

St Francis CE Primary School & Nursery



Friday 20th 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,

As week 3 of the autumn term comes to an end, I want to share how our nursery and reception children have made a wonderful start to the new school year, settling into their classes with curiosity and enthusiasm. Over the past few weeks, they've been getting to know their teachers, exploring their learning environments, and beginning to understand the routines and rhythms of school life. From sharing stories and songs to discovering new friendships and learning through play, it's been a joy to see their confidence grow each day.

We're proud of how well they are adapting and look forward to supporting them as they continue to flourish in our school community.

Last week, we proudly launched our new **Star Writer Awards**, which will continue every Friday throughout the school year. Each week, teachers choose one child from their class who has demonstrated excellence in writing—this could be through effort with handwriting and presentation, imaginative ideas, or successfully including the key features taught in English lessons that week. These winners are celebrated in our Friday assembly and receive a very special *Star Writer pen*. From the class winners, the member of staff leading the assembly selects an **overall Star Writer of the Week**, who receives an extra treat to mark their achievement. It's a fantastic way to inspire a love of writing and celebrate the progress and creativity of our young authors.

Reminders

- Phonics workshop for parents of children in Reception next Thursday 25th September from 9am- come along to the main office to join us.
- **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.

Kind regards,

Jess Mattocks

Head Teacher

Collective worship

This week in collective worship, we explored the Christian concept of the **Trinity**—a word made up of *Tri* (meaning three) and *Unity* (meaning together). Although it's a complex idea, we helped the children understand that Christians believe in one God who is three persons: **God the Father, God the Son (Jesus), and God the Holy Spirit**. We looked at how all three were present at the very beginning of creation, as seen in Genesis and echoed in John's Gospel, where Jesus is described as being with God from the start.

Through stories, discussion, and visual resources, we encouraged the children to think about how they are made in the image of God—created to be loved and to love others. This links beautifully to our school vision: *Together in God's love*. We also talked about how our school is a community, and how the Trinity can help us understand the importance of unity, love, and working together.

Prayer:

Dear God,

Help me this week to love you and others from the heart.

Help me this week to think well of others with my mind.

Help me this week to build others up with strength you have given me.

Amen.

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 - SnapChat

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about SNAPCHAT **AGE RESTRICTION 13+**

With over 900 million active monthly users and billions of 'Snaps' sent each month, Snapchat is a popular messaging app among children and young people. It allows users to share fun, spontaneous pictures and videos with friends and family while using playful filters. One of Snapchat's unique features is that pictures and videos are only viewable for a short period of time.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

- ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE**
Snapchat's use of artificial intelligence (AI) powered features like the 'My AI' chatbot and AI-powered filters, offering interactive experiences that can be fun but also pose risks. These tools may show unfiltered or inaccurate responses, promote unrealistic beauty standards, and collect personal data. Advanced filters and deepfake-style lenses can distort reality, potentially leading to misrepresentation, impersonation, or inappropriate content.
- SCREEN ADDICTION**
Snapchat boasts user engagement and daily use with features like the 'My AI' chatbot and AI-powered filters, offering interactive experiences that can be fun but also pose risks. These tools may show unfiltered or inaccurate responses, promote unrealistic beauty standards, and collect personal data. Advanced filters and deepfake-style lenses can distort reality, potentially leading to misrepresentation, impersonation, or inappropriate content.
- SEXUATION**
Because Snapchat's disappearing messages feature has been a trend of social media, users may become targets of sextortion. For example, in predator messages, users are often asked to send explicit images or videos. These predators capture those images to threaten and blackmail victims. This might cause children to feel they will show the images with friends or family unless money is paid.
- SNAPCHAT+**
Snapchat+ is the platform's premium subscription service, offering early access to new and exclusive features. In June 2025, Snapchat introduced several new content filters, giving subscribers access to hundreds of lenses and AR experiences for playing, creating, and posting Snaps. These paid features may encourage young users to spend money to access exclusive content, increasing the risk of overspending or feeling pressured to make in-app purchases.
- ACCESSIBILITY**
Snapchat is now accessible from a web browser, meaning children can use it on laptops or tablets without downloading the app. This feature adds another layer of risk, making it more difficult for parents to monitor, restrict the use of content, and increase the risk of unsupervised browsing or exposure to inappropriate content.
- INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT**
Some content on Snapchat isn't suitable for children. The platform's user-generated content is determined by the person, so content can be inappropriate. Snapchat's AI-powered filters and lenses may also pose risks. For example, the app's 'disappearing' messages feature may encourage users to share explicit images or videos, so users should be aware of the risks of sharing content that is not appropriate for children.

