St. Francis
Church of England Primary School

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

Week ending: 23.10.2026

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

Upcoming dates

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.

Wednesday 4th November

Y6 pupils return from Robinwood

Thursday 5th November

Y5's Remembrance Service 9:10am - parents welcome to join us



Year 4 and Year 1 classes having a non-uniform day to raise money for their Toilet Twinning charity.

Sunday 8th November

St Francis Church Remembrance Service

This week, our theme of respect has continued to shape our school community. It was a real pleasure to hear so many children articulate what respect means to them and how we should use it in every interaction we have with others. Their thoughtful responses showed a clear understanding that respect is something we demonstrate in the classroom, on the playground and beyond.

Rev'd Bryn also followed this theme, prompting us to consider how we can respond to people who might annoy us or hold completely different opinions from our own. The message was a powerful one: we can disagree with one another while still communicating with courtesy and care. This is a lesson that will serve our children well throughout their lives, and one we will continue to reinforce together.

Today, we said goodbye to Miss Watson, who has now left for her maternity leave. Miss Watson has supervised The NEST very effectively, and her dedication and warmth will be missed by us all. We wish her well as she prepares for the imminent arrival of her baby and thank her for the positive difference she has made to our children.

I am pleased to share that Miss Downing will take over the role of Lead Inclusion Teaching Assistant every morning in The NEST. Please join me in welcoming Miss Downing into this important role and in supporting her as she takes on these responsibilities.

Our School Council was also involved in a soup taste-testing session today. This responded to requests from several classes, raised during their class council discussions, for "soup and sandwiches" to be offered as part of school meals. The children's involvement in this process has been a wonderful example of how their voices can shape decisions within our school. Our kitchen team will now get to work introducing the chosen soup flavours into our winter menu. I am grateful to the School Council for their enthusiasm and to our kitchen team for responding so positively to the views of our children.

I wish all our children and staff a lovely week of rest next week!

PTA Spooky Bingo



Thank you so much for all our parents, carers and families who were able to attend our first Spooky Bingo after school yesterday.

It was a great success! On first count we have raised well over £300!

Thanks too for the PTA who provided refreshments and hot dogs, and thanks to those members of staff who gave up their own time to attend and support.

Housepoints weekly totals

This week our Spring team continued their winning streak and gained the most points. Well done again Spring!

Total points so far this term are:

Autumn: 732 **Winter:** 825

Spring: 869 **Summer:** 745

Lunch payments

Unfortunately, we have a number of parents across school who have not yet paid towards their child's lunches or breakfast club.

School budgets are extremely tight, and as a school we cannot afford to pay for school dinners and staffing needed for breakfast club, nor should we have to as this takes money away from staffing and other essential resources for our children's education.

If you are struggling to pay for lunches or clubs, please do give the office a ring to discuss how this can be managed over time.

Board Games

If you have any board games, or card games, in great condition, that you do not need, could you please send them in?

We would like to gather a collection of games for wet playtimes and for lunchtimes clubs too.

Thank you!



Poppy Appeal 2026

We will be selling poppies and other poppy-based products to raise money for the Royal British Legion, after half-term each lunchtime. Poppies are on sale for a minimum donation of 50p, and wristbands, pins and other larger items cost £1.

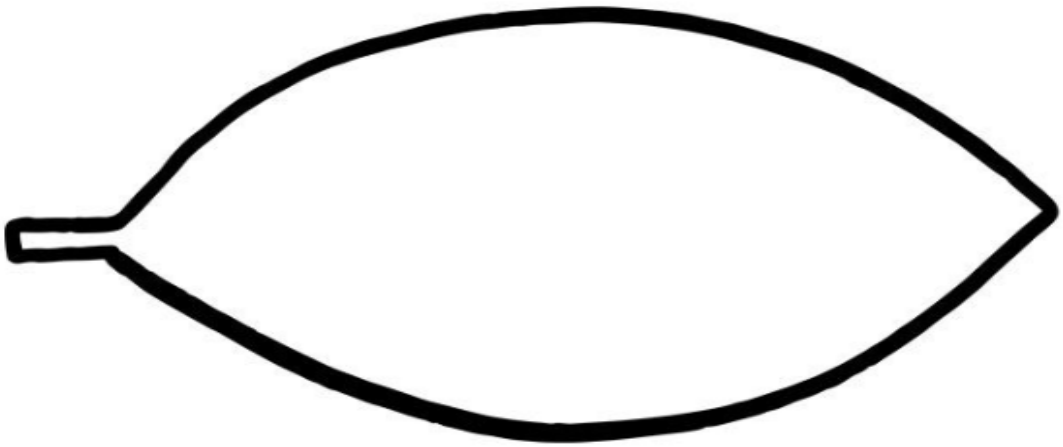
A half-term-holiday challenge!

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"

Children who are able to complete a leaf (or leaves) will be awarded with housepoints.



This is the Facebook webpage for our PTA group. Please do use it to look for updated news:

https: //www.facebook.com/share/g/1K2RiUtVPF/

Attendance Ladder

100% attendance

Congratulations to the 89 children across school who have today received a sticker acknowledging their 100% attendance in school this half-term.

Poor attendance patterns in children often equates to poor employment opportunities in adulthood according to the research.

It is essential that good habits of school attendance and punctuality are fostered while a child is at primary school, for their future prospects.





We were able to give out many Walk to School badges today, for those children who have been getting to school in an active way at least once a week.

Keep it up!

Remembrance Service in church

Sunday 8th November

We will be inviting pupils attending St Francis Church on Remembrance Sunday, to read a poem together. If your child will be attending on this day, and would like to read part of a Remembrance Poem, please let Miss Ryding or Mrs. Foster know.

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

Robinwood 2026

Our Y6 children will be going straight to their adventure holiday on Monday 2nd November when the rest of us return to school.

We wish them well, and hope they show resilience and patience throughout their three-day stay!

Wrap up warm Y6, and don't let the piranhas bite you!







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.