St Francis Roman Catholic Primary School

Weekly Newsletter

Friday 20th November 2026

With God, everything is within our reach!

Dear Parents and Carers,

Another very busy week has flown by at St Francis. We began the week by marking Anti-Bullying Week, with everyone invited to wear odd socks. This simple activity reminds us that we are all unique, special and blessed with our own individual gifts and talents. To celebrate World Poetry Festival, Year 4 were invited to attend a poetry workshop at our beautiful monastery.

Today, we thoroughly enjoyed the Year 5 Celebration of Work Assembly. It was wonderful to see so many families able to join us. The children were fantastic and led the assembly with confidence, pride and enthusiasm. We are already looking forward to next Friday, when Year 4 will share an assembly celebrating both their learning and the beginning of the Liturgical season of Advent.

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.

Mrs O'Dwyer

Headteacher





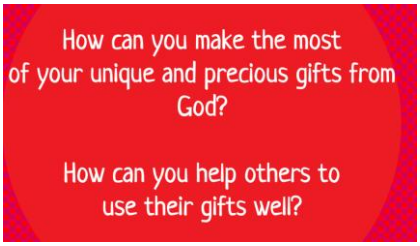




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Celebration of The Word: Matthew 25: 14-30

In our Celebration of the Word this week, we reflected on the Parable of the Talents and reminded ourselves that each of us is a unique gift from God with our very own gifts and talents. God gives us these special talents and abilities, and He wants us to use them to serve Him and help others. We are all encouraged to make the most of our gifts, to bring God's glory and goodness to the world around us.



Friday 20th November 2026 – **World Children's Day**

Sunday 22nd November **– Christ The King**

First Holy Communion Sacramental Programme

For those who have registered on the Sacramental Programme, the Welcome Meeting will be held in Sacred Heart Church, Saturday 21st November, 11:45am – 1pm. 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.**



Road Safety Week – Keeping Everyone Safe

Next week, our School Council, led by Mrs Blake, has organised for us to take part in Road Safety Week. This year's theme is **"Safe People on the Move",** and throughout the week the children will be learning about how to keep themselves and others safe when near roads. We look forward to taking part in a range of activities that will help reinforce these important life skills and encourage safe, responsible behaviour in our community.

Please use this as an opportunity to talk to your child about road safety and the importance of making safe choices when walking, cycling, scooting or travelling near roads. Working together, we can help our children develop good habits that will keep them safe.

Labelling Uniform

Please ensure all uniform, including coats, hats, scarves and gloves are clearly labelled with your child's first name and year group.

EYFS World Nursery Week Celebration

On Friday, our children in **Nursery and Reception** proudly performed a selection of poems they had been learning throughout the week for their families. It was a wonderful occasion, and the children showcased their talents beautifully, demonstrating growing confidence and enthusiasm. Thank you to everyone who was able to join us and support this special event.





Own Clothes Day – Parish Christmas Fair

Our Chaplains have been busy preparing for Advent. To support the Parish Fair, they are inviting all children to come to school in their own clothes on Friday 27th November 2026 in exchange for a chocolate donation. These donations will form part of the chocolate tombola at the Parish Fair, which will take place on Sunday 29th November at 12:00pm in the Sacred Heart Parish Centre. We will use a few of the chocolate donations to create a couple of Advent Hampers to raffle for before the end of term.

The Chaplains will be in touch with further details about all our Advent preparation activities and events. Thank you in advance for your support and generosity.

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

Christmas Film Night

A letter has been sent home from our School Council inviting children to enjoy a Christmas Film Night in school on Monday 7th December, from 3:30pm to 5:00pm, £2.50 per child. This will be a joyful occasion for the children and will provide them with an opportunity to spend time with their friends in a festive atmosphere. The event will also help raise funds for projects that the School Council would like to support and develop within our school. We thank you for your continued support.

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 3 who achieved an outstanding 98.6% attendance this week.

