



St. Francis

Church of England Primary School

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

Week ending: 17.04.26

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

Upcoming dates

Wednesday 29th April:

Year 1 and Year 2 trip to Blackpool Zoo

Monday 11th May – Thursday 14th May:

Y6 SATs week

Tuesday 19th May:

Y3 trip to Chester Zoo

Y4 trip to Grosvenor Museum

Friday 22nd May:

School closed – INSET day

Monday 25th May – Monday 1st June:

School closed for half-term

Tuesday 2nd June:

School opens for Summer 2 half-term

Quick diary reminder

Our Sports Afternoon this year will take place on Friday 26th June (weather permitting) in the afternoon only.

What a wonderful start to our summer term at St Francis. There is a real sense of energy and purpose across the school, and I am delighted to share some of the highlights from our opening week.

Our Healthy Living Week, expertly organised by Mr Turner, has been a tremendous success. The children have engaged with a wealth of activities designed to support their physical wellbeing and understanding of healthy choices. From boxing and physical training sessions to fruit tasting and dental hygiene demonstrations, our children have experienced learning that extends far beyond the classroom. A particular highlight was the spiritually uplifting worship led by Reverend Sara, who reminded us all of something profoundly important: that we are precious in our uniqueness, and therefore we have a responsibility to look after ourselves. This message resonates deeply with our school values and the care we wish to instil in every child.

Alongside these celebrations of physical wellbeing, we have introduced a new initiative that I am genuinely excited about. We have begun to award housepoints to children who demonstrate the core aspects of our school vision: learning earnestly, caring deeply, growing boldly, and finding joy. This week, we acknowledged all the children who had earned housepoints in their classes in our celebration worship. The three teams with the most points overall were rewarded with their own time on the bottom field. This system will help us celebrate the values we hold dear and encourage every child to strive towards excellence in all that they do.

I would like to take this opportunity to reflect on our recent parents and carers drop-in session held on Wednesday after school. Whilst we had hoped to welcome more families, the attendance was lower than anticipated. This has prompted us to reconsider how we best share learning and progress with our parents and carers between our formal parents' evenings. We recognise that working families have competing demands on their time, and we want to find approaches that genuinely work for our community. A survey will be sent out shortly, and I would be grateful if you could take time to share your thoughts and preferences. Your feedback will be invaluable in shaping how we communicate and collaborate with you going forward.

Finally, I am delighted to share some positive staffing news. Mrs Farran will be returning to work from Monday. To ensure a smooth transition, Mrs Scholes will continue to teach the Year 5 class for the next two weeks whilst Mrs Farran settles back into her role. We are very much looking forward to welcoming her back.

Best Attendance of the week!

Our attendance figures for this week are: Autumn 96.4%, Spring 94.4%, Summer 97.7%, Winter 94.9%

Well done to our Summer house team for their 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 winner



Cherry Tree Cricket Club – free places

As part of our Healthy Living Week, Mark Butler, from Cherry Tree Cricket Club visited us to tell us all about some free places on offer!

For children in Year 3 and Year 4 we have 6 places for grabs. The free places are for cricket sessions and equipment for a 6 week block starting Thursday 23rd April, 6.00 – 7.30pm.

Parents/carers will need to accompany their children to these sessions.

For children in Y5 and Y6, there is the offer of one free session, also starting next Thursday.

If you wish for your child to have one of the free places, please ring us to let us know. The 6 week sessions will normally cost £50 altogether or £3 per session without the equipment.

Year 6 award winners



Congratulations!

It is with great pleasure that I share some wonderful news. Miss Smith, who works in our Breakfast Club, is our ELSA specialist, a Special Needs Co-ordinating Assistant, Designated Safeguarding Lead, and Lunchtime Supervisor, has secured a place to complete her PGCE from September. This will be an exciting change of career for Miss Smith, as she will be pursuing her dream to be a teacher as we wish her every good wish for her future.

She clearly leaves a number of roles that need filling, however, and we will begin the process very soon, to recruit for these.

✦ Parents can help by:

In today's digital world, screens are everywhere, but they can take a toll on kids' sleep.

- ◆ Blue light disrupts melatonin, making it harder to fall asleep.
- ◆ Gaming & social media keep the brain "switched on."
- ◆ Fear of missing out (FOMO) can delay bedtimes and cause daytime fatigue.

Creating a screen-free hour before bed.

Replacing devices with calming rituals (reading, music, storytelling).

Setting device curfews & charging stations outside bedrooms.

Modeling healthy screen habits as a family.

Good sleep = better mood, focus, and resilience. ❤️

Screens & Sleep: What Parents Should Know

- Blue light = less melatonin
- Gaming & scrolling = wired brains
- FOMO = delayed bedtimes

✦ Try:

- 📵 Screen-free hour before bed
- 📖 Calm routines (reading, music)
- 🔌 Charge devices outside bedrooms

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