



# St. Francis

Church of England Primary School

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

Week ending: 27.02.26

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

## Upcoming dates

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

World Book Day – details below

### Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> March:

Our 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary – details below

### Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> March:

EYFS' Mother's Day worship at 9.10am – parents and carers invited



### 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;  
Swimming Gala – 6pm

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

Y4 Easter Performance at 9.15am

### Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March:

School closes for Easter holidays



This half-term, our whole school community will be exploring the value of Friendship through our collective worship. On Monday we learned about the profound loyalty demonstrated by Jonathan towards David in the Old Testament, a relationship tested to its very limits when King Saul sought to harm David. Their friendship stands as a powerful testament to the strength of genuine connection and unwavering support, even in the most challenging of circumstances. It is a story that resonates deeply with our children and reminds us all of the importance of standing by those we care for.

During this period, we will also be reflecting upon the Christian season of Lent, a time of spiritual significance that encourages us to consider sacrifice and personal growth. Lent invites us to think carefully about what we might set aside in order to draw closer to Jesus and his example. We have discussed how Jesus himself spent forty days and forty nights in the wilderness, facing trials without food, drink, or shelter. This season offers our children an opportunity to understand the deeper meaning of sacrifice and commitment to our faith. I would like to extend my sincere thanks to our Worship Wardens, who have led these important services with such care and dedication, enriching our spiritual life as a school.

On a different note, I must bid a warm farewell to Mrs Holdaway, who has supported our Key Stage 1 department since September. Mrs Holdaway has made a valuable contribution to our school community, and we are grateful for her hard work and commitment during her time with us. As she moves to a position closer to home, we wish her every success in this next chapter. She will be greatly missed.

## WOW Walk to School – February Badges

Congratulations go to those children who have achieved their WOW Walk to School February badge today. These children have demonstrated a real commitment to active travel, and we are delighted to celebrate their achievement. We encourage all families to consider how walking to school might become part of your routine, as it offers so many benefits for health, wellbeing, and our environment.

## Best Attendance of the week!

Our attendance figures for the first week back are:

Spring 92.4%, Autumn 93.9%, Summer 97%,  
Winter 98.6%

Well done to our Winter house team for their excellent attendance this week!

### Reception class award winners



### Year 1 award winners



### Year 2 award winners



### Year 3 award winner



### Year 4 award winners



### Year 5 award winners



### Y6 award winners



**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!

### Badge Design Competition

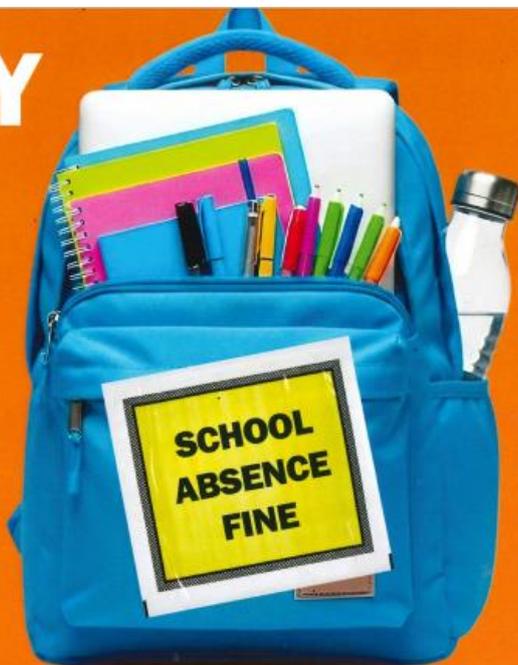
A huge thank you and well done to all those children who submitted badge designs for the national competition. Congratulations go to Leks, Maria and Jacob for their contributions, which have been sent to the 'finals' with other schools. We hope to see one of their designs being made into a real badge for next year's WOW Walk to School event!

### OPAL Play

Following another particularly wet winter, the bottom field is being given a well-deserved rest and maintenance period. The grass needs time to recover and regrow, and we are undertaking necessary tidying and upkeep. During the next few weeks, we will operate a rotation system, with one class at a time permitted to use the field whilst work continues. To be clear, we still have a wide range of OPAL activities still taking part in each day, even without the bottom field being in use. The OPAL field will be fully reopened for all children to enjoy from the summer term onwards.

# PENALTY NOTICE FINES

If your child misses school without authorisation you may be issued a fine



## FIRST OFFENCE

If a parent receives a penalty notice for a child, they will need to pay **£160 (within 28 days)**. However, the fee is reduced to £80 if paid within 21 days of the notice.

