St. Francis
Church of England Primary School

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

Week ending: 09.10.2026

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

Upcoming dates

Sunday 11th October

St Francis Church Harvest Service – please join us with your harvest donations 10.45am at church

Friday 16th October

PTA – Non-uniform day – see flier below

Wednesday 21st October

Y4 at Cherry Tree Library

Thursday 22nd October

PTA Spooky Bingo 4.30 – 5.30pm – see flier below – we ARE going ahead with this and there ARE spaces left if you and your child(ren) want to take part.

Monday 26th October – Friday 30th October

Half-term break

Monday 2nd November

School opens for Autumn 2

Y6 go to Robinwood for their adventure holiday.

As we move through the autumn term, I am delighted to share some wonderful things happening across St Francis CE Primary.

This week, our Year 3 children led our harvest service. It was a privilege to see them think carefully about the food we have and why we should be grateful for it. Their singing was adorable and as the smallest class in our school, it was also lovely to hear the rest of our pupils joining in to help them. Thank you to all the parents who came to support them; your presence meant a lot and showed the strong partnership between home and school that we value so much.

Our focus on respect has continued in our daily life together. During Monday's worship, we thought about special places and how we would like others to treat spaces that matter to us. We looked at a Bible story about Jesus in the temple, and how he was upset when people were using it wrongly instead of for prayer. This story helped our children think about respect, honesty, and why certain spaces are important to us.

I am pleased to tell you that our classes have started planning for our Toilet Twinning fundraising event. This is an important cause, and we will send you more details soon. We hope you will support us.

Our librarians, with help from Mrs Wrigley-Reynolds, have been working hard to get our new library ready to open on Monday. The space looks wonderful, and we are excited for our children to use this great resource. Thank you to everyone who has helped make this happen.

Harvest Donations

Thank you to our Y3 class for their harvest donations as part of their learning about the Food Bank. For those families able to join us in church on Sunday, your harvest donations would be greatly appreciated. There will be time in the service to take your parcels and food boxes to the front of church ready to be shared within our community.

Housepoints weekly totals

This week our Winter team gained the most points but the other teams are catching up!

Autumn: 523 **Winter: 597**

Spring: 563 **Summer: 568**

There's still plenty of time for other teams to catch up – before the end of the Autumn term – and some of them are not too far away!

PTA events

We are aware that some of our parents are questioning why we have not planned a Spooky Disco or Christmas Fair this year. Sadly, we are not able to run these events at the moment. Our PTA has fewer volunteers who are able to give their time to plan and run these events. These activities need a lot of hard work and energy, and we do not have enough people to do them well.

However, we would really welcome your help. If you are able to give some of your time to join the PTA, please get in touch. With more volunteers, we can hold these events again. They raise money for our school and create happy memories for our children.

Development Language Disorder Awareness Day – October 16th

What is DLD? It is a common, life-long neurodevelopmental condition that makes it hard to understand and use spoken or written language, with no known cause.
It affects **1 in 14 people** (roughly 2 children in a typical classroom of 30).
As this day coincides with our non-uniform day (see flier below), your child could choose to come to school in purple and yellow – the colours chosen to represent DLD communication.



School Visitor

We welcomed a visitor to school today, who popped in to every class during the morning. Mrs Austen works closely with our school, in an advisory role, to act as a 'critical friend': ensuring that we are achieving all that we can with standards of teaching and learning. All schools have their own 'Mrs Austen' to provide challenge to senior leaders in order to help them sustain improvements. Mrs Austen was extremely impressed with every class she saw. She particularly commented on:

- Children's behaviour for learning: children in every class were keen to learn, actively listening and enthusiastically taking part in their lesson;
- Children in our 'NEST' room were engaged with their activities and clearly learning how to get along with each other, as well as learning other life skills such as taking turns and waiting patiently for their next steps. The staff here are so dedicated to ensuring these children can flourish every day and I thank them for their commitment.
- Children helped each other beautifully in every lesson visited: showing respect and kindness as we would expect.
- Teachers and Teaching Staff demonstrated a real understanding of each child's needs, strengths and next steps needed. It was such a joy to share what we do every day with Mrs Austen with our talented team.
- Our youngest children, in our Reception class, have made fantastic progress in just a few weeks. The children here were enjoying their time together, were playing with each other as good friends do, and were able to access each of the learning activities sensibly.

