

St Francis CE Primary School & Nursery



Friday 16th January 2026

Diary Dates

Monday 5 th January	INSET DAY – Closed to pupils
Tuesday 6 th January	School re-opens to pupils for Spring term
Tuesday 6 th January	Extra-curricular clubs resume for Spring term
Wednesday 7 th January	Choir recommences for the Spring term Peripatetic music lessons resume for the Spring term
Wednesday 14 th January	Y1 DT Workshop
Thursday 15 th January	Y6 SATs workshop for parent 9-10am in the hall
Thursday 15 th January	Census day
Tuesday 20 th January	Height and weight check for YR and Y6
Thursday 22 nd January	Year 1 Phonics workshop
Thursday 22 nd January Rescheduled to 5 th February	FRIENDS movie night
Friday 6 th February	Year 4 Viking Workshop
Mon 9 th – Fri 13 th Feb	Safer Internet Week
Wednesday 11 th February	Reception class assembly from 9am- Chinese New Year
Friday 13 th February	Chinese new year- themed lunch
Friday 13 th February	Values Ambassador Assembly 9:00-9:30 in the hall FRIENDS Friday treats Last day of half term
Monday 16 th - Friday 20 th February	HALF TERM- closed to pupils
Monday 23 rd February	School re-opens to pupils

Head Teacher update

Dear parents and carers,

We've had a wonderfully busy and enriching week in school, filled with creativity, collaboration and family engagement.

On Wednesday, our long-awaited Year 1 Design & Technology workshop finally took place, with children proudly designing and building their own *shelters*. It was fantastic to see such imaginative thinking and hands-on problem-solving as pupils explored structure, stability and purpose. Thank you to the families who supported the session.

Yesterday, we also welcomed colleagues from the Fioretti Trust and the Birmingham Education Partnership (BEP) for our whole-school SEND review. This was led by the Trust's Head of SEND and provided valuable insight into the strengths of our provision, as well as opportunities to further enhance inclusive practice across the school. We are grateful for the partnership and expertise that supports the continued development of our SEND offer.

We also held our Year 6 SATs Workshop yesterday morning, where parents and carers explored the expectations for this year's assessments and gathered practical strategies to support learning at home. Thank you to everyone who attended — your engagement makes a real difference.

Next week, **Year 1 families are warmly invited to our Phonics Workshop on Thursday,** which will provide an overview of the Year 1 Phonics Screening Check and offer guidance on how to help children build confidence in early reading.

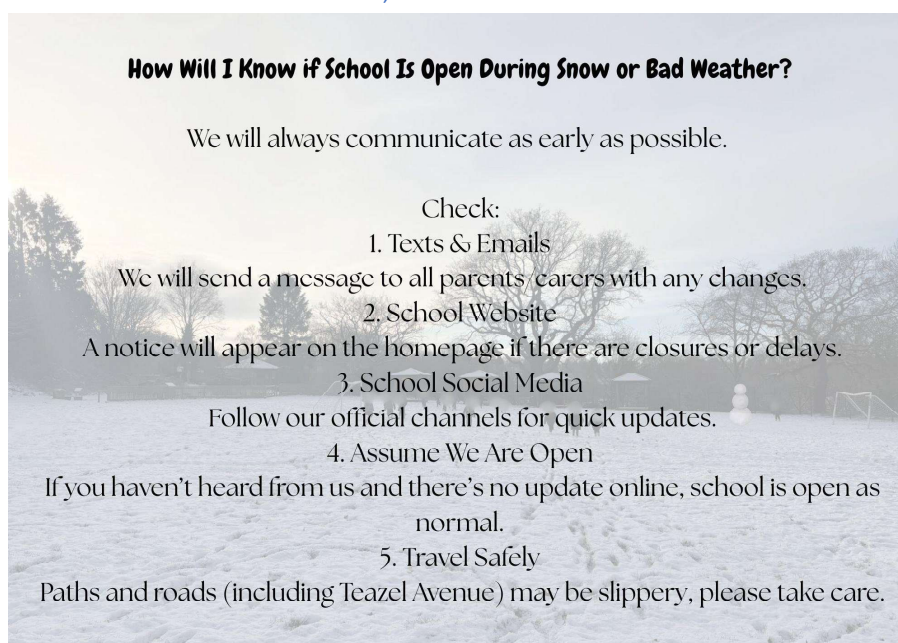
FRIENDS are also hosting their annual Movie Night on Thursday 22nd January- more to follow on this.

