring how to repair relationships, and practising prayer in a calm and thoughtful way.

The celebration itself was prayerful, warm, and deeply meaningful. The children showed a level of reverence far beyond their years as they approached the sacrament for the first time. We thank Fr Larry and Fr Tai for guiding the students with gentleness, and our Year 3 teachers for forming the children so beautifully throughout the program. A special thanks to families who supported their children in conversations and practice at home—it truly made the day a community celebration of faith and renewal.



Harmony Day – Celebrating Our Colourful Community

Harmony Day was another standout moment of the term. Our entire school came together in a vibrant display of colour, culture, and unity. Students proudly wore clothing that reflected their heritage, shared stories about their family backgrounds, and celebrated the many languages and traditions represented in our community.

During our activities, students explored what it means to belong, to welcome others, and to celebrate differences with pride and respect. Watching our students connect through games, food, storytelling, and song was a living example of our school values in action. Harmony Day reminded us that at St Francis Xavier, every child has a place, every family has a story, and every culture enriches us.



Gratitude for Our Student Leaders

Our student leaders have continued to impress us with their maturity and reverence during our Monday morning prayer assemblies. Their thoughtful leadership, clear speaking, and genuine sense of responsibility set a wonderful example for the rest of the school. We are grateful for the time and care they put into preparing each prayer, helping us start our week with calmness, focus, and a strong sense of community.

Our Easter Celebrations

As we move into the Easter season, it is worth taking a moment to reflect on the key elements of Easter in simple terms:

- **Holy Thursday** reminds us of Jesus' Last Supper—where He shared a meal with His friends and taught them the importance of service and love.
- **Good Friday** recalls the day Jesus gave His life for others, showing us that true love is self-giving, courageous, and full of hope.
- **Easter Sunday** is the heart of our faith—celebrating Jesus rising to new life. It teaches us that hope is stronger than fear, and love is stronger than anything that tries to diminish it.

These stories shape everything we do as a Catholic school. They remind us to forgive others, to show compassion, and to bring light into the lives of those around us.

As we head into the school holidays, I pray that the Easter season brings your families rest, joy, and a renewed sense of hope. Thank you for your ongoing support of our school community.

Wishing you a blessed and peaceful Easter.



Simon Place

"FAITH IS TAKING THE FIRST STEP EVEN WHEN YOU DON'T SEE THE WHOLE STAIRCASE."

MARTIN LUTHER KING

A LEARNING COMMUNITY

BELINDA HOSKING - ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

SFX Specialist Subjects

At our school, we are proud to offer a rich and engaging range of specialist learning areas that support the development of the whole child. Guided by the School Curriculum and Standards Authority (SCSA), these programs provide students with opportunities to explore new interests, build essential skills, and deepen their understanding across a variety of disciplines. Our specialist subjects play an important role in fostering creativity, curiosity, confidence, and wellbeing, complementing classroom learning and helping every student to thrive.

Physical Education

Physical Education at our school supports students to develop the knowledge, skills and confidence to lead active and healthy lives. Students engage in a variety of movement activities that build fundamental motor skills, teamwork, and an understanding of personal and community health. Through games, sports, and fitness challenges, students learn about fair play, resilience, and the importance of staying active.



Auslan

Auslan (Australian Sign Language) provides students with the opportunity to communicate using a visual language and to engage with Deaf culture. Students learn to sign, interpret meaning, and understand the cultural context of the Deaf community. Learning Auslan supports inclusion, enhances communication skills, and fosters respect for diversity within our community.



Technology (Digital and Design)

In Technologies, students develop creative and practical skills to solve problems and design solutions. This learning area includes both Digital Technologies and Design Technologies. Students learn to use digital systems safely and effectively, create and manage digital solutions, and apply design thinking processes to produce innovative products. This equips them with important skills for an increasingly technological world.



Science

Science learning encourages students to be curious about the world around them and to think critically about how things work. Students explore biological, physical, chemical, and Earth and space sciences through hands-on investigations. They develop skills in questioning, predicting, observing, and explaining, helping them build a strong foundation for understanding scientific concepts and real-world applications.



Music

Music education inspires creativity, expression, and an appreciation of the arts. During lessons, students explore elements of music such as rhythm, pitch, and dynamics through singing, playing instruments, listening, and composing. Music lessons help develop confidence, collaboration, and a sense of enjoyment, while also supporting broader learning through connections with literacy, numeracy, and cultural understanding. At SFX, students have the opportunity to learn a number of instruments including piano, guitar and ukelele.



