



## Virtue of the month – Forgiveness

### Parents and Carers,

We've had such a wonderful week of learning across the whole school. The children have been busy, curious and full of enthusiasm, and it has been lovely to see so many bright ideas and big questions in every classroom. As we head into the **INSET day tomorrow**, we hope everyone enjoys the long weekend. Hopefully the sun will come out, giving you a chance to enjoy some fresh air and beautiful nature. While the children enjoy their day at home, our teachers will be taking part in training, focusing on how we continue to improve our writing. We have also celebrated a brilliant British Science Week, filled with lots of hands-on learning. The children explored a range of scientific questions and took part in exciting live lessons from the Primary Science Teaching Trust, which certainly ignited their enthusiasm.

Today, pupils proudly shared their work during our **Science Celebration Assembly**, showcasing the fantastic investigations, experiments and activities they have been involved in throughout the week. We were thrilled to welcome several parent visitors who work as doctors, nurses and scientists. They spoke to the children about their roles and helped them understand how science is used in everyday life. A huge thank you to all the parents who came in, your contributions made the week truly inspiring!

We also held our Science Fair competition, judged by **Mr Couch, Science Lead at de Stafford School**, alongside a panel of parent scientists. We are delighted to announce that 15 winners have been selected to attend an exciting **science day at the Xavier Grand Final at ACS International School in Cobham on Tuesday 24th March 2026**. They may even be awarded the title Xavier Scientist of the Year! (Details to follow).

Across the school, children have been building on their scientific knowledge in exciting ways:

**KS1** explored materials, plants and simple forces.

**KS2** extended this learning by investigating electricity and circuits, evolution and the classification of animals.

Thank you once again to all our families for your continued support, and to Mrs. Parker for organising and making British Science Week such a memorable and inspiring experience for our children.

### Multiplication Tables Check

Our Year 4 children will be taking the **Multiplication Tables Check (MTC)** later this year, and regular practice at home makes a huge difference. Knowing their times tables quickly and confidently helps them in so many areas of maths, from division and fractions to problem-solving and general confidence in lessons.

A little bit of practice every day really does help things stick. It doesn't need to be long; short bursts work best and can easily fit into daily routines. Great practice tools for Year 4 include: **Times Table Rock Stars, Hit the Button** and the **official MTC practice site**.

Our Year 4 MTC parents' meeting will be taking place **Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> March @3.45-4pm** where we'll explain what the check looks like and share ways to support the children. We hope you can join us!

### Spellings

We know how important it is for children to feel confident with their spelling as they move through Key Stage 2. To make things a little easier at home, we're sharing the **official KS2 statutory spelling lists** that all children in Years 3–6 learn as part of the National Curriculum. These lists include everyday words as well as some trickier spellings that often need a bit of extra practice. These spelling lists are taught gradually over four years, so there's no rush—children build their confidence little by little. You might find it helpful to dip into the lists during reading time, car journeys, or quick spelling games at home. You can view the full list here:

[KS2 Spelling GovUK](#)

## Follow us on Instagram!

We're excited to let you know that we now have our very own school Instagram page! This is a lovely way to stay connected and enjoy regular snapshots of school life, celebrations, events and all the brilliant learning taking place. Please take a moment to follow our new Instagram account and keep up to date with everything happening across the school. We can't wait to share more with you!



<https://www.instagram.com/stfranciscatholicprimaryschool/>

## School Places Available

Please spread the word to family and friends that we currently have a small number of spaces available in several year groups. We would be delighted to welcome new children into our school community. If you know anyone who may be interested, please encourage them to get in touch. We would be more than happy to offer a school tour and show them everything that makes our school such a warm, inclusive, and inspiring place to learn. We welcome children and families of all faiths and none.

