

St Francis CE Primary School & Nursery



Friday 12th September 2025

Dates for your diary

Head Teacher update

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been a fantastic start to the term with lots booked in for the rest of the academic year. This week, classes have launched into new reading books as part of the new English scheme, yesterday we launched our first module as part of 'My Happy Mind' and all of our extra-curricular activities have kicked off with excitement!

Choir are looking for some more members if your child would be interested in participating, they would be welcome to come in and join on a Wednesday morning at 8.15 am.

It was wonderful to welcome so many of you into school on Wednesday morning for the 'Meet the Teacher' event; we do hope this was useful in outlining how things work in your child(ren)s new year group and also for you to meet the staff working with them over the next year. Parents evening is planned for before half-term deliberately to ensure transition into new year groups has gone well, but please do talk to us before then if you have any questions or concerns.

This weekend is the annual Bournville Heritage Open Day, but this year is extra special because it is also the Centenary year of St Francis Church. As part of this, the Church has put together a book, titled 'Celebrating Bournville and the Centenary of St. Francis Church'

which will be on sale from St Francis Church this weekend. Our school is represented with a beautiful, colourful spread of our children's work and a piece about the logo, designed by Keziah in Y6 last year.

In Church this weekend, there will be an exhibition and stalls with lots to see which will include a display of our children's work from a Bournville themed writing project earlier in the year- I am told it is set up next to the chocolate model of the church, so do pop in and take a look!

Reminders

- Teazel Avenue is a car free street between 08:30-09:00am and 15:00-16:00. Please do not drive or park on Teazel Avenue during these times. You can part and stride from: Mulberry Road, Woodlands Park Road, Woodlands Park, Rowheath, Hay Green Lane, Cedar Road, Heath Road.
- FRIENDS 'Welcome afternoon tea' from 3:30 in the library on Friday 19th September

Kind regards,

Jess Mattocks

Head Teacher

Collective worship

This half term, our Collective Worship is centred around new beginnings and a celebration of our 'High Five Values':

✨ *Compassion*

✨ *Honesty*

✨ *Integrity*

✨ *Respect*

✨ *Perseverance*

On Monday, we explored the story of 'The Lonely Man' from *Genesis 2*, focusing on God's vision for Adam and Eve—a vision of love, purpose, and working together. This story helped us reflect on our own school vision:

"Together in God's love, we aspire to be our best."

Just as Adam and Eve were called to live and work in unity, we too are called to support one another and grow together. Our High Five Values guide us in this journey, helping us build a

school community where everyone feels safe, respected, and inspired to reach their full potential.

Throughout the term, we'll continue to explore how each value supports our shared vision and how we can live them out in our daily lives.

E-Safety - Top Tips for Recognising and Managing Stress

The latest update to 'Keeping Children Safe in Education' includes clarification that misinformation, disinformation and conspiracy theories are recognised safeguarding harms. Although they might seem far-fetched, for many people they are very convincing – especially when presented by persuasive influencers or sensationalist videos online. This guide unpacks the risks, including isolation, anxiety, and exposure to extremist content, that can arise when conspiracies go unchecked.

It also highlights how conspiracy theories can erode critical thinking and trust in reliable sources – including schools, families, and the media. With practical advice for nurturing curiosity, encouraging scepticism, and safeguarding children's digital experiences, this edition of Wake Up Wednesday helps adults to tackle tricky topics in a calm and confident manner.

Sources:

- KCSIE 2025: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/keeping-children-safe-in-education--2>
- DfE Filtering and Monitoring Standards 2023: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/meeting-digital-and-technology-standards-in-schools-and-colleges/filter...>
- Educate Against Hate: <https://educateagainsthate.com>
- Centre for Countering Digital Hate (CCDH): <https://www.counterhate.com>
- Ofcom Children and Parents Media Use Report: <https://www.ofcom.org.uk>

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. Carefully delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit thenationalcollege.com.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about CONSPIRACY THEORIES

Conspiracy theories are false or misleading beliefs that explain events as secret plots, often involving powerful groups. While once fringe, they are now more accessible through digital media, online influencers and because of algorithmic recommendations. The DfE guidance document, 'Keeping Children Safe in Education' (KCSIE) explicitly recognises conspiracy theories as potential content risks. This guide will help parents and educators understand the risks, spot the signs, and build children's resilience to conspiracy theories.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

UNDERMINING TRUST

Conspiracy theories can lead children and young people to distrust democratic institutions and British values, teachers, and even their own families and friends. This erosion of trust makes young people more vulnerable to extremist narratives by keeping them from trusted sources of information.

ONLINE ALGORITHM TRAPS

Social media platforms can often recommend relevant content, once a user engages with conspiracy-related content of post, algorithms push more of the same, thereby creating an echo chamber that can intensify their beliefs.

MENTAL HEALTH IMPACT

Exposure to frightening conspiracy content, such as global plots, viruses, or government control, can fuel feelings of anxiety, paranoia, or hopelessness. For some young people, it can trigger premonitions or obsessive thinking.