Belinda Hosking

2026 SFX Faction Swimming Carnival

YEAR 4

Champion Girl: Belle Worthington
Runner-Up: Lulu Carr



YEAR 4

Champion Boy: Sunny Sharpe
Runner-Up: Leo Bingham



YEAR 5

Champion Girl: Harlow Burnett
Runner-Up: Paige Norris



YEAR 5

Champion Boy: Lucas Bunter
Runner-Up: Liam May



YEAR 6

Champion Girl: Isabelle Lorne
Runner-Up: Saoirse Brennan



YEAR 6

Champion Boy: Oscar Wright
Runner-Up: Colton Burke



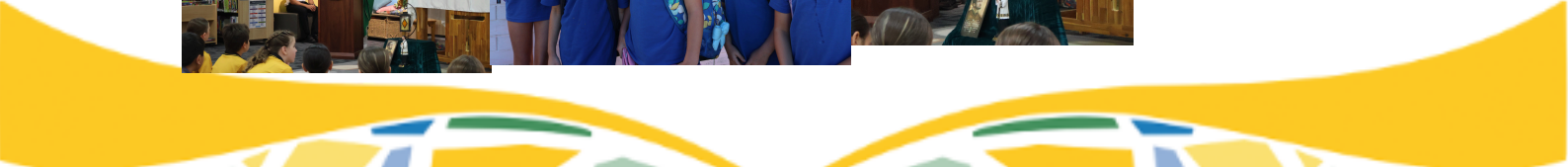
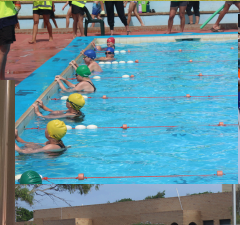
Most Cooperative Faction: **Nagle**



- 1st **Xavier**
- 2nd **Griffin**
- 3rd **Thomas**
- 4th **Nagle**



Term 1 in our community...



St.Francis Xavier Cathedral



Monday 30th March 7:00pm **Second Rite of Reconciliation**

Holy Thursday 2nd April **(No Morning Mass)**
 7:00pm Mass of the Lord's Supper followed by adoration before the Blessed Sacrament.



Good Friday 3rd April 10:00am Stations of the Cross followed by confessions
 3:00pm Commemoration of the Lord's Passion followed by confession

Holy Saturday 4th April **(No Morning Mass)**
 11-12noon Confessions
 7:00pm Easter Vigil
The Easter Vigil includes the lighting and blessing of the Easter Fire and Candle, Old Testament readings, Reception into our community as new Catholics, Baptism and Confirmation.



LIBRARY NEWS



Sometimes, during lunch, Mrs Boxall open will open the library for students to engage in reading or quiet play



Finger Puppetry aids in reading by transforming the learning process into an interactive, multisensory experience that enhances literacy skills, engagement and comprehension



By acting out stories, children move beyond passive listening to active participation, strengthening language development, vocabulary and memory



It also encourages active participation & attention, improves social & emotional skills and builds confidence

CANTEEN NEWS

DID YOU KNOW?

All Meals, Muffins, Pizza & more are made right here in the kitchen at St Francis Xavier!

Gluten Free is available.

Cut off time for this is 7am on the day of order

*to prevent cross contamination

All other orders cut off time is 9am via Quickcliq

<https://sfx.wa.edu.au/canteen/>

3 Year Olds are Welcome to order their lunch

**No recess orders

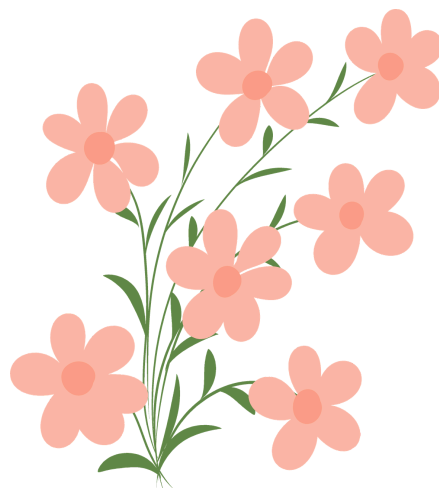
Volunteers are always required and the children love to see family members helping.

See details below

A big thank you to all of our amazing volunteers so far. Your helps in invaluable to ensure the smooth running of our canteen



Thank You!