Finally, **a reminder that Reception and Year 6 pupils will have their height and weight checks on Monday 20th January,** carried out by the School Health Team. If you have any questions about this, please contact the school office.

Thank you for your ongoing support — it is always appreciated. We look forward to another busy and joyful week ahead.

Jess Mattocks

Hopefully, there will be no more snow, but..



Collective worship

Our focus value for this half term is **Honesty**. Throughout our collective worship sessions, we will be exploring what it means to be truthful in our words and actions, and why honesty is such an important part of building trust and strong relationships. Our guiding Bible verse for this value is:

“The Lord delights in those that are truthful.” – Proverbs 12:22

Zacchaeus the Tax Collector

As Jesus was travelling through the city of Jericho, a man named **Zacchaeus** wanted to see him. Zacchaeus was a **chief tax collector**, and many people didn’t like him because tax collectors often took more money than they were supposed to.

There was a big crowd, and Zacchaeus was **very short**, so he couldn’t see over everyone’s heads. To get a better view, he **ran ahead and climbed a sycamore tree** as Jesus walked by.

When Jesus reached the tree, he looked up and said,

“Zacchaeus, come down at once. I must stay at your house today.”

Zacchaeus was amazed and came down quickly, welcoming Jesus with joy.

Some people in the crowd were unhappy and complained, saying that Jesus shouldn’t be spending time with someone like Zacchaeus. But Zacchaeus stood up and said he wanted to change. He promised to **give half of his possessions to the poor**, and to **pay back four times** the amount to anyone he had cheated.

Jesus told him,

“Today salvation has come to this house.”

He explained that he had come to **seek and save the lost** — meaning that no one is ever too far away to change or be forgiven.

Prayer

Dear God,

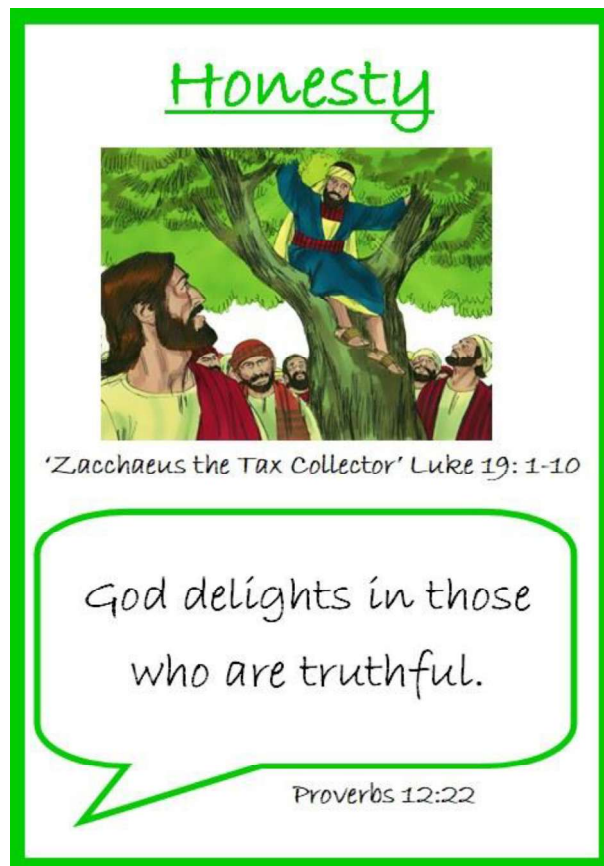
Thank you for the story of Zacchaeus,

which reminds us that everyone can change

and that your love reaches out to each one of us.

Help us to be brave enough to make good choices,

to say sorry when we get things wrong,
and to put things right just as Zacchaeus did.
Teach us to welcome others with kindness,
not to judge too quickly,
and to remember that nobody is ever beyond your care.
Thank you that you know us,
you call us by name,
and you always invite us to start again.
Amen.



Talking Point - Winter Water Safety



It's really helpful to chat with your children about staying safe around ice and snow, especially when it comes to frozen lakes and ponds. You can find out more information including useful tips [here](#).

