



St. Francis

Church of England Primary School

Love Faith. Love People. Love Learning.

Week ending: 14.03. 2025

Upcoming dates

Monday 17th March – Friday 21st March:

Assessment Week – whole school

Monday 17th March:

EYFS class welcoming some chicks into their class

Friday 21st March:

Rocksteady Workshops and Music Performance – whole school

Y5/Y6 swimming gala

Monday 24th March – Friday 28th March:

Y6 Careers Week

Thursday 27th March:

Worship for Mothering Sunday – EYFS class 9.15am – EYFS parents/carers invited

Monday 31st March:

Eid-al-Fitr

Wednesday 2nd April:

Y4's Easter Performance 9.15am – Y4 parents/carers invited

Friday 4th April:

Easter Craft Day

Last day of this half-term

Happy Easter



Week Three of Spring 2 Term:

Monday's worship this week was all about God's love in action. We had some volunteers from each class who acted out the parable of the workers in the vineyard. We discovered that even though some of the workers had been picking grapes since dawn, they were paid the same amount of money as those who had been working for just an hour! We obviously all thought this was not fair or just, but we then learned that the parable was teaching us about God's love. He loves us all equally, regardless of how hard we work, how kind we are, or how nice we are as a person.

Our Year 4 children spent time on Monday clearing dead plants and weeding the tyres along the fence at the entrance to school. They have sowed wildflower seeds which will hopefully start to grow in the summer term. Thanks to Year 4 and Mrs. Musa!

Thank you to Reverend Bryn for leading worship this week. He delivered another of the Diocese's Year of Prayer workshops, and he also joined in with this week's international greeting: godmorgen alle sammen!

This week was the final week for swimming in school. It has been a fantastic success, with Mrs. Cook and Mrs. Du Randt, who have made sure each group of swimmers have been on time for their sessions, being astounded at the progress they have seen. Please see their report, below.

Goodbye to Miss Asad

We had an emotional end to our week saying goodbye to Miss Asad. Our Year 2 children sang her a song, and she received lots teary hugs to wish her luck. We will all miss her.

Parents Schools Careers Foundation Contact SIGN UP TODAY PARENT LOGIN

AMPLIFY THEIR CONFIDENCE

Your child can learn to play an instrument in their very own band with no experience necessary! Guided by inspirational musicians, children learn

THE SOUND OF SELF-BELIEF



Rocksteady is the leading provider of in-school band lessons for primary age children.

Our inclusive approach helps children find a sense of belonging through new friendships and a shared love for music, whilst boosting social skills, wellbeing and confidence.

Y6 award winners



Y5 Award winners



Y4 Award winners



Y3 Award winners



Y2 Award winners



Y1 Award winners



Reception Class Award winners



Well done to our award winners and special mentions this week!

Remember, if your child isn't on one of these photographs, reassure him/her that that doesn't mean they haven't been noticed!

Our staff celebrate achievements – great and small – every day in class, whether it's through praise, a postcard home, a sticker or a thumbs up.

Petition

We have had an amazing response to our parent/carers/friends petition to prompt our council to provide a crossing patrol or zebra crossing near to school. Thank you to all who have signed!

Could anyone who still has some petitions, please send them into school early next week as I have a meeting with the Parish Council on Monday. I am hoping this is the start of the process to get some much-needed safety aspects resolved.

In the meantime, however, we still have a number of parents/carers, parking on the zigzag lines at the start and end of each school day, which is prohibited.

“Zigzags can also be found at entrances and exits of hospitals, fire stations, police stations and ambulance stations. They indicate the part of the road where motorists should not wait, stop, or park a vehicle. [police.uk/advice/advice-and-information/rs/road-safety/parking-outside-schools/](https://www.police.uk/advice/advice-and-information/rs/road-safety/parking-outside-schools/)

Y1 Class – Red Nose Day

Today our Year 1 class had lots of fun as part of their Red Nose Day! Miss Ryding organised a range of activities for her class and their parents/carers to celebrate this national charity.



End-of-swimming-sessions report

It has been an absolute pleasure to witness the remarkable progress made by students during the swimming lessons this term. The overall development, particularly in Key Stage 2 (KS2), has been impressive, and the students have shown outstanding dedication and enthusiasm.

Key Achievements:

- 75% of KS2 students successfully passed the 25-metre swimming challenge. This is a significant accomplishment, demonstrating the students' hard work and improvement in swimming techniques.
- Behaviour: The students exhibited excellent behaviour across all key stages. They were respectful, focused, and engaged throughout the lessons, making the learning environment positive and productive.
- Following Instructions: The students showed a strong ability to follow instructions effectively. This has been crucial in ensuring their safety and facilitating skill development in the pool.

