

St Francis CE Primary School & Nursery



Friday 26th September 2025

Dates for your diary

Friday 19 th September	FRIENDS 'Welcome afternoon tea' from 3:30 on the field
Thursday 25 th September	Phonics workshop for parents of children in Reception (9am start)
Monday 29 th September	Flu Immunisation- whole school FRIENDS AGM
Monday 29 th Sept-Friday 17 th October	SEND IEP Reviews
Tuesday 30 th September	Harvest service for Y1-6 at St Francis Church from 9am *children to be dropped at the Church for 8:45 Stay and pray in school for Nursery and Reception from 9-10am
Thursday 2 nd October	Census day Special menu – 'build your own burger'
Thursday 2 nd October	Maths workshop: Parents of pupils in N-Y2: 9-9:30am Parents of pupils in Y3-Y6: 9:30-10am
Friday 3 rd October	Poetry Day (dress-up not required)
Throughout October	Black History Month -this year's theme is 'Standing Firm in Power and Pride'
Monday 6 th October-	Photographers
Wednesday 8 th October	Parents evening 3:45-6:00
Thursday 9 th October	Parents evening 3:45-6:00
Friday 10 th October	YoungMinds Hello Yello – Wear Yellow
Thursday 16 th October	School improvement visit- Fioretti
Monday 20 th October	Diwali
Tuesday 21 st October	Y4 class assembly 9-9:30- Diwali
Wednesday 22 nd October	Prospective parents open morning from 9:30am
TBA	Vision screening checks for children in Reception
Thursday 23 rd October	Values Ambassador Assembly 9:00-9:30
Friday 24 th October	Diwali workshop EYFS and Y4
Friday 24 th October	Final day of half term
Thursday 30 th October	Deadline for secondary school applications
Monday 27 th Oct- Friday 31 st Oct	Closed to pupils

Head Teacher update

Dear Parents and Carers,

Parents evening

Today you will receive information about our upcoming parents evenings on 8th and 9th October. We plan this parents evening deliberately early to support children with their transition into the new school year. This will be a valuable opportunity for you to meet your child's class teacher, hear about how they've settled in, and discuss how we can work

together to support their learning and wellbeing. Whether your child is new to the school, has moved year groups, or is adjusting to new routines, we want to ensure a smooth and positive start. As usual, you will be able to book appointments online via Arbor so do take a look at communication being sent at 4pm today to book an appointment on the app- if you can't make either of the dates, don't worry! Just chat to the class teacher to arrange another time.

Harvest

On Tuesday we are marking Harvest with a service in Church, so please drop children in Y1-6 at the Church for 08:45am. If children normally attend Fledglings, they can be dropped at Fledglings as normal, but before 08:15am. Staff will then escort children down to the Church.

Children in Nursery and Reception will remain in school to mark Harvest with a 'Stay and pray' session which parents are invited to- if you have children in multiple year groups, feel free to drop children at Church first and then head up to school with those attending stay and pray.

If you are able to bring a donation when you come to the service, that would be great and very much appreciated by the Foodbank. Their website has up to date details of what they need/don't need: <https://b30.foodbank.org.uk/> Finally, just to add no fresh produce please.

Reminders

- **Harvest service on Tuesday 30th September> please drop children in Y1-Y6 to St Francis Church for 08:45am.** Children attending Fledglings can be dropped at school prior to 8:15am, as normal. Children in Nursery and Reception to come to school as normal to enjoy a 'Stay and pray' session- parents invited.
- Maths workshops next Thursday: Parents of children in Nursery-Year 2 from 9-9:30 and parents of children in Y3-6 from 9:30-10.
- **New date added to the dates list> Hello Yellow on Friday 10th October!** We are taking part with thousands of schools, communities and companies wearing yellow this World Mental Health Day and raise money to show young people that they're not alone with their mental health. Optional donations are invited via ParentPay.

We hope you have a lovely weekend!

