St Francis Roman Catholic Primary School

Weekly Newsletter

Friday 6th November 2026

With God, everything is within our reach!

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you have all a enjoyed a restful and enjoyable October half term break. What a fabulous first week back we have all enjoyed. It has been wonderful to welcome everyone back to school this week and to see the children settling quickly into their learning with such enthusiasm and positivity. This half term promises to be another busy and exciting one, with lots of opportunities for learning, enrichment activities and preparations for the season of Advent.

Thank you to everyone who completed our Parents' Survey, we are always so grateful to hear your views so that we can continue working together to make our wonderful school even better.

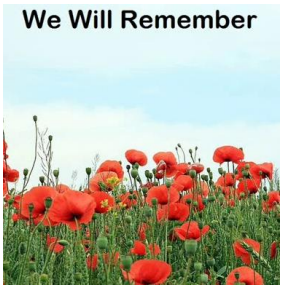





Remembrance Day

As we finished for half-term, our School Council wrote to you to invite the children to create poppy and Remembrance Day creations. Thank you so much for the beautiful creations the children have made over the half term, they really are stunning.







Ordinarily, our School Council sell poppies after school; however, unfortunately this year, due to staffing issues at our local Poppy Appeal distribution office, they have been unable to provide us with our usual

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supply of poppies. We apologise for any disappointment this may cause and thank you for your understanding - we hope to be able to support this important cause in the usual way next year.

Year 6 Crucial Crew

This week, our Year 6 pupils attended Crucial Crew, a valuable PSHE programme designed to help children develop the knowledge and skills needed to stay safe as they grow in independence. Through a range of interactive workshops led by emergency services and other professionals, the children learned about important topics including personal safety, road safety, online safety and making positive choices.







A Warm Welcome



This week, we were delighted to welcome two of our new parish priests, **Father Maurice** and **Father John**, to our school. They were very impressed by the warm welcome they received from our children and staff and by all that they saw during their visit. They are settling into parish life well and are looking forward to working closely with our school community.

We are also excited to begin our programme of weekly Masses, starting next Wednesday at **9:15am** in church with our **Reception and Year 6 classes**. Please note that our weekly Masses have now moved from **Friday to Wednesday**.

Parishioners, family members and friends are always warmly welcome to join us as we gather in faith and prayer.

EYFS Open Mornings

If you are considering a place for Nursery or Reception, September 2027, we warmly invite to join us for one of our Open Mornings:

Thursday 19th November 2026 & Thursday 7th January 2027

Both open mornings will begin at 9:00am and will include a presentation, an opportunity to meet the EYFS staff team, a tour of our EYFS learning environment, and time to ask any questions you may have.

Laudato Si Team

This week, our Laudato Si' Team enjoyed a special visit to the Laudato Si' Centre at Wardley Hall. During the day, the children explored ways to care for our common home, foraged in the gardens to collect natural materials for making poppies, and said prayers in remembrance of those who have died. They also considered how we can become even more environmentally friendly as a school. On Monday, the team will share their experiences and future plans with the whole school during assembly.







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Clubs Autumn 2:

Letters are sent out each half term and can be found on the school website. Bookings for Dodgeball and Art can be made via Arbor and bookings for Dodgeball can still be made. Please note that pick from both dodgeball and Art is **at 4:15pm** from the bungalow entrance.

Day	Club	Year Groups
Tuesday	Sunshine Games Club	Y1
Wednesday	Art Club	Y3 and Y4
Wednesday	Dodgeball	Y5 and Y6
Thursday	Choir	Y5 and Y6
Thursday	Dodgeball	Rec, Y1, Y2 and Y3
Thursday	Sunshine Games Club	Y2

Attendance: Every School Day Matters

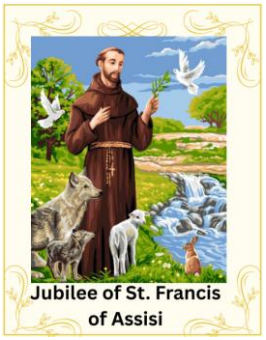
Each week, every child who attends school every day and arrives on time receives a raffle ticket. At the end of each term, three lucky winners from across the school are drawn and receive a prize.

Being late or absent means children miss valuable learning time, and every minute counts. Regular attendance and punctuality help children achieve their very best. Thank you for your continued support in ensuring your child is in school every day and on time.

