



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 36**

**4th July 2025**

**01983 857449**

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Dear Parents and Carers,

What an incredible week it has been at St Francis Primary Academy! I'm writing this from the beautiful surroundings of Little Canada, where I've had the absolute pleasure of spending time with our fantastic Year 4 children. The excitement and enthusiasm they've shown throughout their residential experience has been truly wonderful to witness.

In Collective Worship this week, we looked to Peter and Paul, who both have unique roles to play in the mission of the Church. Peter is the rock on which Jesus would build the Church, and Paul leads Jesus' missionary work through his letters and teaching. We learnt how these great Saints, in their unique ways, encouraged the Early Christians and they encourage us today. We also thought about how we can use our own talents to do God's work today.

Back to Little Canada: our Year 4 children have thrown themselves wholeheartedly into every activity on offer. They've been kayaking along with determination and joy, conquering the climbing wall with courage that has made us all so proud, and showing remarkable bravery as they tackled the abseiling challenge. The archery sessions have revealed some hidden talents among our children, and it's been delightful to see their concentration and focus as they've mastered this new skill. Alongside these adventures, they've participated in numerous other activities that have pushed them out of their comfort zones and helped them discover new strengths and abilities.

The highlight for many of our children was undoubtedly the campfire on Thursday evening. There's something truly magical about gathering around the flames, sharing stories, singing songs, and creating memories that will last a lifetime. The sense of community and friendship that emerged during those precious moments was heartwarming to observe. These are the experiences that help shape our children into confident, resilient young people, and I couldn't be more proud of how they've embraced every opportunity.

Meanwhile, back at St Francis, our Year 6 children have been developing their independence and road safety skills through their Bikeability training. This important programme helps prepare our oldest children for their transition to secondary school by building their confidence on two wheels and teaching them essential cycling safety skills. It's wonderful to see them taking on this responsibility with such maturity and enthusiasm.

Looking ahead, I wanted to remind all parents about our upcoming Transition Day on Tuesday. This is such an important day in our school calendar, as it gives all our children the opportunity to meet their new teachers and begin building those crucial relationships that will support their learning journey in the coming academic year. The children always approach this day with a mixture of excitement and anticipation, and our teachers are equally looking forward to welcoming their new classes.

These experiences, from residential adventures to transition preparations, all contribute to the rich tapestry of learning and growth that makes our school community so special.

The big question last week was:

**If you could ask God one question, what would you ask?**

"Why do we grow old and die?" Daniel YR

"Do you love people who are against you?" Ada Y1

"Where are you?" Reggie Y2

"How are you?" Hope Y3

"Why can't we fly?" Milo Y4

"What inspired you to make the world?" Hazel Y5

"Why didn't you stop humanity from killing the animals you created?" Casper Y6

The big question this week is:

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

Thank you for your continued support.  
With warm wishes,  
Mr Craig



## Important Dates

8th July - School Transition Day

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

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

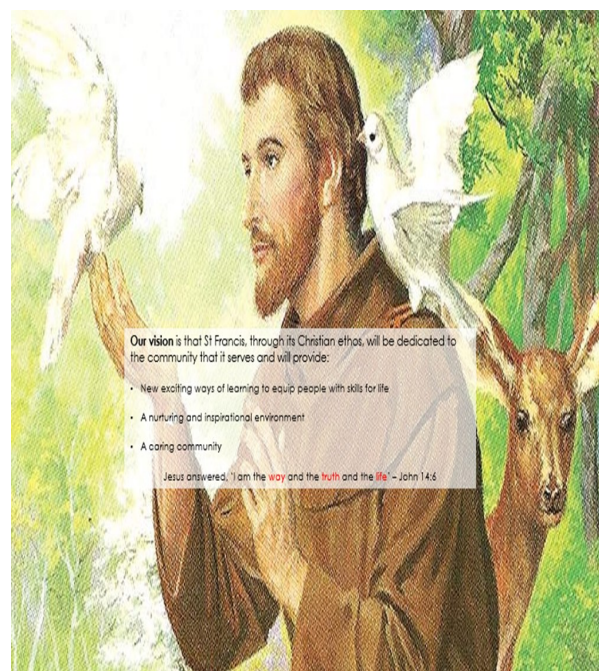
21st July - Whole School Worship @ St Catherines Church

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

Reception have been reading 'A new home for a pirate!' Some of the children designed boats and tested if they would float while others created pirate treasure maps and pirate tea parties!

