



Week ending: 30.01.26

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

### Upcoming dates

**Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> February:**

Y5/6 Boys' football league matches at Witton Park

**Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> February:**

Safer Internet Day

**16<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> February:**

School closed for half-term

**Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> February:**

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

**Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March:**

World Book Day – see below

**Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March:**

Y5 Let's Go Sing at Ice Arena;

**Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March:**

Rocksteady Concert at 9.15am

**Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March:**

Easter Performance Y4 - 9.15am - parents and carers are invited

As we progress through this half-term, our 'Aspiration' focus continues to guide our school's ethos. This week, we have been exploring a profound principle: 'Do the right thing not the easy thing'. Our discussions centred on the importance of personal integrity, encouraging our children to reflect deeply on their behaviour and learning. We challenged them to always aim high, demonstrate honesty, and consistently follow the established rules.

For National Storytelling Week this week, Mr Turner led an engaging exploration of personal narratives, inviting our children to share and reflect on their favourite stories. These conversations have highlighted the power of storytelling in connecting, inspiring, and understanding one another.

I am delighted to celebrate the commitment of our children to active and healthy lifestyles. Today, a significant number of our pupils received their WOW Walk to School badges for January - a testament to their dedication to sustainable and healthy travel. We encourage this momentum to continue throughout February, promoting both physical activity and environmental consciousness.

We will be learning about other ways to live a healthy lifestyle during our Healthy Living Week in April. Until then please do consider the snacks, drinks and packed lunches being provided to your children, to ensure they are also promoting a balanced diet ready for great learning!

Our school remains committed to nurturing not just academic excellence, but also character development and personal growth. Each day presents an opportunity to learn, improve, and support one another.

### ScholarPack changing to Arbor

You should be receiving an email from School Spider very soon asking you to register for 'Arbor'. This will be replacing our ScholarPack platform and it is therefore extremely important that all parents move across to the new system as soon as they receive the invite to do so.

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

### Best Attendance of the week!

Fair attendance for most houses this week - with the majority close to the national target of 96% and above.

The percentages were:

Summer 92%; Spring 95.4%; Winter 95.6%;  
Autumn 96.4%



Well done to our Autumn 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 winner



## Parent and carer invitation to join us every Friday for Celebration Worship

Please do join us whenever you can on Friday mornings between 9.00 – 9.30am for our Celebration Worship.

It is always lovely to share the awards and achievements of our amazing young people with the whole school community.

Please also remember that your child can send in any certificates, medals or trophies on Friday mornings, from clubs and hobbies they attend outside of school. We love to celebrate the talents of our children.



## WOW Walk to School badge competition – reminder!

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 23<sup>rd</sup> February.

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

## A respectful reminder about communicating with each other

Recent discussions have highlighted the need to reinforce our commitment to constructive dialogue and respectful engagement. At St Francis CE Primary, we believe that **open and considerate communication** is fundamental to supporting our children's education and well-being.

Key points I would like to emphasise:

### 1. Respectful Conversations

- Every member of our school community deserves to be heard
- Disagreements are natural, but they must be expressed thoughtfully
- We encourage dialogue that focuses on understanding, not confrontation

### 2. Principles of Constructive Dialogue

- Listen actively to different perspectives
- Express concerns calmly and clearly
- Seek collaborative solutions
- Prioritise the best interests of our children

Our goal is to create an environment where diverse viewpoints can be shared calmly and compassionately. When we disagree, we can do so *with mutual respect and understanding*.

I kindly request that all communications – whether in person, via email or social media, or during meetings – reflect these principles. Our children learn by example, and demonstrating respectful communication is a powerful lesson. Our school values of faith, friendship and love, are particularly relevant here: as a school our aim is to educate children, through the examples we set, who care deeply about themselves and each other; who can forgive mistakes and move on with joy together.

**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**



**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](http://livingstreets.org.uk/recycling)



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

**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:

Please read the following points on this poster and be aware that a report has been received by schools today that some children in Essex have seen TikTok posts encouraging self-harm and dangerous life-threatening behaviours.

At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one of many apps which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit [www.nationalonlinesafety.com](http://www.nationalonlinesafety.com) for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

## What Parents & Carers Need to Know about



(certain features are restricted to over-18s only)

TikTok is a free social media platform that lets users create, share and watch short videos ranging anywhere from 15 seconds to 10 minutes in duration. The app gained notoriety for its viral dances, trends and celebrity cameos and can be a creative, fun platform for teens to enjoy. Now available in 75 languages, it has more than a billion active users worldwide (as of spring 2022) and is most popular with the under-16 age bracket. In fact, a 2022 Ofcom report found TikTok to be the most-used social media platform for posting content, particularly among young people aged 12 to 17.

### WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

#### AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

While TikTok's "Following" feed only displays videos from users someone follows, "For You" is a stream of clips based on their previously watched content. Most videos on a child's "For You" feed will therefore be light-hearted and amusing, but it could potentially surface something unsuitable. TikTok's guidelines prohibit the sharing of illegal or inappropriate content, but the sheer volume of uploads mean they aren't manually monitored and vetted.



#### DANGEROUS CHALLENGES

Due to TikTok's immense popularity, some young people have unfortunately been influenced by videos challenging them to perform harmful, criminal or even deadly acts. One extreme example was the 'blackout' trend, which encouraged users to hold their breath until they passed out from a lack of oxygen. It led to two families filing lawsuits against TikTok over the tragic deaths of their children.

#### CONTACT WITH STRANGERS

With around 1.1 billion users globally, the potential for contact from strangers on TikTok is high – especially as accounts created by over-16s (or younger users using a false date of birth) are set to public by default. This not only means that someone's profile is visible to everyone else on the app; it also lets their videos be suggested to others and enables anyone to comment on them or download them.

## Advice for Parents & Carers

### ENABLE FAMILY PAIRING

Family Pairing allows parents to link their TikTok account with their child's and control their settings remotely. Parents can then, for example, turn on Restricted Mode (reducing the chances of a child seeing inappropriate content); set screen time limits; and manage their child's ability to send messages (and to whom). Children can't alter these settings without parental approval.

### MAKE ACCOUNTS PRIVATE

Although under-16s will have their TikTok account set to private by default, bypassing this setting is relatively easy. However, parents have the ability to manually set their child's account to private – meaning that their videos won't be visible to strangers and they won't be able to exchange messages with people who aren't on their friends list.

### LIMIT IN-APP SPENDING

If your child is using an iPhone or Android device to access TikTok, you can alter the settings to prevent them from making in-app purchases. We'd recommend that you enable this feature, as it's quite easy for a young person – without realising what they're doing – to spend a significant amount of real money buying TikTok coins so they can unlock more features of the app.

### DISCUSS THE DANGERS

If your child wants to use TikTok and you're happy for them to do so, it's crucial to talk about the potential risks in this type of app. For example, ensure they understand not to share any identifying personal information – and that they realise they could be exposed to inappropriate content. Thinking critically about what they see on TikTok can help children become generally more social media savvy.

### READ THE SIGNS

If you're concerned that your child might be spending too much time on TikTok, or that they've been emotionally affected by something inappropriate or upsetting that they've seen, it's important to know how to spot the possible signs: increased irritability and a lack of concentration are potential red flags, as are failing to complete homework or regularly not eating meals.

### Meet Our Expert

Carly Page is an experienced technology journalist with a track record of more than 10 years in the industry. Previously the editor of tech tabloid The Inquirer, Carly is now a freelance technology journalist, editor and consultant.



## National Year of Reading – 2026

Blackburn with Darwen Libraries are pleased to announce their first National Year of Reading offer for schools – Junior Book Bingo. Pop in to Cherry Tree Library to take part!



National  
Year of  
Reading  
2026



Name:  
School:  
Library Card No:

### Junior Book Bingo

Read a book about  
wild animals

Read a book about  
plants

Listen to any eAudiobook  
(CD or BorrowBox)

Read a poem with a  
nature theme

### How to play

- Use your library card to borrow and read four books from the library
- For each book, write the title, author and one thing that sticks out in your mind
- Bring your completed form back to your nearest Blackburn with Darwen Library
- We'll give you a certificate, and put you in a draw to win a prize!
- Draws will take place regularly until **30<sup>th</sup> June 2026**

#### Book one

- Title
- Author
- What sticks out in my mind

#### Book two

- Title
- Author
- What sticks out in my mind

#### Book three

- Title
- Author
- What sticks out in my mind

#### Book four

- Title
- Author
- What sticks out in my mind



10<sup>TH</sup> 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 60<sup>th</sup> 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.

#### Outdoor Play

As we move closer to Spring (hooray!) we are starting to refresh our OPAL zones on the bottom field. For the time being, children are only allowed to play on the playground and top field.

Thanks to those Y6 children for helping Mrs. Fielding to tidy the area. They've volunteered to help next week too!

We also have a dedicated group of younger children who are litter picking around school every day. We thank them for this but also remind our school community to use the bins whenever they have some rubbish to dispose of!

Do you have any old photos of St. Francis School that we could share with our children as part of our 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations?

Do you have any memories from when you were at school here?

If so, please pop in to the office and let us know!

#### Reception class plea for outdoor toys!

The wet weather over the last few months has taken its toll on our youngest children's outdoor play equipment.

If you have any toys or equipment – in very good condition – that could be played with by our Reception children in their outdoor area, please drop them off with any of EYFS class team.