Kind regards,

Jess Mattocks

Head Teacher

Collective worship

Theme: Saint Francis of Assisi

This week, our Collective Worship focused on **Saint Francis of Assisi**, the patron saint of our school and a powerful example of humility, kindness, and care for creation.

We explored:

- **Who Saint Francis was** – a man who gave up wealth to live simply and serve others, especially the poor and vulnerable.
- His deep **love for nature and animals**, reminding us of our responsibility to care for the world around us.
- His message of **peace and compassion**, encouraging us to treat others with respect and kindness.

Children reflected on how they can live out Saint Francis' values in their own lives – by being gentle, forgiving, and looking after the environment. We also shared the **Prayer of Saint Francis**, asking God to help us be instruments of peace.

As a school, we celebrated the ways we already show these values and challenged ourselves to do even more in the coming weeks.

Message from Reverend Richard



We are very much looking forward to your Harvest Service in St Francis Church on Tuesday 30 September. We are once again collecting food for the B30 and South Birmingham Foodbank at all our Harvest services this year.

If you are able to bring a donation when you come to the service, that would be great and very much appreciated by the Foodbank. Their website has up to date details of what they need/don't need: <https://b30.foodbank.org.uk/> Finally, just to add no fresh produce please.

E-Safety - Youth Violence

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.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about YOUTH VIOLENCE

Youth violence affects one in four children in the UK, but it doesn't have to. When parents, carers, and educators understand the risks, they're better placed to support young people. The right support, mentoring, therapy, and guidance can help young people affected by violence to feel safe, manage conflict, and make positive choices.

UNDERSTANDING YOUTH VIOLENCE

WHY DO YOUNG PEOPLE COMMIT SERIOUS VIOLENCE?

A recent study surveyed over 10,000 young people affected by violence, asking why serious violence occurs among their peers, such as an assault involving a weapon or sexual violence. The most common reasons given were due to a personal characteristic of the victim (e.g., race, religion, sexuality, gender), a gang or school rivalry, and being provoked. While not all young people face these issues, many lack the emotional regulation skills needed to manage provocation.

WHY ARE SIGNS A YOUNG PERSON IS AT RISK?

Children and young people often express that something is wrong through behaviour rather than words. Be alert to signs such as sudden mood changes, secrecy around friendships, excessive phone use, unfamiliar slang, unexplained injuries, fear of school, aggression, going missing, or substance use. They may also be associating with older peers. These behaviours can indicate underlying issues that can lead to violence.

ONLINE INFLUENCES

Social media plays a powerful role in normalising and escalating violence. Platforms like TikTok and Snapchat can expose young people to harmful content, often shaped by algorithms. Many see violent material that distorts reality, leading to fear and desensitisation. A recent study found 70% had seen real-world violence online, and 80% felt less safe in their communities. Alarmingly, 35% said it made them more likely to carry a weapon. Online conflict can often spill into real life, with serious and sometimes tragic consequences.

WHEN IS VIOLENCE MORE LIKELY TO HAPPEN?

For children and young people in England and Wales, the hours between 4 pm and 8 pm – just after school – carry a particularly high risk for serious violence. This can stem from conflicts that escalate during the school day, online arguments, or simply moving through unfamiliar areas on the way home. Understanding this risk helps us support safer travel and routines. Our recent report found that over one in three young people don't feel safe in the area they live in, and 35% don't feel safe walking the streets.

WHY MIGHT A YOUNG PERSON CARRY A WEAPON?

Young people may carry weapons due to fear, threats, peer pressure, or a false sense of protection. Many young people tell us they feel unsafe and carry weapons 'just in case', while others may be influenced by social media, peers, or criminal activity. Some don't realise it's illegal or may believe it earns respect.

WHERE IS VIOLENCE MORE LIKELY TO HAPPEN?