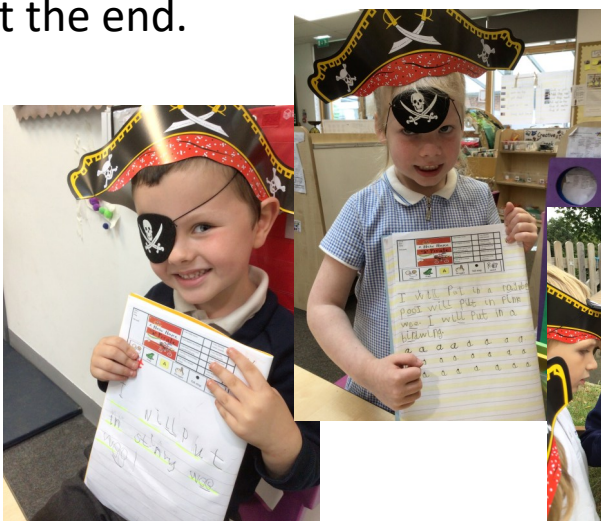
We rewrote the story with new characters, designed our own pirate ships and even went on a pirate treasure hunt around the school.

The children worked with their pirate crew, following the clues around the school to find the treasure!

The children practiced their phonics by reading the clues that they discovered around school!

On hearing that Evil Pirate Ted from our story was sailing his way to Ventnor to steal our treasure, we wrote spells to keep him away! The children enjoyed writing sentences using a variety of disgusting items that a pirate might not like!

We practised forming our letters correctly, using our finger spaces between words and remembering to use a capital letter at the start and a full stop or exclamation mark at the end.



## Stars of the Week



Amity -Yr R



Oscar -Yr 1



Harry -Yr 2



Alfie -Yr 3



Quinton - Yr 5



Remy -Yr 6



## House Points



**Tigers - 181**

**Snow Leopard - 165**

**Polar bears - 115**

**Pandas - 108**



## Class Attendance

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

Year 2 = 99.3%

Year 4 = 97.4%

Year 1 = 97.4%

Year R = 95.9%

Year 6 = 96.4%

Year 3 = 96.3%

Year 5 = 93.5%





## Online Safety

At The National College, our WakeUpWednesday 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 [www.thenationalcollege.com](https://www.thenationalcollege.com).

### What Parents & Educators Need to Know about APPLE IPADS

Tablets remain a staple of children's digital lives – and Apple's iPad is by far the most popular model. According to Ofcom, over half of younger children regularly use a tablet to play games, watch online content or access apps. With their broad functionality, iPads can be helpful tools, but without supervision, they may expose children to risks ranging from inappropriate content to screen overuse.

**WHAT ARE THE RISKS?**

- COSTLY TO REPAIR**  
Unlike some child-friendly tablets, the iPad is not built for rugged handling. Its slim design and high cost mean that a drop or spill can result in a costly repair. If it is used in the device regularly, sturdy cases and screen protectors are strongly recommended to help prevent accidental damage.
- DATA PRIVACY**  
While Apple is known for strong privacy protections, a recent study found that many iOS apps aimed at children still share personal data. Over 40% of the tested apps sent at least one piece of user information to third parties, raising concerns about advertising and analytics being targeted at underage users.
- INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT**  
The App Store and Safari browser provide almost unrestricted access to online material. Children may stumble upon inappropriate content, whether through apps, advertisements or online search. Even recommended content algorithms can surface unsuitable material.
- BYPASSING RESTRICTIONS**  
Siri – Apple's voice assistant – can potentially bypass restrictions, especially with the newer text-based commands introduced through Apple Intelligence. Without safeguards in place, children may inadvertently access inappropriate topics simply by asking it questions. Suppressing certain filters previously set by adults.
- SCREEN ADDICTION**  
iPads can be highly addictive, and excessive screen time may affect a child's emotional and behavioural development. Signs of excessive use include mood swings, irritability, and difficulty focusing on non-digital activities.
- REDUCED ATTENTION & COGNITIVE IMPACT**  
Prolonged use of tablets has been linked with reduced memory, slower processing, learning difficulties in concentrating. Research shows that children who spend excessive time gaming or consuming media on tablets may struggle with language development and executive functioning over time.