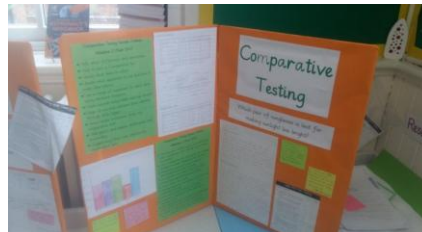
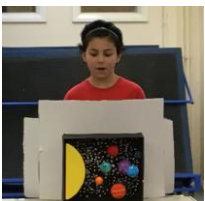
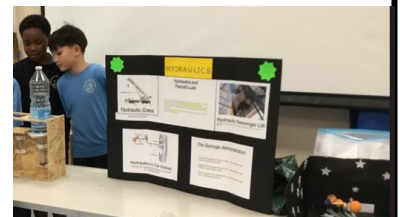
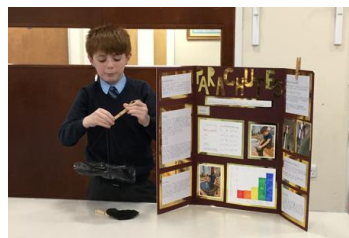
**INSET Day Tomorrow – The school is closed to pupils.**

**Parents Evenings – next week on 18<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> March.** We are looking forward to welcoming all of you here. Please make every effort to come in to meet your child's teacher.

**No Clubs on Wednesday & Thursday next week due to Parents evening.**

Have a lovely long weekend.

Mr Doyle & Staff



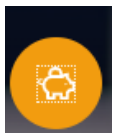
## RE

The 4th week of Lent leads us closer to Jesus's actions about Jesus healing a blind man but doing this on the Sabbath. The question is raised to the pharisees is that of what is right; not working on the Sabbath or not helping other people in need. For us we can remember that God made the Sabbath for us to worship God and we can do that in different ways. Again Jesus lets the blind man in the story know that he has seen the Son of Man, another revelation as to who he is. **Mr Yarnell**

## 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 and every penny goes towards enhancing your child's experience. We are inviting families to contribute just £5 per month per child (£60 per year).

Payments can be made as a single amount or monthly by direct debit. UK taxpayers will be asked to complete a Gift Aid declaration, which adds 25p to every pound you donate. [Click Here](#) to make your contribution. Or visit our website and click on this icon **Thank you to all families who are able to support us.**



## Calendar Dates

|  |   |
|--|---|
| 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   |
| 18 <sup>th</sup> -19 <sup>th</sup> March | Parents Evening   |
| 25 <sup>th</sup> March                   | Easter Reflections -Reception & KS1 @ 9.10am Parents Invited<br>KS2 @ 2.30pm -Parents Invited |
| 26 <sup>th</sup> March                   | Year 4 MTC Parents Meeting 3.45-4pm   |
| 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<br><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  |
| 18 <sup>th</sup> June                    | Year 5 Wintershall Trip   |
| 19 <sup>th</sup> June                    | <b>Inset Day -School Closed</b>   |
| 26 <sup>th</sup> June                    | Sports Day -Details to Follow   |
| 6 <sup>th</sup> July                     | Reception to Bocketts Farm- Details to follow   |
| 17 <sup>th</sup> July                    | <b>Break up From School @1pm</b>  |

# School Attendance

Every day counts...

## Good attendance helps with...

**Academic Achievement**

Regular attendance helps children keep up with the curriculum and perform better academically.

**Social Skills**

Attending school regularly helps children develop friendships, social skills and learning how to interact with others.

**Routine & Responsibility**

Good attendance teaches the importance of commitment, routine, and responsibility, which are all valuable life skills.

**Focus & Engagement**

Children who attend school regularly are more likely to stay engaged in their learning and develop a positive attitude towards education.

**Building Confidence**

Regular attendance can boost a child's self-esteem and confidence, as they see their progress and achievements over time.

**Enhanced Learning Opportunities**

School provides not just academic instruction, but also extra-curricular activities and enrichment opportunities.

**Over half a term missed!**

| Days Absent    | Attendance Percentage |
|----------------|-----------------------|
| 0 Days Absent  | 100% Attendance       |
| 10 Days Absent | 95% Attendance        |
| 19 Days Absent | 90% Attendance        |
| 29 Days Absent | 85% Attendance        |
| 38 Days Absent | 80% Attendance        |
| 47 Days Absent | 75% Attendance        |

Having 90% over 5 school years, is half a school year's work missed!

Did you know there are...

- 365 Days in a Year
- 190 School Days
- 175 Non School Days

**Attendance Matters!**