



St. Francis

Church of England Primary School

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

Week ending: 23.01.26

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

Upcoming dates

Monday 26th January:

Mr Crane starts as the new Y3 teacher

Mrs. Foster becomes the (temporary) SENCo

National Story-telling week

Wednesday 4th February:

Y5/6 Boys' football league matches at Witton Park

Tuesday 10th February:

Safer Internet Day

16th – 20th February:

School closed for half-term

Monday 23rd February:

Entries on for the Walk to School badge competition – see below

Thursday 5th March:

World Book Day – see below

This week has been filled with meaningful moments of reflection, learning, and community spirit. Our Monday worship provided a profound exploration of Moses' remarkable journey, leading the Israelites to freedom from slavery in Egypt. Through his story, we delved into an important life lesson: despite doubts and seemingly insurmountable challenges, faith, resilience, and high aspirations can empower us to achieve extraordinary things.

Our spiritual exploration continued on Thursday when Revds. Bryn and Sara joined us to discuss inspirational figures. We were privileged to learn about the incredible life of Harriet Tubman, another remarkable individual who demonstrated extraordinary courage and determination in the face of significant adversity.

Pat Rushton led another engaging Messy Church session this week, inviting our community to contemplate the profound question: "Who is God?" These opportunities for spiritual inquiry and reflection are invaluable in nurturing our children's understanding and personal growth.

Today, we also marked a personal milestone by saying a heartfelt farewell to Mrs. Lovick as she begins her maternity leave. We extend our warmest wishes to her as she anticipates the arrival of her first child. Her dedication to our school community will be deeply missed during her absence, and we look forward to celebrating her new chapter.

Each of these moments reflects our school's commitment to nurturing not just academic knowledge, but also spiritual understanding, personal resilience, and compassionate community values.

PE Reminder days

Please do make sure your child has their PE kit on the correct day. For the remainder of the spring term, their PE days are as follows:

EYFS – Tuesdays;

Y1 – Fridays;

Y2 – Mondays and Thursdays;

Y3 – Tuesdays;

Y4 – Mondays;

Y5 – Mondays and Thursdays;

Y6 – Thursdays

PE kits can be left in school on your child's coat peg to save you having to remember!



Best Attendance of the week!

Super attendance for most houses this week
- with the majority meeting the national target of 96% and above.

The percentages were:

Spring 95.8%; Autumn 96.7%; Winter 98.3%;
Summer 98.4%

Well done to our Summer house team!

Reception class award winners



Year 1 award winners



Year 2 award winners



Year 3 award winners

On her last day at work, Mrs. Lovick awarded the certificate to the whole class for the wonderful way in which they have all cared for her over the last term. She said a huge thank you to them for being such a wonderful class!

Year 4 award winner



Year 5 award winner



Y6 award winners



Payment reminder

Can parents please ensure their payment accounts for children's school dinners and breakfast club are clear please?

Changes to ScholarPack

'ScholarPack' is becoming 'Arbor' and all parent accounts will move across to the new system during the week beginning 29th January.

Please look out for an email from School Spider inviting you to set up your new Arbor account during 29th January.

All previous ScholarPack accounts will be closed after this and so it is really important to update to the new platform as soon as you get the invite.

If you have any problems changing your account, please do give us a call.



WOW Walk to School badge competition

Encourage your child to enter the national competition below. You can print out the sheet from this newsletter or get your child to pop into the office to ask for a printed copy.

Closing date for your child's entry to be returned to school is Monday 23rd February.

Winning school entries will be sent to the national competition on Tuesday 24th February and the theme for next year's Walk to School badges is Walk the Senses.

Earrings

We have a growing number of children getting their ears pierced during term time.

Our policy is that no earrings are allowed to be worn in school. This is due to our OPAL playtimes and PE lessons, where the wearing of any piece of jewellery including earrings is not allowed due to safety concerns.

If your child has pierced ears they can wear plastic retainers to stop the holes from closing.

