

St Francis of Assisi Catholic Primary School

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8th February 2024,

Dear Parents/Carers,

Children's Mental Health Week 2024

This week is Children's Mental Health Week and children have been carrying out lots of activities in school. Mrs Blair has been working with our Wellbeing Ambassadors who spoke to the children in assembly about their role in working together with staff to improve our children's mental health. The Ambassadors represent each year group across school and are really excited to be promoting wellbeing.

[Place2Be](#) launched the mental health awareness week in 2015 to empower, equip and give a voice to every child in the UK.

Every year Children's Mental Health Week sees hundreds of schools, children, parents and carers taking part. Now in its 10th year, it is hoped that more people than ever help Place2Be reach their goal that no child or young person has to face a mental health problem alone.

Each year, **free resources** are created so that as many people as possible can take part. Take a look at the resources for [families, parents and carers](#).

Half-term

School closes today for half-term. Tomorrow is an INSET Day and will be used for staff training. We will see you all back in school on Monday 19th February.

Dates for your Diary

7th March – World Book Day – come dressed as a character from a book, pyjamas or own clothes.
15th March – Non uniform Day – Donation of chocolate for our Easter Bingo
21st March – Easter Bingo – doors open 6pm, eyes down 6.30pm
28th March – Break up for Easter Holidays
15th April – Back to school

Attendance and Punctuality : Major National Drive to Improve School Attendance

The government recently 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 – 72.9%

Y1 – 89.6%

Y2 – 93.1%

Y3/4 – 87.1%

Y5 – 88%

Y6 – 90.3%

Reading Garden

Our new school library & reading garden(indoors) will be open after school on a Monday 3.15pm-4.15pm from 19th February. This is for children and their parent to attend together and enjoy choosing and reading in our lovely new area.

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/>

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@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 \(westlancs.gov.uk\)](#)

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 \(westlancs.gov.uk\)](#)

Have a great half-term.

Best wishes,

Ann Naylor (Headteacher)