

# St Francis CE Primary School & Nursery



Friday 17th October 2025

## Diary Dates

Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> October	<u>YoungMinds</u> Hello Yello – Wear Yellow
Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> October	School improvement visit- Fioretti
Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> October	Diwali
Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup> October	Y4 class assembly 9-9:30- Diwali
Wednesday 22nd October	Prospective parents open morning from 9:30am
TBA	Vision screening checks for children in Reception
Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup> October	Values Ambassador Assembly 9:00-9:30
Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> October	Diwali workshop EYFS and Y4
Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> October	Final day of half term
Thursday 30 <sup>th</sup> October	Deadline for secondary school applications
Monday 27 <sup>th</sup> Oct- Friday 31st Oct	Closed to pupils
Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> November	All pupils return to school
Friday 7 <sup>th</sup> November	Year 3 Stone age workshop
Mon 10th- Fri 14 <sup>th</sup> November	Anti-bullying week
Monday 10 <sup>th</sup> November	Odd socks day
Sunday 9 <sup>th</sup> - 16 <sup>th</sup> November	Inter-faith week
Tuesday 11 <sup>th</sup> November	Remembrance Service at 11 am
Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup> November	Children in Need- children to wear something yellow or spotty for a donation via ParentPay  Theme: <u>'Spot'acular!</u>
<b>Friday 14<sup>th</sup> November</b>	<b>Trust training day- school closed to all pupils</b>
	My Happy Mind Parent workshop from 9-9:30am
Monday 17 <sup>th</sup> – Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> November	Y6 Residential: Snowdonia
Wednesday 26 <sup>th</sup> November	Reception Vision Screening
Thursday 27 <sup>th</sup> November	Year 4 multiplication workshops from 9am
Friday 28 <sup>th</sup> November	Non-uniform day- chocolate donations

## Head Teacher update

Dear Parents and Carers,

We began the week with the **final OPAL review on Monday**, and I'm delighted to announce that we are now officially an **OPAL Platinum School!** This is a fantastic recognition of our commitment to high-quality play and outdoor learning, and we're so proud of what this means for our children.

On Wednesday, we welcomed the Director of Education from **Fioretti Trust** for our education review; these are conducted termly with each school in the Trust. She spent the day conducting learning walks throughout the school and meeting with leaders. The feedback was incredibly positive and reflected the strength of our teaching, learning, and school culture. It was a wonderful opportunity to showcase the hard work and enthusiasm of our staff and pupils.

Also on Wednesday, children across the school took part in **exciting science workshops**. These hands-on sessions sparked curiosity and creativity, and it was brilliant to see our young scientists so engaged and inspired.

Finally, we have welcomed 'Aspibulla' back to school today after being on display at the Library of Birmingham. He is outside Reception to welcome visitors, so do take a look if you come past!

### Reminders

- Y4 class assembly on Tuesday from 9am in the hall
- Prospective parent open morning on Wednesday morning from 9am
- Values ambassador assembly on Thursday morning from 9am- you will have been contacted if your child has been chosen this time
- FRIENDS Autumn disco on Thursday after school

We hope you have a lovely weekend!

Kind regards,

Jess Mattocks

Head Teacher



Black History Month: Standing firm in power and pride



This October, our school is proudly marking **Black History Month 2025** with the powerful theme:

**“Standing Firm in Power and Pride.”**

This week, our Black History Month celebrations continued with a powerful story that captured the hearts and minds of our pupils.

**John Blanke: A Proud and Creative Musician in Tudor Times**

John Blanke was a talented trumpet player who worked for King Henry VII and King Henry VIII over 500 years ago. He was one of the few Black people we know about from Tudor England, and he became famous for his music and bravery.

John didn't just play music—he helped lead royal celebrations and important events with his trumpet. He was so good at his job that he asked the king for a pay rise—and got it! That shows he was proud of his work and knew he deserved to be treated fairly.

We can even see pictures of John Blanke in a special painting called the Westminster Tournament Roll. He's shown wearing a bright turban and playing his trumpet, standing tall among other royal musicians.

