

St Francis CE Primary School & Nursery



Friday 27th February 2026

Diary Dates

Monday 16th- Friday 20th February	HALF TERM- closed to pupils
Monday 23rd 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 26th February	9.00 – 9.45 am Parent and Child Y4 Multiplication workshops
Friday 27th February	<u>FRIENDS</u> Cake sale after school
Throughout March	Brain Tumour Awareness month
Tuesday 3rd March	Parents PGL Meeting 3.45 – 4.15 pm
Thursday 5th March	World Book Day (dress-up> details tbc)
Thursday 5th March	Yr 6 trip to Pagoda and Church
Monday 9th March	Y1 class assembly from 9am- Lent
Monday 9th- Friday 20th March	Assessment week
Thursday 12th March	STEM Day
Thursday 19th March	Y3 class assembly from 9am- Eid
Friday 20th March	Red Nose Day- non-uniform (donation made via ParentPay)
W/b 16th March	Neurodiversity week

Head Teacher update

Dear parents and carers,

It has been another full and joyful week in school with so much to celebrate.

On Thursday, we were delighted to welcome our Year 4 parents into school for the **Multiplication Tables Check (MTC) workshop**. It was wonderful to see parents and children working side-by-side on practical activities designed to support rapid recall and confidence with times tables. The atmosphere in the room was positive and purposeful, and we hope

families left feeling equipped with ideas and strategies to use at home. Thank you to everyone who attended and engaged so enthusiastically.

Our choir members had an unforgettable experience attending **Young Voices at BP Pulse Birmingham**. Performing as part of such a large choir, in such an incredible venue, is always a memory that lasts a lifetime. The children represented St Francis beautifully, both in their enthusiasm and their behaviour. Huge thanks to **Mr Pugh, Mrs Mezie-Okoye and Mrs Vaughan** for giving their time to rehearse, prepare and accompany the children for this very special event.

On Monday, we marked **World Thinking Day** and it was a pleasure to see so many children proudly wearing their Guiding and Scouting uniforms. This global day of reflection celebrates friendship, community and the values that underpin these organisations. It was lovely to recognise the commitment so many of our children show beyond the school day.

We have also written to you today regarding **Parents' Evening**, which will take place during the last week of term. Booking slots will go live at **5pm today**, so please do log on and secure your preferred appointment time as soon as possible. These meetings are an important opportunity to discuss your child's progress and next steps.

Looking ahead, we are very much looking forward to **World Book Day next week**. As previously shared, children are invited to come dressed as a favourite book character using simple props or accessories alongside their school uniform. We cannot wait to see the creativity — and to guess who everyone has chosen! Reading remains at the heart of what we do, and this day is always a wonderful celebration of books and imagination.

Year 6 are also preparing for their visit to the **Pagoda next Thursday**, which promises to be a valuable and enriching experience to support their learning. We look forward to hearing all about it.

Finally, March is **Brain Tumour Awareness Month**, which is incredibly close to our hearts here at St Francis. As a school community, we remember our superhero, Ben, with love and pride. To mark this important month, we will be holding a **Wear a Hat Day on 26th March**. Children are invited to wear a hat to school, and we will also be selling pin badges, with all monies raised going towards Brain Tumour Awareness. We hope you will support us as we come together once again in Ben's memory.

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

As we begin a new half term, we also turn our focus in Collective Worship to a new school value: **Integrity**. Our guiding verse comes from **2 Corinthians 8:21** —

“We are working to do what is right, not only in the eyes of God but also in the eyes of each other.”

This reminds us that integrity is about choosing to do the right thing, even when no one is watching, and ensuring our actions match our words. We will explore this through the Bible story of Jesus being tempted in the desert (**Matthew 4:1–11**), where Jesus shows great strength of character by standing firm in what he knew to be right. Throughout this half term,

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

we will encourage the children to think deeply about honesty, courage and moral strength, and how living with integrity shapes who we are both inside and out.

This week in Collective Worship, we explored the story of Jesus being tempted in the desert (Matthew 4:1–11). After fasting for forty days and nights, Jesus was approached by the devil and tempted three times — to turn stones into bread, to test God’s protection, and to gain power over all the kingdoms of the world. Each time, Jesus was offered something that might have seemed impressive or satisfying in the moment. Yet each time, he chose to stand firm.

We reflected on how this story teaches us about **integrity**. Jesus knew who he was and what was right. He did not allow hunger, pride or the promise of power to change his values. Even when it would have been easier to give in, he chose to do what was right in the eyes of God.