GATEWAY TO EXTREMISM

Conspiracy theories can often overlap with extremist ideologies. Narratives that blame specific groups, such as politicians, scientists, or particular ethnic groups, can groom children to accept that hatred, bigotry, and radicalisation.

CONFLICT WITH PEERS

Belief in conspiracy theories can lead to isolation or conflict at school. Children may struggle with peer relationships if they express these beliefs or become distrustful of others who disagree. Sometimes, a child's beliefs can even result in a strengthening of the belief in the conspiracy theory.

ERODED CRITICAL THINKING

Young people influenced by conspiracies may reject evidence-based learning. This risks undermining their academic progress and weakening their ability to make informed, aware decisions, or engage in healthy debate.

Advice for Parents & Educators

I WANT TO BELIEVE

CREATE SAFE CONVERSATIONS

Don't think or discuss any questions that children and young people ask about conspiracy theories. Instead, create open, judgement-free spaces to talk. This strengthens trust and makes it more likely they will confide in you.

PROMOTE CRITICAL THINKING

Teach young people how to assess information critically. Encourage them to ask appropriate questions, such as: 'Who is telling me this?' 'What evidence is there?' 'What do other trusted sources say?' Use real examples from current media to explain your answers and reasoning.

MONITOR DIGITAL BEHAVIOUR

Be aware of the content children are accessing, especially on platforms such as TikTok, YouTube, or Reddit. Use parental controls, but more importantly, maintain ongoing dialogue about online experiences and influences.

REINFORCE RELIABLE SOURCES

Point children toward trustworthy and reliable sources of news and information in a variety of formats tailored to the young person's age. Build habits of seeking news using reliable sources, and teach them how to spot misleading content.

Meet Our Expert

Brandon O'Reilly is a headteacher and digital education consultant with over a decade of experience in education. As Director of Digital Strategy across multiple schools and an adviser to The National College, he specialises in digital safety, PREVENT, and pastoral care.

WakeUpWednesday The National College

Source: See full reference for original guidance: <https://thenationalcollege.com/what-conspiracy-theories>

[@wake_up_weds](https://twitter.com/wake_up_weds)
[/www.thenationalcollege](https://www.facebook.com/thenationalcollege)
[@wake.up.wednesday](https://www.instagram.com/wake.up.wednesday)
[@wake.up.weds](https://www.tiktok.com/@wake.up.weds)

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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

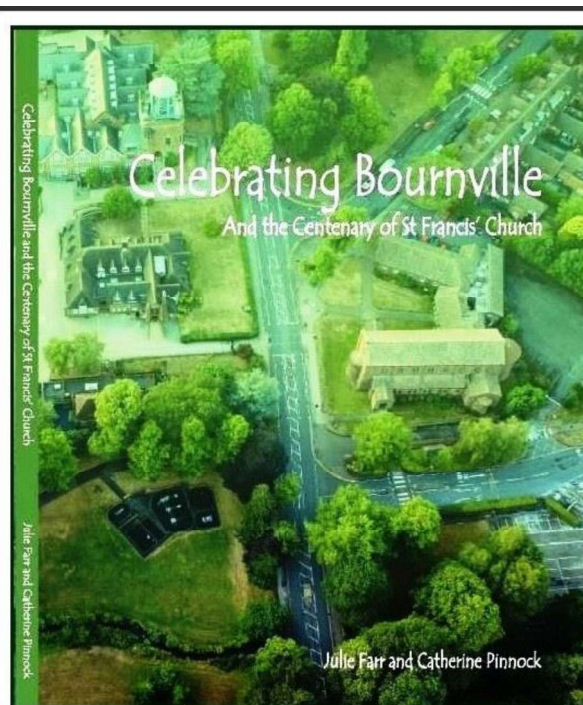
7.30pm Wednesday 3rd December 2025

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



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



Bournville Heritage Open Day is back for 2025, on Saturday 13th September 10am-4pm.

Visit George Cadbury's famous Bournville garden village as 18 historic venues open for FREE as part of [Heritage Open Days](#) and [Birmingham Heritage Week](#).

Enjoy tours, exhibitions, activities and family fun and experience the stunning architecture and design of this special place.

The 18 fantastic sites opening this year are...

- [Selly Manor Museum](#). A Tudor manor and medieval hall rebuilt by the Cadbury family.
- The Rest House. Displaying [The Museum of Us exhibition](#) celebrating 125 years of Bournville Village Trust.
- [The Carillon](#). Hear this remarkable instrument play throughout the day (please note there are no tours of the Carillon tower this year).
- Quaker Meeting House. Built in 1905, a Y-shaped building designed by W.A. Harvey.
- Bournville Almshouses. Guided heritage tours of a unique building built by Richard Cadbury. Pre-booked tickets only. Please be aware tour is now SOLD OUT.
- [St Francis Church](#). A beautiful church, consecrated in 1925 and celebrating its centenary this year.
- Vintage Vehicles at Bournville Green. See historic cars at Bournville village green (weather permitting).
- [St Lazar's Church](#). An incredible Serbian Orthodox Church with a spectacular interior.
- [Bournville Village Primary School](#). See the stunning George Hall and learn about the beautiful frescoes.
- [Bournville Model Boat Club](#). See and have a go at sailing these splendid boats.
- The War Memorial Room. Situated in the Pavilion to remember Cadbury employees.
- Cadbury Concert Hall. A stunning music venue in the heart of the factory.
- Cadbury Archives. Enjoy tours of this newly refurbished treasure trove. Pre-booked tickets only. Please be aware tour is now SOLD OUT.
- [Bournville Crown Green Bowls Club](#). Have a go at crown green bowls at this iconic club.
- [Dame Elizabeth Hall](#). Opened in 1930, discover the story of the Bournville Village Festival.
- Manor Farm Park. A self-guided 2km heritage trail linking 10 sites at the park, with tours at 11am and 2pm.

