



Jesus said, 'I am the way, the truth and the life.' - John 14:6

Love Courage Friendship

**St. Francis Catholic & Church  
of England Primary Academy**

**Newsletter 37**

**11th July 2025**

**01983 857449**

[office@stfrancisventnor.org](mailto:office@stfrancisventnor.org)

Dear Parents and Carers,

What a wonderfully busy week we've had here at St Francis and St Blasius Primary Academy! It's been one of those weeks where you can truly feel the energy and excitement buzzing through our corridors, and I'm delighted to share some of the highlights with you all.

In Collective Worship this week, we saw how Jesus' disciples were amazed at what they could do in the power of His name. But Jesus reminded them not to rejoice because of what they could do, but because God called them His children! The children learnt that Christians believe that their reward in Heaven is greater than any reward on Earth and that they are inspired to do incredible things in the name of Jesus.

Tuesday brought us our much-anticipated school disco, and what a celebration it was! The children's faces were absolutely glowing as they danced the evening away. There's something quite magical about seeing children from different year groups coming together, sharing laughter and creating those precious memories that make primary school so special.

Thursday was particularly exciting for our Year 6 children, who had the opportunity to visit Portsmouth Cathedral for some truly inspiring workshops. They spent time creating beautiful dragonflies from wire and crafting prayer pyramids from stained-glass. These hands-on experiences not only develop their creative skills but also provide wonderful opportunities for reflection and spiritual growth. The children also participated in a special leavers' service at the cathedral, where Laycen and Florence had the honour of carrying our school banner - a moment that beautifully represented our school community in this sacred space. I must also share some tremendous news about our talented performers!

On Thursday, some of our children took part in a DCAT enriched event where they performed "Flash Bang Wallop" from Half-a-Sixpence. I'm absolutely thrilled to tell you that they won 'best dramatic performance'! Their hard work, dedication, and natural talent truly shone through, and we couldn't be prouder of their achievement.

Friday rounded off our busy week perfectly with Sports Day, including a delightful family picnic on the field. The weather was kind to us, if a little hot, and it was heartwarming to see families coming together to cheer on our children and enjoy each other's company. These community moments are what make our school such a special place to be.

Looking ahead, you are warmly invited to join us for our end of year service at St Catherine's Church at 10am on Monday 21st July. This will be a lovely opportunity for our whole school community to come together as we reflect on the year that's been and look forward to the exciting times ahead.

The big question last week was:

**If you woke up tomorrow with a superpower tomorrow, what would it be and how would you use it?**

"Friendship powers to make sure everyone has friends." Hayden Y5

"To speak in all languages then I could tell everyone bible stories." George Y2

"Invisibility - I would use it for hide and seek so I'd be the best!" Peaches Y4

"To be whatever I draw comes to life and I would use it for drawing food for the homeless." Elliot Y3

"Dancing so that I can win prizes at the disco." Mabel B Y2

"Flight so I can travel the world." James Y6

The big question this week is:

**What would the world be like if everyone was exactly the same?**

Thank you all for your continued support in making our school community so vibrant and caring.

With warm wishes,  
Mr Craig

"Dear Heavenly Lord, Thank you for adding more beauty to nature and more reason for us to believe in your creativity. Unlike the planet glowing with the various colors and fragrant breeze, let the new journey of my life bloom in your protection. Amen."

## Important Dates

15th July - New starters and current

Yr R Teddy Bears picnic

15th July - Year 1 trip to Amazon World

16th July - Reception Trip to Blue Reef Aquarium

18th July - Summer Fayre 3pm—5pm

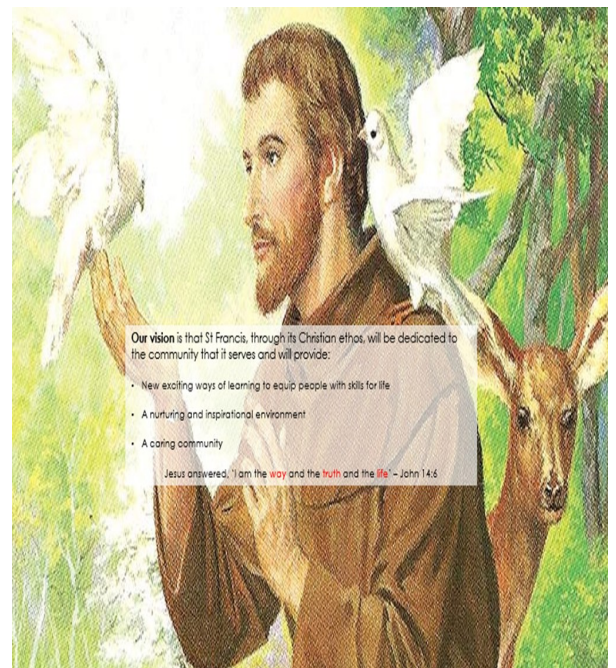
21st July - Whole School Worship @ St Catherines Church