Conclusion:

The swimming lessons have been a great success, with notable progress in swimming abilities, behaviour, and following instructions. Moving forward, it will be exciting to continue building on these skills and seeing even more growth in the students' swimming capabilities.

Mrs. Cook and Mrs. Du Randt

Please do help your child to stay safe online. There are many dangers lurking there, which parents have a duty to ensure are managed as effectively as possible.

SETTING UP PARENTAL CONTROLS ON NEW DEVICES

In children's eagerness to start enjoying new digital gadgets immediately, it can be easy to overlook setting up the type of parental controls that can help to protect them online. If you don't sort those out from the very start, it can be an uphill battle – technologically and psychologically – to impose such controls later. Here's our rundown of what to look for when setting up the various internet-enabled devices that might be lurking under the tree at this time of year.

IPHONE

If your child's lucky enough to be getting their own iPhone, parental controls can help avoid issues like screen addiction and unsuitable content. Go into the settings and scroll down to 'Screen Time'. From here you can customise important settings including time limits on using the device, communication restrictions and content blockers. You can also lock your changes behind a passcode.

ANDROID

With Android devices, Google's Family Link app is your friend. You'll need a Google account – and a separate one for your child, which you should use when first setting up the device. Then, in Family Link on your own device, select 'Add Child' and enter their account details. This lets you specify limits on daily usage, restrict certain apps, block particular content and more.

PLAYSTATION

You can prep for a PlayStation before it's even unwrapped. At my.account.sony.com, create an account, then go to Account Management > Family Management > Add Family Member to set up your child's account, which you'll use to sign in on the console. You can restrict the age ratings of the games they can play and who they can talk to. On the PS5, you can make exceptions for any games you think are acceptable despite their high age rating.

IPAD

iPad parental controls are identical to those on iPhones. However, if you've got a shared family iPad and want to ensure your children aren't seeing anything age-inappropriate after you hand them the device, there's a feature called Guided Access (under Settings > Accessibility > Guided Access). With this switched on, young ones can only use the app that's currently open.

XBOX

The Xbox Family Settings app helps you manage which games your child can play (and when). You'll need to set up the console with your own account and then add a child profile. Make sure your account's password protected, so your child can't alter your choices later. You'll be walked through the functions at setup, but you can also reach them manually via Settings > Account > Family Settings.

NINTENDO SWITCH

Download the Nintendo Switch Parental Controls app on your phone, and you'll be shown how to link it to the console. Once that's done, you can limit how long your child can play each day, decide what age ratings are permitted and more. You'll also get weekly updates on how often they've used the device. These controls are accessible through the console itself, but the app is usually easier.

WINDOWS 11 PCS

On Windows 11, account management is key. Set up the device with your own account as the admin. Then go to Settings > Accounts > Family and Other Users and create your child's account (if you've already done this on a previous PC, just log in with those details). Microsoft Family Safety (either the app or the site) then lets you control screen time, what content children can view and more.

CHROMEBOOKS

Chromebooks' parental controls are managed via the Family Link app. Unlike an Android device, however, you need set up the Chromebook with your own account first, then add your child's. Go to Settings > People > Add Person and input your child's Google account details (or create a new account). Your child can then log in, and you can monitor what they're up to via Family Link.

MACS

Like iPhones, parental controls for Macs are managed via the Screen Time settings. Again, the crux here is to set yourself up as the administrator before adding any child accounts. In the settings, look for Users & Groups to create your child's account, then – while on their profile – use the screen time options to place any boundaries around apps, usage and who your child can communicate with (and vice versa).

SMART TVs

Smart TVs typically have their own individual parental controls. One of the most popular brands is Samsung – and on their TVs you can control the content available to your child. In the Settings menu, under 'Broadcasting' you can lock channels and restrict content by its age rating. Even this isn't foolproof, however: some apps (like YouTube) might still let children access unsuitable material.

Parent/Carer Code of Conduct - Reminder

Taken from our policy, which can be found on our website:

At St Francis CEP we strive to build a strong relationship with parents/carers in order to help create a stimulating learning environment which continues from school to home, providing all pupils with the opportunity to achieve to the best of their ability. We truly believe that working in partnership we can achieve more for your child.

The following are examples of inappropriate behaviour which may result in sanctions being issued against an individual:

Verbal abuse: swearing, talking in an aggressive manner, using offensive language or raising their voice at another individual;

Physically intimidating an individual such as by standing in very close proximity to him/her;

Bringing dogs on site, especially when a verbal reminder not to has been given already;

Writing or online messaging abusive comments regarding an individual, including on social media.