## SECOND OFFENCE

If a parent receives a second penalty notice for the same child within three years, it will cost a flat fee of **£160 if paid within 28 days**. There's no option to pay a lower amount.

## THIRD/ FURTHER OFFENCES

A parent cannot get a third penalty notice for the same child within three years of the first one. If the parent reaches the limit again within those three years, other actions will be taken instead, like **legal steps or other attendance interventions**.

For further information please visit our website by scanning the QR code or email [education.welfare@blackburn.gov.uk](mailto:education.welfare@blackburn.gov.uk)



## School Spider (Arbor)

Unfortunately, we still have a large number of parents who have not yet resigned up for School Spider now that it has been taken over by Arbor.

We are concerned that parents and carers will be missing vital information about their child and our school by not updating their account.

Please do remind your friends to do this as soon as they can so they don't miss out!

## Mr. Pumpernickel

Thanks to our wonderful PTA, we have Mr. Pumpernickel visiting us on Monday to delight and mesmerise us with his amazing science experiments.

If you have not done so already, could you please contribute £3 via ParentPay towards this exciting event?

## KEEP CHECKING IN

Healthy emotional regulation balances three systems: threat, drive and grounding. Down the various rabbit holes of the internet, however, that balance can easily slip away – so it's important to help your child manage their emotions when they're online. Check in with them regularly when they're on their device, and remember that 'distraction' and 'relaxation' aren't always the same thing.

## LOOK FOR THE SIGNS

This is tricky – and may depend on the child's age – but any sudden change in behaviour is worth looking out for. If your child seems to be checking their phone or tablet more, doesn't want to be parted from them, or appears unusually secretive, anxious or withdrawn, it could be a sign that something is amiss in relation to their device – and, possibly, that they're in need of extra support.

## TALK IT OUT

If a child mentions a comment that's been directed at them in a text chat or on social media, it may sound minor but can actually have a much bigger effect than we realise. In our evolved brains, any perceived threat can get internalised while our body reacts as if we were in physical danger – raising stress levels. It's always worth encouraging your child to get any concerns out in the open.

## Helping children and young people with

# MANAGING DEVICE STRESS AND ANXIETY

The internet and advances in the capability of digital devices have afforded us arguably the fastest period of technological and social evolution in living memory, creating opportunities for us to interact with people anywhere in the world, 24 hours a day. It's also, however, blurred safety boundaries and added new stresses for young people, who are often less aware of the hidden hazards. With almost half of 10–15-year-olds experiencing bullying online and algorithms pushing content in front of our children every day, it's important to know how to address some of these challenges.

### WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

#### LIVING ONLINE

The internet is awash with sophisticated algorithms that learn from our online behaviour and try to predict our wants and needs. That's very helpful in some respects, but it can make the online world difficult for children and young people to negotiate. Content can be brought to them at any time – it may not always be appropriate, and children may not have the ability or the support to deal with it.

#### PUSHY NOTIFICATIONS

Content is also directed at us through notifications from our apps: letting us know we have a new message or social post to read, for example. While that's useful in some circumstances, it conditions us to keep going back online (and is designed to do so) and can be a near-constant demand on your child's attention. As such alerts become more common, are we experiencing an 'attack of the pings'?

#### BLURRED BOUNDARIES

There are now so many ways we can communicate online in real time (like instant messaging apps) or with a delay (such as on social media) that it's possible to be constantly in conversation. Young people often prefer quickfire exchanges of text – but using fewer words can cause distressing miscommunications through the lack of non-verbal cues like facial expressions or tone of voice.

