

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

10th May 2024,

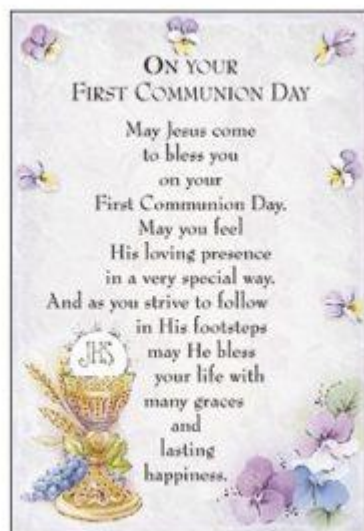
Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope that you are all well.

COMMUNIONS

This Saturday, and following two Saturdays, some of our children are making their First Holy Communion in church.

Our thoughts and prayers will be with you on your special day and we hope that you make some lovely memories with your family and friends.



Extra – Curricular School Activities

Tuesday – Athletics - 3.15pm-4.15pm (WLSP) Year 3/4
Tuesday – KS1 Running Club – 3.15pm -4pm (Miss Austin)
Thursday – Breaktimes – Chatty Club – Mrs Gibson
Thursday - Invasion Games - 3.15pm – 4.15pm (WLSP) Year 5/6

One Stop Shop

There is now a One Stop Shop on the first Thursday of every month from 9-12pm at The Zone Family Hub in Skelmersdale. There are lots of different agencies who attend as part of the Family Hubs Network such as:



- WLBC
- Money Advice Team
- CAB
- Compass Bloom
- Lancashire Talking Therapies
- Health Visitors
- Schools Nurse
- Employment support
- Plus Many More

There are also representatives from West Lancs Community High, Elm Tree School and Kingsbury School attending who can give advice around SEN.

Please do attend if you would like some support. The first session was this Thursday and we have heard positive reviews.

Nut Allergies

We have a responsibility to provide a safe learning environment for everyone in our school and we take the management of allergies very seriously.

As our school currently has one or more pupils on roll who suffer from a nut allergy, we request that parents and carers do not send food to school that contains nuts.

This includes:-

- All types of nuts
- Spreads and sandwich fillings containing nuts like peanut butter and Nutella
- Cereal and chocolate bars which contain nuts
- Cakes or biscuits which contain nuts

Please check food labels if you are unsure about ingredients.

Drop-In Sessions – Compass Bloom

We are currently holding drop-in sessions between 2.15pm and 3.15pm on Monday afternoons. Parents and carers can just turn up at school between these times to find out how Compass can support with your child's mental health and wellbeing.

Key Stage 2 SATs 2024

The Key Stage 2 tests are timetabled from Monday 13th May to Thursday 16th May 2024. Please note that these are national tests and take place on the same dates in all schools across the country therefore full attendance and punctuality is crucial.

Monday 13th May: English grammar, punctuation and spelling (GPS) papers 1 (questions) and 2 (spelling)

Tuesday 14th May: English reading paper

Wednesday 15th May: mathematics papers 1 (arithmetic) and 2 (reasoning)

Thursday 16th May: mathematics paper 3 (reasoning)

Baby Group

Don't forget, on Friday mornings we have a Baby Group in the hall for children up to the age of 2. We love welcoming our babies in on Fridays (as well as their grown-ups)! It's a lovely, friendly group and a good opportunity to make new friends. Please come along and join us.

Pre-Loved Clothing

We are asking once again for any clothes no longer needed. Please bring into school office.

Social Media Age Restrictions

The age restrictions for social media platforms are as follows:

X (Twitter), Facebook, Instagram, Pinterest, Tumblr, Reddit, Snapchat – children should be at least 13
Whatsapp – children should be at least 16

Please check your child's access to social media and how they are using it. Social media can be used to cause hurt towards others and we do not want this to affect children's enjoyment of school or their learning.

Times Tables Rock Stars

If you are struggling to access Active Learning and Times Tables Rock Stars, please contact your child's class teacher and they will assist you.

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 – 90.3%

Y1 – 82.5%

Y2 – 92.4%

Y3/4 – 93.2%

Y5 – 95.5%

Y6 – 94.4%

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)

Have a lovely weekend,

Ann Naylor (Headteacher)