For us, integrity means making good choices even when nobody is watching. It means not showing off to impress others, not taking the easy option if it is wrong, and staying true to our beliefs and values. Like Jesus, we are called to stand firm in what we know is right — in our classrooms, on the playground and at home.

Prayer

Dear God,

Thank you for the example of Jesus, who showed integrity and strength when he was tempted.

Help us to choose what is right, even when it is difficult.

Give us courage to stand firm in our values and wisdom to make good choices.

May our actions match our words,

so that we do what is right in your eyes and in the eyes of others.

Amen.

Integrity

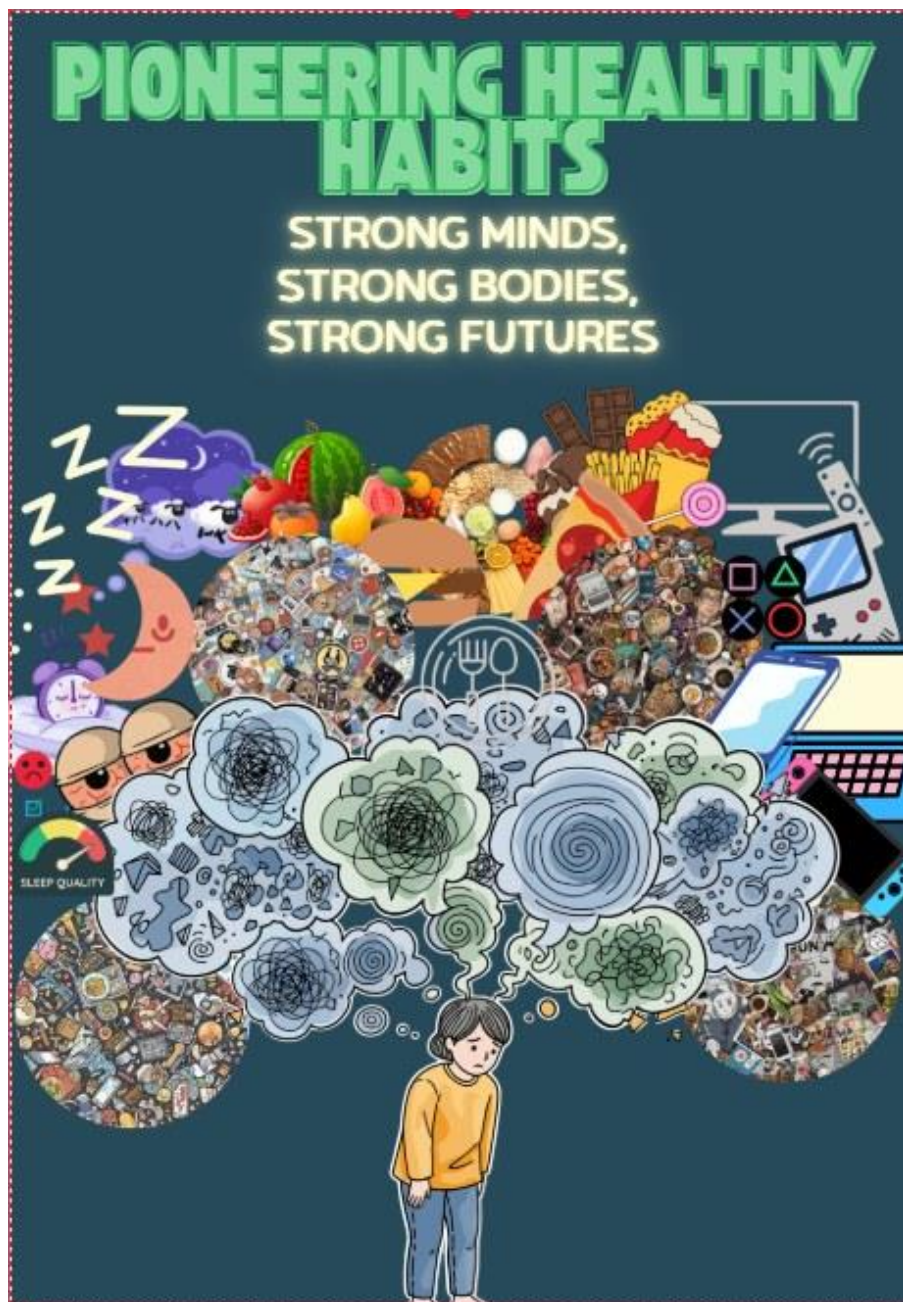


'Jesus is tempted in the desert' Matthew 4: 1-11

We are working to do what is right, not only in the eyes of God but also in the eyes of each other.

