

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

28th November 2025,

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope that you are all well.

This Sunday marks the beginning of Advent, a special season of preparation and hope as we await the celebration of Jesus' birth at Christmas. Advent invites us to pause, reflect, and prepare our hearts for Christ's coming. The first candle on the Advent wreath, the **Candle of Hope**, reminds us that even in times of darkness, God's light shines brightly. As a school community, let us take this opportunity to pray, show kindness, and share joy with others as we journey together through this beautiful season.

Prayer for Advent

Lord Jesus, as we light the first candle of Advent, fill our hearts with hope and peace. Help us to prepare for Your coming by loving one another and sharing Your light with the world.

Amen.

Dates for your Diary

4th Film night £3 per child includes popcorn & drink. Tuck shop available on the night. 5pm pick up

5th EYFS/KS1 Christmas play 9.30am

8th Christmas Bingo Doors open 6pm (Eyes down 6.30pm) adult only

After-School Activities

Monday – 3.15pm -4pm Crafts Club (Mrs McGivern)

Monday – 3.15pm – 4.30pm Dance Rehearsal Winter Wonderland (Mrs Lamph and OLQP students)

Tuesday - 3.15pm - 4.15pm Invasion Games Y3&4 (West Lancs School Sports)

Tuesday – 3.15pm -4pm Choir (Miss Blair)

NO SPORTS CLUB ON THURSDAY DUE TO FILM NIGHT

Social Media

If your child has a phone please check their use of it on a regular basis if you don't already. We need to work together in ensuring their safe and appropriate use.

The age restrictions for social media platforms are as follows:

X, 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, as we all know, to cause hurt towards others and we do not want this to affect children's enjoyment of school or their learning.

You may find some useful information [here](#).

School Communication

There are several ways that you can contact us if you need to. As always, you can use Class Dojo – the children have all been moved on to their current teacher so you can message directly. You can also telephone or speak to us directly, but please be aware that we may be in class teaching or in meetings at certain times of the school day.

We are a very approachable staff and recognise that positive relationships between home and school will always work to the benefit of our children. Like you, we want the very best for them and working together well will ensure that we achieve this.

The Best Start in Life Website

On 1 September 2025 the Department for Education launched the Best Start in Life website, as part of their [Plan for Change](#) and giving every child the Best Start in Life. This improved support for families builds on the proud legacy of Sure Start and will help more children be ready to start school.

[The Best Start in Life website](#) will officially replace the Childcare Choices website as the main source of information for early education and childcare support - offering a broader range of resources for families, including eligibility for childcare offers, information about free breakfast clubs and Best Start Family Hubs in their area, and support on pregnancy through to starting school and beyond.

Attendance and Punctuality

As you are aware, if your child is unable to attend school, you need to contact us by telephone or letter to inform us. We may then authorise this absence.

You must also notify us on the first day of any unplanned absence. If you don't do so, we will contact you to check on the attendance.

If your child has been missing school without a reason, the absences will be unauthorised and will carry the risk of a [penalty notice](#) or prosecution.

If you have concerns about your child's attendance, you can contact us to discuss what help might be available and we will happily support you.

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.

This week's attendance & punctuality

Reception & Y1 – 90%

Y2 – 87.3%

Y3 – 83.3%

Y4 – 86.3%

Y5 & Y6 – 81.2%

Well done to Rec & Y1 for the best attendance this week!

The class with the best punctuality this week is: Year 3.

Places in Reception for September 2026

Lancashire County Council's school admissions for children starting primary school opened on Friday 1 September 2025.

Parents can apply online at www.lancashire.gov.uk/schools - it's quick and easy!

The national closing date for applications is:

- 15 January 2026 for primary applicants.

We have places available for children in Nursery if you know families who may require a place. Direct them to contact the school office on 01695 558560 and we will be happy to assist.

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/parents-and-carers/financial-inclusion/financial-inclusion-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/parents-and-carers/financial-inclusion/financial-inclusion-support-fund)

Have a great weekend,

Ann Naylor (Headteacher)