

St Francis CE Primary School & Nursery



Friday 28th November 2025

Diary Dates

Monday 1 st -Friday 5 th	Assessment week
Wednesday 3 rd December	Advent workshops for Y1-6 led by Reverend Richard and Rachel
Thursday 4 th December	Y1 parents DT workshop> 1:15-3:00pm Christmas Fair
Friday 12 th December	Y5 parents DT workshop> 1:30-3:00pm
TBA	Height and weight checks for children in Reception and Year 6- from 9:30am
Monday 15 th December	Christmas Nativity Rehearsal (PM)
Tuesday 16 th December	Christmas Nativity performance at the Church from 9am Evening performance from 5pm
Wednesday 17 th December	Christmas dinner day
Wednesday 17 th December	Christmas carols for grandparents> *change of time* now scheduled for 9:15am
Mon 15 th - Fri 19 th	Pupil progress meetings
Friday 19 th December	Christmas jumper day Values ambassador assembly 9-9:30 Visit from Father Christmas Last Day of Term



Monday 5th January	INSET DAY - Closed to pupils
Tuesday 6th January	School re-opens to pupils for Spring term
Tuesday 6th January	Extra-curricular clubs resume for Spring term
Wednesday 7th January	Choir recommences for the Spring term Peripatetic music lessons resume for the Spring term
Thursday 15th January	Y6 SATs workshop for parent 9-10am in the hall
Thursday 15th January	Census day
Thursday 22nd January	Year 1 Phonics workshop
26th-30th January	Spirited Arts Week
Thursday 22nd January	FRIENDS movie night
Friday 6th February	Year 4 Viking Workshop
Mon 9th - Fri 13th Feb	Safer Internet Week
Wednesday 11th February	Reception class assembly from 9am- Chinese New Year
Thursday 12th February	E-Safety workshop from 9am
Friday 13th February	<u>Chinese new year</u> - themed lunch
Friday 13th February	Values Ambassador Assembly 9:00-9:30 in the hall FRIENDS Friday treats Last day of half term

Head Teacher update

Dear Parents and Guardians,

We're excited to share some updates from this week:

- **Fence Works Completed:** The long-awaited fence works have now been finished, helping to keep our site secure and looking great.
- **Christmas Preparations:** On Wednesday, our staff stayed after school to decorate the building ready for the festive season and next week's **Christmas Fair**. The school is looking wonderfully Christmassy!
- **Year 4 Workshop:** We were delighted to welcome Year 4 parents into school for the **Multiplication Tables Check Workshop** led by Mr Pugh. Thank you to everyone who attended and supported your child's learning.
- **Non-Uniform Day & Donations:** Today, children came to school in non-uniform in exchange for a chocolate donation. These will be used for the **Chocolate Tombola** at the Christmas Fair next Thursday—thank you for your generosity!
- **Christmas Crafts:** This afternoon, pupils enjoyed making Christmas decorations, which will also be available for purchase at the fair.

Looking Ahead to Next Week:

- **Assessment Week:** Children will be taking low-stakes assessments in Maths and English to help us understand their progress and plan next steps.
- **Year 1 DT Workshop (Thursday afternoon):** Parents will meet in the hall before heading outside for den building—please wrap up warm and dig those wellies out from the back of the cupboard!
- **Christmas Fair (Thursday):** Join us for a festive evening full of fun, stalls, and seasonal cheer. We'd love to see you there, from 5pm!

Thank you again for all your donations and support. Wishing you all a joyful start to the festive season!

Warm regards,

Jess Mattocks

Exciting Changes Ahead



Fledglings Bookings Now Live on Arbor We're excited to announce that bookings for Fledglings are now available through Arbor! Our team is working hard to transfer all existing bookings and financial details into the new system. Thank you for your patience and support as we complete this transition.

Unicef- Right respecting school

This week in collective worship, we explored UNICEF and the rights of the child. All children are special and have something called Children's RIGHTS that help them have the best possible childhood in which they are safe, listened to, have good food, learn and have time to play.

All children have rights, and they need to be protected and respected by everyone.

The children were asked:

What would your ideal school look like? Feel like?

How would children treat each other?

How would adults treat children?

How would children treat adults?

The children were able to share some really strong and thoughtful answers which really showcased our high five values in action.

We then explained to all pupils how we are applying for the Bronze award at school to become a rights respecting school, as shared in the newsletter previously. This will empower all of our children to know their rights and ensure everyone is treated with fairness and respect.

