

St Francis of Assisi Catholic Primary School

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19th January 2024,

Dear Parents/Carers,

Adverse Weather Conditions

Many thanks for bringing your children to school this week when the weather has been so cold and icy, and for following our instructions in navigating the school site safely. I would also like to thank the staff for their attendance - despite it taking some staff several hours just to get here! Special thanks must go to John, our site supervisor, for working so hard in clearing the snow and gritting the paths for us. Luckily, the forecast is looking much better for next week.

Attendance and Punctuality : [Major National Drive to Improve School Attendance](#)

This week, our school attendance officer from Lancashire County Council visited us to discuss school attendance and punctuality. He does this every half-term. His role is to work with us in improving school attendance.

Last week, the government launched a new drive focused on improving attendance in schools. At St Francis of Assisi, we are committed to improving attendance and recognise that to give our children the best chances in life, full attendance in school is essential. Click on the link above to read more about it.

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 – 84.4%

Y1 – 75.6%

Y2 – 78.4%

Y3/4 – 86.8%

Y5 – 91.6%

Y6 – 93.9%

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 – Closing date is today!

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!

Class Dojo

Class Dojo is a great platform for enhancing home/school communication – particularly if you cannot get into school to talk to us directly. Staff will endeavour to respond to messages within the school day but please note they cannot respond when they are teaching.

Please also be aware that staff are not obliged to respond immediately to messages sent to them during the evening or weekends. Many thanks for your understanding in this matter.

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@westlancls.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 \(westlancls.gov.uk\)](http://HouseholdSupportFund-WestLancashireBoroughCouncil(westlancls.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/directory-of-support-services)

Have a great weekend,

Best wishes,

Ann Naylor (Headteacher)