#### DIGITAL DEPENDENCY

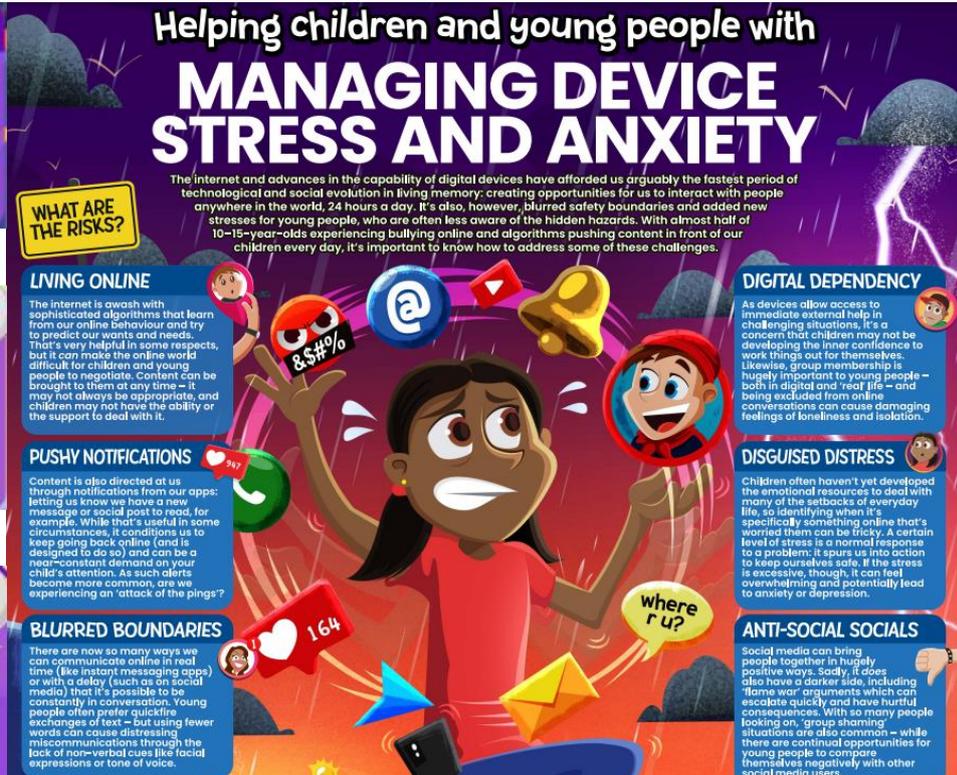
As devices allow access to immediate external help in challenging situations, it's a concern that children may not be developing the inner confidence to work things out for themselves. Likewise, group membership is hugely important to young people – both in digital and 'real life' – and being excluded from online conversations can cause damaging feelings of loneliness and isolation.

#### DISGUISED DISTRESS

Children often haven't yet developed the emotional resources to deal with many of the setbacks of everyday life, so identifying when it's specifically something online that's worried them can be tricky. A certain level of stress is a normal response to a problem: it spurs us into action to keep ourselves safe. If the stress is excessive, though, it can feel overwhelming and potentially lead to anxiety or depression.

#### ANTI-SOCIAL SOCIALS

Social media can bring people together in hugely positive ways. Sadly, it does also have a darker side, including 'flame war' arguments which can escalate quickly and have harmful consequences. With so many people looking on, group shaming situations are also common – while there are continual opportunities for young people to compare themselves negatively with other social media users.



Well done to our Y5/6 girls' football team who played in their league this week.

Miss Smith and Miss Dixon were extremely impressed with their determination, teamwork and resilience.

Unfortunately, they didn't win any matches, but we have every faith that their time will come!



Our Y5/6 boys were also playing football this week, this time at Blackburn Rovers.

Mr Turner was also delighted with every boy's performance and sportsmanship. They won both their matches (by some margin) and Mr Turner is excited to see just how successful they will be for the rest of this season!

We also had a keen group of swimmers, accompanied by Mr Turner and Mrs Barton, to train for the upcoming Swimming Gala. Once again, both members of staff were suitably impressed with their behaviour and their efforts. We are very hopeful that we might win some medals in the gala that takes place in a couple of weeks.

**WE ARE 60 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!

**Plan of the day:**

- Children to come to school dressed in a 1960's style

**Morning activities:**

- Our whole school will attempt to form a large '60' on the school field for a memorable aerial photograph
- KS2 children will be walking to St. Francis Church Hall in a 1960s 'procession' with flags and a banner. Come and watch us on our procession!
- Once at the Church Hall our KS2 will be taking part in a 1960s quiz and playing some traditional party games with a special celebratory cake.
- KS1 children will stay at school to have their own party games and cake.

**Lunchtime:**

- We will have a picnic lunch - and probably more cake!

**Afternoon activities:**

- Class photos to be taken in the hall - with a 1960s theme - these will be available for purchase later
- Special school worship at 2.30pm: parents invited

Do you know anyone who has a drone and who is also available on the day before our anniversary, to take an aerial photo of our human '60'? If you do, please let us know!

We have made it to Blackburn with Darwen's WOW Walk to School Leaderboard for February! That means more and more of our children are choosing to walk, cycle or scoot to school each day, which is fabulous!

Let's aim even higher on the board for March?