23rd July - Year 6 trip to Houses of Parliament & Westminster Abbey

24th July - Leavers Assembly —1pm – 2pm

24th July - Last Day of the school year

## Our School Vision



Our vision is that St Francis, through its Christian ethos, will be dedicated to the community that it serves and will provide:

- New exciting ways of learning to equip people with skills for life
- A nurturing and inspirational environment
- A caring community

Jesus answered, 'I am the way and the truth and the life' - John 14:6

## Dina Asher-Smith Class News

As the school year draws to a close, year 6 have packed in some amazing experiences.

This week, the children took a big step towards their next chapter by attending their high school

1 transition days. They explored their new schools, met new friends and teachers and even tried out some new subjects.

Some year 6 also completed their Bikeability training - a programme that taught them how to stay safe and smart while cycling on the road.



On Thursday we attended a special Leavers' service and a series of creative workshops at Portsmouth Cathedral. As part of the workshops, they made beautiful dragonflies out of blue wire and crafted colourful prayer pyramids designed to resemble stained glass windows.

During the leavers' service, the children were encouraged to reflect on their time at primary school and think about their "wow" moments - the memories and achievements that made their school journey special.



### Reports

If you require a copy of your child's report for a second parent, please let the office know asap.

Thank you

### Accounts

As we come to the end of the school year it is vital that all accounts are cleared and any outstanding payments for trips are paid. Thank you.

### Please Remember

Children should have a water bottle and a hat in school every day and sunscreen applied before coming to school.

### Change of Menu

There are a couple of changes to the menu for the last week of term.

Tuesday 22nd—Veggie option changed to Cheese and onion Pasty.

Thursday 24th—Fish fingers & chips or Quorn Hotdog & Chips.

### Uniform

A reminder that children going into year 3 next year will need a tie.

If you would like to order uniform ready for September we have plenty in stock, order forms can be collected from the office or on Arbor.

### House Points



**Polar bears - 175**

**Pandas - 168**

**Tigers - 141**

**Snow Leopard - 135**



### Class Attendance

Congratulations to Year R Class for having the highest class attendance this week.

Year R = 99.6%

Year 2 = 99.4%

Year 4 = 98.4%

Year 1 = 95.8%

Year 6 = 94.8%

Year 3 = 94.2%

Year 3 = 89.2%





## Online Safety

At The National College, our digital literacy guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. Formerly delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, facts and tips, please visit [nationalcollege.org](https://nationalcollege.org).

### What Parents & Educators Need to Know about AI-ENABLED SCAMS

Artificial intelligence (AI) is quickly becoming a widely used tool, with lots of positive applications being discussed and developed. Sadly, however, as with most technology tools, there are those who will seek to use it for malicious and dishonest practices, with children and other vulnerable groups particularly at risk.

#### WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

##### PHISHING EMAILS: BETTER & QUICKER

Phishing emails - emails designed to trick people into handing over their details or money - are becoming more sophisticated. Criminals can now generate highly convincing emails, often mimicking a company's logo and branding, and using language that is very persuasive. These emails are often sent to people who have previously interacted with the company, making them more likely to be taken in.

##### ONLINE MARKETPLACE FRAUD

Online marketplaces are now a common way to buy and sell goods, from second-hand clothes to cars. Criminals are exploiting this by using AI to generate convincing product descriptions and images, and pressure buyers into paying deposits of full amounts, before the goods are never delivered.

##### VOICE IMPERSONATION

AI can now realistically impersonate a person's voice when given a small sample of someone's voice. This has led to criminals using AI-generated voices to impersonate family members or friends, often to trick them into sending money or revealing sensitive information.

##### EMPLOYMENT SCAMS

Using AI, criminals can create fake online profiles that seem very professional. These criminals can chat with young people about job offers, asking for money to secure a visa or passport, or to pay for a flight. The Guardian reported a scam targeting young people with promises of a job, asking for £10 for each.

