

St Francis Roman Catholic Primary School

"With God, everything is within our reach"



Ellenbrook Close
Gorton
Manchester
M12 5LZ
0161 223 3457

admin@st-francis.manchester.sch.uk
www.stfrancismanchester.com

Headteacher: Mrs A. O'Dwyer
Parish Priest: Father K Murphy
Thursday 3rd September 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to a brand-new school year!

I hope you have all enjoyed a happy and restful summer break, filled with laughter, adventures, and precious time with family and friends. We were certainly blessed with some wonderful weather! It has been a real joy to welcome the children back to school today and to hear their excited stories about the holidays.

We are looking forward to another exciting year at St Francis, filled with opportunities for learning, discovery, creativity, and personal growth. Each child brings their own unique gifts and talents to our school family, and we are committed to helping them flourish and reach their full potential. Our dedicated staff team have been working hard to prepare bright, welcoming, and inspiring classrooms where every child feels happy, valued, and ready to learn. We look forward to sharing another wonderful year together.

Jubilee Year of Saint Francis

This year is especially significant for our school as we celebrate the Jubilee Year of Saint Francis, marking 800 years since his death. Throughout the year, we will reflect on his example of faith, humility, kindness and care for creation.

As part of this special celebration, the children have begun an exciting project to rename our school Houses, choosing saints who inspire them. Further details about a whole-school homework project and the voting process will be sent home shortly.

Welcome Meetings

Over the next couple of weeks each class teacher will hold a 'Welcome Meeting' straight after school to explain what will be happening in each class and answer any questions you may have about the year ahead. The meetings will take place at **3:30pm** in your child's classroom. If you are unable to attend, a copy of the PowerPoint presentation will be available on your child's Class Page on the school website following the meeting.

Tuesday 8 th September	Wednesday 9 th September	Thursday 10 th September	Friday 11 th September	Tuesday 15 th September	Wednesday 16 th September	Thursday 17 th September
Year 4	Year 3	Year 1	Year 2	Year 6	Year 5	Reception

School Uniform

Thank you for ensuring your children have returned to school looking very smart in the correct school uniform and plain black school shoes. It reflects the pride you take in our school and helps us maintain the high standards we value so deeply. When children arrive looking ready to learn, it sets a positive tone for the whole day and reinforces our shared commitment to excellence. Please ensure ALL uniform is labelled.

For the safety and comfort of all children, we ask that any earrings worn to school are small, plain stud earrings only. Hoop earrings and other styles are not permitted.

PE Kits

The children will need their PE kits for next week. We kindly ask that all PE clothing is plain and unbranded, in line with our school uniform expectations. This helps to ensure consistency and prevents families from feeling any pressure to purchase expensive designer or branded sportswear.

PE bags will be sent home at the end of each half term so that kits can be washed and PE footwear checked for size. Thank you for your support in helping us keep children comfortable, prepared, and ready for their PE lessons.

Clubs

Letters about this half term's after-school clubs will be sent home next week.

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Allergies

To help keep all of our children safe, particularly those with severe food allergies, we ask that children do not bring in birthday treats, sweets, or food items to share with their classmates. Please ensure that you keep the school office informed of any changes or updates to your child's medical records.

Birthdays

We love celebrating birthdays at St Francis! Children are welcome to wear their own clothes to school on their birthday. If their birthday falls during a weekend or school holiday, they may wear their own clothes on the Friday before or the Monday after.

Communication

Due to the cost of text messaging, we will increasingly communicate via email. Please ensure the school has your current email address, so you don't miss any important updates. Please follow us on Instagram and look out for our weekly newsletter, which is emailed to parents every Friday and is also available on our school website and Instagram page.

BREAKFAST CLUB

Drop off is between 8am – 8:15am at a charge of £2.50 per day to cover costs. Please book in advance using the online booking system, Arbor.

DROP OFF – 8:40 – 8:50am

Children in Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 should be dropped off in the morning at the 'Bungalow Entrance' while children in **Years 3, 4, 5 and 6** should be dropped off at the main reception entrance.

PICK UP - 3:20pm

At the end of the school day, children in Years 4,5 & 6 will exit through the main school gate. Children in Nursery, Reception, Year 1, 2 and **Year 3** will exit school via the 'Bungalow Entrance'.

Year 6 children will bring home a letter this evening regarding arrangements for walking home independently. If you would like your child to walk home unaccompanied, please sign and return the permission slip to school.

If you have a child in Years 5 or 6 and would like them to walk independently to the bungalow to meet you, please complete the permission slip sent home today and return it to your child's class teacher.

If you have any further questions or require additional support, please do not hesitate to contact the school office. Our team will be more than happy to help.

I look forward to another joyful and successful year at St Francis as we continue learning, growing and flourishing together. As a school family, we are guided by our motto, *'With God, everything is within our reach,'* and I thank you for your continued support and prayers for our wonderful school community.

Kind regards,
Mrs A. O'Dwyer
Headteacher