

# St Francis of Assisi Catholic Primary School

Blakehall  
Skelmersdale  
WN8 9AZ



Tel: 01695 558560  
e-mail: [head@sfoa.lancs.sch.uk](mailto:head@sfoa.lancs.sch.uk)  
Website: <http://www.sfoa.lancs.sch.uk>

Headteacher: Mrs A E Naylor  
Deputy Headteacher: Mrs S Lamph

6<sup>th</sup> October 2023,

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope that you are all well.

Clubs for next week are as follows:

## **Extra – Curricular School Activities**

Monday – Y1 Health and Wellbeing 3.15pm-4.15pm (Mrs Gibson)

Monday – Y6 Film and Photography Club 3.15pm – 4.15pm (Mr Gibson)

Tuesday – Dance Y3 and Y4 3.15pm-4.15pm (WLSP)

Thursday – Gym Y5 and Y6 3.15pm – 4.15pm (WLSP)

## **Well-Being Day – 9th October/Hello Yellow Day – 10th October**

On Monday 9th October we will be having a day in which we promote the well-being and mental health of our school. The charity, Compass Bloom, will be coming into school to lead assemblies and then children will work for the rest of the day on relevant activities and tasks. They will also talk to staff about their own well-being during lunchtime.

We are really looking forward the day which will be followed on Tuesday 10th October by a **Hello Yellow Day**. Children can wear something yellow or their own clothes for a donation to **Young Minds**, a young persons mental health charity.

Many thanks to Mrs Blair for organising both days.

## **Parents Evening – 18th October**

There is going to be an opportunity for you to meet with your child's teacher and hear about how they are settling in to their new year group - Parents Evening will be on 18th October from 3.15pm -6.00pm.

Appointment slips will be sent out next week for you to book an appointment.

It will be slightly different this time around in that all teachers will hold their appointments in the school hall rather than their classrooms.

## **Halloween Disco – Tuesday 31st October**

The PTA have organised a disco in school on October 31st from 3.30pm until 4.30pm for children in Reception up to Year 6

Children can bring a costume in to school if they want to and change into this at 3.15pm if they are attending the disco.

Tickets are £3 and include a hotdog and a drink. There will also be a tuck shop from which children can buy sweets.

Many thanks to the PTA and to the staff who have volunteered to help out.

Tickets can be paid for on Parent Pay from Monday.

### **Attendance and Punctuality**

Full attendance in school is very important. Research has proven that there is a high correlation between school attendance and academic performance and success. Absence from school is often the greatest single cause of poor performance and achievement.

*Why is it so important to attend every day?*

- Learning is a progressive activity; each day's lessons build upon those of the previous day(s).
- Reading the material and completing work independently does not compensate for direct interaction with the teacher.
- Many classes use discussions, demonstrations, experiments and participation as part of the daily learning activities, and these cannot be made up by those who are absent.

*Are there other benefits to my child?*

- Pupils with good attendance records generally achieve higher grades and enjoy school more.
- Having a good education will help to give your child the best possible start in life
- Regular school attendance patterns encourage the development of other responsible patterns of behaviour.

Government legislation means that schools are not allowed to authorise requests for children to be taken out of school for a holiday during term time.

Requests for leave can only be granted by schools if there are "exceptional circumstances" and holidays are not considered exceptional. Requests for leave must be made to the Headteacher in advance, as the Department for Education has told schools that they cannot authorise any absences after they have been taken.

We publish our attendance data every week in the school newsletter.

Reception – 92.1%

Y1 – 93.3%

Y2 – 86.0%

Y3/4 – 93.1%

Y5 – 88.0%

Y6 – 92.8%

### **Places in Reception for September 2024**

Lancashire County Council's school admissions for children starting primary school or moving to secondary school in September 2024 opened on Friday 1 September 2023.

Parents can apply online at [www.lancashire.gov.uk/schools](http://www.lancashire.gov.uk/schools) - it's quick and easy!

The national closing dates for applications are:

- Tuesday 31 October 2023 for secondary applicants
- Monday 15 January 2024 for primary applicants.

### **More Positive Together Project**

The 'More Positive Together' project, led by WLBC, offers support for parents or individuals who may not be in employment or accessing any training at the moment. The More Positive Together Team can offer tailored advice and support to help individuals become confident, write CV's, attend training and hopefully enter into employment.

For more information or to apply please call 07974592956 or email [MPT@westlancs.gov.uk](mailto:MPT@westlancs.gov.uk)

### **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 \(westlancs.gov.uk\)](http://Household Support Fund - West Lancashire Borough Council (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 \(westlancs.gov.uk\)](http://Directory of Support Services - West Lancashire Borough Council (westlancs.gov.uk))

Have a lovely sunny weekend,

Ann Naylor (Headteacher)