##### INFLUENCER & INVESTMENT SCAMS

AI tools now make it easy to manipulate video and audio, with technology available that can generate convincing fake content using the likeness of celebrities or influencers. Criminals are using this to create convincing offers of wealth from famous people, or to promote fake products or services, which young people can be particularly susceptible to.

##### ROMANCE SCAMS & EXTORTION

AI chat bots can now mimic real conversations, often becoming very convincing. These bots are often used to build trust with young people - in 2023, the VICE CSO found that about 1 in 10 young people had been scammed by a bot. Criminals have also used AI-generated voices to impersonate family members or friends, often to trick them into sending money or revealing sensitive information.

### Advice for Parents & Educators

#### THINK CRITICALLY

The key to addressing the increasing growth of AI-enabled scams is to think critically and to encourage children to be sceptical about anything that seems too good to be true. When a young person is approached by someone who is offering them a large sum of money or a job, they should be encouraged to think carefully about the offer and to ask for more information before agreeing to anything.

#### USE TRUSTWORTHY SITES AND SERVICES

Online marketplaces are useful when buying and selling items, however, where possible, encourage children to use trusted companies and their own shopping sites. These companies are likely to have more sophisticated security measures in place, and are more likely to be monitored by consumer regulators.

#### SEEK TO VERIFY

Criminals may breach an influencer's account or spread misinformation and fake content. However, their accounts will generally be verified to a single account, like a verified email. Where a young person is offered a large sum of money or a job, they should be encouraged to think carefully about the offer and to ask for more information before agreeing to anything.

#### REPORT IT

As the sophistication of scams increases, the likelihood of being tricked by them also increases, especially when not paying attention or acting quickly. It is important that young people know how to report incidents as they happen. Some children have to report their concerns to the local police, while others can report them to their security independent of police, supported by consumer regulators, enabling them to control how products and services are displayed and traded on their sites.

Meet Our Expert  
Gary Henderson is the Director of IT at Millfield, a large independent boarding school in Somerset, and a member of the Digital Futures Group, Vice Chair of the UK Digital Advisory Group and an Association of Network Managers in Education (ANME) Ambassador.

#WakeUpWednesday The National College

@wake\_up\_weds /www.thenationalcollege @wake.up.wednesday @wake.up.weds

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Ventnor Tennis Club

# CHILDRENS SUMMER TENNIS

## GAME, SET, MATCH!

### EVERY TUESDAY FROM 29<sup>TH</sup> JULY - 2<sup>ND</sup> SEPT

**RED BALL 9:30 - 11:00** **ORANGE/GREEN BALL 11:00 - 13:00**

Age 6-10yrs  
Club Members: £12  
Non Members: £14

Age 11-14yrs  
Club Members: £15  
Non Members: £17

Groups are chosen based on age and ability. Please contact Linda:  
[LJLouise@icloud.com](mailto:LJLouise@icloud.com) / 07971298367  
For more information/recommendations.

## Help your child discover the joy of reading this summer!

This summer, give your child the chance to fall in love with reading! The **Summer Reading Challenge** in Isle of Wight Libraries is a FREE fun-packed way to keep children reading and learning all summer long.

This year's theme is **Story Garden**, where imagination blossoms and stories grow!

### Why Join?

- It's FREE! Available in all island libraries
- Earn a medal and certificate and other fun rewards
- 95% of children said they read more after joining!
- Children choose their own books to read over the summer, which can really help with reading motivation and enjoyment. Any type of book counts!
- The main challenge is for children aged 4 and over, but there's a mini-challenge for little ones, too.
- Libraries have loads of things for grown-ups, too, so come as a family and enjoy the library together.



The challenge starts on **Saturday 5 July**.

Visit your local library to get started.

Help your children start their reading adventure today!

Story Garden illustrations by Dapo Adeola and © The Reading Agency 2025

HAF sponsored

NATUREZONES

Wise Owl  
Summer Holiday Club  
8yr - 14 yrs



Come and have a great time outdoors! Go on a nature safari, look for wildlife in our ponds, woods and meadows. See if you can charm worms out of the ground. Get creative in our guided art sessions and try some crafts using willow and other natural materials. Play games based around wildlife and tackle a challenge! Various different fun activities during each session.

### Dates:

August: Thur 7th, Fri 8th,  
Wed 13th, Thur 14th, Wed 20th,  
Thur 21st, Thurs 28th.  
HAF free, non-HAF £20

Where: Blackwater

[www.naturezones.org.uk](https://www.naturezones.org.uk)





## DCAT Enrichment Day

The children had a fantastic day on Thursday and won an award for Best Dramatic Performance !



