St. Francis
Church of England Primary School

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

Week ending: 16.10.2026

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

Upcoming dates

Wednesday 21st October

Y4 at Cherry Tree Library

Thursday 22nd October

PTA Spooky Bingo 4.30 – 5.30pm – see flier below

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.

Thursday 5th November

Y5's Remembrance Service

This week, our children have continued to learn about respect, with a focus on valuing different opinions. Respect lies at the heart of our school community, and we want every child to understand that people can disagree respectfully. Not every disagreement should result in an argument, and I am proud of the thoughtful ways in which our children are learning to listen, reflect and respond to one another.

Our Harvest celebrations were a truly generous occasion. Thank you to all those who sent in donations for Blackburn Foodbank, both as part of our celebrations in school and in church. Your kindness will make a real difference to families in our local community.

Music has filled our corridors this week, as our choir club began its sessions. The sound of children singing with such enthusiasm has been a joy to hear. My thanks go to Mrs Little, Miss Ryding and Miss McGarrigle for leading these sessions in their own time.

Our Mental Health Ambassadors led worship yesterday to mark Mental Health Day, and they did so with great maturity and sensitivity. We learned about the role of our newest leaders, who will be trying to notice when their peers are not okay, so that they can let an adult know who may be able to help. Looking out for one another is a responsibility we all share, and I am grateful to our ambassadors for championing it so admirably.

Thank you also to Pat Rushton, who has held Messy Church this week. The children enjoyed a wealth of exciting activities that helped them to appreciate God's creation.

It gives me great pleasure to celebrate Aerin, a former pupil of our school and sister of Ava in Year 1, who has been competing on the world stage in Ju Jitsu. Aerin has won both gold and silver medals in her competitions, and we are very proud of her achievements. She will soon compete again, possibly in Mauritius, and we wish her every success.

OPAL NEWS!

As we prepare for our reaccreditation day, at the end of November, we are thrilled to let parents and carers know that we will once again be opening our OPAL field up to share our joyful playtime with you all.

As an addition to our Autumn events, on Friday 13th November, we will be encouraging you to join your child for an extra playtime and experience the fun of our OPAL provision for yourselves from 2.45pm.

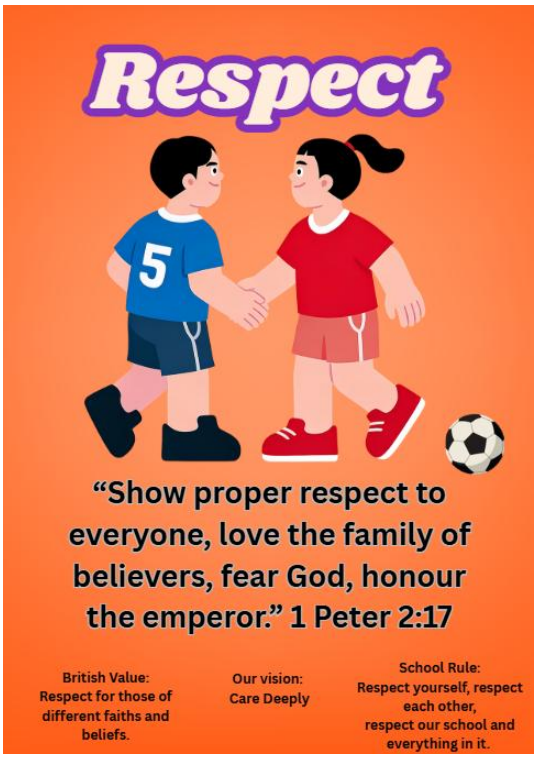
Housepoints weekly totals

This week there was great excitement as our Spring team gained the most points and over took our Winter team by just one point! Total points so far this term are:

Autumn: 613 **Winter: 690**

Spring: 691 **Summer: 661**

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!



Respect in school!

It was such a joy to celebrate a number of our pupils across school this morning, who had been voted for by their classmates, for showing respect throughout this half-term, so far.

There are so many children who come to school every day and demonstrate kindness, who actively listen to their peers and staff, who follow instructions without fussing and who use their manners to all.

It is wonderful to also see that other children also appreciate these positive behaviours in their classmates, and enjoy celebrating and thanking them too.

Each child who was voted for by their class mates for showing respect, received a certificate in worship today.

Next half-term we will be focusing on the value of 'Honesty' – I wonder who will be voted for then?

Autumn 2 clubs are being advertised now – sign up soon!

