

St Francis CE Primary School & Nursery



Friday 13th February 2026

Diary Dates

Monday 16 th - Friday 20 th February	HALF TERM- closed to pupils
Monday 23 rd February	School re-opens to pupils Girl guides, girl scouts and Brownies are invited to wear their uniforms today to mark World Thinking Day on the 22 nd
Thursday 26 th February	9.00 – 9.45 am Parent and Child Y4 Multiplication workshops
Friday 27 th February	FRIENDS Cake sale after school
Throughout March	Brain Tumour Awareness month
Tuesday 3 rd March	Parents PGL Meeting 3.45 – 4.15 pm
Thursday 5 th March	World Book Day (dress-up> details tbc)
Thursday 5 th March	Yr 6 trip to Pagoda and Church
Monday 9 th March	Y1 class assembly from 9am- Lent
Monday 9 th - Friday 20 th March	Assessment week
Thursday 12 th March	STEM Day
Thursday 19 th March	Y3 class assembly from 9am- Eid
Friday 20 th March	Red Nose Day- non-uniform (donation made via ParentPay)
W/b 16 th March	Neurodiversity week

Head Teacher update

Dear parents and carers,

It has been a wonderful and purposeful week in school, filled with reflection, celebration and learning beyond the classroom.

This morning, we gathered for our **Values Ambassador Assembly**, where we proudly recognised those children chosen by their teachers for consistently demonstrating *all* of our school values, day in and day out. These ambassadors are not selected for a single moment, but because they model compassion, honesty, integrity, respect and perseverance in everything they do. They truly lead by example, setting the standard for others and reminding us that our values are not just words — they are lived actions. We are incredibly proud of the maturity and character they show across the school community.

Yesterday, we were delighted to welcome parents to our “*Pioneering Healthy Habits*” workshop. Thank you to all who attended and engaged so positively. Supporting children to build healthy routines around nutrition, sleep, tech, exercise and emotional wellbeing is most powerful when school and home work together, and it was fantastic to have such thoughtful discussion around this important theme.

On Wednesday, Reception treated us to a fantastic class assembly celebrating Chinese New Year. The children spoke clearly and confidently about traditions, celebrations and the importance of family. Their singing and enthusiasm were a real highlight — well done to all of our young performers.

This week we have also been marking **Safer Internet Week**, with age-appropriate activities and discussions across the school. Children have been learning about staying safe online, respectful communication and what to do if something makes them feel uncomfortable. In an increasingly digital world, these conversations are vital, and we encourage families to continue them at home.

Looking ahead, we are excited to continue building these wider learning experiences:

- On **Monday 23rd February**, we will be recognising *World Thinking Day*. Children who are members of Guides, Brownies, Rainbows, Scouts, Cubs or Beavers are warmly invited to wear their uniforms to school to celebrate their involvement in these important organisations.
- On **Wednesday 25th February**, clergy from St Francis Church will be leading prayer workshops across the school. These sessions will provide children with an opportunity to explore prayer in an age-appropriate and reflective way, supporting our spiritual development offer as a Church school.
- On **Thursday 26th February**, our Year 4 pupils will take part in a **Multiplication Tables Check (MTC) workshop**, helping them to build confidence, speed and fluency as they prepare for the statutory check later in the year.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

Warm regards,

Jess Mattocks

World Book Day- Thursday 5th March

We are really looking forward to celebrating *World Book Day* in school this year and would love the children to join in the fun!

This year, we are inviting children to come to school inspired by a favourite book character — however, we are **not** expecting full costumes or complete outfits.

Instead, we encourage children to:

- **Wear their normal school uniform**
- Add simple headwear, props or small accessories linked to a character
- Keep their character choice a little secret so classmates can guess who they are from the clues!

For example:

- A *Harry Potter* fan might wear a cape over their uniform and carry a wand.
- A *Pippi Longstocking* fan might wear mismatched tights.
- A *The Lorax* fan may sport a bright yellow moustache.
- A *Paddington* fan could wear a red hat and carry a (small!) suitcase.

We hope this approach keeps costs low for families while still making the day imaginative and fun. It also adds a lovely interactive element, as children try to work out who each other might be!

We have shared here some low-cost ideas¹ to help you get started.