## Summer Fayre

The PTA are busy planning a fantastic Summer Fayre for the school and community.

We would welcome donations of Raffle prizes, soft toys , tombola prizes , odd socks ! And anything else we could sell.

We would also be grateful of any help setting up and at the fayre, please contact the office if you can help in any way. Thank you





## Information from the Local Authority

From August 2024, the fine for school absences across the country will be **£80 if paid within 21 days, or £160 if paid within 28 days**. This rate is in line with inflation and is the first increase since 2012.

In the case of repeated fines, if a parent receives a second fine for the same child within any three-year period, this will be charged at the higher rate of £160.

Fines per parent will be capped to two fines within any three-year period. Once this limit has been reached, other action like a parenting order or prosecution will be considered.

If you're prosecuted and attend court because your child hasn't been attending school, you could get a fine of up to £2,500.

Term Dates 2025 - 2026

SEPTEMBER 2025	OCTOBER 2025	NOVEMBER 2025
M 1 8 15 22 29	M 6 13 20 27	M 4 11 18 25
T 2* 9 16 23 30	T 7 14 21 28	T 5 12 19 26
W 3 10 17 24	W 1 8 15 22 29	W 6 13 20 27
T 4 11 18 25	T 2 9 16 23 30	T 7 14 21 28
F 5 12 19 26	F 3 10 17 24 31	F 8 15 22 29
S 6 13 20 27	S 4 11 18 25	S 9 16 23 30
S 7 14 21 28	S 5 12 19 26	S 10 17 24 31
DECEMBER 2025	JANUARY 2026	FEBRUARY 2026
M 1 8 15 22 29	M 5* 12 19 26	M 2 9 16 23*
T 2 9 16 23 30	T 6 13 20 27	T 3 10 17 24
W 3 10 17 24 31	W 7 14 21 28	W 4 11 18 25
T 4 11 18 25	T 8 15 22 29	T 5 12 19 26
F 5 12 19 26	F 9 16 23 30	F 6 13 20 27
S 6 13 20 27	S 10 17 24 31	S 7 14 21 28
S 7 14 21 28	S 11 18 25	S 8 15 22 29
MARCH 2026	APRIL 2026	MAY 2026
M 2 9 16 23 30	M 6 13* 20 27	M 4 11 18 25
T 3 10 17 24 31	T 7 14 21 28	T 5* 12 19 26
W 4 11 18 25	W 1 8 15 22 29	W 6 13 20 27
T 5 12 19 26	T 2 9 16 23 30	T 7 14 21 28
F 6 13 20 27	F 3 10 17 24 31	F 8 15 22 29
S 7 14 21 28	S 4 11 18 25	S 9 16 23 30
S 1 8 15 22 29	S 5 12 19 26	S 10 17 24 31
JUNE 2026	JULY 2026	AUGUST 2026
M 1* 8 15 22 29	M 6 13 20 27	M 3 10 17 24 31
T 2 9 16 23 30	T 7 14 21 28	T 4 11 18 25
W 3 10 17 24	W 1 8 15 22 29	W 5 12 19 26
T 4 11 18 25	T 2 9 16 23 30	T 6 13 20 27
F 5 12 19 26	F 3 10 17 24 31	F 7 14 21 28
S 6 13 20 27	S 4 11 18 25	S 1 8 15 22 29
S 7 14 21 28	S 5 12 19 26	S 2 9 16 23 30

■ Development Day (no children) 
 ■ Holiday 
 ■ Bank Holiday 
 \* first day after break 
 # last day before break

**Bank and Public Holidays 2025/2026**  
 Christmas Day: 25 December 2025  
 Boxing Day New Year's: 26 December 2025  
 New Year's Day Holiday: 1 January 2026  
 Good Friday: 3 April 2026  
 Easter Monday: 6 April 2026  
 May Day Holiday: 4 May 2026  
 Spring Bank Holiday: 25 May 2026  
 Summer Bank Holiday: 31 August 2026

## Spring/Summer Menu

Packed lunches are now available to book on Relish.