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Parents/carers are also reminded to be respectful when speaking to school staff on the phone and in person.

Meet Our Expert

Barry Collins is a technology journalist and editor with more than 20 years' experience of writing for titles such as the Sunday Times, Which? PC Pro and Computeruser. He's reported regularly on a host of security, reliability and online industry 'gotchas' over the years. He's also the TV news anchor. He has two children and writes regularly on the subject of internet safety.



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EASTER HOLIDAY CAMPS



WHEN Closed for Bank Holidays 18th April
7th-11th & 14th-17th April

WHERE
St Francis Primary School

WHY?
ENGAGE-INSPIRE-
MOTIVATE-EMPOWER!



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Theme Days
UV Laser Tag
UV Dodgeball





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Sporting Events

Coming up:

Blackburn Primary Schools Swimming Gala – Friday 21st March.

We have 7 swimmers in our team and they will shortly be hearing which swimming events they have been selected for.

Let's hope we come back from the gala with some medals!

Year 5 and 6 Football Festival – change of date: now taking place on Tuesday 1st April. Mr. Carter is organising this – details will be shared soon!

ParentPay Accounts

Please can you ensure that any outstanding debts on your child's ParentPay accounts are cleared by Friday 21st March at the latest. It is important that any debts are cleared before the end of the financial year. If you have any questions regarding your accounts please speak to a member of the office staff.

We seem to have what may be an outbreak of chicken pox in our Y4 class. As we have a pregnant member of staff, and chicken pox can be dangerous to unborn and newborn babies, we are asking parents to support us with keeping our children and staff safe, by following this NHS advice. If a child has a rash which seems to have been caught from someone else, we would also advise against sending him/her to school until it is clear, to reduce the spread of the infection.

Chickenpox

Chickenpox is a common infection that spreads easily and mostly affects children. It usually gets better on its own after 1 to 2 weeks without needing to see a GP, but can be serious in some people.

Symptoms of chickenpox

The main symptom of chickenpox is an itchy, spotty rash. It can be anywhere on the body.

Before or after the rash appears, you might also have:

- a high temperature
- aches and pains, and generally feel unwell
- loss of appetite

Chickenpox happens in 3 stages, but new spots can appear while others are becoming blisters or forming a scab.

Stage 1: small spots appear

The spots can:

- be anywhere on the body, including inside the mouth and around the genitals, which can be painful
- spread or stay in a small area
- be red, pink, darker or the same colour as surrounding skin, depending on your skin tone
- be harder to see on brown and black skin

Do

- ✓ drink plenty of fluids (try ice lollies if your child is not drinking)
- ✓ take [paracetamol](#) to help with any pain and discomfort
- ✓ cut your child's fingernails and put socks on their hands at night to stop them scratching
- ✓ use cooling creams or gels from a pharmacy
- ✓ speak to a pharmacist about using [antihistamine medicine](#) to help itching
- ✓ bathe in cool water and pat the skin dry (do not rub)
- ✓ dress in loose clothes

Important

Do not go near newborn babies or anyone who's pregnant or has a weakened immune system, as chickenpox can be dangerous for them.



Stage 2: the spots become blisters

The spots fill with fluid and become blisters. The blisters are very itchy and may burst.

Stage 3: the blisters become scabs

The spots form a scab. Some scabs are flaky, while others leak fluid.

How chickenpox is spread

You can spread chickenpox to other people from 2 days before your spots appear until they have all formed scabs, which is usually 5 days after your spots appeared.

The spots start appearing around 1 to 3 weeks after you caught chickenpox.

You can catch chickenpox from:

- being in the same room as someone with it
- touching things that have fluid from the blisters on them
- someone who has [shingles](#) if you have not had chickenpox before (but you cannot catch shingles from someone who has chickenpox)

Get advice from NHS 111 now if:

- your or your child's chickenpox symptoms suddenly get worse
- your child has chickenpox and is showing signs of [dehydration](#), such as fewer wet nappies
- the skin around the chickenpox blisters is hot, painful and red (redness may be harder to see on brown or black skin)
- you're breastfeeding and have chickenpox symptoms
- you're pregnant and have not had chickenpox before (or you're not sure) and you've been near someone with chickenpox
- you have a weakened immune system and have been near someone with chickenpox
- you think your newborn baby has chickenpox or has been near someone with chickenpox

Some people may be able to take medicine to prevent complications. It needs to be started within 24 hours of the spots appearing.

You can call 111 or [get help from 111 online](#). Call 111 if you need advice for a child under 5 years old.