John Blanke's story teaches us that creativity and confidence can help us make a difference, no matter when or where we live.



## Choir



### School Choir

Our school choir is sounding fantastic and we're having great fun learning all the songs for Young Voices. This is a gentle reminder that all the choir resources can be found on our [school website](#). For those children attending Young Voices please ensure that you have clicked on the parent link asking for access to the [YV Music Room](#). Here you will find all the lyrics, dance moves etc. We will also be adding Christmas songs after half term. Please ensure that you are accessing the choir page regularly to help home learning.

## Resource Request



**Can you help? We are looking for;**

- Wooden Palletts
- Small world toys
- Bikes
- Scooters

## What you need to know about memes

Memes are everywhere - quick, witty, and wildly shareable. For many young people they are more than jokes, they're a way to connect, express themselves and interpret the world. But behind the humour, there can be risks. This guide helps adults understand how memes work and why they matter to young people today.

From misinformation to insensitive jokes and permanent digital footprints, this guide highlights the potential pitfalls of meme culture. With practical tips on digital literacy, empathy and open conversations, it empowers parents and educators to help children navigate online humour in a thoughtful, safe, and respectful way.

Sources:

- <https://www.demandsage.com/social-media-users/>
- Shifman, L. (2014). Memes in Digital Culture. MIT Press.

- YPulse (2022). Meme Statistics: How Young People Share Memes Online. [Available via Brandwell.ai / Amra & Elma summaries of YPulse data].

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](https://nationalcollege.com).

# What Parents & Educators Need to Know about MEMES

Memes may look like simple jokes, but, for many teenagers, they form a shared cultural language. Quickly created and reworked, they spread across social media platforms as images with text or short videos. Nearly eight in ten teenagers share memes (79%, YPulse), making them part of daily life. While memes encourage creativity and participation, they can also spread misinformation or reinforce harmful stereotypes.

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

### SPREADING MISINFORMATION

While memes help to communicate complex topics, they can also spread misinformation. Memes may sometimes include content presenting false facts or biased viewpoints, especially around health, politics, or current events and, as they're designed to be shared quickly, young people may not question their accuracy.

### EXPOSURE TO INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Memes are widely circulated, and not always age-appropriate, meaning young people may encounter explicit language, sexual content, or graphic imagery, even without searching for it. As memes spread fast on platforms like Instagram, TikTok, or WhatsApp, it's nearly impossible to filter them completely.

### MASKED MESSAGES

Some memes are designed to be confusing or layered with hidden meanings, making them hard for parents, and, sometimes, other young people to understand. Online groups often create these memes to look like inside jokes, but they can sometimes conceal offensive, harmful, or misleading content.

### HIDDEN HARMS & LOSING SENSITIVITY

When serious topics like violence, racism, or mental health are turned into jokes, children and young people may become less sensitive to these issues over time. While a funny meme may seem light-hearted, it can carry messages that belittle certain groups, encourage risky behaviour, or mock personal struggles. Repeated exposure through memes can make harmful behaviour seem normal or less important. Over time, this can blur their understanding of what is funny versus what is discriminatory, harmful, or damaging to themselves and others.

### PERMANENT DIGITAL FOOTPRINT

Unlike spoken jokes, memes leave a trail. Created or shared memes can resurface later and be misunderstood, even if intended as harmless. Once online, memes may be copied, saved, or spread beyond a young person's control - digital actions can follow them into their future, shaping how they are perceived by peers, teachers, or even employers long after the original meme has been shared.

## Advice for Parents & Educators

### ENCOURAGE OPEN CONVERSATIONS

Talk regularly with young people and try to understand their online world - discuss what they find funny about the memes, and why. By listening without judgement, you build trust, making it easier for them to come to you if they see something harmful. Open conversations also help children and teens think critically about the messages behind memes rather than simply accepting them at face value.

### TEACH DIGITAL LITERACY

Help children and young people learn to question where information comes from and whether it's reliable - developing media literacy skills prepares young people to understand and navigate through their future online lives. Show them how memes can sometimes exaggerate or misrepresent facts for laughs, and encourage them to check credible sources when memes claim to present truth.