Attendance Lead: Miss Deighan

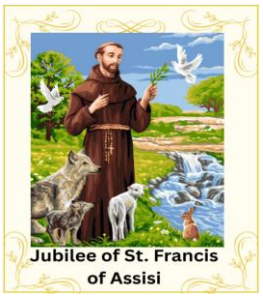
Designated Safeguarding Lead: Mrs O'Dwyer

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**
87.8%	94.8%	95.6%	98.6%	94.0%	97.4%	98.4%
Whole School Statutory total: 97.3% Year to date						

Let Us Pray

Heavenly Father,
As we celebrate **Christ the King**, help us to follow Jesus in all that we do. May He rule our hearts with love, kindness and peace.
Help us to serve others, care for those in need, and be shining examples of Your love each day.
We thank You for our families, our school and our parish community.
May Christ guide us always and lead us closer to You.
Amen.


Jubilee of St. Francis of Assisi

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

Date	Activity	Additional Information
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
Monday 7th December	Christmas Film Night	3:30pm – 5pm £2.50 per child
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
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


Parish Christmas Fair
At
Sacred Heart Church Hall,
Levenshulme Road
Sunday 29th November 2026
12 noon till 2.30pm
Bottle & chocolate tombola / refreshments /gift stall / raffles
/ Piety stall / Toys & game stall
-Christmas Carol singing by our parish choir
FREE ENTRY
(cash only purchases)

THANK YOU, women of faith and service

SUNDAY OCTOBER NOV 14TH 2026 – 33RD SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

Dear brothers and sisters, this Sunday's first reading praises the hard-working woman who seeks wool and flax and works them skilfully, helping to provide for her family. She is an active woman; her efforts bring benefits; yet she also lends a helping hand to those in need and opens her arms to the poor.

Her skills benefit not only her family but also the vulnerable and marginalised. This portrait of the working woman remains a living reality in our communities today. Let us think of the catechists who teach children, young people and adults, transmitting the faith with patience and creativity; the lay ministers of the Eucharist, who bring Holy Communion to the sick and the elderly; and the women involved in pastoral care, who bring comfort to hospitals and care homes.

Let's think of the sacristans who prepare the celebrations; those who look after the altar decorations; the readers who proclaim the Word of God with reverence; and the choir singers who lift up the community's prayer through their voice and music.

Let's think of the office workers who manage the parish accounts; those who organise the cleaning and activities in the hall; those who keep the gardens and courtyards tidy; and those who manage social media, newsletter and communications.

Let's think of the Caritas volunteers; those who support migrants and prisoners; those involved in pastoral care for families and women; the women who pray and attend daily Mass; those who organise raffles, Christmas fairs, retreats and pilgrimages; and the teachers who educate children and young people.

I cannot forget those who uphold the faith from their homes and convents: grandmothers and mothers who transmit the faith through prayer and daily witness; the nuns, widows and elderly women who offer their prayers for the community. The list is endless, only the Lord knows each one by name.

To all of them I would like to say: **THANK YOU.** Thank you for your selfless and tireless service. The Lord, who sees what is hidden, will one day say to you: "**Well done, good and faithful servant, you have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much.**" And may the Lord continue calling forth hard-working women, full of faith and love, who keep the hope of the Gospel alive. May God bless you now and forever.

Fr. Maurice XS

SCHEDULE		
SUN 15TH	**Ordinary Time: 33rd Sunday** **09:15** Adoration & Confession **10:00** Morning Prayer **10:30** Mass & Choir **11:30** Church Clean	
MON 16TH	**Ordinary Time: 33rd week** **08:00** Mass	
TUE 17TH	**Ordinary Time: 33rd week** **09:15** Mass	
WED 18TH	**Ordinary Time: 33rd week** **09:15** Mass with SF School	
THU 19TH	**Community Garden Open** **10:00-12:00**	
	Ordinary Time: 33rd week **12:00** Mass	
	Parish Community **12:30** Friendship Group	
FRI 20TH	**Ordinary Time: 33rd week** **09:15** Mass	
SAT 21ST	**Community Garden Open** **10:00-12:00**	
	Ordinary Time: 33rd Sunday **11:00** Confession & Adoration **12:00** Mass	
	Corpus Christi **17:00** Confession, Adoration & Evening Prayer **17:30** Vigil Mass	
SUN 22ND	**Corpus Christi** **09:15** Adoration & Confession **10:00** Morning Prayer **10:30** Mass & Choir **11:30** Church Clean	
	Parish Community **12:00** Refreshments	