

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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2nd October 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you are all well.

Year 3 Parents: Help Your Child Love Maths! A message from Mrs Wright and Mrs McGivern

Would you like to learn how to support your children to develop positive attitudes towards maths?

As a school, we are working with the charity 'National Numeracy' to encourage families to enjoy maths together. We know that maths can sometimes seem daunting, but engaging positively with children's learning can make a big difference to both children's and parents' confidence with numbers.

We are inviting Y3 parents and carers to a unique workshop, '**Help Your Child Love Maths!**' held at the school on **Monday 5th October at 3:20 p.m.**

The workshop is not a maths lesson, nor does it teach any maths, but it is focused on fostering positive attitudes towards numeracy and tips for ensuring your children develop these too.

The session will cover the importance of maths in the real world, being positive about maths, and how to boost your own number skills.

We would be delighted to welcome you to the session.

Thank You,

Mrs Wright and Mrs McGivern

St Francis of Assisi Feast Day

Each year, our school community celebrates the Feast Day of St Francis of Assisi, our patron saint. As 4th October falls on a Sunday this year, we will be marking this special occasion on **Wednesday 7th October** with a Mass in the school hall at **9.30am**. You are warmly invited to join us.



As part of our celebrations, we will also be collecting donations for our local foodbank. Any non-perishable items, such as tinned food, packets, or toiletries, would be greatly appreciated. Donations can be brought to the school office or given to your child's class teacher.

This year is particularly significant as it marks the **800th anniversary of the death of St Francis of Assisi**. To commemorate this milestone, Pope Leo XIV has declared a special **Year of St Francis**, encouraging us all to follow St Francis' example of faith, service, peace, and care for others. He reminds us that we are each called to become saints in our everyday lives by showing love, kindness and active charity.

Pope Leo said:

"This Year of St Francis spurs all of us, each according to our possibilities, to imitate the poor man of Assisi, to form ourselves as far as possible on the model of Christ... may the hope that has seen us as pilgrims now be transformed into zeal and fervour of active charity."

We look forward to celebrating together as a school family and putting St Francis' example into action by supporting our local food bank.

First Holy Communions

Preparation sessions started last weekend at Masses across Skelmersdale for Year 4 upwards. Letters have been sent out to all children in Year 4. For further information, please contact Miss Rimmer at the school office as it is not too late to begin the programme.

Family Hub School Drop In

Come along and meet Joanne, your Children and Family Wellbeing Service representative, where you can discuss any issues or concerns you have for you and your family. The first session is on Wednesday 14th October and you can drop in any time between 9am – 11am.

This will be a monthly drop-in service and is a fantastic source of advice and support. You don't need an appointment – just call in to school.

Nursery and 2 Year Old Places

We have places available for children in Nursery/2 Year Old Room 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.

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.

Attendance and Punctuality

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 – 93.3%

Y1/2 – 97%

Y3/4 – 89.4%

Y5 – 91.8%

Y6 – 95.3%

Olive class – 100%

Well done to Olive class for the best attendance this week!

The class with the best punctuality this week is: Olive class!

After-School Activities

Tuesday - 3.15pm - 4.15pm Rugby Club for Year 5 and Year 6 (West Lancs School Sports)

We are in the process of organising more extra-curricular clubs and activities which our staff kindly volunteer to run. Details to follow when these are finalised.

Places in Reception for September 2027

Lancashire County Council's school admissions for children starting primary school or moving to secondary school in September 2027 opened on 1 September 2026.

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

The national closing dates for applications are:

- 31 October 2026 for secondary applicants
- 15 January 2027 for primary applicants.

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.

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.

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 lovely weekend and thank you all for your continued support.

Best wishes,

Ann Naylor (Headteacher)