



St. Francis

Church of England Primary School

Love Faith. Love People. Love Learning.

Week ending: 25.04.25

Upcoming dates

Monday 28th April:

Cross-Country event for Y5/6

Monday 5th May:

School closed for Bank Holiday

Tuesday 6th May:

Blackburn with Darwen Schools' Netball Tournament

Thursday 8th May:

VE Day party – information below

Monday 12th May – 15th May:

Y6 SATS week

Tuesday 13th May:

Y3 trip to Brockholes

Sunday 11th May:

Church Parade

Friday 16th May:

Y6 Charity Day event

OPAL Stay and Play

Monday 26th May – Friday 30th May:

Half-term holiday

Thursday 5th June:

Messy Church

Sunday 8th June:

Church Parade

Summer Term week 1

Welcome back to all our wonderful pupils and families! I hope you've had a restful and enjoyable Easter break, filled with chocolate eggs, family time, and even a bit of sunshine! It's been absolutely fantastic to see everyone's smiling faces as we've returned to school this week.

As always, St. Francis has hit the ground running, and what a busy first week it's been! Our littlest learners in EYFS and Year 1 have already embarked on their exciting adventures to Martin Mere and Windmill Farm. These trips are not just fun days out; they're valuable learning experiences that bring classroom lessons to life. I can't wait to hear all about the discoveries they've made and the memories they've created.

Speaking of exciting new beginnings, we've welcomed Rocksteady Rock Groups to our school today. The corridors have been buzzing with the sound of budding musicians finding their rhythm and discovering their inner rock stars. It's a joy to see our pupils exploring their musical talents and building confidence through performance.

I'm thrilled to share some positive changes we've made in response to your feedback. We've adjusted our morning routine slightly, with the school gates now opening a little earlier before the start of the day. This means parents and carers can now walk round to their child's classroom door, rather than waiting on the street. We hope this small change makes mornings a bit easier and more relaxed for everyone.

As we settle into this summer term, I'm filled with excitement for all the learning, growth, and achievements that lie ahead. Our pupils never cease to amaze me with their enthusiasm, curiosity, and kindness. Let's continue to work together, support one another, and make this term the best it can be.

Thank you, as always, for your ongoing support and partnership in your children's education. Here's to a fantastic summer term at St. Francis.

Mrs. Foster

This half-term's worship theme

Our worship this half term is based on the Christian value of 'service'. We will be learning about the many ways in which Jesus served his followers. We will also be thinking about ways in which we can serve others in our community.

Spring Term Data

Parents/carers should have received their child's data report via email this morning. The report summarises where a child is working compared with national expectations. In response to some parents/carers requests, a longer 'end of year' report will be sent out at the end of summer this year, which will celebrate your child's strengths, talents, attitudes and effort.

Year 6 Award Winner



Year 5 Award Winners



Year 4 Award Winner



Y3 Award winners



Y2 Award winners



Y1 Award winners



Reception Class Award winners



Well done to our award winners and special mentions this week!

Remember, if your child isn't on one of these photographs, reassure him/her that that doesn't mean they haven't been noticed!

Our staff celebrate achievements – great and small – every day in class, whether it's through praise, a postcard home, a sticker or a thumbs up.

Review of our school vision

Thank you to those parents/carers who have already shared their views about our school vision through the School Spider survey.

As you may be aware, we are reviewing our school vision to make sure that it still reflects our aims for each and every child at our lovely school.

We always value the opinions of our parents/carers and although we cannot please everyone, we do listen to all those who share their thoughts.

If you haven't already, please do add your views to the survey and together we can ensure our school vision is something we can all get behind and aspire towards!

Changes to school lunch service

As of Monday, our children will be required to queue up at the kitchen serving hatch for their school lunch. This is something we always used to do – and it worked effectively. Children were able to practise using their manners while asking for their dinner choices, as well as developing independence to walk to their tables with their lunch trays.

As with changing for PE in school, this was stopped during covid. We are now one of the few schools across the borough still having children's lunches served to them on trays while they sit and wait at their tables, and we feel that the time has come for us to move forward with this, and have children once again having food served to them at the hatch.



Uniform Decision

for September 2025

Thanks to everyone who took part in the survey and shared their views.

There are clear and valid differences of opinion across all stakeholders, but the final decision is that from September 2025, there will be only one uniform. PE kit will be changed into at school on PE days.

The uniform will be:

- Grey trousers/school shirts or checked skirt/pinafore dress
- Pale blue polo shirt
- Royal blue jumper/cardigan
- Grey/white socks/tights
- Black school shoes

In previous years we have also allowed grey/navy skirts/skorts but as the views of stakeholders were mainly against a range of different elements to the uniform, it has been decided to only have checked skirts or pinafores to ensure consistency. None of these items need to include our school logo, although Greys and Whittakers will stock the official logoed jumpers and polo shirts.

The PE kit will need to be brought into school and kept on the child's coat peg. For now, children can wear their current 'active uniform' (navy joggers. Purple/green/yellow T-Shirt and blue hoody) until they grow out of these.

Going forward, and for our new Reception children, the official PE kit will be a purple T-shirt and navy shorts/joggers.

We know that this decision has not satisfied everyone, but in the spirit of democracy, we had to stand by the majority of stakeholders' views.

It is been wonderful to hear all the positive responses from parents since the decision was shared. We have also heard from some of our new parents, whose children will be starting with us in September, commenting on how pleased they are that their children will be wearing a smart uniform.

