



Virtue of the month – Forgiveness

Dear Parents and Carers

Another week down already! And with such gorgeous weather! It was great to see so many of you at Parents' Evening this week. It is so heartening to share how your children are progressing as young people and I hope that you got a sense of how much their work is coming on. For those who I spoke to where the progress wasn't quite as you expected, do not lose heart! These things are never linear, so know that with lots of gentle, consistent encouragement at home, your children will do well. I was just now chatting to our Phonics consultant who was making his termly visit, and he said that it all starts with making time for conversation with your children. Once fluency builds up here, it trickles down into reading, then writing, then composition etc. In other words, if you get a few minutes to chat over the day (or any topic), good on you. It may sound obvious, but that's where mastery begins.

Uniform Reminder A friendly reminder that children should come to school in the correct school uniform each day. Looking smart helps pupils feel confident and ready to learn. Please also ensure your child brings a pair of trainers to change into for outdoor activities. This helps keep them comfortable and safe during PE and playtimes, and it also reduces the amount of mud being brought into classrooms and shared school spaces. Thank you for helping us with this.

Attendance

Congratulations to Maple/Elm Class for sharing this week's Attendance Cup!

Your excellent attendance shows real dedication to being in school, learning together, and making the most of every day. Well done to everyone in both classes for your fantastic commitment.

We're also pleased to share that **attendance across the whole school has been rising**, consistently this term.

Thank you to all families for your continued support. This is a hard thing to achieve, and we are on a very positive trajectory. Keep up your brilliant effort.

Royal Albert Hall

On Tuesday, our choir children had the wonderful opportunity to take part in Prom Praise Schools 2026, an unforgettable event held at the iconic Royal Albert Hall. Joining forces with the All Souls Orchestra and more than 2,500 school children, they helped create a truly breathtaking musical celebration.

Prom Praise Schools is far more than a concert. It offers pupils a rich and inspiring way to explore the Bible through the power of music, worship and creativity. Our choir represented the school beautifully, looking smart, singing with confidence. We are incredibly proud of how brilliantly they performed.

A huge thank you to the choir, all the staff and helpers who supported and made this special musical experience possible.

Maths

Twelve Year 5 children attended the Mathletics Competition at De Stafford this week, taking part in a fun and fast-paced 10-round problem-solving event. Working in teams of six, the children applied their Maths skills with enthusiasm and great teamwork. They represented our school brilliantly, worked exceptionally well in their groups, and most importantly, had lots of fun throughout the day!

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. 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 26th April @ 3.45pm** where we'll explain what the check looks like and share ways to support the children. We hope you can join us!

PTA Easter Bonnet Competition

A big well done to all the children who took part in this year's PTA Easter Bonnet Competition! We were delighted to see so many creative and colourful bonnets, with a number of fantastic entries from every class. The effort and imagination on display were wonderful to see. Congratulations to our winners, and thank you to everyone who joined in and helped make the event such a fun Easter celebration.

Missio Reminder

If you still have a **Missio charity box** at home, please send it back to school when you can. Every little bit helps, and getting the boxes back means we can pass on all the amazing donations. A big **thank you** to everyone who's already returned theirs, we really appreciate it! Thanks so much for your support.

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.

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 & Staff



RE What helps us believe in God?

This week we hear the story of Lazarus, Jesus' friend who becomes very ill. Jesus doesn't immediately go to him; instead, he waits. It reminds us that God's timing and plans can be different from what we expect. By the time Jesus arrives, Lazarus has already died. Yet Jesus calls him out of the tomb, and Lazarus returns to life. This story invites us to reflect and think about what God might be calling each of us to do, and how we can use our gifts we've been given to support and uplift others. 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

25 th March	Easter Reflections -Reception & KS1 @ 9.10am Parents Invited KS2 @ 2.30pm -Parents Invited
27 th March	Break Up From School @1pm
13 th April	School Reopens @9am
4 th May	Bank Holiday -School Closed
5 th May	Year 3 Trip Frylands Wood
5 th May	Year 4 Trip to High Ashurst
11 th – 14 th May	Sats Week for Year 6
21 st May	Talent Show -Details to Follow
22 nd May	Outdoor learning Day Break Up For Half Term
1 st June	School Reopens @9am
1-12 th June	Year 4 MTC
10 th -12 th June	Year 6 PGL Residential
18 th June	Year 5 Wintershall Trip
19 th June	Inset Day -School Closed
26 th June	Sports Day -Details to Follow
6 th July	Reception to Bocketts Farm- Details to follow
17 th July	Break up From School @1pm

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!

Attendance	Absence Days	School Days
100% (Perfect!)	0 Days	190
95%	10 Days	180
90% (4 weeks missed)	19 Days	171
85%	29 Days	161
80%	38 Days	152
75%	47 Days	143

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!