



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 35**

**27th June 2025**

**01983 857449**

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

Dear Parents and Carers,

It's been another fantastic week at St Francis Primary Academy! I'm delighted to share with you some of the incredible experiences our children have enjoyed.

Our Year 6 children have been having the most amazing adventures this week. Some of our Year 6s are currently in Paris, where they've been soaking up the culture and history of this magnificent city. They've marvelled at the iconic Eiffel Tower, explored the beautiful Sacré-Cœur, and strolled down the famous Champs-Élysées. The excitement doesn't stop there - they've also had a fantastic day at Parc Astérix and have been brave enough to try some local delicacies, including snails! I'm sure they'll have some wonderful stories to share when they return. Meanwhile, the rest of our Year 6 children have been having equally exciting adventures right here on the Isle of Wight. They've visited the donkey sanctuary, where I'm sure they've fallen in love with these gentle creatures, and have enjoyed a brilliant day out at Robin Hill. The children have also been active outdoors, walking up Shanklin Down and making their way down to the beautiful Shanklin beach. Back at school, they've had a creative art morning followed by an energetic PE afternoon, ensuring a perfect balance of artistic expression and physical activity. These experiences are creating memories that will last a lifetime and are such valuable opportunities for our children to explore and learn beyond the classroom.

Across our other year groups, the children have been working incredibly hard during their 'Chance to Shine!' week tests. It's been wonderful to see their dedication and effort as they demonstrate all the learning they've achieved. The children should feel extremely proud of their hard work and commitment.

In the afternoons, our children have been immersed in a special Spirited Arts project that truly reflects our school's values. Taking inspiration from St Francis's deep love of animals, the children have been creating beautiful artwork that celebrates this connection with nature. It's been heartwarming to see how this project has captured their imagination and allowed them to express their creativity while connecting with the values that make our school community so special. These experiences, both near and far, are exactly what makes education at St Francis so rich and meaningful. Our children are not just learning from books but from the world around them, creating connections and memories that will stay with them forever.

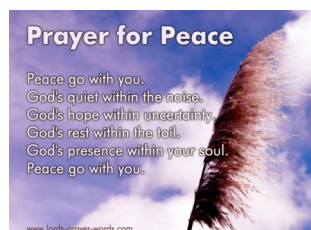
The big question last week was:  
**Can one person change the world?**

"Yes, there's a book of women who changed the world on their own." Deedee Y5  
Yes and No. Yes, because you can by showing Love, Courage and Friendship; no, because you might not know how." Hugo Y2  
Yes, because Jesus changed the world." Kyan Y4  
"Yes, by being kind to each other and making the world happy." Amity YR  
"No, because not one person can change everyone's hearts." Sophie Y3

The big question this week is:  
**If you could ask God one question, what would you ask?**

Thank you for your continued support in making these wonderful experiences possible for all our children.

With warm wishes,  
Mr Craig



## Important Dates

2nd- 4th July - Yr 4 Little Canada Trip

8th July - School Transition Day

8th July - PTA End of Year Discos - KS1 - 3pm — 4.15pm, KS2 - 4.30pm - 5.45pm.

1st & 9th July - Bikeability - Yr 6

10th July - DCAT Enriched - Hurstpierpoint College

10th July - Yr 6 Leavers Service - Portsmouth Cathedral

11th July - Sports Day

15th July - New starters and current Yr R Teddy Bears picnic

16th July - Reception Trip to Blue Reef Aquarium

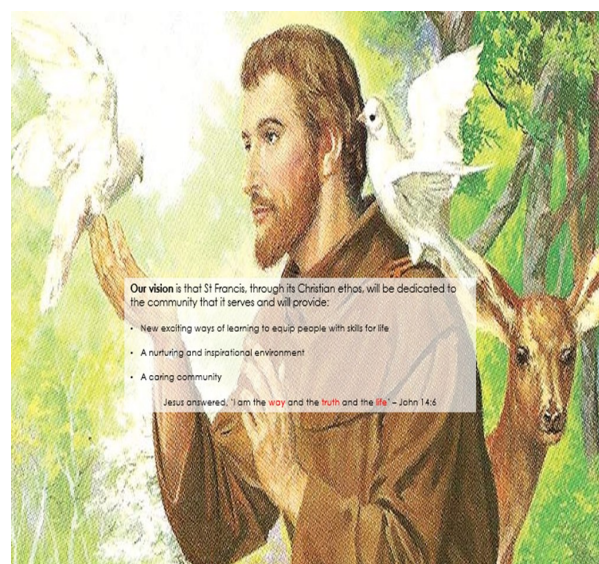
21st July - Whole School Worship @ St Catherines Church

