

# St. Francis' School Newsletter

27<sup>th</sup> February 2026



## Virtue of the month – Forgiveness

### Dear Parents and Carers

#### Welcome Back!

We hope you had a wonderful half-term break and enjoyed some rest and family time. It has been lovely to see the children return refreshed, enthusiastic, and ready for the new spring term.

We are now a week into the Lenten period, which offers us a meaningful opportunity to reflect as a school community. Lent is often connected with giving something up, perhaps fewer treats, reduced screen time, or making a conscious effort to be more patient and grateful. These small acts remind us that our choices shape the kind of people we become. Equally important is what we choose to take up. Lent invites us to build simple habits of reflection, gratitude, and acts of kindness into our daily lives. Today we marked **Random Act of Kindness Day** in school, which tied in beautifully with this message. The children have been learning that kindness is not about reward or recognition, but about doing something good simply because it is right. It has been lovely to see so many thoughtful actions throughout the day. At its heart, Lent is a journey towards hope and the joy of Easter. It is made up of small, faithful steps that help us grow, both in school and at home. We look forward to walking through this time of reflection and kindness with your children.

On a practical note, we kindly ask all parents to ensure that children come to school wearing clean shoes each day. School shoes should not be used for outdoor play, as this often leads to mud and dirt being brought into classrooms. To help with this, please make sure your child has a **separate pair of trainers** in school for PE and outdoor activities. This helps keep classrooms clean and comfortable for everyone. Thank you for your support in helping us maintain a tidy and pleasant learning environment for everyone.

#### Attendance

Congratulations to **Beech Class** on winning the **Attendance Cup** this week! Your excellent Attendance shows real dedication to being in school and learning together. To all other classes, keep up the effort, next week could be yours.



#### New School Leaders

As you are aware, our School Leaders change half-way through the year in order to give other pupils an opportunity to have positions of responsibility. **Congratulations to Branden & Isla** who have been voted for as our new **Head Boy and Head Girl**. The four different Houses also has a change, congratulations to our new House Captains who will lead their Houses until the end of the year: **John Fisher: Felix & Tabitha, Anne Line: Nick & Elijah, Thomas More: Billy & Joseph, Margaret Clitherow: Finley & Theo.**

#### Dorking Halls

Our school choir had a truly wonderful opportunity performing at **Dorking Halls** this week. The children sang **beautifully** and with confidence. Their performance was a real highlight of the event, and we have heard so many lovely comments about how well they sang. A heartfelt **thank you to Mrs Hardy**, along with all the staff and volunteers who supported the choir and helped ensure everything ran smoothly. Your time, encouragement, and organisation made the event a great success. We are incredibly proud of our talented singers!

#### Sport

What a fantastic set of matches! All the children were outstanding and represented the school brilliantly from start to finish. The **girls' team** played with tremendous determination and teamwork in a hard-fought game, showing real resilience despite a 4–1 defeat.

The **boys' team** delivered an impressive performance, working brilliantly together to secure a superb **6–0 victory**. Both teams demonstrated great spirit, encouraged one another throughout, and most importantly had lots of fun. We are incredibly proud of them all! A big **thank you to the staff** who went along to support the teams, their encouragement and time are hugely appreciated.

### World Book Day

Just a little reminder that World Book Day is **Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March**, and we're really looking forward to celebrating all things reading with the children! Please do take a moment to check the information that was sent out earlier today regarding the book fair timings which take place **6<sup>th</sup> -11<sup>th</sup> March**.

### Science Fair Competition

A quick reminder that our Science Fair Competition for **Years 3–6** will take place on the afternoon of Thursday 12th March 2026. To take part, children are invited to: Investigate a science question (usually through an experiment), or research a scientist's work and present their findings. Completed investigations should be brought into school during the week beginning **Monday 9th March**. A panel of visiting scientists will be judging the entries. This year, **12 children** will be selected to represent our school—**3 from each year group (Years 3–6)**—at the Xavier Grand Final at the ACS International School in Cobham. They will enjoy a fun-filled science day out of school and could even become the next Xavier Scientist of the Year!

