

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 22nd October 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

End of Autumn 1 Term

What a busy and successful first half term it has been! The children have been fantastic, working hard, showing great enthusiasm for their learning and being a real credit to their families. There has been so much going on across the school, and it was wonderful to see so many of you at Parents' Evening last night. Thank you for your ongoing support and partnership.

Below are just a few reminders and notices to take note of.

Dates

Please note that children have brought home a list of key dates for next term. The school office has also emailed a copy to parents and carers. Many of the events, friends and family are invited to, they promise to be very special and memorable occasions.

Communication

The school website is constantly being updated and on here you will find a wealth of information.

<https://stfrancismanchester.com>

Please note that we are increasingly using email rather than text messages to communicate with parents and carers, as this is a more cost-effective method. We kindly ask that you check your emails regularly to ensure you receive all school communications and updates. Our weekly newsletter contains a wealth of important information, updates and reminders. It is emailed to parents and carers every Friday and can also be accessed via our school website and Instagram page. Please take a few minutes each week to read it so that you stay up to date with school news and upcoming events.

Thank you for your support.

Father Kevin

It is with a heavy heart that we say goodbye to Father Kevin as he prepares to move to Scotland to begin a new chapter in his ministry. Over the years, Father Kevin has played a significant role in the life of St Francis, providing unwavering support to our school community and helping to nurture and strengthen our Catholic ethos.

We are incredibly grateful for all he has done for our children, staff and families, and we are truly saddened to see him leave. Father Kevin has assured us that he will keep in touch and visit whenever he can, which is wonderful news. We send him our heartfelt thanks, love and prayers as he embarks on this new mission, and we wish him every blessing and happiness for the future.

We look forward to welcoming and working alongside our three new priests in the weeks ahead. We are especially pleased that Minna will continue to be a part of our school family. Her care, support and dedication to our children and families are greatly valued, and we are grateful that she will continue to journey alongside us in the years ahead.

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First Holy Communion

For children in Year 3 and above who wish to celebrate the Sacrament of First Holy Communion, please register your interest using the link below. This will direct you to the relevant page on the school website, where you will find further information and the registration form.

Please complete the form by Friday 13th November 2026.

If you are not Catholic but would like to discuss the process of becoming a Catholic, please contact the parish office for further guidance and support.

[Parish Links & Sacramental Programme | St Francis RC Primary School](#)

Phonics Workshop

We will be hosting a Phonics Workshop on Tuesday 10th November, at approximately 9am, for parents and carers of children in Reception and Year 1.

Year 6 Residential Meeting

We will be hosting an information meeting for parents and carers of our Year 6 children regarding their residential on Tuesday 10th November at 3:30pm in the Year 6 classroom. The power point will be available on the school website after the meeting to refer back to and for any parents who are unable to attend.

Remembrance Day

A letter from our School Council has been sent home today, inviting all our children to create their own poppy or poppy wreath over the half-term holiday. All poppies returned will create a beautiful remembrance display in school. Please return poppies to your child's class teacher by Friday 6th November.

Stay and Pray

Each Wednesday afternoon, each class celebrates some prayerful, reflection time during their Celebration of The Word. Each week parents, friends and families of a class are invited to join us. Dates and times are always indicated in our weekly newsletter.

Parent Questionnaire

Thank you to everyone who was able to complete the Parent/Carer Survey during the course of Parents' Evening. For anyone who was unable to complete the survey, please take a few minutes to do so. Simply scan the QR code below, which will take you directly to the questionnaire. Thank you for your feedback and support.

The survey will close on Wednesday 28th October.



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Your feedback and suggestions will further support shaping the future of St Francis, and we truly value your input. Together, we can continue building a strong partnership to make St Francis the very best it can be.

Culture Day

Culture day has been a huge success; it has been a joyful celebration of the rich diversity within our St Francis school community. All the children looked incredible. We've had the wonderful opportunity to celebrate and learn about the many cultures and heritages that make our school such a vibrant and special place. Thank you to our School Council for organising this very special day.

Clubs

Next half term, our sports provider, Fifth Movement, will be running a Dodgeball Club after school for children in Years 1 and 2 and Years 5 and 6.

Miss Radcliffe will also be running an Art Club for children in Years 3 and 4.

Please refer to the separate letters that have been sent home for further details. Copies of these letters have also been emailed to parents and carers and can be found on the school website.

<https://stfrancismanchester.com/our-parents/letters/>

Thank You

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the St Francis staff team who work tirelessly behind the scenes, and in the classroom, every single day to make sure our children receive the very best education possible. Their dedication, care, and passion truly make St Francis a special place to learn and grow.

On behalf of all the staff, governors and school community I would like to take this opportunity to say a sincere thank you to you all for your continued support. It means so much to us and plays a huge part in helping St Francis grow into the best school it can be—for every child, every day. Working together with you makes all the difference, and we're truly grateful to have such a wonderful school community.

We look forward to welcoming you back on **Monday 2nd November at 8:40am**, ready to begin another great term.

Kind regards,
Mrs A. O'Dwyer
Headteacher
St Francis RC Primary School

