Newsletter 39 24th July 2025

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Dear Parents and Carers,

As we reach the end of another wonderful school year at St Francis Primary Academy, I find myself reflecting on all the special moments that have made this term so memorable.

On Monday, the whole school came together for a beautiful walk to St Catherine's church for our end of year worship. It was heartwarming to see each class contribute something unique to our service - from thoughtful poems and creative artwork to precious memories and reflections about their time at school. The children's voices filled the church as we sang some of our favourite collective worship songs, creating an atmosphere of joy and celebration. We were delighted that several parents were able to join us for this special occasion, making it even more significant for our school community.

Yesterday, our Year 6 children had an incredible opportunity to visit London, where they explored the Houses of Parliament and gained valuable insights into our democratic system. This educational experience was perfectly complemented by their visit to Westminster Abbey, giving them a deeper understanding of our nation's history and governance. These are the kinds of experiences that truly bring learning to life and create lasting memories for our children as they prepare for their next chapter.

Today marked another important milestone with our final celebration worship and Leavers' service. These moments are always bittersweet as we celebrate the achievements of our Year 6 children while acknowledging that we'll miss them dearly. Their journey with us has been remarkable, and we're incredibly proud of everything they've accomplished.

As we prepare to close this chapter, we must also say farewell to some valued members of our school family. We're saying goodbye to Ms Muncer, Ms Broadsmith, and Mrs Holden. While we're sad to see them go, we're pleased that Ms Broadsmith and Ms Muncer will be continuing her journey within the DCAT family at Lanesend Primary. We also bid a heartfelt farewell to Reverend Tom, who has been such an important part of our spiritual journey as a school. We wish him every blessing as he embarks on his new adventure in Jerusalem. We wish all of them the very best in their future endeavours and thank them for their dedication to our children and school community. I also want to give huge thanks to Miss Steven, who has done a fantastic job helping with Years 5 and 6 this term. She will now return to St Blasius, where I know she will be a brilliant Year 4 teacher.

The big question last week was:

If colours had feelings, what do you think your favourite colour would feel like? Why?

"My favourite colour is green and it would feel calm because green represents nature." Piper-Lea Y3

"I love yellow because it's bright like the sun." Isabelle YR "My favourite colour would feel wealthy because my favourite colour is gold." Brooke Y4

"Pink would be love because hearts are pink." Hugo Y2

As the summer holidays begin, I hope that every family in our school community enjoys a safe and wonderful break. Take time to rest, explore, and create new memories together. We look forward to welcoming everyone back refreshed and ready for another exciting year ahead. Mr Craig

Dear God

We thank you for your love and your promise to be with us.

At school or work, at rest or play, help us to feel near to you and hear your voice.

Guide us to always do our best in every situation and to love one another.

Amen

Important Dates

Tuesday 2nd September return to school . 8.25am

Prayer for the End of the School Year



At the end of this school year we give thanks to God:

For all the teaching and learning that has taken place in our school, our classrooms, and in our homes;

For the talents and gifts that have been shared, and the challenges that have been faced;

For the burdens that have been lifted, and the hurts that have been healed:

For the respect and care that has been given.

We give thanks for the friendships that have just begun, and for those that have grown;

For the faith that has been lived in our daily struggles;

For the hope that has lifted our hearts on the dark days, and for the love that has kept us going.

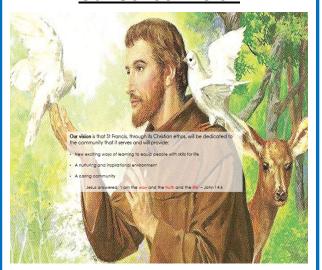
We give thanks for the community that we are, and we ask you Lord to bless our families as we begin our time apart from each other.

May our time shared together leave us with memories to cherish.

Pour out your love on us that we may return renewed and refreshed to continue our journey together.

We make this prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Our School Vision



Ellen MacArthur Class News

What a year it's been! As we wrap up an amazing year in Year 4, we've been spending time looking back on everything we've done – and what a journey it's been!

From the very first day in September, this class impressed with their positivity, their kindness and their willingness to try new things. It didn't take long for them to settle into the rhythm of Year 4 life – and once they did, they were off!

In English, they have become thoughtful writers and confident speakers. They've written powerful discussion texts, descriptive narratives and persuasive letters, using rich vocabulary and brilliant ideas. We've had some excellent debates too – and they've really learned how to listen, think critically, and express their opinions clearly.

Maths has been full of challenges – from place value to fractions, and everything in between but the children have shown so much resilience and focus. They've worked hard to become more fluent with their times tables and mental strategies, and they should be proud of how far they've come.

One of the highlights of the year has been our science learning. From investigating sound and electricity to experimenting with solids, liquids and gases, the children have loved exploring how things work.