### MODEL HEALTHY BOUNDARIES

Show children and teens positive online behaviours, such as taking breaks from screens, avoiding late-night scrolling, and engaging in offline activities. Setting clear routines around screen time at home can help to reinforce healthy boundaries and reduce the risks of overuse. By modelling balanced technology use, adults can help children and young people see that digital entertainment, including memes, should be just one part of life.

### FOSTER EMPATHY ONLINE

Remind children and young people that memes should never come at someone else's expense. Encourage them to think about how a meme might make another person feel before sharing or creating it. Highlight examples of positive memes that celebrate creativity without hurting others. Fostering empathy, respect, and kindness in digital spaces will help them become more aware of promoting a safer, more supportive online culture.

### Meet Our Expert


Dr Cristina Moreno-Almeida is a Senior Lecturer in Digital Culture at Queen Mary University of London. She specialises in memes, online networks, and youth culture, examining how digital spaces shape identity and everyday life.






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See full reference list on our website

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Things happening locally...



**THE BOURNVILLE SOCIETY**

*Local history group*

**John Billingham**  
presents

**Life in the 1950s**  
7.30pm Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> October 2025

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**Dr Michael Harrison**  
presents

**Bournville Between the Wars**  
7.30pm Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> November 2025

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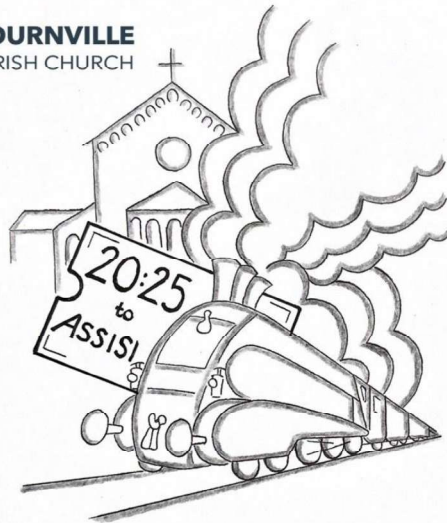
**Nigel Metcalf**  
presents

**A Victorian Christmas**  
7.30pm Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2025

Dame Elizabeth Hall  
off Oak Tree Lane, Bournville  
Buses: 11 to Bournville Green & 27 to Woodbrooke Road  
Non-members welcome £5 entrance  
For further information contact the Secretary 0121 458 2547  
or [jenny.shardlow@gmail.com](mailto:jenny.shardlow@gmail.com)



**BOURNVILLE**  
PARISH CHURCH



**As part of our centenary, we are delighted that a new play with original music about the life of St Francis 'The 20:25 to Assisi' will be performed in St Francis Church, Bournville on Friday 14th November 7.00 pm and Saturday 15th November 2.30 pm.**

**Suitable for 12+**

**Admission : Over 16 £8, under 16 £5, family 2 adults 2 under 16s £20. Payment by card possible at the door.**

**Information about tickets from Carol Glynn at the church office 0121 472 7215 option 2, between 8.30 am - 4.00 pm Tuesday to Friday.**

**You are welcome to leave a message about obtaining tickets with your contact details and we will get back to you as soon as possible.**

**email: [parishadmin@stfrancisbournville.org.uk](mailto:parishadmin@stfrancisbournville.org.uk)**

**Tickets available at the door for each performance.**

## School Uniform Swop

Donate or collect pre-loved school uniform here

In stock here at The Hub

### Primary Schools

Bournville Primary  
Bournville Village Primary  
Cotteridge Primary School  
Raddlebarn Primary  
St Edwards RC Primary  
St Francis Primary school  
St Josephs RC  
Stirchley Primary

### Secondary Schools

Bournville Secondary  
Dame Elizabeth Cadbury  
Kings Norton Boys School  
Kings Norton Girls School



### Opening Times


Monday 12 - 2 pm  
Tuesday 1-3pm  
Wednesday 12-4 pm  
Thursday 12-3 pm  
Friday 12-2.30 pm


 School Uniform Swap Shop

Free and easy – swap what you no longer need for something that fits! Bring along to the book swap or call in during our opening times.