Staying safe in winter: understanding the risks of frozen or icy water

Even when it looks solid, ice on open water or canals can be very unsafe.

This can be risky for anyone, but especially for children. Sometimes adults may even put themselves in danger by trying to help a child, pet, or animal that has wandered onto the ice.

Frozen lakes, ponds, canals, and reservoirs may look beautiful in winter, but it's safest to admire them from a distance rather than walking or playing on them.

If you or someone nearby gets into trouble, here are some helpful emergency tips to keep in mind.

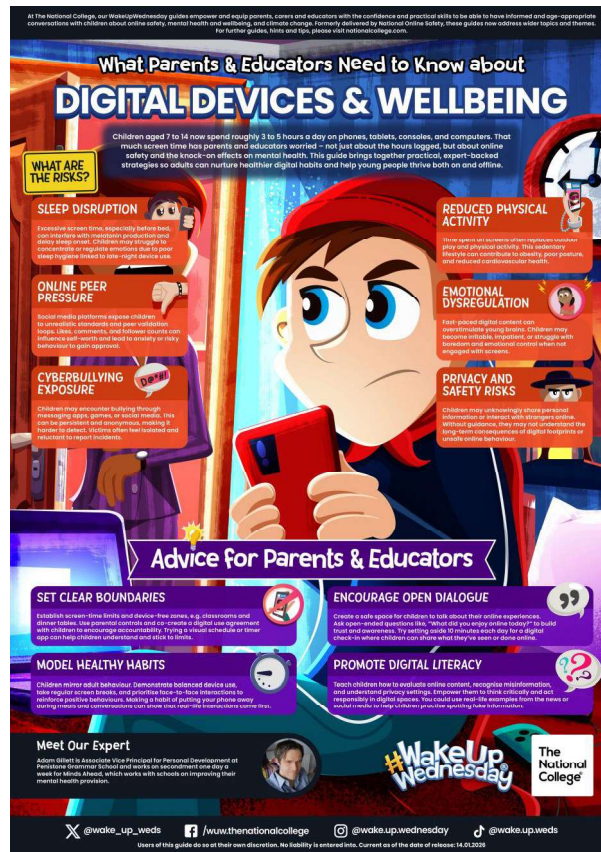
You can also find more general guidance on our water safety page.

Digital Devices and Wellbeing



Digital devices are woven into everyday life for children and young people, but balancing the benefits with potential risks can feel challenging. This #WakeUpWednesday guide explores how screen use can influence sleep, emotional regulation, physical health and online experiences, offering clear context around why concerns about wellbeing are growing.

Written with schools and families in mind, the guide shares practical, realistic advice for setting boundaries, encouraging open conversations and building digital literacy. With insights from an experienced mental health professional, it supports adults to help children develop healthier, more mindful relationships with technology.



Resource request

As part of Year 3's learning project, we are seeking empty, cube-shaped tissue boxes. If you are able to contribute, please drop them off at the office or hand them directly to the Year 3.

Thank you for your support.



Choir

Opportunities

Services For Education

New Birmingham Schools' Chorus for Years 5–8

Starting January 2026 – Fully funded for all Birmingham school pupils

We are excited to launch a brand-new weekly choir for enthusiastic young singers in Years 5–8. This follows the fantastic success of our Primary Choir at the Youth Proms in Symphony Hall, and we are delighted to be expanding our central ensemble offer to include more brilliant voices.

Who can join?

Singers aged **9–13** who attend a **Birmingham school** and are currently in **Years 5–8**. No audition required – just enthusiasm and a willingness to sing!

When and where?

Wednesdays during term time, 6:00pm – 7:30pm

First rehearsal: **Wednesday 21st January 2026**

Venue: **SFE Offices, Unit 3 Holt Court, Holt St, Aston, Birmingham, B7 4AX**

What will we sing?

A wide range of music, including:

- Chart hits and current favourites (think K-Pop, musical theatre such as *Wicked*)
- Well-loved choir classics
- Songs designed to develop vocal confidence and musical skills

Sessions will be led by our **Music Service Vocal Specialists**, supported by an accompanist. Young people will learn through a **mix of learning by ear, reading music, and singing in harmony**.