Throughout the year, we've also explored a wide range of topics in geography, history, RE and more. Whether it was learning about the Ancient Civilisations, Hindu worship, or volcanoes, the children brought their curiosity and enthusiasm to every lesson.

We've had so many memorable moments this year – sports day, class assemblies, exciting trips, themed days.



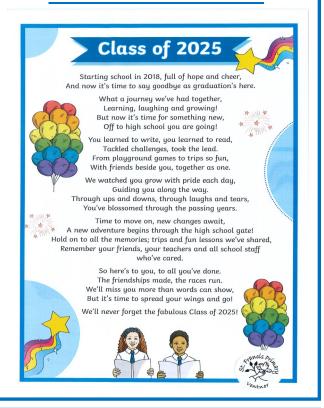
Thank you for supporting the PTA events this year, we have some more exciting events planned for next year.



Uniform

The office will be open on Friday 25th July and Friday 29th August for School Uniform.

Best wishes to Year 6.



Clubs

Clubs for next term are now available to book on Arbor.

House Points





Polar bears - 175

Pandas - 168

Tigers - 141

Snow Leopard - 135





Class Attendance

Congratulations to Year 4
Class for having the highest class
attendance this week and to Year 2
for the highest attendance this year.

Year 4 = 99.0%

Year 6 = 98.6%

Year R = 98.4%

Year 2 = 98.1%

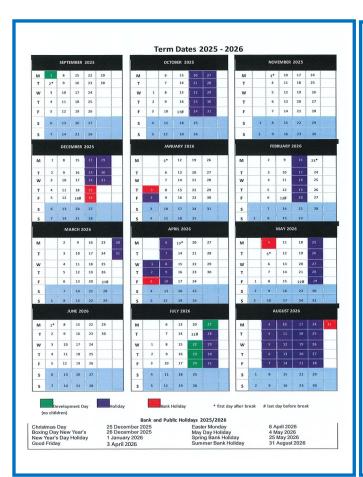
Year 1 = 97.6%

Year 5 = 92.7%

Year 3 = 86.3%







Information form the Local Authority

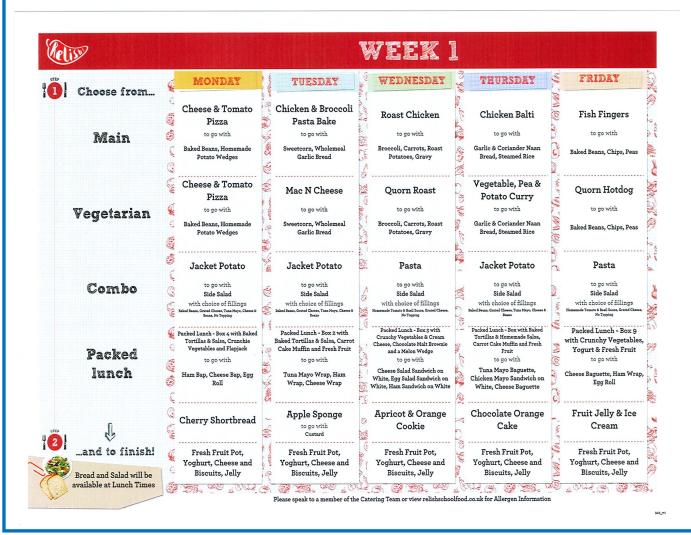
From August 2024, the fine for school absences across the country will be £80 if paid within 21 days, or £160 if paid within 28 days. This rate is in line with inflation and is the first increase since 2012.

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.

New Autumn Menu



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.

Summer Activities

Summer Sports Activity Days

Premier School Sport Coaching

St. Francis Primary School

Newport Road, Ventnor PO38 1BQ

Booking is Essential please use this link

tps://eequ.org/book/premier-sports-haf-fun-club-st-francis-with-premier-school-sports-coaching-limited-1645

Or use this QR Code

Monday 28th July & 11th Aug Tuesday 29th July & 12th Aug Wed 30th July & 13th Aug Thursday 31st July & 14th Aug Friday 1st & 15th August Cost: £FREE on income related Free Scho

meals) – LUNCH AND SNACKS
PROVIDED!!!
unded by the Department of Education
OR

£15 per day

9.00am till 3.00pm each day.

The activity days are **for children at primary school** to have fun, make new friends and enjoy physical activity in a safe and structured environment. The activities will be a mixture each day of:

Team games - Football, Handball, Basketball, Cricket etc.

Individual sports – Tennis, Athletics, Soft Archery, Tri Golf etc. Alternative sports – Dodgeball, New Age Kurling, Boccia etc.

There will also be a chill out zone for your child to play board games and relax.