### St Francis School Development Fund

As you are aware, our former Governors'/School Fund is now the St Francis' School Development Fund, and **we need your support** to help it make a real difference. We recognise the current financial pressures on families, but continued contributions are vital in enabling us to invest in improving the school environment and upgrade equipment. This is common practice in schools within and beyond the Xavier Catholic Education Trust. We are inviting families to contribute £60 per child per year (£5 per month). Payments can be made as a single amount or monthly by direct debit. UK taxpayers will be asked to complete a Gift Aid declaration. [Click Here](#) to make your contribution. **Thank you to all families who are able to support us.**

### Reception Disco

Just a reminder that the Reception Disco is happening tonight! We hope the children have a fantastic time with music, dancing, and lots of fun. A big thank you to the PTA for organising this event and for all the support they give to create special moments for the children.

### Celebration Assembly

Well done to all the certificate winners, performers this week and to **John Fisher** for winning the House points.

Have a lovely weekend.

Mr Doyle and Staff



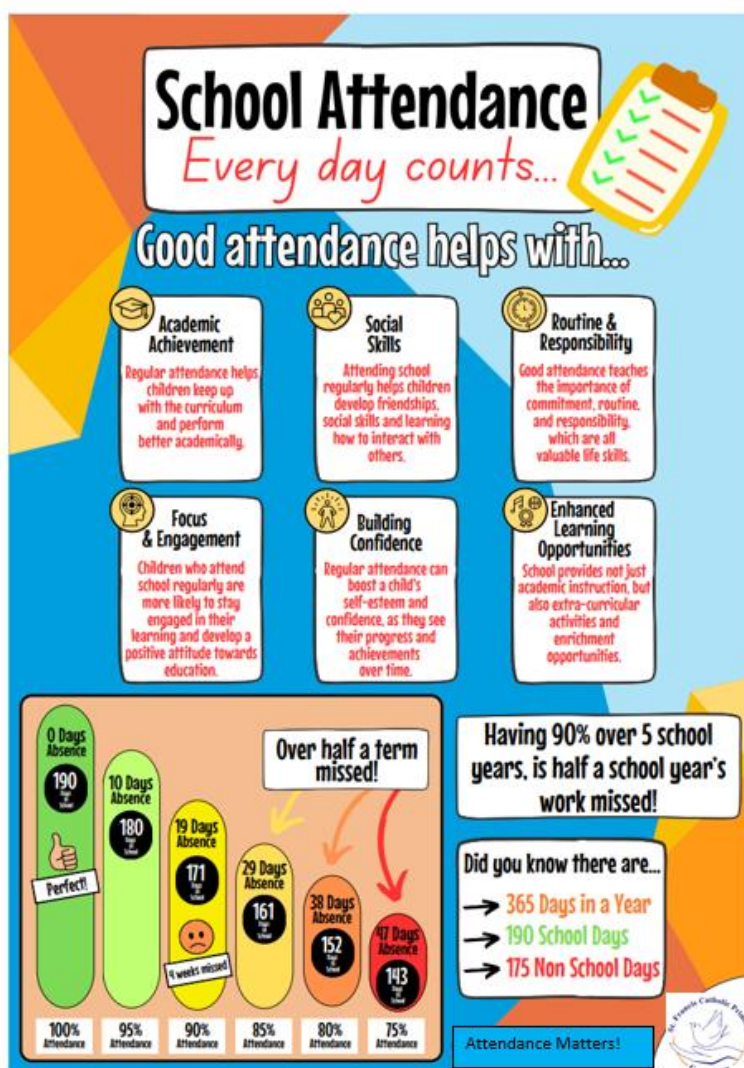
### RE

I wonder if you have ever been somewhere and it looks like the sky opens up and shafts of light descend from the sky. I know some people have previously described it like the angels coming down from heaven. In this week's reading, we hear about Jesus meeting Elijah and Moses and the light of God shining on them. We often talk about being the light in our community and the children being a shining light in the world, but here is that exact example, the spotlight shining straight at Jesus and sharing the wonderful phrase: "This is my own dear Son, with whom I am pleased – listen to him!" The announcement leaves us in no debate about who is there, uniting the law and the prophets from the Old Testament and showing Jesus being the new path to follow.