Resources Request



Can you help? We are looking for resources to use in our Opal Play outdoors;

- Wooden Palletts
- Small world toys
- Bikes
- Scooters

Our Fledglings Team are also looking for donations of new or lightly used items that can enhance the provision of activities in our breakfast and afterschool club;

- Loom Bands
- Friendship Bracelet materials
- Diamond Painting
- Board Games
- Ping Pong Balls
- Table Football Game
- Play dough
- Musical instruments

- Barbie dolls and dolls house
- Action figures and sets
- Small world toys - dinosaurs, cars, animals etc
- Crafts items - especially seasonal bits
- Race track
- Jigsaw puzzles
- Pop up tents
- Tuff trays



Christmas Fayre - Thursday 4th December



Celebrations



Stardust Dance Christmas Show

The children who attend Stardust Dance lessons on a Thursday after school were involved in their Christmas Show last weekend.

It was a star performance, and all the girls danced beautifully. Their hard work, determination, and teamwork truly shone through. The routines also included lifts, which required a great deal of trust and coordination among the girls.

A huge well done to:

Year 5 – Meela, Amanda, Ellen

Year 3 – Emily.S, Enya, Mila, Nova, Francesca

Year 2 – Millie, Nivea, Tilly

Year 1 – Grace, Lily.



Irish dancing

Arthur took part in the Midlands Regional Championships at the weekend and came in first place! I'm sure you'll join me in congratulating Arthur on his success- well done Arthur!

Happy Birthday to those with birthdays this week and over half term!



Tilly in Nursery

Aiza in Year 1

Jude in Year 1

Emilia in Year 2



Nursery - Cameron- For being a valued and trusted member of the nursery class and for always being a kind to all children and staff, in and out of the classroom.

Reception - Karunveer- For being such a kind and helpful member of Reception and for noticing when others are upset and trying to help them. We are very proud of your caring nature.

Year 1 - Khaleb- For always being a compassionate member of the class. His gentle nature and warm smile makes everyone around him feel cared for, appreciated and happy to be his friend.

Year 2 - Hollie- For being a wonderful role model in class, always ready to lend a helping hand when others find something tricky, making sure everyone shines like a star, including herself.

Year 3 - Kingsley- For always being a kind and caring member of the class. You are thoughtful and compassionate to everyone around you. Well done Kingsley!

Year 4 - Mhairi- For being a kind and compassionate class member and looking after her classmates.

Year 5 - Charlie- For demonstrating exemplary engagement in his learning, whilst also consistently supporting his classmates with kindness and empathy.

Year 6 - Harry- For always demonstrating understanding for others and supporting others when they are in need.

Children have been awarded their badges, but certificates will be sent home next week



Nursery- Brodie

Reception - Wren

Year 1 - Rory

Year 2 - Freddie

Year 3 - Emily

Year 4 - Rosie

Year 5 - Theo

Year 6- Luka

Children have been awarded their pens, but certificates will be sent home next week

Attendance

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

Good Attendance Matters!

Every school day counts. Regular attendance and punctuality help children succeed academically and socially. Missing school reduces learning opportunities and can affect future prospects.

Key Points for Parents/Carers:

- **Why it matters:** Attendance is linked to achievement. Being late by 15 minutes daily equals nearly 2 weeks of lost learning.
- **How to help:** Set consistent bedtime and morning routines. Schedule appointments outside school hours. Encourage interest in schoolwork and friendships. Attend school events and support homework.
- **Holidays:** Term-time holidays are not allowed. Unauthorised leave can lead to legal action and fines.
- **Legal responsibility:** Parents must ensure regular attendance. Penalties can include fines up to £2,500 or even prosecution.
- **Need help?** Contact the school for support. Resources:
www.birmingham.gov.uk/saap | www.birmingham.gov.uk/love



Attendance Champions

- **Overall Winners (100% Attendance):**  Year 3
- **Over 96% Attendance:**  Year 6  Year 1  Year 2



Whole School Attendance:

97% for the academic year so far – fantastic effort!

Dojo



Dojo Winners This Week

- **1st Place:** Year 6
- **2nd Place:** Year 4
- **3rd Place:** Reception

Things to do locally



FREE SPACES IN BOURNVILLE

HOLIDAY CLUBS

WINTER HOLIDAY CLUBS

BOURNVILLE SCHOOL, B30 1SH

MONDAY 22ND-WEDNESDAY 24TH DECEMBER

£14 PER DAY / 11AM - 3PM

FREE PLACES AVAILABLE!
FOR CHILDREN IN RECEIPT OF FREE SCHOOL MEAL
(FSM CODE REQUIRED)

BOOK 'MULTI-ACTIVITY HOLIDAY ACTIVITY & FOOD CAMP'

SCAN THE QR CODE OR VISIT
WWW.PREMIER-EDUCATION.COM/HOLIDAY-CAMPS

BOOK TODAY

WORKING WITH STREET GAMES

Excellent
★★★★★
★ Trustpilot

Premier Education