Staffing:

All Coaches are experienced in working in Island Schools, have an enhanced DBS, first aid and attended safeguarding training.

What to Bring: Plenty to drink

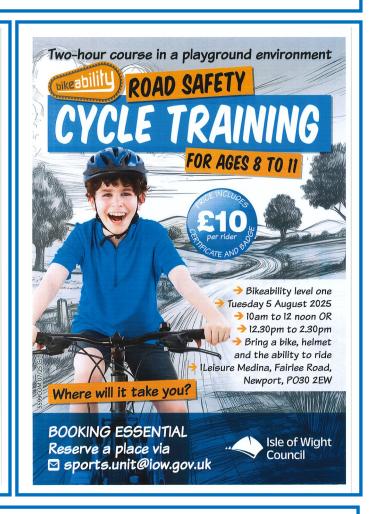
Wear suitable clothing for physical activity.

Suncream, hat or warm clothing for outside activities



For more information Email Andy Day – **psscltd@gmail.com** o

phone/text 07970009509



ISLE OF WIGHT LIBRARIES HILDREN'S SUMMER ACTIVITIES

of our summer holiday activities are free. More information can be found at www.iow.gov.uk/thelibra

31 JUL Thursday, 2.30pm - 3.30pm
PAINT YOUR OWN ROCK OWLS - LORD LOUIS LIBRARY

Children aged 5+
Booking essential. Telephone 823823

2 Saturday, 2.30pm - 3.30pm CREATE YOUR OWN PRETTY BUTTERFLIES - LORD LOUIS LIBRARY Children aged 5+ Children aged 5+ Booking essential, Telephone 823823

5 Juesday, 10.30am - 12.00pm JUNK MODELLING - SANDOWN LIBRARY. Children aged 4+ Drop-in, no need to book.

6 Wednesday, 2.00pm - 4.00pm PRINTING PAPER - FRESHWATER LIBRARY No need to book.

7 Thursday, 2.30pm – 3.30pm MAKE A HANDPRINT BLOSSOM TREE – LORD LOUIS LIBRARY Children aged 3+ Booking essential Telephone 823823

11 Monday, 2.15pm - 3.30pm MAKE A GARDEN IN A TEACUP - LORD LOUIS LIBRARY Children aged 7+ Booking essential. Telephone 823823

13 Wednesday, 2.00pm - 4.00pm PRINTING T SHIRTS - FRESHWATER LIBRARY No need to book

13 Wednesday, 10,30am - 11,30am
GROWA STORY, CREATIVE SESSION - VENTNOR LIBRARY
Children aged 5+
Children ag

15 Friday, 10.30am
PLANT POT DECORATING AND RE-POTTING - SANDOWN LIBRARY
AUG Children aged 5+
Booking essential Telephone 402748

Saturday, 2.00pm - 4.00pm
GARDEN CRAFT - COWES LIBRARY

No need to book
PLASS NOTE THERE ARE CURRENTLY NO TOILET FACILITIES AT COWES LIBRARY

18 Monday 2.30pm - 3.30pm
MAKE GARDEN WIND CHIMES - LORD LOUIS LIBRARY
AUG
Children aged 5Children aged 5-

Tuesday, 10.30am – 12.00pm DROP-IN SUMMER CRAFTS – SANDOWN LIBRARY Children aged 4+ No need to book.

20 Wednesday, 2.00pm - 4.00pm PRINTING BAGS - FRESHWATER LIBRARY No need to book.

20 Wednesday, 10.30am - 12.00pm MAKE A CARNIVAL MASK - RYDE LIBRARY No need to book.

22 Friday, 10.30am – 11.30am STORY GARDEN CRAFT – RYDE LIBRARY Children aged 5+ Booking essential. Telephone 823825

23 Saturday, 10,30am – 11,30am
MAKE A WRIGGLY CATERPILLAR – VENTNOR LIBRARY
Children aged 5+
No need to book.

23 Saturday, 10.30am - 12.00pm MAKE A PIRATE MASK - SANDOWN LIBRARY AUG Children aged 3+ No need to book.

23 Saturday, 2.00pm – 3.30pm MAKE CLAY MINI BEASTS – LORD LOUIS LIBRARY Children aged 5+ Booking essential. Telephone 823823

27 Wednesday, 2.00pm - 4.00pm
PRINTING PICTURES - FRESHWATER UBRARY
No need to book.





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



Water Safety Education Notice - Summer 2025

Calling all teachers, parents & guardians – Please help keep your communities safe this summer!

This message is delivered to you by the Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI) who also works with a number of partner organisations to educate the public about water safety.

Due to rising temperatures, we would like to remind you of key water safety advice ahead of the summer.

Everyone enjoys spending time at the coast and other open water environments, but these can all be very unpredictable.

