



St Francis CE Primary School & Nursery



Friday 9th 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	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	<u>Chinese new year</u> - 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,

Welcome Back!

It's been wonderful to see everyone back after the Christmas break, even if the snowy conditions this week have made things a little more challenging! Thank you for your support in keeping everyone safe during the winter weather. The children did get the chance to enjoy the snow on Tuesday- check out a few snaps below.

On **Monday**, staff took part in a training day where we completed essential statutory training and also focused on further refining the craft of teaching to ensure the very best learning experiences for our pupils.

On **Wednesday**, we held progress review meetings with each teacher, looking closely at the children's test data from December. These conversations help us to identify strengths and next steps so that every child continues to make excellent progress.

Unfortunately, **Young Voices was postponed** following a decision by the event organisers on Wednesday due to the severe weather forecast. We shared this update with parents as soon

as we were notified. We do hope that the organisers will provide us with an alternative date as soon as possible, and we will let you know as soon as this is confirmed.

We are delighted to share some exciting news with our school community – we have been awarded the **UNICEF Bronze Award**! This is a fantastic achievement and reflects our commitment to creating a school environment where children's rights are respected, valued, and promoted. The award recognises the steps we have taken to embed the principles of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child into our ethos and practice. We will now be working towards the Silver Award as we continue to develop this important work.

Looking ahead, please note the following:

- **Year 6 SATs Workshop for Parents** – Thursday 15th January at 9:00am. This is a great opportunity to learn more about how you can support your child in the run-up to SATs.
- **Height and Weight Check** for Reception and Year 6 20th January

Thank you for your continued support as we start this new term. We're excited for all the learning and opportunities ahead!

Warm regards,

Jess Mattocks





How Will I Know if School Is Open During Snow or Bad Weather?

We will always communicate as early as possible.

Check:

1. Texts & Emails

We will send a message to all parents/carers with any changes.

2. School Website

A notice will appear on the homepage if there are closures or delays.

3. School Social Media

Follow our official channels for quick updates.

4. Assume We Are Open

If you haven't heard from us and there's no update online, school is open as normal.

5. Travel Safely

Paths and roads (including Teazel Avenue) may be slippery, please take care.

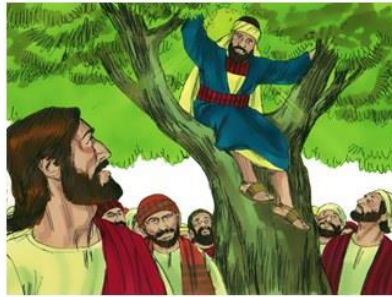
Collective worship

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**

We look forward to seeing how the children reflect on this value and demonstrate honesty in their daily lives.

Honesty



'Zacchaeus the Tax Collector' Luke 19: 1-10

God delights in those
who are truthful.

Proverbs 12:22

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.¹

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.

Essential Online Safety



Ten practical and evidence-informed online safety tips to help adults guide children toward healthier and more informed digital habits.

¹https://www.wmfs.net/safety/winter-water-safety/?fbclid=IwdGRjcAPKHjVjbGNrA8oeLWV4dG4DYWVtAjExAHNydgMGYXBwX2lkDDM1MDY4NTUzMTcyOAABHp6VQf2Bm5cBteyCUSv99IgvI7tQb_nj5JF33F90NySd70UTwF5_mRuhXyZQ_aem_PiENTSmzyuQ5jBhZoH216A

At The National College, our WakeUpWednesday guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. Formerly delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit nationalcollege.com.

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

ESSENTIAL ONLINE SAFETY

Children and young people use the internet every day to learn, play, and connect, but the online world is not always safe. For adults, it can be hard to keep up with the risks, including harmful content, cyberbullying and scams. These 10 tips provide clear and practical advice to support safer and healthier digital habits, helping young people to make informed, secure choices when using technology.

1 START EARLY CONVERSATIONS

Begin talking about online behaviour from the moment children start using devices. Use age-appropriate language and revisit topics regularly, making it clear they can speak to you about anything that upsets or confuses them. Keeping these chats open helps build trust, so children are more likely to come to you when needed.

2 PROMOTE SAFER SHARING

Children can overshare without understanding the risks. Remind them that photos, locations, or messages can be copied or shared beyond their intended audience. Explain how even private messages or group chats can be saved and/or misused. Talk about what is appropriate to post, message, and who it's safe to share with.

3 ENCOURAGE DIGITAL BALANCE

Many apps and games are designed to keep users engaged through rewards, likes, or constant updates. These features can make it hard for children to switch off. Talk openly about how these systems work and help children recognise when it's time to take a break. Building in tech-free routines supports a healthier balance and awareness of their screen time.

4 CREATE A SAFE SPACE FOR CONCERNS

When children come to you with a concern, respond with interest and care, rather than with alarm. Keeping your reaction measured helps them feel safe and supported. This doesn't mean ignoring serious issues; it means showing that you're there to help. When children trust that they can speak openly, they're more likely to feel supported through unpleasant online experiences, and to ask for help in future.

