St Francis Roman Catholic Primary School

Weekly Newsletter

Friday 13th November 2026

With God, everything is within our reach!

Dear Parents and Carers,

What a wonderful, sunny week we have all enjoyed. Year 6 led us today in our first assembly of this academic year where they reminded us about the importance of remembrance, not just today but every day. They also shared what they have been learning this year so far, goodness me they've been very busy. It is always a joy to have our families and friends attend these special events if they can, thank you to those who could attend this morning, it was a delight to see you.

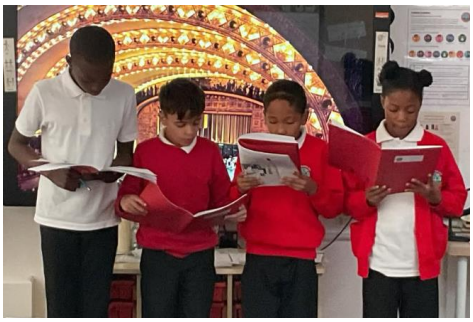
At the end of the newsletter, you will see the 'Dates for your Diary' for the rest of this year and the first term of 2027, please take a note of these dates. Letters and communication will be sent out nearer the time with further detail about each event.

Our Year 6 residential meeting was well attended earlier this week, for those of you unable to attend, please see the power point on the Year 6 class page on the school website.

Mrs O'Dwyer

Headteacher









Headteacher Mrs A O'Dwyer
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Celebration of The Word

This week, our Celebration of the Word focused on Remembrance. Year 5 and 6 paid their respects beautifully at Gorton Cenotaph on Wednesday and all classes held a one minute silence to quietly remember and pray for all those who are no longer with us.



We will remember…

Saturday 14th November 2026 – **World Kindness Day**

Sunday 15th November 2026 – **World Day of the Poor**

First Holy Communion Sacramental Programme

A letter has been sent home to all children in in Year 3 and any children who are in Years 4, 5 and 6, who are baptised Roman Catholic, and haven't yet made their First Holy Communion. Please see the parish link that outlines further detail and lists important dates: Sacramental Programmes

The date for children making their First Holy Communion this academic year is **Saturday 26th June 2027.**



Anti-Bullying Week

Next week is Anti-Bullying Week 2026 and the theme is **Break the Silence.** This theme is to encourage children and young people to start conversations about bullying, speak up and listen.

During our assembly today, our School Council announced that on Monday children are invited to come to school wearing odd socks. This is a great way to begin Anti-Bullying Week and celebrate what makes us all unique and special.



Nursery and Reception Open Mornings 2026 and 2027

If you are considering a Nursery or Reception place for 2027 you are warmly invited to join us at one of our open mornings. The morning will begin with a presentation in the hall at 9am followed by the opportunity to visit our wonderful EYFS environments and ask any questions you may have.

Thursday 19th November 2026 - 9am

Thursday 7th January 2027 – 9am

Winter Weather

As we approach winter and the weather is getting colder, please ensure your child is dressed warmly for the school day. Please label all uniform items including hats, scarves and gloves. These can be easily misplaced during the school day.

Clubs This Half Term:

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

Keeping Up to Date - Communication

To communicate with parents and carers, we primarily use email as it is a more cost-effective method than text messaging. In situations requiring more urgent communication, we will contact families via text message. Please remember to check your emails regularly. If you are not receiving emails from school, please contact the school office so that we can ensure we have your most up-to-date contact details.

Our school website contains a wealth of useful information, including key updates and copies of previous letters sent to families. Please visit regularly to stay informed.

We also share updates and celebrate school life through our Instagram page. We encourage you to follow us to see photos and examples of the exciting learning and activities taking place across the school.

For our Early Years families, children in Reception and Nursery, the team use Seesaw to provide regular updates about your child's learning and development.

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.

A huge well done to Year 1 who achieved an outstanding 100% attendance this week.

Attendance Lead: Miss Deighan

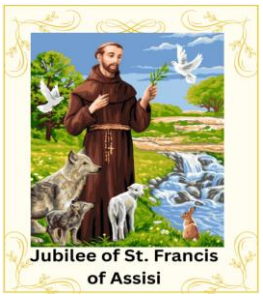
Designated Safeguarding Lead: Mrs O'Dwyer

Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads: Miss Deighan and Mrs Blake

Attendance this Week						
Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
93.3%	100%	94.7%	98.2%	99.2%	99.4%	93.6%
Whole School Statutory total: 97.3% Year to date						

Let Us Pray

Generous God,
You gave us a voice.
Help us shout loud for what is right and fair.
You gave us ears, help us to listen to those in need.
You gave us talents, help us share and multiply them for the good of all people.
Amen.



Dates for your Diary

Date	Activity	Additional Information
Monday 16th November	Odd Socks Day	Anti-Bullying Week
Tuesday 17th November 2026	Year 4 Poetry Together	Gorton Monastery
Tuesday 17th November 2026	SEND Coffee Morning (invites sent out)	9am School Hall
Wednesday 18th November 2026	Year 1 and Year 5 Mass	9:15am St Francis Church
Wednesday 18th November 2026	Year 1 Celebration of The Word	2:45pm Year 1 Classroom
Thursday 19th November	Nursery and Reception Open Day	9am - 10am in our Early Years
Friday 20th November 2026	Year 5 Class Assembly	9:15am School Hall
Wednesday 25th November	Reception Celebration of The Word	2:45pm Reception Classroom
Wednesday 25th November	Year 4 Mass	9:15am St Francis Church
Friday 27th November 2026	Year 4 Class Assembly	9:15am School Hall
Friday 27th November 2026	Own Clothes Day	Chocolate Donation
Sunday 29th November	Parish Christmas Fair	Sacred Heart Parish Centre 12pm
Wednesday 2nd December	Year 3 Mass	9:15am St Francis Church
Wednesday 2nd December	Nursery Celebration of The Word	2:45pm Nursery Classroom
Tuesday 8th December	Year 1 and 2 Nativity	1:30pm School Hall
Wednesday 9th December	Years 3 - 6	KS2 Show for Children: A Christmas Carol
Thursday 10th December - 1:30pm	Nursery and Reception Nativity	1:30pm School Hall
Monday 14th December	Whole School Christmas Craft Afternoon	2pm Children's classrooms with refreshments in the school hall
Wednesday 16th December	**End of Year Mass**	TBC – please note the change of day from the letter sent out at the end of last term
Wednesday 16th December	Whole School	Christmas Jumper Day

Date	Activity	Additional Information
Wednesday 16th December	Whole School	Christmas Dinner Day
Thursday 17th December - 9:15am	Year 3, 4, 5 and 6 Carol Concert	1:30pm School Hall
Thursday 17th December - 1:30pm	Year 3, 4, 5 and 6 Carol Concert	1:30pm School Hall
Friday 18th December 2026	School closes for the end of term	1:30pm
2027		
Monday 4th January 2027	School reopens for the new term	8:40am
Thursday 7th January	Nursery and Reception Open Morning	9am - 10am in our Early Years
THURSDAY 14th January – 9:15am	Year 3 Class Assembly	Celebration of Class Work
Friday 29th January – 9:15am	Year 1 Class Assembly	Celebration of Class Work
Friday 5th February – 9:15am	Reception Class Assembly	Theme - Love Celebration of Class Work
Tuesday 9th February – Thursday 11th February	Year 6 Residential	The Lake District
Thursday 11th February	School closes for the end of term	3:20pm
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

PARISH PRIEST: FR MAURICE CESAR NDJE NDJE, SX.
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OFFERTORY

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