It was such a privilege to hear great news about our school, our pupils and our staff. Everyone here works exceptionally hard every day, and it is lovely to share this with our families.

PTA
SPOOKY BINGO

THURSDAY 22ND OCTOBER
4:30 – 5:30PM

£3 PER ADULT TICKET

£2 PER CHILD

INCLUDES UNLIMITED DRINKS

Paythrough ParentPay

HOTDOGS AND SNACKS ON SALE

'BEST SPOOKY COSTUME' COMPETITION

Non-uniform day
(NO spooky costumes on this day!)
Friday 16th October
to collect prizes for Bingo.
Y5 + Y6 - bring bottles
Y3 + Y4 - bring savoury snacks (no nuts)
EYFS, Y1, Y2 - bring sweet treats

Autumn Term dates

St Francis C.E. Primary School
Autumn Term Events

Autumn 1

Thursday 3rd September - School Re-opens Year 1 – Year 6
Monday 7th September – Welcome Reception Class Group 1
Tuesday 8th September - Welcome Reception Class Group 2
Friday 18th September – Voting day for class leadership roles
Wednesday 9th September - Welcome Reception Class Group 3
Thursday 10th September – All Reception class start
Thursday 10th Septemer - Anglo-Saxon visit in Year 5
Saturday 12th September - Community Church Event at St Francis School
Thursday 17th September – Family, class and individual pupil photos 8:30am start
Friday 18th September – Voting day for class leadership roles
Friday 25th September – Y2 MacMillan Coffee Morning
Wednesday 23rd September - Year 1 at Cherry Tree Library 14:45-15:25
Wednesday 30th September - Year 1 at Cherry Tree Library 14:45-15:25
Thursday 1st October – Autumn Census
Wednesday 7th October - Year 1 at Cherry Tree Library 14:45-15:
Thursday 8th October - Year 3 Harvest Worship 09:10 – 09:40 families welcome
Sunday 11th October - Harvest Service at St Francis Church 10:45am
Thursday 15th October - Messy Church – Creation 15:30 -16:30
Friday 16th October – PTA Non-uniform day
Thursday 22nd October PTA Spooky Family Bingo 16:30 – 17:30

Monday 26th – Friday 30th October - School closed for half-term

St Francis C.E. Primary School
Autumn Term Events

Autumn 2:

Monday 2nd November – School re-opens
Monday 2nd – Wednesday 4th November - Year 6 Robinwood residential
Thursday 5th November – Year 5 Remembrance service 09:10 – 09:40 families welcome
Sunday 8th November - Remembrance Service at St Francis Church time tbc
Monday 9th November - Year 1 visit to North West Air Ambulance charity shop 09:00-11:00 families welcome
Tuesday 10th November – Year 6 Arithmetic Parent Workshop 09:10 – 10:00
Wednesday 11th November - Parent drop in 15:30 – 16:00 all year groups
Monday 16th – Friday 20th – Assessment week
Monday 16th November to Friday 20th November - Anti-Bullying Week
Friday 20th November – PTA non-uniform day donations for Christmas hamper
Wednesday 25th November – Reception 2027 Open Evening 17:00 – 19:00
Friday 27th November – Y5 BAE Stomp Rockets Workshop
Thursday 3rd December – PTA Family Christmas Craft Afternoon 13:30 – 15:25
Friday 4th December – Christmas Tree Service and PTA raffle 14:30 – 15:25
Thursday 10th December – Messy Church Christmas 15:30 -16:30
Sunday 13th December - Christingle Service at St Francis Church 4:00pm
Monday 14th December – Whole school Christmas dinner
Tuesday 15th December – Year 2 Nativity 14:30 – 15:25
Wednesday 16th December – Christmas party – non-uniform
Thursday 17th December – School Closes for Christmas 15:25

Friday 18th December 2026 – Friday 1st January 2027

Extra date:

11th December at 9.30 – Rocksteady Concert