We can't wait to see the creativity on display! 📖 ✨

Collective worship

Our focus value for this half term is **Honesty**. Throughout our collective worship sessions, we will be exploring what it means to be truthful in our words and actions, and why honesty is such an important part of building trust and strong relationships. Our guiding Bible verse for this value is:

"The Lord delights in those that are truthful." – **Proverbs 12:22**

This week in Collective Worship, we reflected on the life of **Aung San Suu Kyi** as part of our "Giants of Faith" series, linking her story to our school value of **honesty**.

We explored how she became known around the world for speaking up about what she believed was right, even when it was difficult and came at great personal cost. The children considered how honesty is not always easy, particularly when telling the truth may lead to challenge or opposition. We discussed how being honest means standing up for what is right, speaking truthfully, and acting with integrity — even when no one is watching.

¹<https://www.stfrancisprimaryandnursery.co.uk/page/?title=Useful+Links&pid=99&action=saved>

We also talked about how history and leadership can be complex, and that being a person of influence carries great responsibility. This helped pupils to think deeply about how our values guide our decisions and actions every day.

Through this, children were encouraged to reflect on their own lives:

How can we be honest in our friendships?

How can we show integrity in our work?

How can we be brave enough to tell the truth kindly and respectfully?

Prayer

Dear God,

Thank you for the value of honesty.

Help us to be truthful in what we say and do,
even when it feels difficult or uncomfortable.

Give us courage to stand up for what is right,
wisdom to speak kindly,
and strength to act with integrity.

May our words be fair,
our actions be trustworthy,
and our hearts be guided by your truth.

Amen.

