

St Francis of Assisi Catholic Primary School

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

8th September 2022,

Dear Parents/Carers,

It's been lovely to see you all this week as we welcome everybody back to school. It's also very typical that the sun is shining and it is cracking the flags! The children have been hot but happy and a credit to you all in terms of their behaviour and presentation – they all look very smart and ready to learn.

School Communication

There are several ways that you can contact us if you need to. As always, you can use Class Dojo – the children have all been moved on to their current teacher so you can message directly. You can also telephone or speak to us directly, but please be aware that we may be in class teaching or in meetings at certain times of the school day.

We are a very approachable staff and recognise that positive relationships between home and school will always work to the benefit of our children. Like you, we want the very best for them and working together well will ensure that we achieve this. With this in mind, I'll move on to...

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 – 100%

Y1/2 – 93.5%

Y3/4 – 95.8%

Y5 – 90.0%

Y6 – 93.9%

After-School Activities

We are in the process of organising extra-curricular clubs and activities which our staff kindly volunteer to run. Details to follow when these are finalised.

Dance will start on Tuesday for Years 3 and 4 and Gym will start on Thursday for Years 5 and 6. Letters have been sent out to these year groups with further information.

Reception Class 2023

Welcome to our wonderful Reception children. They are settling in so well and we are all really proud of them. They are a lovely group of children and we are so happy to welcome them all to our St Francis’ family.

We have places available for children in Nursery and 2 Year old provision if you know families who may require a place. Direct them to contact the school office on 01695 558560 and we will be happy to assist.

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 - 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.

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/household-support-fund)

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/support-services)

Have a lovely weekend,

Ann Naylor (Headteacher)