



St. Francis

Church of England Primary School

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

Week ending: 09.01.26

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

Upcoming dates

Monday 12th January:

Y6 Mock SATS week

School Safeguarding Audit

Clubs start this week – see detail below

Wednesday 14th January:

Parent/Teacher meetings all afternoon and evening.

Thursday 15th January:

Living Streets audit 9.30 – 11.30am. Please join us if you can – we will be walking around the neighbourhood to audit safe places to walk and park.

Thursday 22nd January:

Messy Church with Pat Rushton after school

Friday 23rd January:

Mrs. Lovick's last day before her maternity leave starts

Deputy Headteacher vacancy

The governing board will soon be advertising the post of Deputy Headteacher to start in September 2026. If you know someone who would make a great asset to our incredible school team, please encourage them to look on the Blackburn with Darwen school jobs site from next week.



I hope this newsletter finds you well and refreshed after the Christmas holidays. It has been heartening to see our school community return with such a calm, quiet, and purposeful start to the Spring term.

This half term, we are focusing on our core value of 'aspiration'. For us, this is not merely an abstract concept, but a meaningful principle deeply rooted in our Christian ethos. In exploring this value, we are learning that aspiration, from a Christian perspective, means striving to be more like Jesus and drawing closer to God. Simultaneously, it represents our commitment to aiming high in every aspect of school life - whether that's in our learning, our behaviour, or even our standards of uniform.

I would like to draw your attention to two important upcoming events. First, our Parents' Meetings will take place next Wednesday. If you have not already done so, I strongly encourage you to sign up and speak with your child's class teacher. These meetings are invaluable opportunities to discuss your child's progress and development.

Secondly, we have the Living Streets audit taking place on Thursday morning. We warmly invite parents and community members to join us for a walk around the neighbourhood. Do remember to wrap up warm and come prepared for an engaging morning!

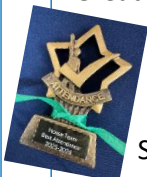
Best Attendance of the week!

Great attendance for the majority of our house teams this week, with three of them all at 96%.

The team percentages were as follows:

Summer 95.4%, Winter 96.2%, Autumn 96.7%, Spring 96.8%

So, it's a fantastic start to our spring term for our Spring house team!



Reception class award winners



Year 1 award winners



Year 2 award winners



Year 3 award winner



Year 4 award winners



Year 5 award winners



Our Year 5 children took part in the young writers competition to write a poem. The prompt was "I have a dream". Nine of our year 5s were chosen and their work has been published in a book. Fantastic Year 5!



Y6 award winners



Spring 1 clubs

The following clubs are going ahead from next week.

Monday – Poetry club with Miss Kearney for Years 1 to 3.

Tuesday – Gymnastics Club with Miss Miller for Year 3 and 4.

Cross-country club (some Thursdays) with Mrs Carter for children in Year 5 and 6.

Unfortunately, due to lack of interest, the Newspaper Club and Recorder Club will not longer take place.



Will your child be getting their January Walk to School badge?

St Francis CE Primary School Uniform 2025-2026



Royal blue jumper or cardigan
Light blue polo shirt
Tartan pleated skirt or pinafore dress
Grey trousers or grey tailored shorts



The jumper/cardigan and polo shirts do not need to have our school logo



Black school shoes, white/black/grey socks/tights



WOW Walk to School

Well done to those children who achieved their December badge at the end of last term, for getting to school in an active way at least once a week throughout the month.

Some children have now collected all three badges so far!

Keep on walking (or cycling, or scootering) to school to gain the January badge.

Uniform Reminders

Please make sure your child is in the correct uniform every day. **Hoodies are no longer part of the uniform, nor are joggers or trainers** (they can be worn for PE only).

Earrings are NOT allowed for boys or girls. It is not safe to wear these with our OPAL activities outside.

Not Allowed:

- Extreme hair styles such as ultra-shaved styles or unnatural colours
- Coloured braids
- Jewellery - including earrings. Plastic earring retainers can be worn
- Make-up
- Nail varnish
- False nails or long natural nails

Save
The Date

WE ARE

60

10TH MARCH

Livesey Saint Francis Church of England Primary School was opened 10th March 1966, making it 60 years old this year! We are planning a celebration to mark our 60th anniversary - details will be sent out a little nearer the time.

But for now, we can share that children will be encouraged to come to school in 1960s fashion that day.

If your child is using social media such as Snapchat, Instagram or other similar messaging platforms, it is essential that you know the potential risks. Current research shows that over 30% of children aged 11 and under have accidentally seen pornographic material as a result of using social media. Make sure you are checking your child's screen time and social media use and use the suggested Top Tips below.

More information can be found at nationalonlinesafety.com



Snapchat is a photo sharing app for mobile phones and tablets. The app allows users to share images, videos and chat with friends. Users can share images and videos directly to specific friends, or through a 'story' shared with their entire friend list, which documents the previous 24 hours. In a study, Snapchat was ranked the 4th most negative app in terms of having an impact on young people's health and wellbeing, with children feeling that they can use the app Snapchat to 'make you look pretty.'