We are aware that for some of our children, school uniform can cause challenges with sensory issues: scratchy seams and tight waistbands for example. As an inclusive school we would never want to make a child feel uncomfortable with what they are wearing. Asda have an Easy On Easy Wear range designed for children who may need adaptive clothing, and there are some tips for making uniform more 'comfy' on the 'Sensory Smart' website.

It is important to note that the decision to have children change for PE was only a temporary measure introduced as a COVID-19 precaution. For our older children, we will ensure that they do not change in front of the opposite sex, maintaining appropriate privacy and dignity.

We believe that this change will contribute to the overall positive ethos and high standards we strive for at St. Francis CE Primary School. We are confident that our children, along with their families, will embrace this transition and continue to uphold the values and expectations of our school community.

New start-of-the-day procedures

In response to a number of parent/carers who requested for the school gates to be open a little earlier, in order to walk their children round to class in the mornings, and alleviate congestion on Cherry Tree Lane, we have started this, this week.

As always however, the safety and well-being of our pupils is our top priority. To ensure a smooth and secure start to the day, we kindly request that only children accompanied by an adult should be coming into the school grounds at 8.40am. Children and their accompanying adult should wait outside their classroom door until the official start time of 8.45am.

For those children who are not accompanied by an adult, or for those adults who do not wish to walk their child to their classrooms, we ask that they wait with their children at the school gates until it is time to go straight into school at 8.45am.

This will help us maintain a safe and supervised environment for all our pupils. Staff are not outside at 8.40am and they are not responsible for children waiting outside classrooms without an adult.

We understand that mornings can be a busy time, but we believe these measures will contribute to the overall safety and security of our school community.

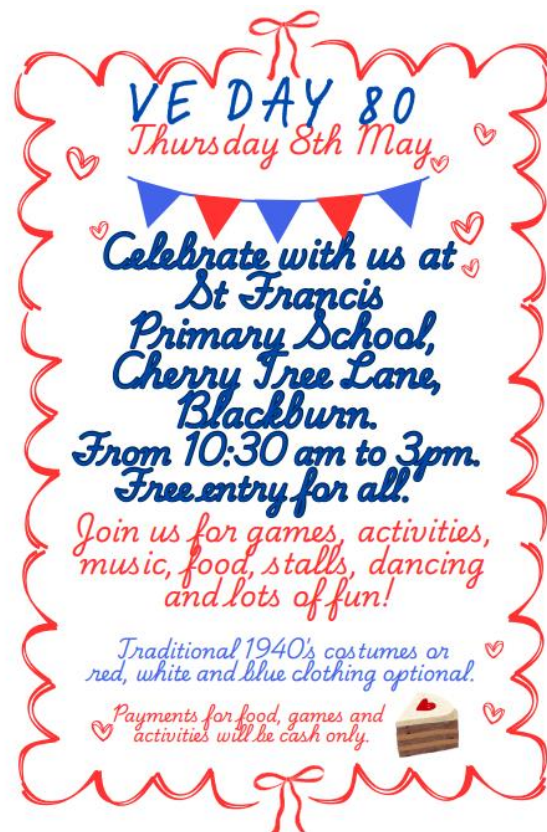
To confirm:

Children with their adult can enter the school premises at 8.40am.

Classroom doors open at 8.45am and close at 8.50am.

Unsupervised children must not enter the school premises before 8.45am.

Your cooperation and support in this matter are greatly appreciated.



All visitors to our VE Day event, including parents/carers, will need to sign in at the gate, and will have a wristband to wear, as part of our safeguarding procedures.

Reception Class Trip

"My favourite bit was the train, it went all around the farm!" Keaton.
 "We hold the Guinea pigs and they were so cute and fluffy!" Primrose



VE Day celebrations

A huge thanks goes to Mrs. Lovick and her team, for their organisation so far, for the VE Day celebrations in school. Thanks also to the PTA who are also getting involved, and to the many other parents/carers/friends of St. Francis School, for their contributions. The school choir, led by Rachel Anderton, sound incredible! They will be singing for us as part of the day's activities. More information will be sent out next week.

Change of Name and Staff

Mrs Katie Forrest, our Inclusion Officer, is now to be known as Miss Katie Smith.

Sadly, our most recent PE coach, Coach Caitlin, has left us to begin a new job as a pastoral manager. We wish her well. FUNDA will be looking to appoint a consistent member of staff for the rest of this academic year.

School Grounds

We have such amazing parents/carers at St. Francis School – we are so blessed! A number have already been helping to improve the look of our field: planting flowers, sewing grass seeds, making bunting. Thanks to Glenn and Rachel Anderton, Wayne Jones (for his exciting plans with regards to our very plain school wall!), Fraser Lucas and others for your time and much-appreciated efforts.

As you know, many of our brilliant staff also give up their own time to make sure the school grounds are as beautiful and ready for OPAL as they can be. Thanks to Mrs Fielding, Miss Watson, Mrs McGarrigle, Mr Sutton, Miss Miller and others for their dedication too.

If you wish to volunteer, particularly on a Wednesday afternoon, when Mrs. Fielding is generally outside, please let us know!

Meal bookings

Please can parents and carers ensure that they are booking their children's meal choices at home in advance. We cannot guarantee that children will get their choice of meal when advanced bookings are not made. It is also important that meals are paid for in line with our charging and remissions policy.

Jumpers!!!

Please, please, please could you make sure your child's school jumper/hoodie has their name in it? As we approach warmer weather, children take their jumpers off outside or around school. We cannot find the owners of the jumpers without names on the clothes and we know this is frustrating.

Please also ensure that any caps/hats sent in during warmer weather, also have your child's name written in somewhere.