Advice for Parents & Educators

- ACCESS THE SNAPCHAT FAMILY SAFETY HUB**
Created with guidance from Common Sense Media, Snapchat has developed a Family Safety Hub that explains how the app works and how to use its privacy settings. It also provides tips on how to report inappropriate content and how to block and report users. Remember, the app is only as safe as the user.
- ENCOURAGE OPEN DISCUSSIONS**
Snapchat's risks can be easier to handle if you have an open dialogue. Talk about screen time and digital safety before using the app. Encourage them to tell you honestly, talk openly and non-judgmentally about using the app, and encourage them to report any inappropriate content. Remember, the app is only as safe as the user.
- BLOCK AND REPORT**
If a stranger contacts you on Snapchat and makes you feel uncomfortable by pressuring them to send or receive unwanted or inappropriate images, the child can use the 'Report' button to report the user. There are options to share why they're reporting that user, with a tailored reporting action under the 'Report' button. Remember, the app is only as safe as the user.
- USE PRIVACY SETTINGS TOGETHER**
If you share with the children your own and explore Snapchat's privacy settings in a shared activity. You can help them adjust who can contact them, view their stories, or send them snaps. It's a good opportunity to explore how some settings are better than others, reinforcing their understanding of online boundaries. Encourage them to regularly review their settings, especially after updates or changes to their privacy settings.

Meet Our Expert
Dr. Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and other safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and articles and is a frequent speaker at conferences. She is also a member of the Australian Government's eSafety Commissioner's advisory panel.

WakeUp Wednesday **The National College**

Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://thenationalcollege.com/guides/snapchat>

www.wakeupweds.com www.thenationalcollege.com www.wakeupweds.com www.wakeupweds.com

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With over 900 million monthly users, Snapchat continues to be a favourite among children and young people; however, with its ever-evolving features, the risks have evolved too. From AI-generated filters and chatbots, to disappearing messages and the Snap Map location-sharing tool, it's easy for children to stumble into unsafe territory. This guide breaks down the latest updates, including the Lens+ subscription service, and web browser access.

We've also unpacked the risks of sextortion scams, overuse, and inappropriate content that may slip through the app's moderation systems. With expert advice from online safety consultant Dr Claire Sutherland, this guide is a must-read for anyone helping young people navigate Snapchat responsibly and confidently.

Sources:

<https://parents.snapchat.com/?lang=en-GB>

<https://newsroom.snap.com/empowering-content-creation-with-new-tools?lang=en-GB>

<https://values.snap.com/news/new-sex-tortion-research-gen-z>

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/article/2024/jul/22/victorian-teenagers-suicide-after-sex-tortion-scam-prompts-call-for-improved-education>

Things happening locally...

 **THE BOURNVILLE SOCIETY**

Local history group

John Billingham
presents

Life in the 1950s
7.30pm Wednesday 1st October 2025
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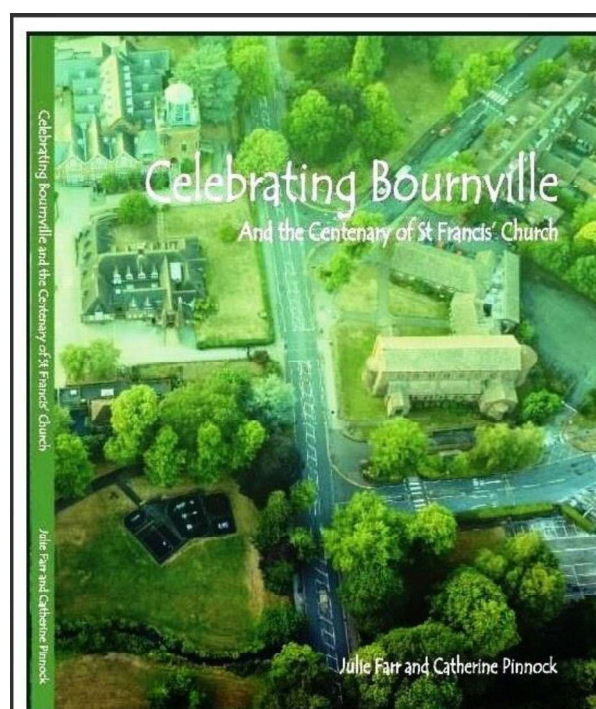
Dr Michael Harrison
presents

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



100 years in Bournville

Celebrating Bournville and the Centenary of St Francis Church is a 126-page book with full colour photos and illustrations. It is packed with memories, original stories and fascinating facts contributed by people of all ages from the Bournville community.

