

St Francis of Assisi Catholic Primary School

Blakehall
Skelmersdale
WN8 9AZ



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

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

8th December 2023,

Dear Parents/Carers,

Just a reminder of upcoming dates for your diary:

EYFS play – Wednesday 13th December at 10am in the hall

KS1 play – Thursday 18th December at 9.45am in the hall

KS2 Carol Service – Monday 18th December at 1.45pm in the hall

Friday 22nd December – school finishes at 1.30pm for the Christmas break

Breakfast with Santa

EYFS and KS1 13th December 8.15am in school hall. Please pay £5 per child if you would like to book your child into breakfast with Santa.

KS2 14th December 8.15am in school hall. Please pay £5 per child if you would like to book your child into breakfast with Santa.

Christmas Dinner

Many thanks to Hayley and our lovely kitchen and welfare staff for all their hard work in preparing a wonderful Christmas Dinner for us on Wednesday. They go above and beyond in making this a lovely experience for everyone and we are truly grateful.

Clubs for the next week are as follows:

Extra – Curricular School Activities

Monday – Y2 Health and Wellbeing 3.15pm-4.15pm (Mrs Gibson)

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

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

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

A Message From Our Chair of Governors Cath Eglin

Dear Parents and Carers,

Autumn term is coming to a close and Christmas is nearly upon us.

You are so supportive to our school in many ways. We know that you want the best for your children and so do we. I hope this partnership will continue to grow.

So on behalf of the Governors I want to thank you for all you do.

I hope you have a good Christmas.

Best wishes for the New Year.

Free SIM cards offer

The County Council Libraries are providing free SIM cards through the National Databank project as part of the Good Things Foundation. Anyone who fits the criteria can access a SIM card for 6 months with free text and calls and a data allowance. The National Databank provides free SIM cards from Virgin Media O2, Vodafone and Three.

You must be over 18, on a low income and/or struggling to get internet access. You don't need to provide any wider information to the library to access the service only to confirm that you fit the criteria. The libraries are keen to get people through the door to offer wider services. They are now open again as a warm space with a free hot drink.

[National Databank - Lancashire County Council](#)

<https://www.goodthingsfoundation.org/databank/>

The Big Ambition

The Children's Commissioner for England has begun a national campaign called The Big Ambition. We have been requested to share this survey with the children and parents within our school community.

Children or parents can complete the survey here: www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/thebigambition . Further resources are available on their [website](#). They have also produced a [leaflet](#).

It is really important that the pupils at St Francis of Assisi Catholic Primary School have participated in The Big Ambition survey and had their say.

The Commissioner wants to ensure that the voices of the children in Lancashire are fairly represented in the findings so that she can share their views with the most senior members of the country.

It is vital that all children have their voice heard through this survey because the Children's Commissioner for England has a statutory duty to protect and promote the views and interests of children. The Big Ambition provides a much-needed opportunity for the children of England to tell political decision makers what is important to them ahead of the General Election. The Commissioner will be sharing their responses with Government to ensure that children's voices are heard.

This survey is for all children aged 0-18, parents, carers / other adults can complete on behalf of children who are under 6 or for children who need extra assistance.

The survey and resources have been shared with teachers in our school and they have been encouraged to use them in their lessons. This is a great opportunity to teach children about politics and why it is important for them to use their voice!

First Holy Communions

If your child is in Years 4,5 or 6 and you would like them to receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion in Summer 2024, please contact Jane, our School Business Manager and parish catechist, at the school office. Letters have been sent out to all Year 4 children recently.

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 – 82.2%

Y1– 86.7%

Y2 – 95.8%
 Y3/4 – 89.4%
 Y5 – 90.8%
 Y6 – 92.2%

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:

- 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

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://HouseholdSupportFund-WestLancashireBoroughCouncil(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://DirectoryofSupportServices-WestLancashireBoroughCouncil(westlancs.gov.uk))

And finally, **a prayer for the second week of Advent:**

Christ our Hope,
 Illuminate our hearts with your grace,
 Widen our vision so that we recognise our connection with all the people of the world.
 Help us to give to others in ways that meet their needs,
 We await your coming with gratitude.
 Amen

Have a lovely weekend,

Best wishes,

Ann Naylor (Headteacher)