Violence often happens in certain places. Busy areas like transport hubs carry risk simply because lots of people gather there. Other hotspots, like places linked to drug activity, attract those more likely to be involved in violence. Some areas become risky due to poor supervision, such as under-resourced public spaces. Understanding where violence tends to occur helps us guide young people safely through their communities and advocate for better support and safer spaces.

Advice for Parents & Educators

TALKING TO CHILDREN ABOUT STAYING SAFE

Choose a safe moment for the conversation, emotionally and physically. If a child is upset or angry, help them settle before discussing serious topics. Listen actively without judgement, even if what they share is difficult. Avoid interrupting and offer advice when the time feels right. If you're worried, you're not alone; support is available.

HELP CHILDREN UNDERSTAND CONSEQUENCES

Young people can be searched by police or teachers if suspected of carrying a weapon. If found with a knife, they could face arrest and criminal proceedings. A conviction can result in a criminal record. Even being present during a violent assault, encouraging it, filming, or sharing footage can lead to prosecution. Open and honest conversations can help children understand these risks and make safer choices.

AVOID CONFLICT & MANAGE ESCALATIONS

Encourage young people to consider the 'Safe T's' – Trust instincts, take a breath, and talk to a trusted adult. When triggered or provoked, they may react from their 'survival brain', unable to think clearly about the consequences. Taking a breath helps calm, and helps them access their 'thinking brain'. Remind them that moments pass, and seeking support from trusted adults builds resilience and safer decision-making.

REPORT INFORMATION

We all have a role in preventing violence. If a child shares concerns, you can act. For educators, it's important to follow your school's safeguarding procedures. Other adults can report anonymously through Fearless or Crimestoppers, and speak with other parents, the school, or local police through 101. If someone is in immediate danger, always call 999. These steps help protect children and the wider community.

Meet Our Expert

The Ben Kinsella Trust is a UK anti-knife crime charity educating young people through immersive workshops, awareness campaigns, and community resources. Visit: benkinsella.org.uk

#WakeUpWednesday The National College

Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/youth-violence>

[@wake_up_weds](https://www.wakeupweds.com) www.thenationalcollege.com [@wakeupwednesday](https://www.wakeupweds.com) [@wakeupweds](https://www.wakeupweds.com)

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Youth violence impacts 1 in 4 children and young people in the UK, yet many parents and educators feel unsure how to respond. This guide breaks down the causes, risks and warning

signs of violent behaviour in young people, helping adults feel more confident in supporting those at risk.

Drawing on expert insights from the Ben Kinsella Trust, it explores why some young people may carry weapons, how violence is influenced by online content, and what time and locations pose the greatest risk. It also highlights the importance of early intervention, emotional support, and honest conversations.

Sources:

- [Children, Violence and Vulnerability 2024 | Youth Endowment Fund](#)
- [The Ben Kinsella Trust | Knife Crime Prevention Charity](#)
- [Helping-our-children-stay-safe-a-guide-to-knife-crime-and-safety-for-parent-and-carers.pdf](#)
- [YEF KeyFactsAboutViolence 6.pdf](#)
- [Temporal and geographic patterns of stab injuries in young people: a retrospective cohort study fro...](#)
- [The-Ben-Kinsella-Trust-Keeping-Young-People-Safe-Snapshot-Report-2024.pdf](#)
- [Ben Kinsella Trust Exhibition Report](#)
- [Problem solving violent crime: A guide for analysts](#)
- [Fearless: Anonymous Reporting for a Safer Community | Crimestoppers](#)
- [Independent UK charity taking crime information anonymously | Crimestoppers](#)

Things happening locally...

 **THE BOURNVILLE SOCIETY**

Local history group

John Billingham
presents

Life in the 1950s
7.30pm Wednesday 1st October 2025
+++++

Dr Michael Harrison
presents

Bournville Between the Wars
7.30pm Wednesday 5th November 2025
+++++

Nigel Metcalf
presents

A Victorian Christmas
7.30pm Wednesday 3rd 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

Celebrations



Happy Birthday to those with birthdays this week!