Attendance this Week						
Reception	**Year 1**	**Year 2**	**Year 3**	**Year 4**	**Year 5**	**Year 6**
98.08%	98.75%	97.37%	96.96%	99.31%	96.55%	90.97%
Whole school total – Average this Year: 96.0%						

Celebration of The Word

This week, our Celebration of the Word focused on the feasts of All Saints and All Souls. Through the Gospel of Matthew (5:1–12), the children explored the Beatitudes and learned how Jesus calls us to live holy and saintly lives.


Jubilee of St. Francis of Assisi

Loving God,

May we remember all those who have died and now rest in Your loving care. We thank You for the love they shared, the lives they lived and the memories they leave with us. Comfort all who miss a loved one and fill their hearts with Your peace and hope.

Eternal rest, grant unto them O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace.

Amen

Dates for your Diary

All families and friends are warmly invited to join us for our weekly Celebration of the Word on Wednesdays, our class Masses in church and our class assemblies. We always enjoy welcoming you into school to share in these special moments with our children. Please see the dates below and refer to the separate dates letter and the school website for further details.

Day	Date	Activity	Location
Tuesday	10th November 2026	Reception and Year 1 Phonics Meeting	9am School Hall
Tuesday	10th November 2026	Year 6 Residential Meeting	3:30pm Year 6 Classroom
Wednesday	11th November 2026	Year 5 and 6 Visit to the Cenotaph	11am Cenotaph
Wednesday	11th November 2026	Reception and Year 6 Mass	9:15am St Francis CHURCH
Wednesday	11th November 2026	Year 2 Celebration of The Word	2:45pm Year 2 Classroom
Friday	13th November 2026	Year 6 Class Assembly	9:15am School Hall
Friday	12th February 2027	EMMAUS Trust INSET Day	School closed for pupils

ALL SAINTS & 32nd Sunday of OT(A)

SUNDAY OCTOBER NOV 1ST & NOV 8TH 2026 – ALL SAINTS (A)

HOW TO BECOME A SAINT?

Celebrating all the saints means that the Church recognises that the list of saints in the martyrology is not exhaustive. There are indeed many unknown saints; saints whom the Church has not yet had the opportunity to discover and confirm through her process of canonisation. At All Saints, all these unknown saints are celebrated as well.

To be a saint is to reach the goal for which God created us, that is, to live in eternal happiness. But the truth is, most of us don't think about becoming holy, or trying to be holy, in our everyday lives. We know it's the main goal of being a Christian, but we didn't really focus on that.

We need to remember that our time on this earth is limited, therefore we should focus on living a life that leads us to eternal happiness. We need to fill our hearts and minds with the desire to be holy, to be the best version of ourselves, and to live a life that reflects our faith.

In the Gospel, Jesus, through the Beatitudes, reveals to us the way of holiness. How do we become saints? Jesus answers us through the Beatitudes. To become a saint, we need to live a life that's truly blessed, right here on earth. That is to say, we must be humble, kind, merciful, just, compassionate, and so on.

To be humble in heart is to have a heart filled not with the love of the world, but with the love of God and of neighbour. A humble heart loves God above all things and puts love above everything.

To be truly kind, we need to make an effort to see things from God's perspective and understand others as He does. This means looking at people with kindness and acceptance, no matter what. We therefore cannot do violence to those whose reactions and sorrows we understand. kindness is all about being merciful and compassionate.

So, on this Sunday of All Saints, let us pray to the saints known and unknown to intercede for us, so that God may grant us the gift of living a truly blessed life, for it is such a life that will lead us to holiness.

May God bless you now and forever. **Fr. Maurice, sx**

REST IN PEACE

With sadness we announce the death of one our our parish **Ifeanyichukwu Justin Uzokwe** who died suddenly 27/10/26. Please pray for the repose of this soul, his Wife Ngosi Esther and his three children. The Mass Sunday 1st will be offered for the repost of his soul and the consolation of the family.

