

*We love and grow in Christ, we live and learn in partnership, we build and share together*

# St Francis of Assisi Catholic Primary School

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Headteacher: Mrs A E Naylor

Deputy Headteacher: Mrs S Lamph

20<sup>th</sup> January 2023,

Dear Parents/Carers,

Firstly, many thanks for getting your children into school this week in such cold and icy weather. Hopefully, it's going to warm up a little over the weekend – particularly if your child plays weekend football like mine!

## **Staff News**

Some sad news – Mrs Dandy has decided to take a break from teaching after 8 years at St Francis of Assisi. We would like to thank her for all of her hard work, creativity, enthusiasm, commitment, kindness, care and dedication. She has made a huge impact on our children having taught in Early Years and Key Stage One and we are all going to miss her immensely as a teacher, colleague and friend. She brought her fantastic ideas alive so well and has given the children such lovely experiences over the years. We are very much looking forward to her popping in to see us some time in the future.

## **Miss Parkin and Miss Boswell – Associate Teachers**

Next Friday, Miss Parkin and Miss Boswell finish their placements in Year 3 and Year 6 having been with us since September. They have worked so hard and are both going to make fantastic teachers in the future. Good luck to you both for your second placements – we will all miss you!

## **Drinks in School**

Children should not bring juice or any other soft drink into school unless they are on packed lunches and it is part of their packed lunch. Please do not send in anything fizzy or Prime drinks.

We encourage children to drink water throughout the school day as research demonstrates that this can have a positive effect on their learning.

## **After School Clubs**

After School Clubs will resume next week as follows:

Tuesdays – Invasion Games WLSP 3.15-4.15

Wednesdays – Knitting 12.15pm

Thursdays – Mini Vinnie's 12.15pm

Striking and Fielding WLSP 3.15-4.15



### **Attendance**

Attendance for this week is as follows –

Reception – 85.3%

Y1/2 – 90.0%

Y3 – 90.5%

Y4 – 87.3%

Y5 – 93.3%

Y6 – 83.2%

In May the Department for Education published a document called *Working together to improve school attendance* a summary of which can be found [here](#). This document has been produced to help schools and local authorities maintain high levels of school attendance and sets out the responsibilities of parents, schools, governing bodies and local authorities in order to ensure this.

Full attendance is more important than ever before given the effects of the pandemic and the gaps in learning caused by this. As usual we will publish our attendance data every week on the school newsletter.

### **A Warm Place**

St Francis of Assisi Church meeting room is open every Tuesday from 10.15am -1.15pm for anyone to go in, have a cup of tea, coffee, toast and biscuits and a warm place to sit. There is no charge for this and all are welcome.

### **The Household Support Fund**

The Household Support Fund is now available... Please spread the word and click the link below for further details:

[Household Support Fund - West Lancashire Borough Council \(westlancs.gov.uk\)](https://www.westlancs.gov.uk)

### **Directory of Support Services**

The Financial Inclusion Team at West Lancs Borough Council have generated a directory of resources that's easily accessible for anyone and everyone.

Please click the link below to have a look as it's a great resource to have to hand.

[Directory of Support Services - West Lancashire Borough Council \(westlancs.gov.uk\)](https://www.westlancs.gov.uk)

### **Help and Assistance in Difficult Times**

Times are hard at the moment for many. The St Vincent de Paul Society (SVP) can provide practical assistance if you need it and we have a local branch in Skelmersdale. You can ring them on 07470351042. They are really approachable and non-judgemental and they help us a lot as a school. There is a foodbank available behind St Francis of Assisi Church near the entrance to the adjoining house. This is open every Wednesday from 12 noon until 1pm.

**Cost of Living Support – Guidance for parents and carers**

Find out the most up-to-date information about what help is available for households and businesses in Lancashire on the [Cost of living support website](#). This website summarises some of the most useful information from Lancashire County Council and they have asked that we share it with you.

Have a good weekend!

Ann Naylor (Headteacher)