

St. Francis' School Newsletter

10th July 2026



Virtue of the month – Appreciation

Dear Parents and Carers,

Another week full of learning and memorable events has flown by! Only one week left before the end of what has been a really positive academic year. Your children continue to be a credit to you and I can't believe how far they have come on in only a year. I was looking through some Reception children's writing about their trip to Bocketts Farm this week and it is unbelievable how high the quality is: "I can see a cow. The cow is sitting on the green grars (sic). I can see a tree." Top job, Mrs Walton and Mrs Brotherton! There is also plenty of excitement in the air as we look ahead to this weekend's England football match and we may even have a home-grown tennis champion to cheer on too! Thank you also for ensuring that your children have come to school with water bottles, hats and sun cream.

Our Reception children enjoyed a wonderful trip to Bocketts Farm, where they had a fantastic day exploring the farm and meeting plenty of animals. They represented the school brilliantly and returned with lots of happy memories to share. Meanwhile, our Year 6 end-of-year performances were a huge success, with the children showcasing real character and mischief. They should be immensely proud of all they achieved, and we would like to extend our sincere thanks to the Year 6 staff for their hard work and dedication in preparing the children and helping to make the performances such a memorable success. We hope they have a wonderful time at their disco this evening and enjoy celebrating the end of their primary school journey with their friends. Their transition days to their new schools are now virtually all complete, and they are ready to go.

It was lovely to welcome parishioners from Sacred Heart to our Afternoon Tea event this week. The gathering was a wonderful opportunity to strengthen the close links between the school and parish, while giving our visitors the chance to enjoy a showcase of the children's music and performances. It was fantastic to see so many parishioners attend, and the children represented the school beautifully. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the afternoon, and our thanks go to Mrs Bartlett for all her hard work in organising such a successful event.

We were delighted to welcome our new Reception children for their Play and Stay session. The children explored their new classroom with enthusiasm, began forming new friendships and settled in beautifully. While the children enjoyed their time in class, parents attended a phonics information session, where they learned more about how early reading and phonics are taught in Reception and how they can support their child at home. Thank you to all the families who attended, we are very much looking forward to welcoming you into our school community and working together to support your children's learning journey.

A reminder for all families: please take a few moments to log in to Arbor and check that all your details are correct. It is important that you have at least three emergency contacts listed for your child. Please also ensure that all consents have been completed and that any medical information is up to date. Arbor is our preferred method for reporting your child's absence, so keeping your information accurate helps us communicate with you effectively and ensures we can support your child appropriately.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. We look forward to another busy and exciting week ahead. Please ensure that you bring your children in every day until our 1pm finish next Friday 17th July.

A huge well done to all of the children who took part in the **Poetry By Heart** competition. To perform and share poetry with confidence takes courage, dedication and enthusiasm, and we are incredibly proud of their achievement.

We would also like to extend our sincere thanks to **Mrs Shannon** for her dedication, encouragement and support throughout the process. Her passion for poetry and commitment to helping the children develop their confidence and love of language made this wonderful opportunity possible. Thank you, Mrs Shannon, for all of your hard work and dedication.

A huge congratulations to **Maple Class** for winning the **Attendance Cup!** 🏆 Their excellent attendance, punctuality and commitment to being in school every day have earned them this fantastic achievement.

Well done to all the children in Maple Class for setting such a positive example and making the most of every learning opportunity. Keep up the great work!

Wishing you a wonderful weekend.

Mr Doyle



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As the summer comes, we see more and more flowers coming into bloom. To make the flower takes time and nourishment. It takes warmth and moisture. The flowers can be like our children. They grow slowly over time, being nurtured by knowledge and love. For the children to grow the best way possible, we need to support them in the right ways. How we share our love and time, praise and reprimand in just the right ways so that they grow best is essential, just like too much sun or water is bad for a plant. But when we consider that flower, and then look to the wider world and all of the different flowers, plants, animals and creatures as well as the seas and sky, the lands and deserts, we reflect in the real magnificence of how we fit into much larger picture, created and made by something even greater than we can comprehend. Mr Yarnell.

Calendar Dates

10 th July	Year 1 Trip to Godstone Farm
10 th July	Year 6 Leavers Disco
13 th July	Year 6 Mass @ Sacred Heart
17 th July	Year 6 Leavers Mass @9.10am
17 th July	Break up From School @1pm
1 st September	Inset Day -School Closed
2 nd September	Inset Day -School Closed
3 rd September	School Reopens @9am

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.



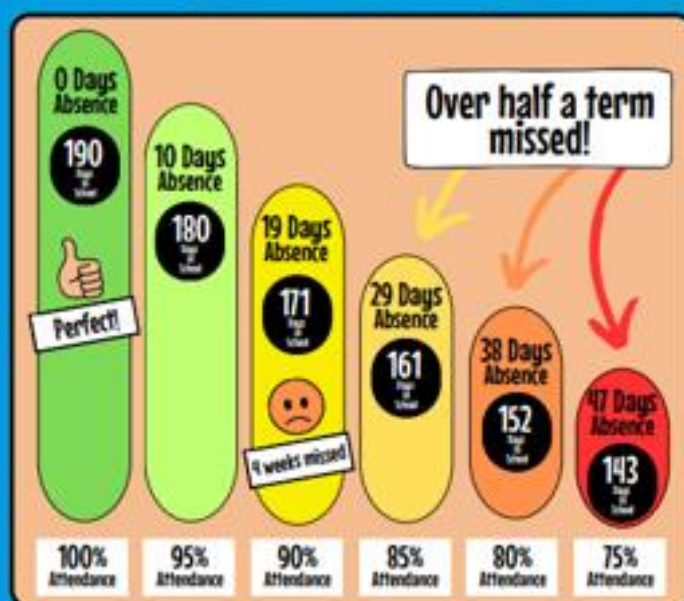
Building Confidence

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.



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!