Leo in Year 3

Lily in Year 3

Enya in Year 3

Thomas in Year 6

Star of the Week



Nursery: Ayla for being so engaged in new learning opportunities. Well done, Ayla!

Reception: Sienna for always trying her hardest to do the right thing and being a kind friend to those around her.

Year 1: Cass for always giving everything 100% and trying your hardest. You persevere at everything and with a smile!!

Year 2: Millie - for working hard to stay focused and taking responsibility for her learning.

Year 3: Emily L - for being engaged with her learning and contributing to class discussions with insightful answers.

Year 4: Amari- for being a kind, considerate and compassionate member of the class.

Year 5: Aurora - for settling in so seamlessly and being such a respectful member of our class.

Year 6: Billy for always demonstrating compassion and understanding to his peers in all situations.

Star Writer



Nursery: Phoebe

Reception: Tilly

Year 1: Lily

Year 2: Orson

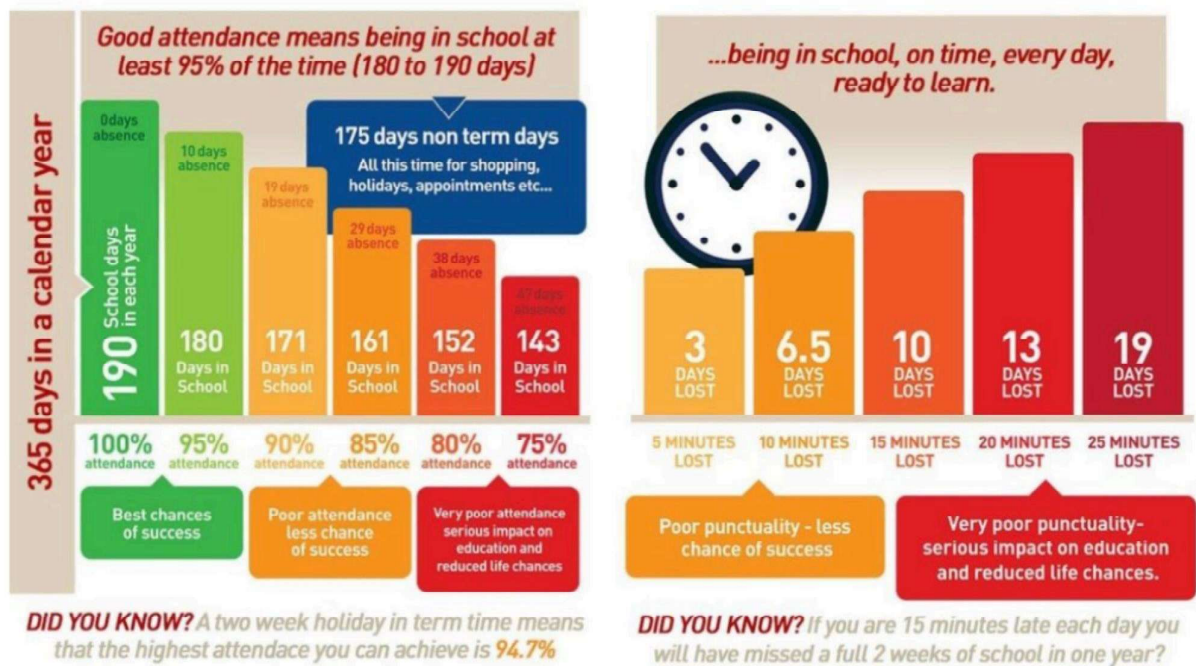
Year 3: Isla

Year 4: Dotty

Year 5: Leo

Year 6: Thea

Attendance



Our overall winners with 98.8% attendance are Year 1!

Year 6 and Year 5 all had attendance over 96%.

Overall school attendance is at 97.4% - this is a great start to this year!

Dojo



Year 2 are the winners of dojos this week.

Year 4 finished 2nd, with Reception in third.

Overall, Year 2 have moved into top spot.