

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

22nd May 2026,

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you are well and looking forward to a lovely warm half-term!

As you may be aware from previous correspondence, the Government no longer facilitate and fund the distribution of Edenred Vouchers over school holidays from 1st April. Please see the information below for alternative support.

Crisis and Resilience Fund

If your family is going through a hard time or facing an unexpected crisis, your local district council may be able to help.

From 1 April, the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) introduced the **Crisis and Resilience Fund (CRF)** to support local welfare services.

The fund will run until 31 March 2029 and is paid for by the UK Government.

The CRF replaces the Household Support Fund (HSF), which ran from October 2021 until 31 March 2026.

Because of this change, free school meal vouchers will no longer be available during school holidays.

How your district council can help

District councils can help with urgent needs such as food, essential household items and other practical support

You may want to contact your district council if you are dealing with things like:

- sudden money problems
- a family emergency that makes it hard to cover basic needs
- trouble getting food or essential household items
- a change at home that leaves you without immediate support
- extra pressure on your household budget, for example during the school holidays

Each district has a team that can talk to you about your situation and explain what help is available in your area. This support may come directly from the council or through local community organisations.

To get help, visit your district council's website or contact them by phone.

If you are not sure which district council covers your area, you can check by entering your postcode at

www.lancashire.gov.uk/district-council.

If you are already getting support from a professional, for example through a Family Hub, school, health visitor or Early Years practitioner, then they can help you to contact your district council.



After-School Activities

Thursday – 3.15pm – 4.15pm Running club for Year 2 3.15pm-4.15pm.

Details to follow the first week back for WLSP clubs.

Plea for a Parent Governor!!

There is a place for another parent governor on the governing body of our school.

The role of a parent governor is no different to any other governor. Governing boards make strategic decisions and work together to:

- develop a vision and strategy for the school
- oversee financial performance and make sure money is well spent
- hold the headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school
- engage with pupils, staff, parents and the wider school community to understand their views

If you are interested in this opportunity to become a parent governor and wish to put yourself forward for election, please contact the school office.

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.

Nursery and 2-Year-Old Provision

We are pleased to remind families that we continue to have places available in our Nursery and 2-Year-Old provision. These early years settings provide a caring, supportive environment where children can learn through play, build independence and develop strong social skills.

If you, or someone you know, may be interested in a place for a child, please contact the school office for more information or to arrange a visit. We are always happy to welcome new families into our school community.

Starting Reception Class

Please see the new government advice issued last week on preparing young children to start Reception class. It sets out the personal, social, emotional and physical skills that most children will develop by the time they start school and has been created to help parents, carers, and early years professionals involved in looking after young children get them ready to start school from their first day in Reception:

<https://startingreception.co.uk/#the-basic-skills-to-practice>

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 – 100%

Y2 – 95.4%

Y3 – 76.9%

Y4 – 87.1%

Y5 & Y6 – 79.1%

Well done to Year Rec & Y1 for the best attendance this week with 100%!

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

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 \(westlancs.gov.uk\)](http://westlancs.gov.uk)

Have a great half-term. See you all on 1st June.

Best wishes,

Ann Naylor (Headteacher)