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

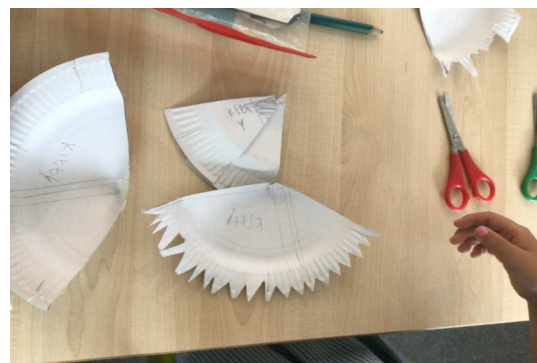
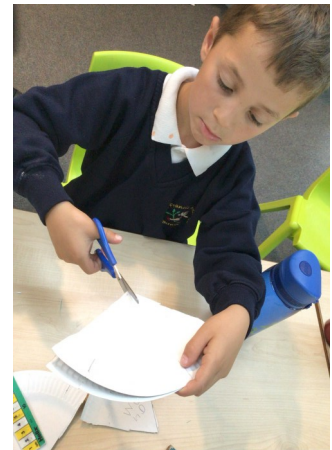
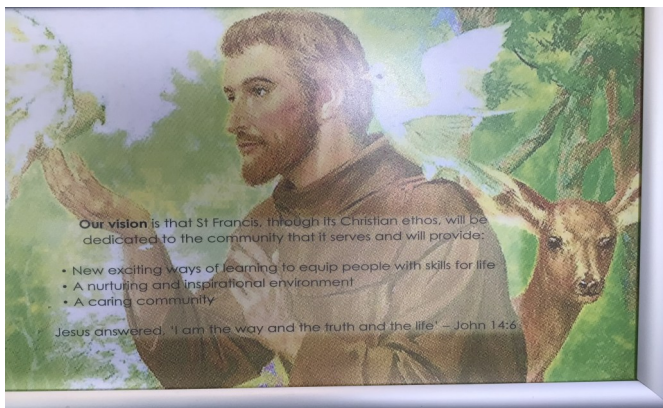


## Mary Ellis Class News

The children were delighted to win the Attendance Award and Attendance Cup at the end of last week with 99.5% attendance! Every day that the whole class is in school, I turn a letter over and - when we can see the completed phrase "St. Francis" - the children can enjoy some extra break time as a reward. This week is the second time this term that the class has had some extra play! Well done, Mary Ellis!

The children have been busy showing their continued progress in grammar, maths skills and reading comprehension. What a great start to our "Chance to Shine" week!

This week, we have been involved in the Spirited Arts "All God's Creatures" competition. Year 1's entry involves birds, lots of birds! We have been making a 3D collage of St Francis preaching to the birds. Inspired by the illustrations in our recent English text, "The Lighthouse Keeper's Lunch" many of the children have wanted to add speech bubbles to their birds, which is a delightful touch.





## Stars of the Week



Daniel -Yr R



Chelsea -Yr 1



Rosie -Yr 2



Arabella -Yr 3



Emily - Yr 4



Hattie -Yr5

## House Points



**Pandas - 232**

**Snow Leopard - 215**

**Tigers - 202**

**Polar bears - 190**



## Class Attendance

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

Year 2 = 98.5%

Year 4 = 97.6%

Year 1 = 95.8%

Year R = 95.7%

Year 6 = 95.2%

Year 3 = 94%

Year 5 = 93.5%



At The National College, our Wellbeing/Inclusivity 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, tools and tips, please visit [nationalcollege.com](https://nationalcollege.com).

## What Parents & Educators Need to Know about NINTENDO SWITCH 2

Nintendo launched its Switch 2 games console in early June 2025 – its first new console in eight years. While it builds on the original's success by remaining compatible with certain existing games, it also adds powerful hardware and new features like GameChat and a USB-C camera. As many children look to upgrade, it's important to understand how this new console might affect their play and safety.

### WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

**EASIER TO ACCESS MATURE CONTENT**  
Despite Nintendo's reputation for family-friendly titles, mature games like Cyberpunk 2077 and others have been released onto the platform. With the Switch 2's improved performance, developers will be able to port even more mature-rated games. These may appear to children due to their popularity, but they contain content that is highly unsuitable for young audiences.

**IN-APP & GAME STORE PURCHASES**  
The Nintendo eShop enables purchases with just a few taps. If parental controls are turned off and PIN protection is disabled, children may unknowingly make costly purchases including game add-ons, cosmetic items or extra save slots without parental approval.

**UNRESTRICTED ONLINE PLAY IN SOME GAMES**  
While GameChat is one feature, Switch 2 also connects to the broader Nintendo Switch Online services. Many free-to-play titles like Fortnite or Splatoon 4 have voice or text chat with strangers unless chat settings are adjusted, meaning children could encounter inappropriate language or unwanted contact.

**GAMECHAT & REAL-TIME VOICE COMMUNICATION**  
GameChat enables free chatting with up to 12 people, even across different games, with optional video and screen-sharing. Though children under 16 are restricted to chatting only with approved friends, the sheer immediacy could cause privacy concerns or create pressure to remain online longer.

**CAMERA COMPATIBILITY & PRIVACY CONCERNS**  
The optional USB-C camera supports video calling and facial overlays in games; however, this also takes the risk of cyberbullying or the unwanted sharing of personal images. The camera can be disabled, removed or covered, and parental controls are essential to manage how and when it is used.

**POWERFUL PULL OF FAMILIAR CHARACTERS**  
Nintendo's mascot, Mario – along with Pikachu, Sonic the Hedgehog and other – remains largely appealing to younger audiences, especially after the success of the recent film, The Super Mario Bros. Movie (2023). These beloved icons are depicted in Switch 2's marketing and often feature in electrifying, battle and in-game promotions, creating strong emotional attachments in children and a sense of urgency to keep up with their peers.

### Advice for Parents & Educators

**CHECK RATINGS & USE PARENTAL CONTROLS**  
Every Switch and Switch 2 game comes with a PEGI age rating. Before buying any, ensure the content matches your child's age. Use the Nintendo Parental Controls app to monitor gameplay, set screen-time limits and manage friend requests.

**REVIEW FRIEND LISTS AND CHAT PERMISSIONS**  
Child profiles are restricted to chatting with approved friends only. Yet it's good practice to regularly check their friend list and communication settings. Use the Parental Controls app to restrict off-voice or video chat if necessary.

**REMOVE OR RESTRICT PAYMENT METHODS**  
Avoid accidental spending by unlinking credit cards from the device. Instead, consider adding funds to your Nintendo account or requiring a PIN for purchases. Some banking apps can also be set to approve transactions manually.

**ENCOURAGE OPEN CONVERSATIONS**  
Teach children how to block, report and capture any behaviour or content that makes them uncomfortable. The console will also automatically create screenshots and video clips, which can aid in reporting any issues. Keeping an open dialogue helps children feel supported and safe.

**Meet Our Expert**  
Lloyd Coombes is the Games Editor of Daily Star and has been working in the gaming and tech industry for five years. A regular visitor to the App Store to try out new tools, he is also parent and understands the importance of online safety. He's also a tech and fitness writer and has been published on sites including iD, TechRadar and plenty more.

**#WakeUpWednesday** The National College

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 Facebook: /thenationalcollege  
 Instagram: @wake.up.wednesday  
 TikTok: @wake.up.weds

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**youth trust**

## FANCY YOURSELF AN ARTIST?

### AGED 5-25?

We are looking for young people to design the logo of Hear Me!

A podcast in collaboration with Youth Trust IOW focussing on mental health and young people.

# Hear Me!

To enter create a logo that you think would best suit Hear Me! Your submission can be drawn by hand or created digitally.

Our favourites will be posted on the Youth Trust socials for you to vote your winner.

## GOOD LUCK!

### Entries close 20th July 2025

EMAIL YOUR SUBMISSIONS TO: [hearmepodcastYT@gmail.com](mailto:hearmepodcastYT@gmail.com)

## Outstanding Library Books

Thank you to everyone who has sent some books in or are arranging replacements.