Honesty

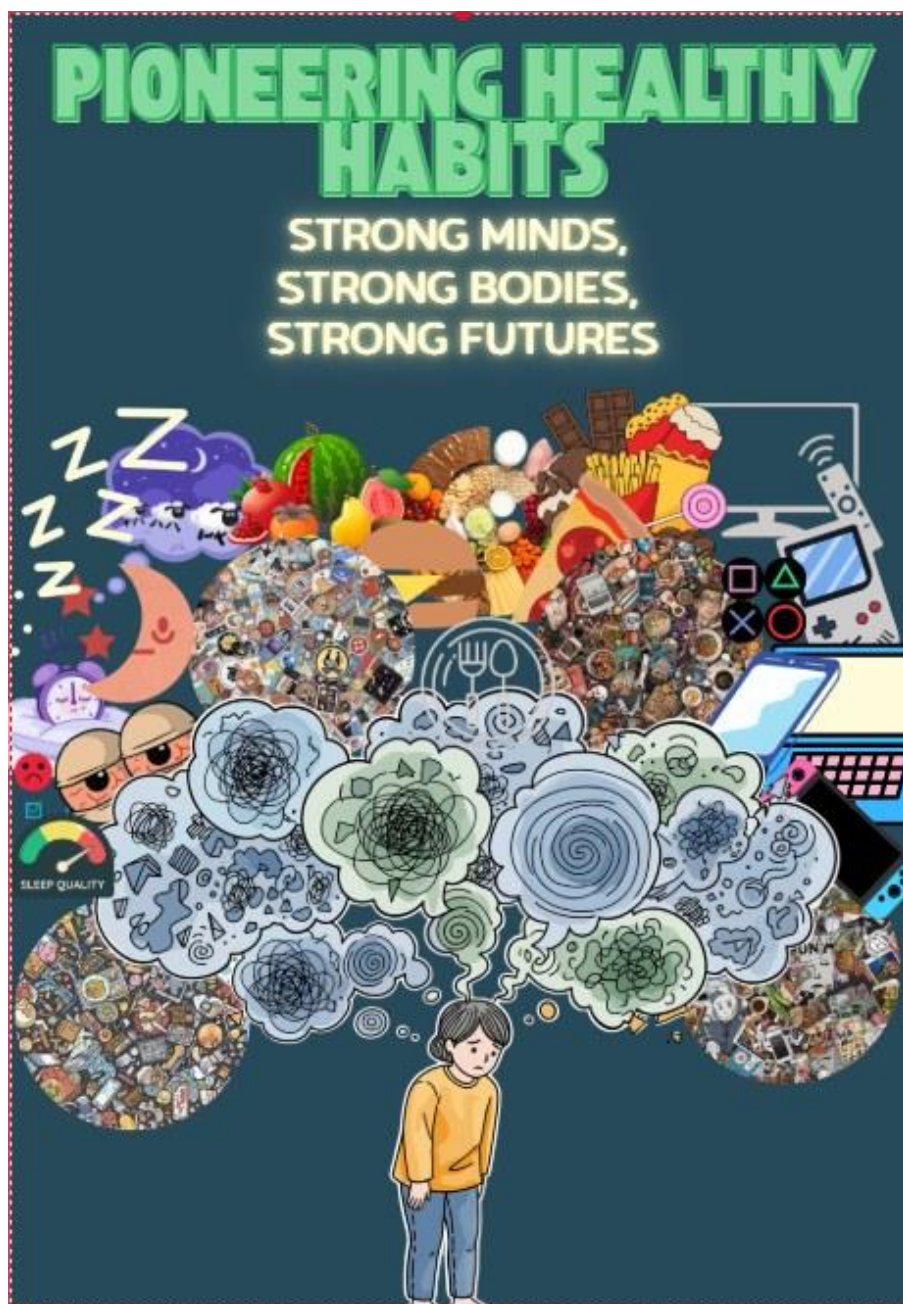


'Zacchaeus the Tax Collector' Luke 19: 1-10

God delights in those
who are truthful.

Proverbs 12:22

Parent Workshop: Screen Time, Sleep and Diet




Yesterday, a group of parents joined us for a workshop exploring the important relationship between screen time, sleep and diet, and how these factors influence children's learning, behaviour and wellbeing.

Drawing on current educational and health research, the session examined how screen habits, sleep quality and nutritional routines impact key areas such as attention, emotional regulation, memory and engagement in the classroom. We looked at national guidance alongside emerging evidence, highlighting how imbalance in any one of these areas can affect a child's readiness to learn.

The workshop encouraged parents to reflect on their own family routines in light of the research shared. Those who attended will now be using a short home diary to monitor screen time, sleep and diet, helping us gather further data and real-world insight into patterns and experiences within our school community.

Leaflets summarising the workshop's key messages are now **readily available from the main school foyer** for any families who would like to learn more.

We are also continuing to build a parent forum focused on this important modern-day challenge. If you have an interest in contributing your experiences or supporting future discussions, we would **love to hear from you**. Please express your interest by completing our form  <https://forms.office.com/e/73SGKvqLcR>², or contact the school office for more information.

Thank you to all the parents who attended and engaged so positively with the discussion. Working in partnership with families allows us to develop a clearer, evidence-informed understanding of how best to support pupils' wellbeing and success in school.

Optional School Fund



We would be hugely grateful for a voluntary contribution of **£15.00 per child, per year**. This can be paid conveniently via **Arbor**, either as a one-off payment or in **three £5 instalments** spread across the school terms.

Your donations make a real difference. They help us to provide essential consumable resources that the children use every day, such as art materials, stationery, and classroom supplies. School Fund also supports **additional activities, curriculum projects, gardening and outdoor learning**, and **extra equipment** that benefits all pupils throughout the year.

²<https://forms.office.com/e/73SGKvqLcR>

Every contribution, no matter the size, helps us continue offering the best possible experiences for our children. Thank you for your support.

Arbor Update for Parents



We would like to inform you that all lunch credits and debts have now been successfully transferred to Arbor. As part of this change, we kindly ask that you **no longer use ParentPay** for any school payments.

Please ensure that all future payments are made through Arbor so that your child's account remains accurate and up to date.

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact the school office.

Thank you for your cooperation and for supporting this transition.

Internet Safety Week 2026



This year's theme is **"Smart tech, safe choices – Exploring the safe and responsible use of AI."** With more children now encountering AI through apps, games, chatbots and smart devices, this theme encourages pupils to think carefully about how technology works and how to use it safely. Schools across the country will be helping children understand how AI shapes their online experiences and how to make positive, informed choices when using it. [saferinternet.org.uk]³

here are also **free resources and top tips** available for families, helping parents and carers feel confident supporting their child's digital life at home. [content.go...livery.com]⁴

Internet Safety Week is an important reminder that keeping children safe online is a **team effort**. By talking openly, staying curious, and exploring online spaces together, we can help our children enjoy technology in a safer and more positive way.

★ Questions About What They Do Online

- "What games or apps are your favourites at the moment?"
- "Who do you like chatting or playing with online?"
- "Can you show me something fun you've done online today?"

🚦 Questions to Help Them Think About Safety

- "What would you do if you saw something online that made you feel worried or confused?"
- "Has anyone online ever asked you for your name, age, or where you live?"
- "Do you know what to do if someone is unkind to you in a game?"