And new for 2025!

- The Old Bank. One of the oldest buildings in Bournville, that was formerly a bank and Estate Office.

- [Cadbury World](#). Free entry tickets to Cadbury are fully booked.

Find out more here: [Bournville Heritage Open Day 2025 : Bournville Village Trust](#)

Celebrations



Happy Birthday to those with birthdays this week!



Agnes in Year 5

Alina in Year 4

George in Year 6

Star of the Week



Nursery: Esther for settling into nursery so beautifully and being a sensible of the class already! Well done Esther.

Reception: The whole of Reception for trying so hard to remember our rules and expectations and being such superstars with our first week of Phonics learning. What a fantastic start to the Year!

Year 1: Will for such an amazing start to Year 1. You try so hard in everything you do. You are such a brilliant role model to your friends! You are a star! Keep it up!

Year 2: Farida - for having such an amazing start to year 2 and showing our High 5 values.

Year 3: Lily for having a fantastic start to year 3 and always showing kindness to everyone around her.

Year 4: Alina for a fabulous start to Year 4, consistently meeting expectations and showing our values.

Year 5: Meela - for a great start to Year 5 and embracing any challenges that present themselves.

Year 6: Kurt - for demonstrating excellent perseverance with all his work this week. An excellent start to Year 6!

Star Writer



Nursery: Cameron

Reception: Rowan

Year 1: Phoebe

Year 2: Theodore

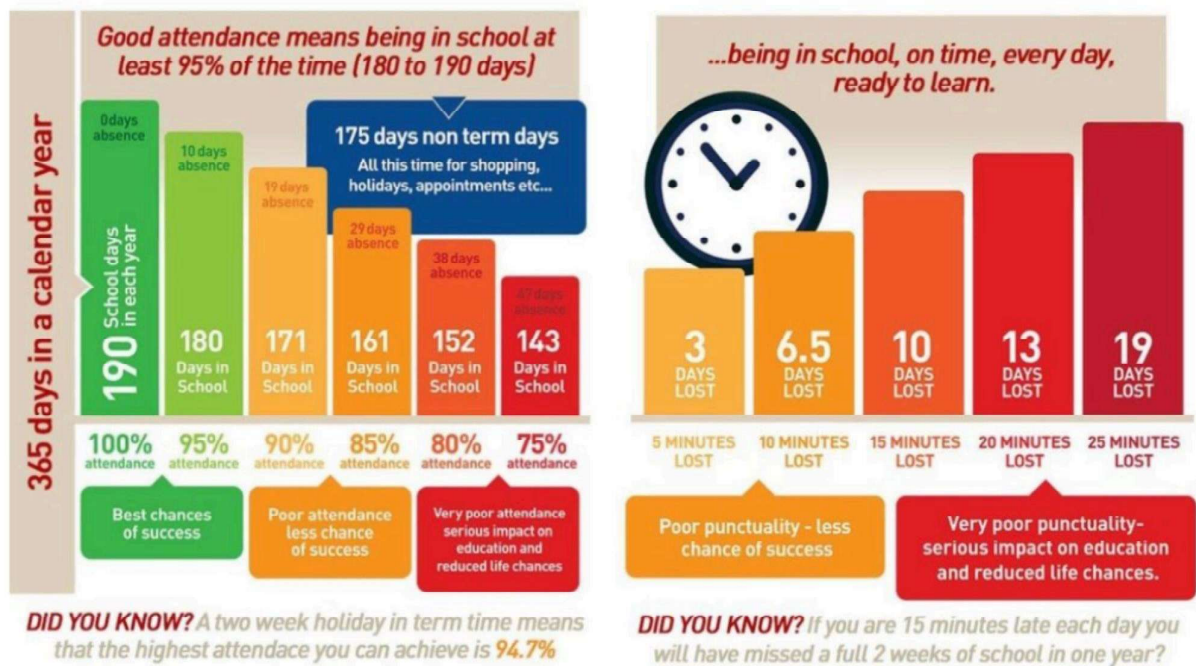
Year 3: Jesse

Year 4: Niamh

Year 5: Amanda

Year 6: Scott

Attendance



Our overall winners with 100% attendance are Year 4!

Reception and Years 1, 2, 3, and 6 all had attendance over 96%.

Overall school attendance is at 98.1% - this is a great start to this year!

Dojo



Year 6 are first winners of the weekly dojos this term.

Year 5 finished 2nd, with Year 2 in third.

Well done to all pupils who are continuing to earn dojos.