Performing opportunities

The choir will take part in **Music Service concerts and events throughout the year**, giving singers the chance to perform on exciting stages and be part of Birmingham's thriving music community.

How to register

Register your singer via our online portal:

- Visit <https://ensembles.servicesforeducation.co.uk/>
- Login to or register for an account
- If you are new to the portal, click 'add child' (this can be multiple times on each account)
- If you already have an existing account, click 'view' next to your child's name.
- Click 'Join an **Area Ensemble**'
- Complete the information and select the 'Birmingham Schools' Chorus' option

Questions or further information?

Email: ensembles@servicesforeducation.co.uk

Young Voices - new date



YOUNG VOICES



Hi Alex,

We are delighted to confirm that we have now **rescheduled your 8 January concert date** at bp pulse LIVE in Birmingham. Your new concert date will now be **Thursday 26 February 2026**. This will be reflected in your [Teacher Centre](#) account.

All tickets purchased through the Music Room will be automatically transferred to your new concert date. All pre-booked parking will also be automatically transferred. Birmingham's Ingress/Egress information remains the same, and this is available in your Teacher Centre.

If tickets were purchased through the arena box office, they will also be automatically transferred in the next couple of days, and you will receive further

Celebrations



Happy Birthday to those with birthdays this week



Connie in Year 4

Ivan in Year 4

Emilia in Nursery

Niviah in Year 2

Josh in Year 3

Star of the Week



Nursery - Harry - for always trying his best to do the right thing and helping others to do the same. Well done, Harry :)

Reception - Wren - being honest and doing the right thing, even when it is hard to do. You have shown a real maturity and we are very proud of you. Keep it up!

Year 1 - Alex - for having such a brilliant week and showing great enthusiasm and concentration. You have shown fantastic engagement in RE when learning about honesty, forgiveness, and the 12 disciples

Year 2 - Ned – for showing great responsibility and honesty by owning his actions, having the courage to say sorry and setting a positive example for others to do the same.

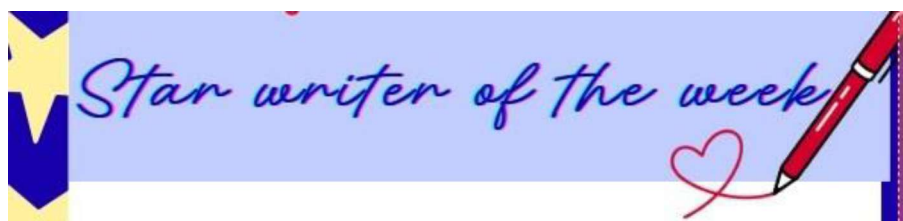
Year 3 - Eli - for always being enthusiastic and engaged in your learning. Well done Eli!

Year 4 - Dotty -for being so engaged in class discussions about our class text and contributing mature and enthusiastic opinions.

Year 5 - Heidi - for showing honesty in her work by having the courage to admit when she needs help and taking care to do her best.

Year 6 - Izzy- for always being thoughtful in her responses inside and outside the classroom.

Star Writer



Nursery - Bess

Reception - Isobel

Year 1 - William

Year 2 - Billie-Jo

Year 3 - Logan

Year 4 - Alina

Year 5 - Ella

Year 6 - Sophie

Attendance Champions



Attendance Champions

- **Overall Winners (99.1% Attendance):** ✓ Nursery and Year 1
- **Over 96% Attendance:** ✓ Year 6 ✓ Year 5 ✓ Year 4

Whole School Attendance:

96.8% for the academic year so far – fantastic effort!

Dojo



Dojo Winners This Week

1. Year 2
2. Year 6
3. Year 1

Attendance Matters

We know that winter brings its share of sniffles, colds, and sometimes challenging **adverse weather**, but being in school every day is still vital for your child's learning and progress. Most minor illnesses don't need to keep children at home, and attending school helps them stay on track.

If your child is genuinely too unwell to attend, please let us know by phoning the school office **0121 459 5548** or emailing **parents.stf@fioretti.co.uk**.

Not sure if they're well enough for school? The NHS provides clear guidance on common illnesses and when children should stay home:

👉 [Is my child too ill for school? – NHS](#)

For further details on attendance expectations, illness guidance, and what to do during bad weather, **please take a look at the posters below**.