 **Find us at:**

Hub on the Green, 27 Sycamore Road, Bournville, B30 2AA

 **Tel:** 0121 472 7989

 **Website:** [www.hubonthegreen.org](http://www.hubonthegreen.org) For more info, visit our website or pop in and see us!



## Job Opportunity



**K@Boom Out of School Club Manager**

27.5 hours per week. £15.40 per hour

The Directors of St Francis Youth and Community Centre are appointing an experienced practitioner to be responsible for sustaining a safe, creative and stimulating environment for children and staff, for the supportive management and resourcing of a team of playworkers, and to work collaboratively with local partners.

The post-holder will be a team-player who will work to nurture mental, physical and spiritual wellbeing, resilience and healthy professional relationships.

If you would like to know more about this post and the vision we share, you are encouraged to contact Richard Wharton on 07910 343 380, or at [vicar@stfrancisbournville.org.uk](mailto:vicar@stfrancisbournville.org.uk)

For an application form, please contact Carol Glynn at [parishadmin@stfrancisbournville.co.uk](mailto:parishadmin@stfrancisbournville.co.uk)

<b>Application deadline:</b>	<b>Friday 7 November 2025 at 0800</b>
<b>Interviews:</b>	<b>Wednesday 19 November 2025</b>
<b>Start Date:</b>	<b>Monday 5 January 2026</b>

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.

# Christmas Club



LCF Fun Languages/Fun Explorers  
Mouzel  
Cloweswood Lane  
Earlswood  
B94 5SE

Tel: 07787 118755

E Mail: [Funexplorermichael@gmail.com](mailto:Funexplorermichael@gmail.com)



## FUN FRENCH CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY CLUB - 2025

Dear Parent,

We are delighted to announce that we will once again be offering our very popular Fun French Christmas holiday club this year with an option of selecting one or two days. The 'Christmas in France' extravaganza will take place on **Monday the 22<sup>nd</sup> and Tuesday the 23<sup>rd</sup> of December 2025**, allowing parents time to do some last minute Christmas shopping/preparations!

As usual, in typical Club Francais fashion, it will be a fun packed day celebrating Christmas in France with a whole host of fun activities including festive games, yuletide songs, traditional French Christmas cooking, Christmas card and decoration making and much more besides!

This years' Christmas workshop will be very exciting indeed and promises to be a memorable experience for everyone!

The details of the workshops are as follows:

Venue: **Woodlands Park Hall, Woodlands Park Road, Bournville, B30 1HA**

Date of Work Shop: **Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> of December 2025 and Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2025**

Time of Work Shop: **10.00am to 4.00pm**

Cost of work Shop (Two Days): **£70** (sibling discounts available on request)

Cost of work shop (One Day Only): **£37.50** (again sibling discounts available)

Payments should be made by bank transfer to: HSBC (Fun Explorers), Sort Code 40-11-13, Account No 91805584 – *Please state your child's name as the reference*

In order to reserve a place, please complete and return the attached slip by email or to the above address and make the payment as instructed above – **please note that places are strictly limited and will be offered on a first come, first serve basis.**

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any further questions or queries.

Yours Sincerely

Michael Meacham  
Area Organiser, [www.lcfclubs.com](http://www.lcfclubs.com)

I would like to reserve a place for my child(ren) on:  
(Please circle your preferred date)

Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> of December 2025  
Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> of December 2025  
Both Days (22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> December)

Name of Child(ren)..... Age(s) .....

Allergies .....

Parent/ Guardian.....

Address .....

Telephone No(s) .....

E Mail Address .....

## Celebrations



Happy Birthday to those with birthdays this week!



Scotty in Year 6

Sofia in Year 3

Harry in Year 1

Flo in Year 2

Joe in Year 3

Star of the Week



**Nursery:** Bess for always being an enthusiastic learner and willing to join in with all nursery experiences. Well done Bess!