Corinthians 8:21

Not All Screen Time Is Equal



Thank you to those who attended our recent morning parent session on screen time, diet and sleep. It was great to share ideas and reflect together on how small, everyday habits can make a big difference to children's wellbeing.

One of the key messages was simple: screen time itself isn't the problem—it depends on how it is used.

Some screen time is active and beneficial—for example, learning-based apps, watching educational programmes or creating and researching. This type of use encourages thinking, conversation and skill development.

Other screen time is more passive—such as scrolling through short videos or extended gaming—which can have less benefit, particularly if it replaces sleep, physical activity or family time.

We also explored how closely linked these areas are:


- Screen time can affect how easily children settle to sleep
- Sleep supports concentration, behaviour and emotional wellbeing in school
- Diet can be influenced when eating becomes linked to screens

Working together

In school, we support children to understand healthy habits and make positive choices. We know that routines at home play a key role too, and we really value working in partnership with families.

A few gentle reminders that can help:

- Creating calm, screen-free time before bed
- Keeping mealtimes as a chance to talk and connect
- Encouraging a balance of activities, including outdoor play and reading
- Showing interest in what your child is watching or playing

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/73SGKvqLcR²>, or contact the school office for more information.

Feeling Safe and Supported at St Francis

At St Francis, your child's safety and happiness are at the heart of everything we do. When school and families communicate well, children feel more secure, more confident and better able to learn.

Please Keep Talking to Us

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

If you notice changes at home—big or small—such as worries about behaviour, friendships, wellbeing or attendance, please let us know. Early conversations help us understand what your child may need so we can support them quickly and effectively.

How We Support Children

In school, we teach children that they can always talk to a trusted adult if something makes them feel worried or unsafe. They are reminded that:

- They will always be listened to
- They won't be in trouble for speaking up
- It is never their fault

These messages are even stronger when home and school share them together.

We're Here to Help

You can speak to:

- Mr Cox
- Miss Mattocks
- Miss Hurved
- Miss Maxwell
- Mrs Holmes-McClure
- Mrs Ward
- Your child's class teacher
- Any trusted adult in school

Together, we can make sure every child at St Francis feels safe, supported and ready to flourish.

If your child ever needs someone to talk to outside school, **Childline (0800 1111)** is always available.

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



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.



Happy Birthday to those with birthdays this week



Clara Year 5

Grace Year 1

Willow Year 5



Star of the Week



Nursery - Indie - For being such a considerate and curious member of the class, always wanting to learn more! Well done :)

Reception - Lizzy - for always trying hard to do the right thing, even when things are really exciting! You are a fabulous role model - well done, Lizzy!

Year 1 - Joseph - for trying to be considerate in your actions and words even though sometimes it's hard to do. Thank you for being your best!

Year 2 - Billie-Jo - for always doing the right thing even when no one is watching and making good choices because it is the right thing to do. Keeping shining Billie!

Year 3 - Leo - for doing the right thing even when someone is not watching. Well done Leo!

Year 4 - Niamh- for consistently ensuring she shows integrity in both her work and her actions!

Year 5 - Henry - for going above and beyond to ensure that he think before he acts, to ensure he is making the right choices

Year 6 - Esther - for always considering her choices before taking action to ensure that it is the right action and in the best interests of everyone.

Star Writer



Nursery - Harry

Reception - Sienna

Year 1 - William

Year 2 - Hollie

Year 3 - Harry

Year 4 - Isabella

Year 5 - Sophie

Year 6 - Charlie

Attendance Champions



Attendance Champions

- **Overall Winners (100% Attendance):** Nursery
- **Over 96% Attendance:** Year 4 Year R Year 2

Whole School Attendance:

96.4% for the academic year so far – fantastic effort!

Dojo



Dojo Winners This Week

1. Year 1
2. Year 3
3. Year 4

Well Done, Mhairi—A True Community Star!

Last weekend Mhairi helped at the book swap at the Hub on the Green, raising £30 by selling mystery books!

She made a box of 'mystery books' to raise money for the community hub, and helped on the day with directing children to the right age group of books, handing out the biscuits and organising the tables.

The box of mystery books has been restocked and is in the hub if anyone would like to go and get one. Just £1 each.

Well done for showing such initiative, generosity, and community spirit. You've made everyone at school very proud!





Awards



2025 – 2027



**Rights
Respecting
Schools**

UNITED KINGDOM



**Bronze
Rights Committed**