5 STAY INFORMED AND CURRENT

With emerging technologies like AI moving and changing so quickly, it's important to stay updated on how children are using new platforms, apps and games. Ask them to show you what they use and let them take the lead as you explore together. This opens up valuable conversations and helps you stay ahead of emerging risks and trends.

6 TEACH CRITICAL THINKING

Talk to children about how to recognise unreliable information or scams online. With AI-generated videos, photos, and stories becoming harder to spot, help children question what they see and encourage them to look for evidence, check sources, and ask questions. These skills will help them avoid risks, make smart choices, and develop healthy habits for the future.

7 SET CLEAR BOUNDARIES

Involve children in conversations about device usage so they feel included. Agree on digital rules such as screen-time limits, age-appropriate apps, and no devices in bedrooms overnight. Use parental controls to block or filter harmful content and explain that rules are there to protect and support them, not to spoil their fun.

8 LEAD BY EXAMPLE

Children often copy the behaviour of adults around them. Show them what balanced, respectful, and mindful use of technology looks like, such as avoiding scrolling during family time and speaking kindly in messages. If you expect certain behaviour from them online, make sure your own habits reflect the same standards.

9 EXPLORE PRIVACY SETTINGS TOGETHER

Show children how to use privacy tools on apps, games, and websites. Teach them to use strong passwords, block or report others in response to problems, and avoid sharing personal details. Explore settings together so they feel confident and in control, and explain that these features are there to help them stay safe online.

10 KNOW WHERE TO GET HELP

Familiarise yourself with tools and organisations that support online safety. The National College offers online safety guides and webinars which provide tips on staying safe. Websites like Report Harmful Content and CEOP can be used to report when something goes wrong. Show children how to report or block users, and where to go if they feel unsafe. Make sure they know that asking for help is always the right thing to do, and be prepared to support them.

Meet Our Expert

Home to the world's largest CPD library for educators, The National College has transformed the way education establishments go about developing their workforces and managing compliance. Our three memberships help all phases and types of setting raise standards, save time, reduce risk, and build a culture of improvement.

See full reference list on our website



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#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

Celebrations



Happy Birthday to those with birthdays this week and over the holidays!



Amelie in Nursery

Willow in Year 2

Milly in Year 6

Josh in Year 5

Star of the Week



Nursery - Etta - for always being honest and making good choices in Nursery. Etta you are always a wonderful friend to others too, Well done!

Reception - Sapphire for always trying her hardest to be honest in all that she does, whether it be in her work or whilst learning with her friends. Saphy - you have a wonderful attitude! keep it up!

Year 1 - Thea is an honest girl who speaks the truth with kindness and integrity, even when it isn't easy.

Year 2 - Meadow - for always showing honesty by working independently and truly engaging in everything she does.

Year 3 - Enya - for always trying hard with her work and sharing ideas with others. Well done Enya!

Year 4 - Jesse for sharing mature and constructive opinions in sensitive class discussions.

Year 5 - Ellen for demonstrating honesty in her classwork by working independently and taking pride in her own learning.

Year 6 - Scott for demonstrating considered and thoughtful honesty during our class discussions this week.

Star Writer



Nursery - Ayla

Reception - William

Year 1 - Grace

Year 2 - Nyree

Year 3 - Nova

Year 4 - Elliott

Year 5 - Darcy

Year 6 - Elsa

Attendance Champions



Attendance Champions

- **Overall Winners (99.1% Attendance):** ✓ Nursery
- **Over 96% Attendance:** ✓ Year 6 ✓ Year 3 ✓ Year 1

Whole School Attendance:

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

Dojo



Dojo Winners This Week

1. Reception
2. Year 6
3. Year 4

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? – NHS²

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!

²<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

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!



Things to do locally



Hub on the Green Children's Book Swap Saturday 10th January 2025 | 9.30 am - 11.30 am

A huge range of children's books will be available to swap for free, children are also welcome to take a book should they not have brought a book along, everyone is welcome. **The school uniform swap shop will also be open with coats and hats in stock too.** Hot drinks will also be on sale.

St Francis' very own Mhairi from Year 4 has helped to organise **'Blind Date with a Children's Book'**.

These mystery wrapped books are the perfect gift for book loving young readers. They are wrapped with recycled paper and contain a cheeky clue to help you choose. Enjoy the excitement of a new read whilst supporting sustainable reading and keeping books in circulation. These will be available for £1 each and funds raised support the Hub, it's swap shop and wider community activities.

Come and find a book this Saturday and grab a hot drink too.



**BIRMINGHAM
CITY
FOUNDATION**

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**

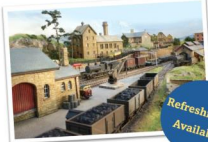
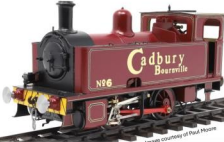
MODEL RAILWAY SHOW

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

10am to 4pm

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

**Refreshments
Available**

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**