**Reception:** Rayella for always trying your best in everything that you do and for trying to help those around you do the same.

**Year 1:** Phoebe, You are a wonderful member of our class, You're polite, hard working and an excellent friend to your class mates. We all think you are amazing!

**Year 2:** River for showing great engagement in her reading and aiming to complete tasks independently.

**Year 3:** Levi for always showing you are ready to learn and being respectful to everyone. Well done Levi!

**Year 4:** Freddie for trying his hardest to be ready at all times

**Year 5:** Blake for showing such great engagement in his learning and being compassionate to those around him

**Year 6:** Lincoln for showing excellent compassion towards his classmates all of the time

## Star Writer



**Nursery:** Niamh

**Reception:** Keira

**Year 1:** Khaleb

**Year 2:** Farida

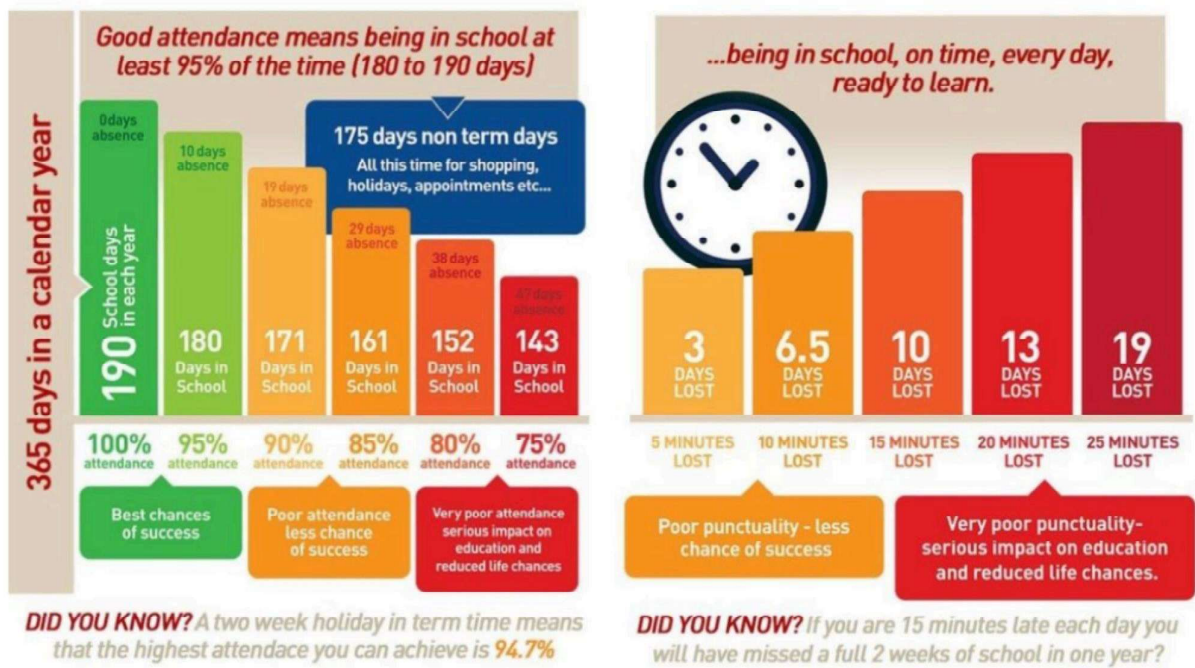
**Year 3:** Oliver

**Year 4:** Darcy

**Year 5:** Talitha

**Year 6:** Morgan

## Attendance



Our overall winners with 100% attendance are Year 1!

Reception, Year 2, 4 and 6 had attendance over 96%. This is an incredible statistic!

Overall school attendance is at 97.2% - a little down on last week, remember it s very important to be in school daily!

## Dojo



Year 5 are the winners of dojos this week.

Year 4 finished 2nd, with Year 2 in third.

Overall this half term Year 5 are leading the way.