

St Francis of Assisi Catholic Primary School

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8th March 2024,

Dear Parents/Carers,

Day of Prayer

Archbishop Malcolm has called for a Day of Prayer in the schools and parishes of Liverpool Archdiocese for the Holy Land on Friday 8 March 2024. This echoes the plea of Cardinal Vincent Nichols who has written:

“As we are all aware, the situation in the Holy Land has not improved, with failed negotiations, increasing humanitarian distress and a rising death toll.

As Lent begins, I would like to urge that we continue our efforts, not least in prayer.

And so I ask that, on Friday 8 March, there is a special focus of prayer for the Holy Land. This could take the form of a dedicated time of prayer, perhaps before the Blessed Sacrament, for peace in the Holy Land. It could be as simple as making any regular Lenten devotions you may be having on that day for this intention.”

We have been sent a prayer by the Archdiocese to adapt in school...

A prayer from the Holy Father for peace

“Let us pray with one heart and one soul – Lord come to our aid, grant us peace, teach us peace, guide our steps in the way of peace.

Open our eyes and our hearts and give us the courage to say: Never again war.’
Lord Hear Us.”

“May the weapons be stopped: they will never lead to peace, and may the conflict not widen! Enough! Enough, brothers! In Gaza, let the wounded be rescued immediately, let civilians be protected, let far more humanitarian aid be allowed to reach that stricken population. May the hostages be freed, including the elderly and children. Every human being, Christian, Jewish, Muslim, of any people or religion, every human being is sacred, is precious in the eyes of God and has the right to live in peace. Let us not lose hope: let us pray and work tirelessly so that the sense of humanity may prevail over hardness of heart.”

In Jesus’ name. Amen

Dates for your Diary

11th March – Class photographs
 15th March – Non uniform Day – Donation of chocolate for our Easter Bingo
 21st March – Easter Bingo – doors open 6pm, eyes down 6.30pm
 26th March – Breakfast with Bunny EYFS & Year 1 & 2 £5 per child. 8am start
 27th March - Breakfast with Bunny Year 3/4, Y5 & Y6 £5 per child. 8am start
 28th March – Break up for Easter Holidays
 15th April – Back to school

World Book Day

Reading is a huge priority for us as a school. It was lovely to see everyone enjoying World Book Day on Thursday and displaying their love for reading.

International Women's Day

International Women's Day is a global day celebrating the social, economic, cultural and political achievements of women. We have celebrated all of the wonderful women in our lives today in school. Happy International Women's Day to you all!

Class Photographs

The photographer will be in school to take class photographs on Monday 11th March.

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 – 83.3%

Y1 – 86.7%

Y2 – 87.2%

Y3/4 – 91.5%

Y5 – 84.6%

Y6 – 96.1%

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

A Mother's Day Prayer

Loving God

We thank you for the love of the mothers you have given us,

Whose love is so precious that it can never be measured,

Whose patience seems to have no end.

We pray for all mothers and we ask you to bless them with your own special love.

Amen

And finally, we will be thinking of all of you on Mother's Day - particularly those of you who no longer have your mums or who can't be with your mums. Love to you all.

Have a great weekend.

Best wishes,

Ann Naylor (Headteacher)