Children sent to school with earrings will have them covered with plasters but will not be allowed to play outside or take part in PE lessons.

We always advise parents and carers to get their child's ears pierced at the start of the six-week holiday and then the earrings are safe to remove at the start of September.

Rocksteady apologies

Our tutor Tom was unable to lead his rock stars this morning due to an unforeseeable situation. Apologies! Children will get their lesson paid back at the end of this term.

St Francis CE Primary School Uniform 2025-2026



Blue checked or striped dresses can be worn in the summer months

Long hair must be tied up

A small blue bow, headband or bobble can be worn



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

Don't judge a book by its cover!

Does your child have a book they have finished reading?
Would they be happy for it to have a new owner?

If so, for World Book Day:

- Wrap the book in plain paper
- Write or draw some clues for the plot, type of book and age range on the wrapping
- Write some adjectives to describe the book
- Bring to school!

World Book Day
- Book Swap!

WORLD
**BOOK
DAY**
5 MARCH 2026





LIVING

STREETS

LET'S
WALK TO
SCHOOL

Badge design competition 2026

WOW – the walk to school challenge

WALK the SENSES



WHAT SHOULD YOU DRAW?

What do you see, hear, smell, taste or feel as you walk or wheel to school? Have you spotted a fluffy cloud in the sky or a cute dog passing by? Maybe you like the sound of feet walking. Or do you like the smell of flowers or wild garlic on the journey to school? Maybe it's the taste of your favourite yummy snack or it could be feeling the rain on your skin.

EXAMPLES MAY INCLUDE:

- Seeing a tree, a rainbow or wildlife
- The sound of birds singing or people talking
- The smell of flowers or food from a shop
- Tasting your favourite snack on the journey to school
- Feeling sun or snow on your skin

**WHATEVER
WAKES UP
YOUR SENSES,
DRAW IT!**

SUSTAINABILITY AND WOW BADGES



Our WOW badges are made in the UK from repurposed plastic material, including old fridge trays, plastic plates and off-cuts of yoghurt pot material. WOW badges can also be recycled. Find out more: livingstreets.org.uk/recycling



CLOSING DATE

TUESDAY 24 FEB 2026

PUPILS

Pupil name:

Age:

What did you draw? How does your picture use one of your senses?

TEACHERS

School email:

School name and address:

Local authority:

ONLINE CONTENT

10 tips to keep your children safe online

The internet has transformed the ability to access content. Many apps that children use are dependent on user-generated content which can encourage freedom of expression, imagination and creativity. However, due to the sheer volume uploaded every day, it can be difficult for platforms to regulate and moderate everything, which means that disturbing or distressing images, videos or audio clips can slip through the net. That's why we've created this guide to provide parents and carers with some useful tips on keeping children safe online.



1 MONITOR VIEWING HABITS

Whilst most apps have moderation tools, inappropriate content can still slip through the net.



2 CHECK ONLINE CONTENT

Understand what's being shared or what seems to be 'trending' at the moment.



3 CHECK AGE-RATINGS

Make sure they are old enough to use the app and meet the recommended age-limit.



4 CHANGE PRIVACY SETTINGS

Make accounts private and set content filters and parental controls where possible.



5 SPEND TIME ON THE APP

Get used to how apps work, what content is available and what your child likes to watch.



6 LET CHILDREN KNOW YOU'RE THERE

Ensure they know that there is support and advice available to them if they need it.



7 ENCOURAGE CRITICAL THINKING

Talk about what people might post online and why some posts could cause distress.



8 LEARN HOW TO REPORT & BLOCK

Always make sure that children know how to use the reporting tools on social media apps.



9 KEEP AN OPEN DIALOGUE

If a child sees distressing material online; listen to their concerns, empathise and offer reassurance.



10 SEEK FURTHER SUPPORT

If a child has been affected by something they've seen online, seek support from your school's safeguarding lead.