St Francis of Assisi Catholic Primary School

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27th November 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

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.

Christmas Dates For Your Diary
Tuesday 8th December: Breakfast with Santa EYFS/KS1
Wednesday 9th December: Breakfast with Santa KS2
Wednesday 9th December: 2 Year Olds and Nursery – Sing Along and Stay and Play (9.15am)
Friday 11th December: Non-Uniform Day for SVP (Please donate sweet treats or chocolates)
Friday 11th December: Rec & Y1/Y2 Xmas Play (9.30am)
Wednesday 16th December: Bingo (Doors open 6pm Eyes down 6.30pm)
Thursday 17th December: KS2 Carol Concert

Digmoor Pride in Place
Over the next 10 years Digmoor will be receiving £20 million as part of the Government's 'Pride in Place' programme. Consultation is currently underway on how this money should be spent.

Residents who complete the consultation form and enter their Digmoor postcode will have the opportunity to win £250 in ASDA vouchers.

Every response will help the Pride in Place Board understand what matters most to local people and ensure that future plans and investment reflect the community's priorities. Please, please make your views heard if you live in Digmoor.

The consultation can be completed here:

https://digmoorprideinplace.co.uk/consultation-form/

Please, please complete your consultation as it will benefit our children. We have shared some resources with the children in school so that we can also get their thoughts and ideas. PLEASE CAN YOU SEND THESE IN IF THEY ARE STILL AT HOME? Thank you. We've had some great ideas sent through which I have been able to share with Children and Young People's Sub Group who loved them.

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 next session is on Wednesday 9th December and you can drop in any time between 9am – 11am.**

This is 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.

First Holy Communions

Preparation sessions have started 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.

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 – 86.9%
Y1/2 – 92.3%
Y3/4 – 79.3%
Y5 – 80%

Y6 – 89.3%
Olive class – 70%
Well done to year1/2 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 3 and Year 4 (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 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 is:

- 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 he 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)

Have a lovely weekend and thank you all for your continued support.

Best wishes,

Ann Naylor (Headteacher)