As temperatures rise, so do the numbers of water related incidents.

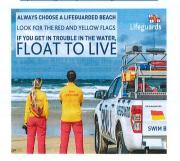
To stay safe, the RNLI is urging the public to:

- Choose a lifeguarde beach where possible and swim between the red and yellow flags, this is the safest place to swim. If you get into trouble in the water, Float to Live. If you see someone in trouble at the coast, call 999 and ask for the

- Coastguard, if you are inland ask for the fire service.

 Check RNLI water safety advice here https://rnii.org/safety
 Please talk to your young people about these important safety tips to help ensure a safe and enjoyable summer.

You can find your local lifeguarded beach here: https://rnli.org/find-my-nearest/lifeguarded-beaches



PERATION
ENCOMPASS

Operation Encompass is a national scheme that operates jointly between schools and all police forces.

Children who live in homes where there is domestic abuse, or who experience domestic abuse in their own teenage relationships, can be negatively impacted by this experience.

We have ensured that a member of our staff,
(Designated Safeguarding Lead) known as a Key
Adult, has been trained about Operation
Encompass procedures. This allows us to use the
information that has been confidentially shared
with us by the police, to understand how a child
may be impacted by domestic abuse and to then
offer support to the child/ren in our care.

This information means that we can understand a child's behaviour and support that child in whatever way they may need or want.

Children who experience domestic abuse are recognised as victims of domestic abuse in their own right¹.

Operation Encompass means that our school will be told, prior to the start of the next school day, when police have attended an incident of domestic abuse where there is a child or young person who attends our school who is related to any of those involved in the incident.

We are keen to offer the very best support possible to all our pupils and we believe that being part of Operation Encompass helps us to do this.

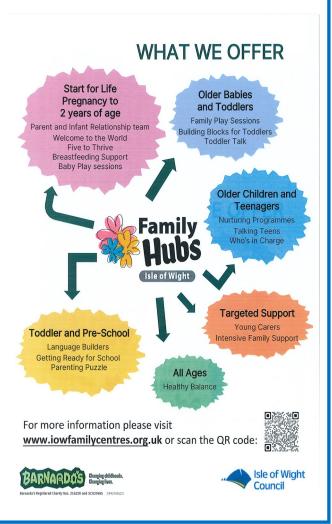
¹ Domestic Abuse Act 2021

www.operationencompass.org











Dear Parents and Carers of St Francis Catholic and Church of England Primary School,

We're delighted to share that Light UP Youth Theatre, a leading Hampshire-based performing arts charity, is expanding to the Isle of Wight this September — and we're kicking things off with two exciting themed workshops this August for young people aged 7–16.

Led by experienced theatre practitioner **Donna Steele**, our new Light UP Isle of Wight branch will offer inclusive, high-quality drama classes designed to boost confidence, creativity, and collaboration in young people of all abilities.

SUMMER DRAMA WORKSHOPS



"Isle of Fright: Drama from the Dark Side of the Island"

For Ages: 12–16
Date: Tuesday 26th August
Time: 10:00am-4:00pm
Show Back: 3:30pm
Location: The Department, Ryde
Details: Inspired by the Isle of Wight's own spinetingling folklore, this day invites students to
explore haunting local myths through storytelling,
movement, and devised theatre, ending in a
powerful parent performance.

"Marvellous Mischief: A Dahl-ightful Drama Day"

For Ages: 7–11
Date: Tuesday 19th August
Time: 10:00am—4:00pm
Show Back: 3:30pm
Location: The Department, Ryde
Details: A magical day of drama where
characters from across Roald Dahl's stories
collide in a wildly imaginative mash-up.
Students will explore devising, improvisation
and physical theatre — all culminating in a
performance for families.



Early Bird Rate: £25 for the day if booked by 31/7

Full Price: £30 (if booked after 31/7)

Sibling Rate: £25 (if adding on a second child booking)

Spaces are limited and early booking is advised.

Bookings can be made at: https://www.lightupdrama.org.uk/iow-2025-summer-workshops

OMING THIS AUTUMN — WEEKLY CLASSES LAUNCHING SEPTEMBER 2025

Our full programme of weekly youth theatre classes will begin in Ryde this September for ages 7–16, offering a supportive space for students to explore drama, develop skills and create exciting performances.

Families who attend our August workshops will receive a priority booking window and exclusive discount for September term classes.

We look forward to meeting lots of prospective students over the summer in our introductory workshops and please don't hesitate to get in contact if you have any further questions.

Warm regards,

Donna

Donna Steele

Franchise Manager - Light UP Isle of Wight

- Donna@lightupdrama.org.uk
- www.lightupdrama.org.uk/iow-2025-summer-workshops