🧠 Questions That Encourage Critical Thinking

- "How do you know if something you see online is real or not?"
- "Why do you think some people pretend to be someone else online?"
- "What do you think a 'good choice' online looks like?"

❤️ Questions to Support Healthy Relationships Online

- "How do you feel when you're playing or watching things online?"
- "Has anything online made you feel upset or uncomfortable lately?"
- "How do you show kindness to others when you're playing online?"

🕒 Questions About Time Spent Online

³<https://saferinternet.org.uk/safer-internet-day/safer-internet-day-2026>

⁴<https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/UKCUMBERLAND/bulletins/407e4de>

- “What helps you know when you’ve had enough screen time?”
- “What offline things do you enjoy just as much as playing online?”
- “Should we make a plan together for your online time this week?”

✂ Questions About Rules and Boundaries

- “Do you remember what our family rules are for being safe online?”
- “Why do you think some apps have age limits?”
- “Is there anything online you’re unsure about or want help understanding?”


CHILDREN'S ONLINE SAFETY

5 rules for staying safe on the internet

- 1** Always ask a grown-up
Check with a parent or other trusted adult before going online.
- 2** Spot suspicious messages
Be on the io-kout for scams, tricks and scary content.
- 3** Be kind and respectful
Think about your feelings and other people's feelings
- 4** Don't share personal information
Keep your name, address and other details private.
- 5** Stick to time limits
Balance online activities with offline play and sleep.

Age restrictions for websites and apps

YouTube **13+**
 instagram **16+** WhatsApp Facebook

 Celebrating Our RHS Grant and the Launch of Our Nature Park Project



your trees are being prepared!



We are delighted to share the news that our school has successfully secured a grant from the Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) to support our involvement in the National Education Nature Park.

This fantastic opportunity has been made possible thanks to the hard work and dedication of **Louise Christie and Mr Cox**, who have organised the project from the outset. Louise, together with Mr Cox, has led the planning with great care and enthusiasm, ensuring that our school is well positioned to make the most of this inspiring initiative. We are incredibly grateful for their commitment and are excited to see how the project develops — and of course, to celebrate the completed piece once it comes to fruition.

The National Education Nature Park is a UK-wide programme encouraging schools and other education settings to transform their outdoor spaces into thriving habitats for nature. By creating and enhancing green areas, pupils contribute to a nationwide network of biodiversity-rich environments while gaining valuable knowledge and skills in sustainability, conservation, and environmental stewardship. The scheme empowers young people to take meaningful action for nature and climate, with clear links to curriculum learning across multiple subjects.

Thanks to this RHS grant, we will be able to further enhance our school grounds — improving habitats for wildlife, expanding opportunities for outdoor learning, and involving pupils in real, purposeful conservation work. We look forward to sharing updates as the project progresses and celebrating the positive impact our school community will create.

We would like to extend our sincere thanks to the RHS for their support and encouragement in helping us take part in this exciting initiative.



Happy Birthday to those with birthdays this week



Leo in Year 5

William in Reception

Benjy in Year 4

Abi in Year 5

Charlie in Year 5

Oliver in Year 3

Theo in Year 2

Thea in Year 1

Brodie in Nursery

Clara in Year 5

Grace in Year 1

Willow in Year 5

Value Ambassador



Nursery - Cameron

Reception - Keira

Year 1 - Thomas

Year 2 - Luke

Year 3 - Jesse

Year 4 - Darcy

Year 5 - Leo

Year 6 - Lilia

Attendance Champions



Attendance Champions

- Overall Winners (99.3% Attendance): Nursery
- Over 96% Attendance: Year 3 Year 1

Whole School Attendance:

96.6% for the academic year so far – fantastic effort!

Dojo



Dojo Winners This Week

1. Year 1
2. Year 5
3. Year 6

Dojo Winners This Term


1. Year 5
2. Year 2
3. Year 6

Attendance Matters

We know that winter brings its share of sniffles, colds, and sometimes challenging **adverse weather**, but being in school every day is still vital for your child's learning and progress. Most minor illnesses don't need to keep children at home, and attending school helps them stay on track.

If your child is genuinely too unwell to attend, please let us know by phoning the school office **0121 459 5548** or emailing **parents.stf@fioretti.co.uk**.