SCHEDULE 1/2		
SUN 1ST	**All Saints** **09:15** Adoration & Confession **10:00** Morning Prayer **10:30** Mass & Choir **11:30** Church Clean	
	Parish Community **11:45** Refreshments	
MON 2ND	**All Souls** **08:00** Mass & Novena Prayer	
TUE 3RD	**Ordinary Time Wk 31** **09:15** Mass with SH school	
WED	**St Charles Borromeo**	--
THU 5TH	**Community Garden Open** **10:00-12:00**	
	St. Guido Maria Conforti **12:00** Mass	
	Parish Community **12:30** Friendship Group	
FRI 6TH	**Ordinary Time Wk 31** **09:15** Mass	
SAT 7TH	**Community Garden Open** 10:00-12:00	
	Ordinary Time Wk 31 **11:00** Confession & Adoration **12:00** Mass	
	Ordinary Time: 32nd Sunday **17:00** Confession, Adoration & Evening Prayer **17:30** Vigil Mass	
SUN 8TH	**Ordinary Time: 32nd Sunday** **09:15** Adoration & Confession **10:00** Morning Prayer **10:30** Mass & Choir **11:30** Church Clean	
	Parish Community **12:00** Refreshments	

SCHEDULE 2/2		
MON 9TH	**Dedication of the Lateran Basilica** **08:00** Mass	
TUE 10TH	**Pope Leo the Great** **09:15** Mass	
WED 11TH	**St Martin Tours** **09:15** Mass with SF School	
THU 12TH	**Community Garden Open** **10:00-12:00**	
	St Josaphat **12:00** Mass	
	Parish Community **12:30** Friendship Group	
FRI 13TH	**Ordinary Time Wk 32** **09:15** Mass	
SAT 14TH	**Community Garden Open** **10:00-12:00**	
	Ordinary Time Wk 32 **11:00** Confession & Adoration **12:00** Mass	
	Ordinary Time: Wk 33 **17:00** Confession, Adoration & Evening Prayer **17:30** Vigil Mass	
SUN 15TH	**Ordinary Time: wk 33** **09:15** Adoration & Confession **10:00** Morning Prayer **10:30** Mass & Choir **11:30** Church Clean	
	Parish Community **12:00** Refreshments	

MASS OFFERINGS & PRAYER REQUESTS

If you would like a mass offered for a specific intention, enclose an offering with a description, noting if it should be kept private. Pass it to Minna/Father.

- **Rest in peace:** Ifeanyichukwu Justin Uzokwe,
- **Anniversary:** Paul McCormick (4th)
- **Special Intention**: Kansu Otman

Please also pray for our brethren who are unwell: Janet McCarthy, Jennifer Hunter, Martin Brennan, Tommy Loftus.

MESSAGE FROM FR KEVIN

First of all, please can I say a big thank you for the amazing send-off you gave me on leaving the parish after seven years. I was so touched by your cards and gifts and comments and wonderful farewell mass followed by the celebration in the parish centre. I was bowled over by the generosity and miss you all already.

But secondly I need to share some sad news with you. Yesterday, Thursday, I travelled up to Craig Lodge. When I had nearly reached my destination, my brother phoned me to let me know that mum had died an hour or so earlier. She was 90. My brother, sister and Iall feel the obvious sadness but also a great sense of relief as well, as poor mum has had so many physical ailments these last years. She had been bed-bound for two years, was nearly blind and recently suffered significant hearing loss such that communication had become quite difficult. She retained her mental faculties right up to the end and never uttered a word of complaint or self-pity about her difficult situation. She also had a very strong faith and prayed a lot. Yesterday morning a nun had brought her Holy Communion. Viaticum. Last Holy Communion. Food for the journey.

I am so grateful for the care and concern that parishioners have shared with me for my mother over the years, with so many of you praying for her and asking after her. I feel blessed in having had a mother for 67 years. Please pray for the repose of the soul.

I will keep the parish in prayers and know that you are in very safe hands with Fr Maurice, Fr Paddy and Fr John. I hope to visit you all in the not too distant future.

MONTH OF THE HOLY SOULS

As is customary people feel free to place the names of loved ones and an offering in an envelope at the alar. The Fathers will be remembering these especially throughout the month of November.

RHS AWARDS

A lovely surprise for the Parish at the Award ceremony on Wednesday, we received a special certificate and plaque for the Best Place of Worship. We also received another Level 5 'Outstanding ' . A great acknowledgement for all of the volunteers who are working in the garden.

CONTACT US

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OFFERTORY

For card payments, use the QR code. If possible, please set up a standing order:

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