**Mr Yarnell**

## Calendar Dates

5 <sup>th</sup> March	World Book Day (Dressing Up) Details to Follow
6 <sup>th</sup> -12 <sup>th</sup> March	Book Fayre Details to Follow
9 <sup>th</sup> -12 <sup>th</sup> March	Science Week
16 <sup>th</sup> -20 <sup>th</sup> March	PTA Easter Bonnet Competition Details to follow
13 <sup>th</sup> March	<b>INSET – School Closed</b>
17 <sup>th</sup> March	Royal Albert Hall – Details to Follow
18 <sup>th</sup> -19 <sup>th</sup> March	Parents Evening Details to Follow
25 <sup>th</sup> March	Easter Reflections - <b>Reception &amp; KS1 @ 9.10am Parents Invited</b> <b>KS2 @ 2.30pm -Parents Invited</b>
27 <sup>th</sup> March	<b>Break Up From School @1pm</b>
13 <sup>th</sup> April	School Reopens @9am
4 <sup>th</sup> May	<b>Bank Holiday -School Closed</b>
5 <sup>th</sup> May	Year 3 Trip Frylands Wood
5 <sup>th</sup> May	Year 4 Trip to High Ashurst
11 <sup>th</sup> – 14 <sup>th</sup> May	Sats Week for Year 6
21 <sup>st</sup> May	Talent Show -Details to Follow
22 <sup>nd</sup> May	Outdoor learning Day <b>Break Up For Half Term</b>
1 <sup>st</sup> June	School Reopens @9am
1-12 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 4 MTC
10 <sup>th</sup> -12 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 6 PGL Residential
19 <sup>th</sup> June	<b>Inset Day -School Closed</b>
26 <sup>th</sup> June	Sports Day -Details to Follow
17 <sup>th</sup> July	<b>Break up From School @1pm</b>



<b>Infants</b>	<b>Girls</b>	<b>Boys</b>
<b>Winter Uniform (October to April)</b>	Navy skirt or navy trousers Light blue polo shirt with school logo School sweatshirt or cardigan Thick plain navy tights or blue knee length socks Black shoes	Light blue polo shirt with school logo* Grey trousers School sweatshirt* Grey socks (not trainer socks) Black shoes
<b>Summer Uniform (May to September)</b>	Pale blue and white checked dress* White knee length socks Black Shoes	Light blue polo shirt with school logo* Short or long grey trousers School sweatshirt with school logo* Grey socks (not trainer socks) Black shoes
<b>P.E.</b>	Black sports trainers for field Light blue round neck PE top with school logo* Navy shorts* Navy tracksuit (for cold weather)*	Black sports trainers for field Light blue round neck PE top with school logo* Navy shorts* Navy tracksuit (for cold weather)*

<b>KS2</b>	<b>Girls</b>	<b>Boys</b>
<b>Winter Uniform (October to April)</b>	Navy skirt or navy trousers Light blue, long sleeved blouse School sweatshirt or cardigan* School tie* Thick plain navy tights or navy knee length socks Black shoes (Flat)	Long sleeved, light blue shirt School tie* Grey trousers School sweatshirt* Black shoes
<b>Summer Uniform (May To September)</b>	Pale blue and white checked dress* White knee length socks Black shoes	Short sleeved light blue shirt School Tie* Short or long grey trousers Grey socks (not trainer socks) Black shoes
<b>P.E.</b>	Black Sports trainers Light blue round neck PE top with school logo* Navy shorts*. Navy tracksuit (for cold weather)*	Black sport trainers Light blue round neck PE top with school logo* Navy shorts* Navy tracksuit (for cold weather)*

**All children should have a dark coloured coat or anorak.**

**No children should have earrings or jewelry.**

**Make-up and lip gloss are not to be worn.**