	WEEK 3				
STEP 1 Choose from...	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
<b>Main</b>	French Bread Pizza to go with Corn on the Cob, Cucumber	Pork & Sage Sausage Roll to go with Sweetcorn, Homemade Potato Wedges	Roast Gammon to go with Mixed Veg, Roast Potatoes, Gravy	Meatballs with Tomato Sauce to go with Homemade Tomato & Herb Bread, Spaghetti	Cod in Batter to go with Baked Beans, Chips, Peas
<b>Vegetarian</b>	Macaroni Cheese to go with Corn on the Cob	Cheese & Tomato Pinwheels to go with Sweetcorn, Homemade Potato Wedges	Quorn Roast to go with Mixed Veg, Roast Potatoes, Gravy	Veggie Balls to go with Spaghetti, Homemade Tomato & Basil Bread	Homemade Crispy Vegetable Nuggets to go with Baked Beans, Chips
<b>Combo</b>	Jacket Potato with choice of fillings Baked Beans, Grated Cheese, Cheese & Beans, No Topping	Jacket Potato with choice of fillings Baked Beans, Grated Cheese, Cheese & Beans, No Topping	Jacket Potato with choice of fillings Baked Beans, Grated Cheese, Cheese & Beans, No Topping	Jacket Potato with choice of fillings Baked Beans, Grated Cheese, Cheese & Beans, No Topping	Jacket Potato with choice of fillings Baked Beans, Grated Cheese, Cheese & Beans, No Topping
	Pasta with choice of fillings Homemade Tomato & Basil Sauce, Grated Cheese, No Topping	Wrap with choice of fillings Grated Cheese, Ham Salad, Tuna Mayo	Pasta with choice of fillings Homemade Tomato & Basil Sauce, Grated Cheese, No Topping	Wrap with choice of fillings Ham, Tuna, Grated Cheese	Pasta with choice of fillings Homemade Tomato & Basil Sauce, Grated Cheese, No Topping
	Apple Sponge	Cherry Muffins	Oat Cookies	Plum & Pineapple Upside Down Cake	Choc Ice
STEP 2 ...and to finish!	Fresh Fruit Pot, Yoghurt, Cheese and Biscuits, Jelly	Fresh Fruit Pot, Yoghurt, Jelly	Fresh Fruit Pot, Yoghurt, Cheese and Biscuits, Jelly	Fresh Fruit Pot, Yoghurt, Jelly	Fresh Fruit Pot, Yoghurt, Cheese and Biscuits, Jelly

Please speak to a member of the Catering Team or view [relishschoolfood.co.uk](http://relishschoolfood.co.uk) for Allergen Information

## School Uniform

The uniform at St Francis is:

- Grey trousers/ shorts/skirt/pinafore/ Blue & white gingham dresses for the summer
- White Polo (with logo if possible) Years R, 1, 2
- White button through shirt/blouse and tie Years 3, 4, 5 & 6
- School Sweatshirt/Cardigan with logo
- Grey socks/tights
- Black School Shoes (not trainers or boots)

PE Kit is:

- White Logo T Shirt
- Navy PE shorts
- Plimsolls / Trainers

Hair longer than shoulder length should be tied up at all times this applies to both boys and girls and hair accessories should be subtle (no big bows/ ribbons please)

For safety reasons children should not wear any jewellery in school. However if your child has pierced ears, small studs may be worn.

We are proud of our school and its uniform, please help us to keep looking smart.

## PE Days:

Monday - Year 5

Tuesday - Reception

Wednesday - Year 3

Thursday - Years 1 & 2

Friday - Year 4

**Please remember PE kit  
MUST be worn to school  
on your child's PE day.**

**PE kits should be brought  
in for all after school sports**

## School Information

School starts at 8.30am and finishes at 3.00pm. Please ensure your child is dropped off in plenty of time for the start of the day and that you collect your child promptly at the end of the day or after their club.

### Attendance

If your child is absent from school please ensure you contact the school office promptly in the morning, you can leave a message on 857449.

### Break and lunch boxes

A reminder that children should bring a healthy snack for break (no chocolate) and a healthy balanced lunchbox, thank you.

Join the PTA!



## PTA News

Join the PTA!



The PTA are busy planning some exciting events for the children this year, below are some events for the children to look forward to.

Friday 18th July - Summer Fayre



Thursday 24th July - Ice cream van visiting , all children will have a free Ice Cream



September - PTA Coffee Morning for new and existing parents



October - 'Light Rave' to tie in with Diwali and possibly a Colour run



November - Christmas Craft Workshops



December - Christmas Fayre

December 18th - Whole School Surprise Christmas Treat



If you would like to join the PTA please contact the office.