

We love and grow in Christ, we live and learn in partnership, we build and share together

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

19th July 2024,

Dear Parents/Carers,

Today we say 'Goodbye' to our wonderful Year 6's. We are so proud of them and know that they will go on to do well in their new high schools. Good luck Year 6 and thanks for the memories! We will miss you all.

A Poem for Year 6 – 'Moving On'

Take what we have taught you
Be confident, strong and bold,
The future is exciting
And waiting to unfold.

On your journey to the stars,
A step is what you need to do,
Big or small each step takes
Precious memories with you.

The friends, staff and school trips,
Laughter, fun and tears,
Urging you forwards,
Alleviating fears.

We will look back with pride
As we wave you on your way,
'Have a wonderful future'
Is what we want to say.

(Debbie Palphreyman)

More 'Goodbyes'

As you are aware, we are also saying 'Goodbye' to Mrs Gibson, Miss Austin and Mr Gibson. All three are valued members of our school family and we will miss them immensely. Having worked here for so long, it will



be very strange in Autumn when we return to school – for each of them as well as us. Thank you for all you have done for our school family over the years.

Best of luck with your studying Miss Austin, enjoy your teaching Mrs Gibson, and Mr Gibson - we are thinking of you and your family and keeping you all in our prayers.

Farewell Prayer (a farewell prayer for a friend)

As you go my friend, you walk upon a bed of love,
On which our prayers are falling softly every day.
As you go, remember that our hearts will hold you close.
You're treasured, and we will cheer you on your way.
As you go my friend, you travel with Christ at your side.
His light will show a path and be your guide.
As you go, be hopeful that you're following your dreams.
We celebrate this new season of your life.

A Message From Our Chair of Governors

Another school year comes to an end.

I wish our Y6 leavers every success in their new schools. I hope they enjoy their secondary education and experience lots of new and exciting things.

Have a good Summer (weather permitting) with your children. Thank you all for your continued support.

Cath Eglin

Curriculum Enhancement

We try very hard to enhance our curriculum in a number of ways as you can see from this [link](#). If you have any suggestions of anything more we can do, being mindful of the cost of living and budget restraints, we would love to hear them and are always open to suggestions.

Free Secondary School Uniform – SKELMERSDALE FUSS

Please see notice relating to this offer in the office window.

Timings of the School Day

Please note that our school day for Reception to Year 6 pupils **starts at 8.45am and finishes at 3.15pm** – this information is stated on our school website. The expectation that school hours over the week should amount to 32.5 hours has been set by the DfE.

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.

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 : Please see additional letter sent out yesterday.

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.

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.

We publish our attendance data every week in the school newsletter.

Reception – 85.6%

Y1 – 86%

Y2 – 95.6%

Y3/4 – 89.1%

Y5 – 90.4%

Y6 – 96.7%

Well done to Year 6 for the best attendance this week!

Congratulations to our 100% pupils.... well done !!!!

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/>

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 Summer, we will see you all on Tuesday 3rd September.

Ann Naylor (Headteacher)