



St. Francis

Church of England Primary School

Joy from faith, joy of learning, joy in the journey

Week ending: 12.12.25

'I have told you this so my joy may be in you' John 15:11

Upcoming dates

Friday 12th December: Join us in the school hall at 3.30 to make Christingles ready for St Francis Church Christingle service.

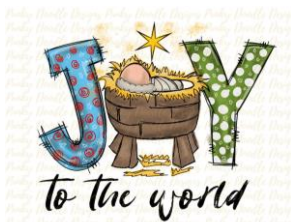
Sunday 14th December: St. Francis Church Christingle Service at 4pm.

Tuesday 16th December: Y1/2 Nativity Play 2.15pm – parents/carers welcome to join us.

Wednesday 17th December:

- Piano and keyboard concert 9.15 – 9.45am – parents and carers are welcome to watch their children in this concert;
- Class Christmas Parties;
- Christmas Dinner;
- PTA Christmas Movie evening – 3.30 – 5.30pm.

Thursday 18th December: School closes for Christmas holidays at 1pm.



What a bustling fortnight we have experienced at St Francis CE Primary! I am delighted to share the wonderful moments and achievements that have marked our recent school life.

Last Friday, our Christmas Fair was a resounding success. The generous support from our community was truly heartening, and I extend my sincere gratitude to our dedicated staff and PTA members who selflessly gave their time to make this event possible.

A highlight of recent weeks was our choir's magnificent performance at Blackburn Cathedral. Their beautiful voices filled the sacred space, and we could not have been more proud. My thanks go to Miss Ryding and Miss McGarrigle for their support and guidance.

Our Worship Wardens demonstrated remarkable leadership by conducting our annual Christmas Tree service last week. Their commitment to our school's spiritual life continues to inspire us all.

Our Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) children enjoyed a delightful creative session this Monday, engaging in a Fred & Pearl craft activity where they crafted enchanting Christmas rainbows. The joy and creativity of our youngest learners never cease to amaze me.

A particularly memorable moment was our whole-school outing to Blackburn Ice Arena on Wednesday, where Years 1 to 6 enjoyed watching "Dick Whittington". It has been many years since we embarked on such a comprehensive school trip, and the excitement was palpable.

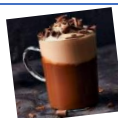
We were also privileged to watch the Christmas Performance at St Luke's Church yesterday. The performance was wonderfully entertaining, yet it powerfully reminded us of the true significance of Christmas - celebrating the birth of Jesus, the light of the world.

Party Day – next Wednesday



As it is party day next Wednesday, children are able to come to school in their party clothes if they so wish.

It is also our PTA Christmas Movie Night straight after school for those children staying. These children can bring their pyjamas into school if they wish, to get changed into before the movie begins, to have a chilled and relaxed time! They could also come to school already in their PJs if they wish. To book your child on to this, please go on ParentPay.



Best Attendance of the term!

Many congratulations to our winning house of this term – WINTER – who beat Summer by just a tenth of a percentage!

The overall attendance data for Autumn is:
Spring 93%; Autumn 95%; Summer 95.6%;
Winter 95.7%

Winter will receive their hot chocolate treat next week!

Reception class winner



Year 1 award winners



These are last week's winners. We didn't have Celebration Worship today due to our Rocksteady Concert.

Year 2 award winner



Year 3 award winners



Year 4 award winner



Year 5 award winners



Y6 award winners



Rocksteady Rockstars!



Please ensure your school accounts are paid in full before the end of the term next week. This includes Breakfast Club and school lunches. Thank you!



Living Streets Audit Group

Thank you to the parent who has volunteered to be part of our audit group from January.

There is still time to express an interest and add your name to the list!

We will be meeting together on 15th January at 9.30am to walk along some routes to school in order to devise a plan of action to keep our streets safer for our children getting to school.

Please do get involved if you can.

Thank you!

Thank you to everyone who came along to our PTA Christmas Fair last Friday.

As you can see from the flyer opposite, we made a huge amount of money which will benefit every child in school.

Thank you to the staff who helped to run stalls and to our amazing PTA for their hard-work in organising this lovely event.

Back to school in the new year!

We will be opening our doors for another busy term on Monday 5th January 2026.

Please do try to get your child into school on time each day, and make sure they have the correct uniform:

- Blue jumper or cardigan (not a hoodie)
- Pale blue polo shirt
- Grey trousers or tailored shorts OR Tartan skirt or pinafore
- Black school shoes (not trainers)



We are writing to address the rapid rise of Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools, such as ChatGPT, Google Gemini, and various image and audio generators, and the immediate impact they are having on the online safety of children. Please be aware also that most of these tools have no or minimal age verification processes, meaning children can easily access them from a device.

At St Francis CE Primary School, we embrace technology as a powerful tool for learning. However, our priority is always the safety and well-being of our students. Given the widespread use of these platforms - often without explicit parental knowledge - it is vital that we inform you of the associated safeguarding risks so we can work together to ensure your child remains safe online.

The Safeguarding Risks of Generative AI

The key risks we are aware of and currently monitoring, in line with national guidance, include:

- **Creation of harmful content:** A significant and serious risk is the misuse of image and video generators to create **deepfakes (sexualised images)** of peers, staff, or others. This can lead to severe bullying, emotional distress, blackmail, and is in most cases illegal.
- **Exposure to inappropriate, fake or misleading content:** Many AI tools generate content that is inaccurate, biased, harmful and even sexually inappropriate. AI Chatbots (available on many websites including all social media) can also be emotionally manipulative and some may provide dangerous advice on health, well-being, or self-harm.
- **Data privacy and security:** The data children input into these tools is often stored and used to train future versions. Personal or sensitive information (real names, location, school details, private thoughts) typed into a chatbot may not remain private.

6 Top Tips

Children are more likely to use unfiltered devices outside of school, so we encourage all parents to chat regularly with their children and discuss these new technologies using the following tips as a starting point:

1. **Outline the legalities of AI use** - Have a frank, age-appropriate conversation about how creating, sharing, or possessing AI-generated images or text to bully, harass, or sexually exploit anyone is illegal, and causes serious harm.
2. **Check age restrictions and co-explore** - Most major AI tools have a minimum age of 13, often requiring parental consent. Before you permit your child to use any AI tool, use the tool *together* first to understand how it works and what the outputs look like. Co-exploring builds trust and shared understanding. Consider agreeing a [Digital Family Agreement](#).
3. **Set safety controls** – you can set safety controls on your broadband, on the individual device and on particular apps/games. For more support with this please visit parentsafe.lgfl.net. When doing so please keep in mind that no controls are ever 100% and you should talk to your child about why any controls are in place to promote transparency.
4. **Prioritise critical thinking** - Teach your child that AI is a prediction engine, not a source of truth. Encourage them to *always* fact-check and verify information from a variety of trusted sources (such as a book, a teacher, or a reliable website) before accepting it as correct.
5. **Protect personal data** - Explain to your child that they must never input personal identifying information about themselves or others (full name, address, school name, phone number, or private photos) into any open AI chatbot or image generator, as this information is stored and potentially compromised.
6. **Encourage reporting** - Reassure your child that if anything they see on a device frightens, confuses, or pressures them, or if they see misuse, they should immediately tell a trusted adult. They can also contact Childline 24/7 on **0800 1111**.