AGE RESTRICTION
13+

What parents need to know about SNAPCHAT

EXPOSING YOUR CHILD'S EXACT LOCATION

The 'Snap Map' lets you share your EXACT location in real-time through a map on the app. The user's location updates when the app has been opened on the device. There is a warning on the Snapchat website about uploading images and videos to 'Our Story', stating that "snaps you submit to 'Our Story' can still show up on the Map, no matter which location setting you choose." When uploading to 'Our Story', your child's image or video could appear in "Search results and Stories on or off Snapchat - today or in the future."

LENS EXPLORER

The 'Lens Studio' on Snapchat gives users the freedom to use their imagination to design their own filters for themselves and others to use. Snapchat states that the lenses users create "must comply with our Lens Studio Submission Guidelines and must be appropriate for Snapchatters ages 13+." The 'Lens Explorer' in the app now enables users to choose from thousands of these creations to alter their snaps. Anyone can create a lens for Snapchat, which gives opportunities for age-inappropriate content to be uploaded.

SCREENSHOTS & SAVED MESSAGES

While Snapchat's gimmick is that all photos, videos and text disappear eventually, users still have the capability to screenshot or record anything which has been sent to them. Users may sometimes forget that screenshotting is possible and send a compromising image or message to somebody who they think they trust. They may also accidentally send an image or message to somebody who they do not trust. Simply by pressing and holding a message, the user is able to save a message they have received, which can be screenshotted or used against them at a later date.

SNAPSTREAKS & ADDICTION

'Snap Streaks' are gained when snaps have been sent back and forth consecutively between friends. The longer that snaps are sent between users, the longer the streak becomes. Furthermore, Snapchat rewards users who have achieved high Snap Streaks, by gifting emojis, adding incentives for users to keep the streaks. Children invest time into making their streaks as long as possible, which can put an incredible amount of pressure on both themselves and their friendships.

SEXTING

Due to 'Snaps' disappearing, (users can even send a one-second photo or video), Snapchat has become the chosen platform for children and young people to send sexually explicit images or 'selfies'. Once a photo/video has been screenshotted, or recorded using another device or software, this can lead to further dangers, such as blackmail and cyberbullying. It is illegal to make, possess, download, store and share sexual images, photos and videos of a person under the age of 18. This also includes any sexual images, photos and videos that a child may have taken of themselves. However, if a young person is found creating or sharing images, the police can choose to record that a crime has been committed, but taking formal action isn't in the public interest.

SNAP ORIGINALS

Through 'Snap Originals', users can watch content which has been created by Snapchat on the app, including comedy shows, drama, news and more. Additionally, there are new lenses and filters available, inspired by the 'snap originals' shows. This is another feature to encourage addiction.



Top Tips for Parents

THE RISKS OF SEXTING

It can be slightly awkward talking about this topic with your child, but if it helps them protect themselves, it is worth it. Talk to them about the consequences of sexting and make sure that they're aware of the risks. Ensure your child knows that 'Snaps' can be screenshotted. Teach them that if they post anything potentially embarrassing or harmful (either of themselves or someone else) it can have severe consequences as the message, image or video can be shared further.

REPORTING A STORY, LENS, FILTER, SNAP OR MESSAGE

If your child comes across inappropriate Snapchat content sent directly to them or in another person's story, advise them to report it immediately. This may include an inappropriate lens, filter, message or snap. To report an offensive lens, they should open the app and select the lens they want to report. An info button will appear above the lens. Click this, followed by the flag icon. This will send a report to Snapchat for further investigation. Reports can also be made on the Snapchat support website: support.snapchat.com.

USE 'GHOST MODE'

We highly recommend enabling 'Ghost Mode' on the app so that your child's location will no longer be visible to anyone on the 'Snap Map'. To enable this, go onto the Snap Map and tap the cog in the top-right corner. Here, change the setting to 'Ghost Mode'.

HOW TO DELETE A MESSAGE

Advise your child never to send any negative messages (or images) through gallery in the chat on the app) as screenshots can still be taken. You should also advise your child to screenshot any negative comments they receive as the sender can also delete them. To delete a message, simply press and hold the sent message and press delete.

TURN OFF 'QUICK ADD'

'Quick Add' helps friends find each other on the app. This is based on mutual friends or if their number is in their phone book. Explain to your child that this feature can open up their profile to strangers. We highly recommend that your child turns off the 'Quick Add' feature. This can be done in the settings.

RESTRICT STORY VIEWS

Your child can add videos and images to their 'Story' throughout the day which will last for 24 hours. By default, anyone in a user's friends list can see their story. We recommend checking the privacy settings to ensure that this has not been edited. This can simply be done in the app's settings under the 'Who Can View My Story' section. The options to choose from are 'My Friends', 'Everyone' or 'Custom' - we suggest that it is set to 'My Friends'.



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**National
Online
Safety**

A whole school community approach to online safety
www.nationalonlinesafety.com

Email us at hello@nationalonlinesafety.com or call us on 0800 368 8061