There are still a number of books not returned, please have a good look for any school library books and return them asap.

The lost property box is now overflowing .

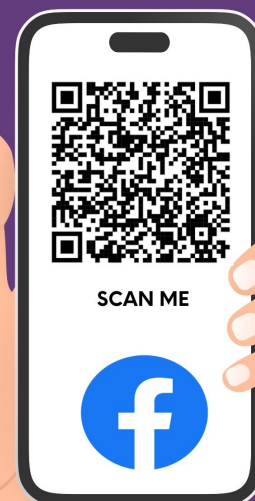
Please encourage through child to look through it if they are missing anything.

There are a lot of Dinks bottles in there.

We've noticed an increasing number of children bringing mini ducks into school. While we understand these items have become a talking point within the school community, we kindly ask that they are not brought into school.



Follow MHST on Facebook for upcoming workshops and support



**mental health support TEAM**





The next PTA event will be the End of Year Disco on Tuesday 8th July.

Reception & KS1 - 3.00pm - 4.15pm

KS2 - 4.30pm - 5.45pm

The cost is £5.00 per child, the children will receive entry to the disco, sweets & drinks.

Letters have been given out and there are spares in the office.



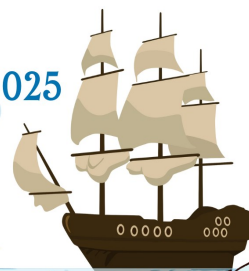
## VENTNOR SUMMER FESTIVAL



SUNDAY 6TH JULY 2025

12-4PM

VENTNOR PARK



Other Ventnor events over the weekend:

- Bonchurch Open Gardens Saturday and Sunday 1-5pm
- Ventnor Day Saturday festivities around town and beach

### Ice Pop Friday !

After the success of 'Ice Pop Friday' last year, we will be selling ice pops every Friday after school outside the office.

Donations of ice ops will be gratefully received.



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

## Theme Day menu changes

There are a couple of changes to the menu; if you have booked a meal on the dates below please can you log into Relish and change the choice of meal. Thank you.

Friday 4th July—American Independence Day Theme.

Friday 18th July— National Ice Cream day.



## Spring/Summer Menu

Packed lunches are now available to book on Relish.

WEEK 1					
Choose from...	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
<b>Main</b>	Cheese & Tomato Pizza to go with Side Salad, Homemade mixed potato wedges	Beef Lasagne to go with Homemade Garlic Bread, Peas	Roast Chicken to go with Broccoli, Carrots, New Potatoes	Sausage Pasta Bake to go with Sweetcorn, Homemade Tomato & Basil Bread	Battered Pollock Fillets to go with Chips, Peas
<b>Vegetarian</b>	Cheese & Tomato Pizza to go with Side Salad, Homemade mixed potato wedges	Roasted Veg Lasagne to go with Homemade Garlic Bread, Peas	Quorn Roast to go with Broccoli, Carrots, Roast Potatoes	Cheese & Onion Pasty to go with New Potatoes, Sweetcorn	Quorn Sausages to go with Chips, Peas
<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 to go with Side Salad with choice of fillings Grated Cheese, Ham Salad, Tuna Mayo	Pasta with choice of fillings Homemade Tomato & Basil Sauce, Grated Cheese, No Topping	Wrap to go with Side Salad with choice of fillings Grated Cheese, Ham Salad, Tuna Mayo	Pasta with choice of fillings Homemade Tomato & Basil Sauce, Grated Cheese, No Topping
	Apple & Date Cake	Banana Loaf	Chocolate Orange Cake	Carrot, Apple & Lemon Drizzle Cake	Ice Lolly
<b>...and to finish!</b>	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
Bread and Salad will be available at Lunch Times					
Please speak to a member of the Catering Team or view <a href="http://relishschoolfood.co.uk">relishschoolfood.co.uk</a> 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. These will need to be removed for P.E lessons and if your child goes swimming.

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.

Tuesday 8th July - End of term Disco with AJ,  
£5.00 per child, to include sweets  
and drinks.



Friday 11th July - Sports day - Ice cream for the children  
after the races. £1.00 per child



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.