Available from St Francis Church and local outlets

Celebrations



Happy Birthday to those with birthdays this week!



Levi in Year 4

Amanda in Year 5

Cameron in Nursery

Jacob in Year 1

Star of the Week



Nursery: Leo - for being a fantastic role model to the other children

Reception: Logan for trying really hard to be a good role model to those around him and for showing our values, even when it is a bit tricky

Year 1: Rory - for always working hard in everything you do. You are super star learner!

Year 2: Bryn : for always trying his hardest, making the right choices, and working to be his best even when it's hard.

Year 3: Elaina - for always being engaged in your learning and ready to share your knowledge with others. Well done Elaina!

Year 4: Benjy- for always being engaged in his learning, being eager to share his knowledge and persevering with challenges, particularly in maths.

Year 5: Jago - for a showing such great perseverance in his learning, particularly when independently problem solving in our Maths work.

Year 6: Millie-Rose for consistently demonstrating compassion to everyone across school

Star Writer



Nursery: Ethan

Reception: Phoenix

Year 1: Joseph

Year 2: Matilda

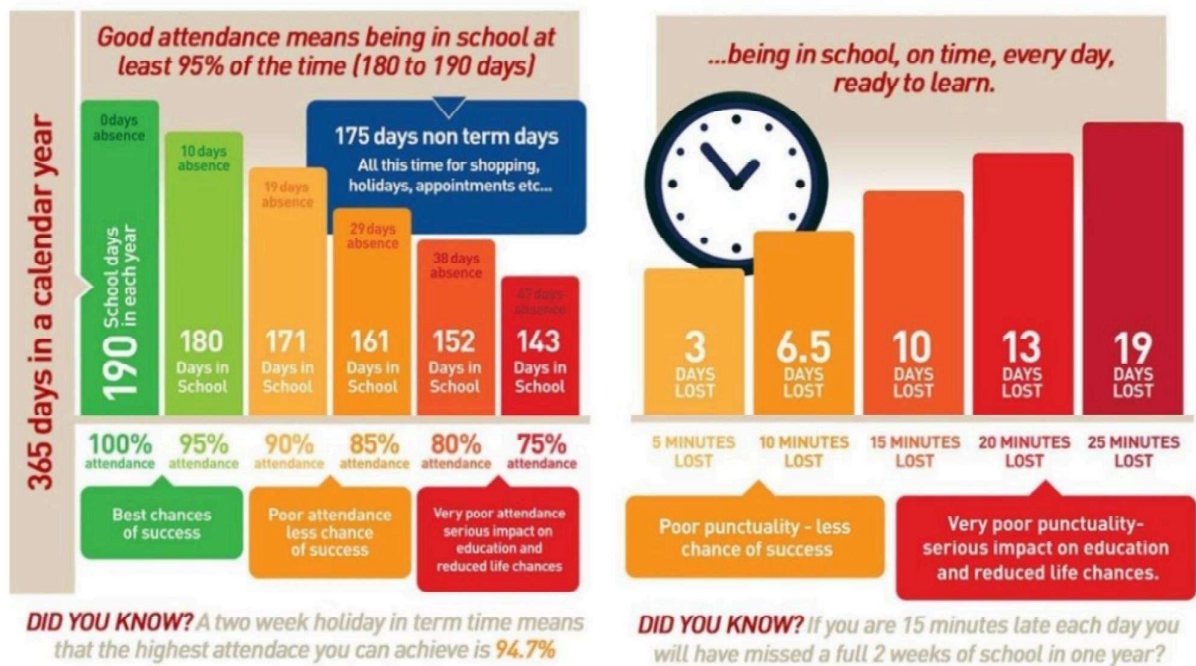
Year 3: Leo

Year 4: Arabella

Year 5: James

Year 6: George

Attendance



Our overall winners with 100% attendance are Year 1!

Reception and Years 2, 3, 4 and 5 all had attendance over 96%.

Overall school attendance is at 97.9% - this is a great start to this year!

Dojo



Year 1 are the winners of dojos this week.

Year 4 finished 2nd, with Reception in third.

Overall, Year 1 have moved into top spot.