Thank you for supporting excellent attendance – every day counts!

Every Day Counts – Let's Make Attendance a Priority!

Together, we can achieve great attendance.



Why it matters:

Even being late by 15 minutes each day adds up to nearly two weeks of lost learning!



Top tips for parents:

- Keep bedtime and morning routines consistent.
- Book appointments outside school hours whenever possible.
- Encourage your child to enjoy school and celebrate their progress.
- Join in school events and support homework – it really helps!



Holidays:

Please remember, term-time holidays aren't allowed. Unauthorised absences can lead to fines or legal action.



Need support? We're here to help. If you're struggling with attendance, talk to us. Helpful links:
www.birmingham.gov.uk/saap • www.birmingham.ivlove



UK Health
Security
Agency

NHS

Should I keep my child off school?

Yes

Until...

Chickenpox	at least 5 days from the onset of the rash and until all blisters have crusted over
Diarrhoea and Vomiting	48 hours after their last episode
Cold and Flu-like illness (including COVID-19)	they no longer have a high temperature and feel well enough to attend. Follow the national guidance if they've tested positive for COVID-19.
Impetigo	their sores have crusted and healed, or 48 hours after they started antibiotics
Measles	4 days after the rash first appeared
Mumps	5 days after the swelling started
Scabies	they've had their first treatment
Scarlet Fever	24 hours after they started taking antibiotics
Whooping Cough	48 hours after they started taking antibiotics

No

but make sure you let their school or nursery know about...

Hand, foot and mouth	Glandular fever
Head lice	Tonsillitis
Threadworms	Slapped cheek



SCAN ME

Advice and guidance

To find out more, search for health protection in schools or scan the QR code or visit <https://qrco.de/minfec>.



Struggling to get your
child to school?

Talk to us

-we are here to help!



Local Vacancies & Training Opportunities



K@Boom Out of School Club Deputy Manager

27.5 hours per week (7.00-9.00 a.m. and 2.30-6.00 pm every weekday during term time, and between 8.30 am-4.00 pm during school holidays).

£13.72 per hour

The Directors of St Francis Youth and Community Centre are appointing a Deputy Manager to support the K@Boom Manager in ensuring the safe, effective and stimulating running of the K@Boom Out of School Club and Holiday Club. To deputise for the K@Boom Manager in their absence.

Candidates interested in this post are encouraged to make contact with us prior to submitting an application.

For an application form or copy of the Job Description/Person Specification, please contact Carol Glynn at
parishadmin@stfrancisbournville.org.uk

Application deadline: 28/1/2026 at 5.00 p.m.
Interviews: 11/2/2026

The Directors of St Francis Youth and Community Centre welcomes applications from any individuals who feel that they meet the person specification for this post. We are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, young people and vulnerable adults.

All post holders are expected to share this commitment. All appointments to roles undertaking regulated activity are subject to pre-appointment checks, including references and a satisfactory Enhanced DBS Check.

**BRANDWOOD CENTRE**
Allens Croft Road, B14 6RP
0121 443 3310
brandwoodcentre.co.uk





Future Health



Take the first step towards a healthier, more informed you!

This course is perfect for anyone looking to improve their own health knowledge and support others to do the same. Gain recognised qualifications, build confidence, and become a positive influence in your community.

**0121 443 3310**

**alison@brandwoodcentre.co.uk**

**157 Allens Croft Road, Kings Heath, B14 6RP**

Starting on Friday 27 February 2026 every Friday
9.30am - 4.30pm for 5 weeks

Level 1 Health Awareness
Level 1 Nutrition
Level 2 Emotional Wellbeing (2 days)
Level 2 Encouraging Physical Activity

Open to anyone living in Birmingham, 19+ and not in work, education or training

Train-To-Gain

Helping You into Work

The Brandwood Centre is excited to announce that it has secured funding from The National Lottery to continue to deliver our successful Train-to-Gain programme, helping you gain the experience and the confidence you need to discover new opportunities and set new career goals.

Our services are free and open to anyone aged 19 or over who is currently unemployed or economically inactive and living in Birmingham. By providing these services we aim to raise confidence, skills and knowledge and increase employability prospects.

