

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

St Francis of Assisi Catholic Primary School

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Headteacher: Mrs A E Naylor

Deputy Headteacher: Mrs S Lamph

30th January 2026,

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope that you are well.

Team GB Mountain Biker Danny Butler

This week, the children thoroughly enjoyed a special visit from the Team GB Mountain Biker, Danny Butler, organised by our PE Lead, Ms Glaysher. Danny spoke to our children about his career and the children had the opportunity to participate in a sponsored circuit. Many thanks for all of your support in raising money for new PE equipment and thanks to Ms Glaysher for organising. The children loved it!

SATs Meeting

This opportunity to share information regarding KS2 SATs will take place on Monday 2nd February in the Y5/6 classroom. It is open to all Y6 parents/carers.

After-School Activities

Monday – 3.15pm -4.15pm Culture Club (Mrs McGivern) Exploring different cultures from around the world through food, art, music and traditions.

Tuesday - 3.15pm - 4.15pm O.A.A. club for Year 3 and Year 4(West Lancs School Sports)

Thursday – 3.15pm – 4.15pm Cricket for KS2(West Lancs School Sports)

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](#).



Mental Health First Aid

Myself and Mrs Blair have renewed our Mental Health First Aider qualification. This allows us to support our school family more effectively as it enables us to gain the knowledge, awareness, and skills to spot the signs of a young person experiencing poor mental health, the confidence to start a conversation, and the tools to safeguard and signpost to appropriate support.

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 – 88.4%

Y2 – 88%

Y3 – 84.7%

Y4 – 87.4%

Y5 & Y6 – 80.6%

Well done to Reception & Year 1 for the best attendance this week!

The class with the best punctuality this week is: 3M

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)

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-Directory)

Have a lovely weekend,

Ann Naylor (Headteacher)