If you, or a family member, has a little spare time on a Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and/or a Friday and would like to volunteer a few hours please contact the office on 9923 5800 or email admin@sfx.wa.edu.au

P&F NEWS



PARENTS & FRIENDS (P&F)

EASTER

FUNDRAISING RAFFLE

**DRAWN THURSDAY 2ND APRIL | 2PM
IN THE UNDERCOVER AREA**

RAFFLE BOOKS WILL BE SENT HOME WITH THE OLDEST STUDENT IN THE FAMILY.
ADDITIONAL TICKETS ARE AVAILABLE FROM THE OFFICE.

**PLEASE RETURN TICKETS TO THE
OFFICE BY TUESDAY 31ST MARCH.**



*Annalise
P&F Chairperson*



Government of Western Australia
North Metropolitan Health Service
Mental Health, Public Health and Dental Services



School Dental Service Newsletter/Social Media Posts

SCHOOL DENTAL SERVICE, IT'S TIME TO ENROLL!

Every year Dental Health Services (DHS) offers parents and carers the chance to register their kids for free dental care at the School Dental Service (SDS). The offer is open to every student from the year they turn 5 until their 17th birthday and includes check-ups, fillings, and simple extractions.

Your child will soon bring home an envelope with an enrolment form, Frequently Asked Questions, and reply-paid envelope from DHS. Just fill in the enrolment form, pop it in the reply-paid envelope, and put it in your nearest post box.

Once we receive your form at DHS our team will register your child and arrange for you to receive an appointment in the mail.



If you would like further information on DHS services and the SDS please visit our website: www.dental.wa.gov.au or scan the QR code.

SCHOOL DENTAL SERVICE, REMINDER TO ENROLL!

Recently your child may have brought home an envelope with an enrolment form, FAQ and reply-paid envelope from Dental Health Services. Please remember to fill in the enrolment form, pop it in the reply-paid envelope, and put it in your nearest post box.

Once we receive your form at DHS our team will register your child and arrange for you to receive an appointment in the mail.



If you would like further information on DHS services or to find your nearest SDS Dental Therapy Centre, please visit our website: www.dental.wa.gov.au or just scan the QR code.

SCHOOL DENTAL SERVICE, HERE TO HELP!

Dental Health Services (DHS) offers free general dental care for kids at the School Dental Service (SDS). The offer is open to every student from the year they turn 5 until their 17th birthday and includes check-ups, fillings, x-rays and fissure sealants.

We can also help with any urgent dental problems, like sore teeth, lost fillings, or infections, even if you are currently not enrolled. Simply contact your nearest SDS Dental Therapy Centre for advice.

If you would like to enrol your kids, or if they have an urgent dental problem, you can find your nearest centre on our website: www.dental.wa.gov.au or scan the QR code



COMMUNITY NEWS



AUSKICK AGES 5-7
(9.00AM - 12.00PM)

SUPERKICK AGES 8-12
(12.00PM - 3.00PM)



GERALDTON - HOLIDAY PROGRAM

FRIDAY 10TH APRIL

\$71.50

LOCATION: GERALDTON REC GROUND



SCHOOL HOLIDAYS SORTED

EASTER SCHOOL HOLIDAY ART CLASSES @ SUNFLOWER STUDIO

Wednesday 8th April			
Minecraft Painting	10-11am	6yo+	\$30
Rainbow Lion Painting	12-1pm	6yo+	\$30
Minion Mini Canvas	2-3pm	6yo+	\$35
Thursday 9th			
Chattermax Painting	10-11am	6yo+	\$30
Axolotyl Painting	11.30-12.30	6yo+	\$30
Cockatoo Acrylic Painting	1-2pm	6yo+	\$30
Little Print Erasers	3-4pm	10yo+	\$35
Friday 10th			
Spongebob Squarepants	11-12pm	6yo+	\$30
Tuesday 14th			
Oil Pastel Shells	10-11am	10yo+	\$30
Oil Pastel Seahorses	11.30-12.30	6yo+	\$30
Paint your own Tote Bag	2-3pm	8yo+	\$30
Wednesday 15th			
Frog on Mini Canvas	10-11am	6yo+	\$35
Little Print Erasers	11.30-12.30	10yo+	\$30
Printmaking Monsters	1-2pm	6yo+	\$30
Friday 17th			
Turtle Mini Canvas	3-4pm	10yo+	\$35

ALL TICKETS ON THE WEBSITE

www.sunflowergeraldton.com.au

237 Marine Terrace, Geraldton

  sunflowergeraldton



YC
Hockey

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WANTED!**



FROM PRE-PRIMARY - YEAR 6

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Inspiring Confidence*

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for more information

April School Holiday Fun with Monsterball

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THESE APRIL SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

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JOIN US THESE APRIL SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

SCAN ME



KINDY - YR 6

8:30AM - 3:30PM

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