We offer a tried and tested back to work training and support package including:

- Employability Workshops
- Accredited Training
- CV Support & Careers Information, Advice & Guidance
- Job Search
- Interview Techniques
- Volunteer Opportunities

Our programme is delivered from the award winning Brandwood Centre, a local community centre which prides itself on offering a welcoming and friendly environment for all.

Coming Up

Courses & Services available from 27th February to 27th March 2026

Future Health Level 1 Award in Health Awareness

Friday 27th February 2026 (9.30am – 4.30)

This course provides learners with an awareness of the principles of health and the impact on their health of the lifestyle choices they make. It will prepare them to take responsibility for their personal health and work actively with health service providers to manage their own care and that of others.

Future Health Level 1 Award in Nutrition for Health

Friday 6th March 2026 (9.30 am – 4.30 pm)

This course is for those who wish to obtain a basic knowledge and understanding of nutrition and how it affects health. It equips them with an awareness of the importance of healthy eating. It is ideal for those considering a role in the catering,



0121 443 3310
07926 030 123

office@brandwoodcentre.co.uk
www.brandwoodcentre.co.uk

hospitality or leisure industries. In the health sector, it would be useful for health trainers, other health professionals and staff in a range of public services who need a basic knowledge of human nutrition.

Future Health Award in Understanding Emotional Wellbeing Day 1

Friday 13th March 2026 (9.30 am – 4.30 pm)

This course provides learners with an understanding of what is meant by 'mental health' and 'emotional wellbeing'. It explores the impact emotional wellbeing has on our physical and social health and how resilience is developed and its importance in dealing with adversity. It also provides practical ways to develop the learner's own and others' emotional wellbeing.

Future Health Award in Understanding Emotional Wellbeing Day 2

Friday 20th March 2026 (9.30 am – 4.30 pm)

This course provides learners with an understanding of what is meant by 'mental health' and 'emotional wellbeing'. It explores the impact emotional wellbeing has on our physical and social health and how resilience is developed and its importance in dealing with adversity. It also provides practical ways to develop the learner's own and others' emotional wellbeing.

Future Health Award in Encouraging Physical Activity

Friday 27th March 2026 (9.30am – 4.30pm)

This course is to enable individuals with an interest in health to help others develop a healthier lifestyle by encouraging physical activity. Learners will increase their knowledge and understanding of why individuals may not actively participate in physical activity.

Additional Support Services

As part of our on-going commitment to supporting our community we also have the following services available to all:

- CV Support
- Better off calculations
- Benefit & Debt Advice
- Café & Food Pantry
- Energy Saving Advice
- Carbon Monoxide Safety Advice & Alarms



Please contact us by calling 0121 443 3310 and speak to a member of our team.

Or email alison@brandwoodcentre.co.uk

You can also make a referral by clicking on the link or using the QR code:

[Training - Brandwood Centre](#)



0121 443 3310
07926 030 123

office@brandwoodcentre.co.uk
www.brandwoodcentre.co.uk

Things to do locally



**BIRMINGHAM
CITY
FOUNDATION**
MORE THAN FOOTBALL

Girls

Player Development Centres
Expression of Interest forms

**Age groups for U8s, u10s,
u12s, u14s and u16s.**

**Direct pathway into our ETC
and Academy**

You may have to log in via an email
address to complete the form.



THE BOURNVILLE SOCIETY



**BOURNVILLE
PARISH CHURCH**

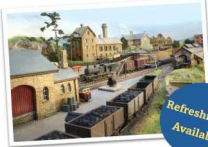


**Inclusive
Church**

MODEL RAILWAY SHOW

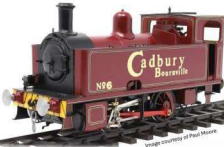
ST FRANCIS CHURCH – BOURNVILLE – B30 2AA
SATURDAY 31ST JANUARY 2026

10am to 4pm



Refreshments
Available

Adults £5
Children £2.50
(5 to 16 years)
Under 5's Free



Sponsored by: **FOOTPLATE** **crosscountry** **TRAINS IN THE GARDEN**

Proceeds to Cadbury No:1
Cosmetic Restoration Appeal

Awards



2025 – 2027



**Rights
Respecting
Schools**

UNITED KINGDOM



**Bronze
Rights Committed**