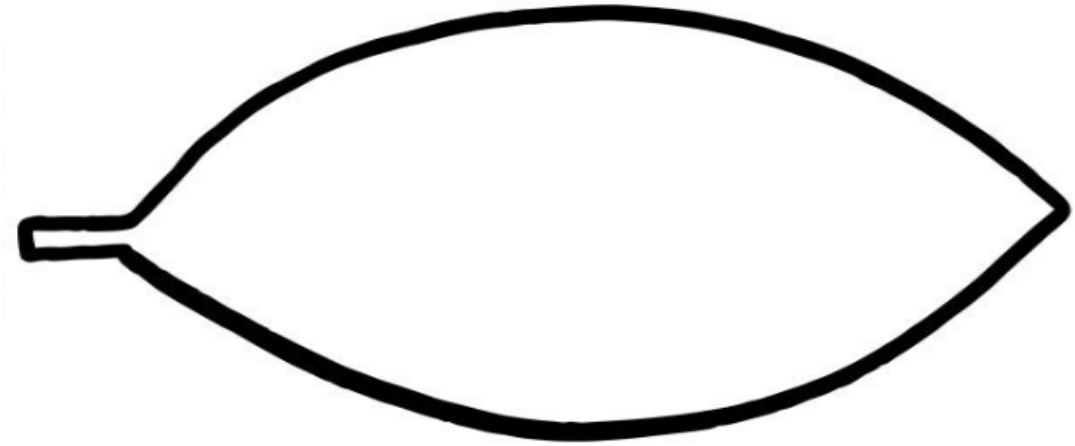
Thank you for all your donations towards our Spooky Bingo. They are much-appreciated!

A half-term-holiday challenge!

With just one week more to go before we have a week of much-needed-rest from school, we have a challenge to set our children to complete for the start of the new half-term:

Print out, or copy, the leaf below, or draw your own, and on it draw or write about a moment in school this last half-term, when you have demonstrated one of our core values of Love, Joy, Faith, Friendship, or Aspiration. Colour in the rest of your leaf and then bring it back to school to be added to a new Values Tree we are making in the hall.

Examples of what you could write include: "Aspiration: I kept trying in maths lessons, even when I found multiplication calculations difficult. James, Y4." "Faith: I showed faith when I played in the Construction Area, as I believed in my own skills and knew I would be safe. Amy, Y2"



PTA
SPOOKY BINGO

THURSDAY 22ND OCTOBER
4:30 – 5:30PM

£3 PER ADULT TICKET

£2 PER CHILD

INCLUDES UNLIMITED DRINKS

Pay through ParentPay

Doors open at 4:15pm, eyes down at 4:30pm!

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

Cherry Tree Cricket Club
Firework Display 2026

Dear Resident,

Cherry Tree Cricket Club will be holding our annual Firework Display on Thursday 5th November 2026.

The Cricket Club and bar will be open from 5:00pm, with the firework display beginning at 7:30pm and lasting 15–20 minutes.

If required, a small low-noise firework may be used between 2:00pm and 6:00pm to assess the wind direction.

Outdoor music may be played between 5:00pm and 9:00pm.

Weather conditions will be closely monitored in the lead-up to the event and throughout the day. This will allow us to make an informed decision regarding postponement or cancellation if conditions are considered unsuitable for safety reasons.

The event has been registered with the Blackburn with Darwen Events Committee, the Fire Brigade has been informed, and a full risk assessment has been completed and submitted.

We kindly ask that, if you are having fireworks at home, please do not fire them in the direction of the Cricket Club. Spectators will be gathering in the car park and around the venue before, during and after the display.

Please also note that vehicles will not be permitted to park at the venue on the evening of the display, as these areas will be used as spectator viewing areas. As a result, we expect there may be a temporary increase in vehicles parking on the local roads around the event, and we appreciate your patience and understanding.

We look forward to seeing you on the evening and thank you for your support.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me on 01254 200666.

Yours faithfully,

S Mercer

Cow Corner Bar @ Cherry Tree Cricket Club



Blackburn Cathedral School Christmas Concert 2026

On Monday 30th November, twelve of our pupils will be performing at Blackburn Cathedral along with twenty-one other local schools.

Please come along to support our children, and enjoy what is always a fabulous evening!

https://www.trybooking.com/uk/event/123086

COW CORNER BAR

CHERRY TREE

COW CORNER BAR

FIREWORK DISPLAY

THURSDAY 5TH NOVEMBER

GATES OPEN 5:00PM

FIREWORKS AT 7:30PM

ADMISSION £3

UNDER 5s FREE

REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE

INDOOR BAR

DRINKS STALL OUTSIDE

ALCOHOLIC & NON-ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

FOOD STALL OUTSIDE

Everyone Welcome!

NO PARKING ON SITE

BB2 5ND

Grab your friends & family and come and join us!



This is not the same performance as our choir are singing in. This is for information only for those who may be interested.