Not sure if they're well enough for school? The NHS provides clear guidance on common illnesses and when children should stay home:

 Is my child too ill for school? – NHS⁵

For further details on attendance expectations, illness guidance, and what to do during bad weather, **please take a look at the posters below**.

Thank you for supporting excellent attendance – every day counts!

⁵<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

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.i/love



UK Health
Security
Agency



Should I keep my child off school?

Yes

Until...

Chickenpox	at least 5 days from the onset of the rash and until all blisters have crusted over
Diarrhoea and Vomiting	48 hours after their last episode
Cold and Flu-like illness (including COVID-19)	they no longer have a high temperature and feel well enough to attend. Follow the national guidance if they've tested positive for COVID-19.
Impetigo	their sores have crusted and healed, or 48 hours after they started antibiotics
Measles	4 days after the rash first appeared
Mumps	5 days after the swelling started
Scabies	they've had their first treatment
Scarlet Fever	24 hours after they started taking antibiotics
Whooping Cough	48 hours after they started taking antibiotics

No

but make sure you let their school or nursery know about...

Hand, foot and mouth	Glandular fever
Head lice	Tonsillitis
Threadworms	Slapped cheek



SCAN ME

Advice and guidance

To find out more, search for health protection in schools or scan the QR code or visit <https://qrco.de/minfec>.



Struggling to get your
child to school?

Talk to us

-we are here to help!



Things to do locally



Bournville Village Children's Festival

Saturday 27th June 2026

*We are looking for children aged between 4yrs
and 18 yrs to dance around the Maypole at this
year's Festival*

Everyone is Welcome!

*Registration is at Dame Elizabeth Hall, B30 1UA
on Monday 23rd February
between 6.30pm and 7.30pm.*

If you can't make it to registration in person contact:

Maypole Admin on 07817 323401



Little Monkeyz
February Holiday Club

A fun-filled holiday club packed with activities to keep children active, creative, and engaged through the February half term.

Arts & Crafts * Multi Sports * Fun Games * Food Activities * & Much More!

Key Information

Dates: 16 th – 20 th February	Location: Tiverton Academy Selly Oak B29 6BW
Time: 9:00am – 3:00pm	
Ages: 4–11 years	
Price: £18 per day	

Contact Us

For more information or to enquire about bookings, please contact us:

enquiries@littlemonkeyz.co.uk
 07563 876094

Ofsted Registered

The poster for Little Monkeyz February Holiday Club features a blue sky background with white clouds and colorful triangular bunting. At the top, a cartoon monkey is peeking over a cloud. Below the title, there are five circular icons representing different activities: Arts & Crafts (paint palette), Multi Sports (soccer ball and basketball), Fun Games (board games), Food Activities (sandwiches), and & Much More! (question mark). The 'Key Information' section is enclosed in a yellow-bordered box and lists dates, time, ages, and price. The 'Contact Us' section provides an email address and a phone number. An Ofsted Registered logo is in the bottom right corner.

Bournville & Selly Oak Little League



Netball for School Years 3 to 6

Try-out sessions in a Sports Hall
with qualified beginners' instruction

Saturday 28th February 2026
Saturday 14th March 2026
From 9:15am to 10:30am

Come to one session on each day if you can!
Cost £5.00 per session, allowable
against the season playing fee.
Places are limited.
We may have to operate waiting lists.

at University of Birmingham School
Weoley Park Road, Birmingham B29 6QU

Saturday morning League matches
from 18th April to the end of term
**All abilities welcome, no
experience is necessary.**
Qualified and safe coaching (DBS checked)
Season playing fee: £25.00.



Contact details:

Mrs Dianne Barber (League Organiser)

0121 472 0114 or 07771 851903

To reserve your place, download and return our application form!



<http://www.birminghamcitynetballclub.org.uk/BSOLL/BSOLL.html>



**BIRMINGHAM
CITY** MORE THAN FOOTBALL
FOUNDATION

Girls

**Player Development Centres
Expression of Interest forms**

**Age groups for U8s, u10s,
u12s, u14s and u16s.**

**Direct pathway into our ETC
and Academy**

You may have to log in via an email
address to complete the form.



Awards



2025 – 2027



**Rights
Respecting
Schools**

UNITED KINGDOM

unicef 

The UNICEF logo consists of a white globe with a mother holding a child, surrounded by a laurel wreath.

**Bronze
Rights Committed**