### Advice for Parents & Educators

- ENABLE FAMILY SHARING**  
Family Sharing allows you to create a dedicated Apple ID for your child and manage their device. This gives you parental controls, so you can restrict what they can access, and set time limits – all automatically from your own device. It's a simple but powerful way to maintain oversight.
- FILTER APPS, WEBSITES & IN-APP PURCHASES**  
Parental controls in iOS let you block specific content in Safari, restrict app downloads, and manage in-app purchases in the App Store. You can also enable automatic updates to prevent access to social media and disable the installation of certain app types completely.
- USE SCREEN TIME FEATURES EFFECTIVELY**  
The Screen Time and App Limits can reduce device access, blocking apps you block access during key times – such as before bed or during homework. While App Limits can only limit time spent on specific games or apps, Apple's Age Restrictions can block access when Screen Time is turned on.
- PREVENT UNAPPROVED SPENDING**  
Children can occasionally (or intentionally) make purchases within apps. Activating Ask to Buy under Family Sharing means you receive a notification to approve any app or in-app purchase. This stops surprise charges and allows you to discuss purchases together before they're made.

**Meet Our Expert**  
Garry Page is a seasoned technology journalist with over a decade of experience. Formerly a senior cybersecurity reporter at TechCrunch, Garry now writes for The National College, covering digital safety and tech. With a deep understanding of online safety, she brings a valuable perspective to parenting in the digital age.

**#WakeUpWednesday**  
The National College

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## Sports Day & Family Picnic

On Friday 11th July at 12 noon you are invited join us on the field for a Family Picnic before Sports day.

Bring a blanket/chair, some snacks and come and have lunch with your children!

There will be no hot meals that day children can bring their own packed lunch or order a school one via the link below.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/69NMZGH>

## Reports

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

Thank you

## MHST for Reception Class

Reception to Year 1 transition is one of the more challenging transitions for most children during their school journey. The move from play based learning to a more formal approach can be quite challenging for some children and I would strongly recommend parents attend the below session if you possibly can.

This will enable you to support your child over the summer in preparing for the move to Year 1 and the skills to support them in September when they start.

On Thursday 10th July 8.30am -9.30 am, we have the Mental Health Support Team to host a parent workshop to support the transition from Reception to Year 1.

This will be for parents only and the children will join you at the end.

We would love you to attend, if you are able to come please complete the Survey Monkey below:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/3286FBV>

## Cake Sale



As many of you are aware Maria our wonderful cook is being treated for Breast Cancer.

On Sports Day (Friday 11<sup>th</sup> July) we will be supporting her cake sale to raise funds for the Chemo Unit in Portsmouth where she has been receiving her treatment.

We would be very grateful of any donations of Cakes or Biscuits to help raise funds for this much needed unit.

If you can help at the sale please let the office know.



Don't forget to hand the reply slips and money in if your children want to go to the Disco on Tuesday.

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.







## 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](http://www.naturezones.org.uk)





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music  
tuition**

*Working in partnership with the  
Isle of Wight Music Education Hub*





**Instrumental & Vocal Music  
Lessons in Schools**

Wight Music Tuition is pleased to be able to include the following lessons on offer to children in schools on the Island:

Guitar, Bass Guitar, Mandolin, Ukulele, Recorder, Flute, Oboe, Clarinet, Saxophones, Bassoon, Cornet, Trumpet, Flugel Horn, Tenor Horn, French Horn, Baritone, Trombone, Euphonium, Tuba, Drums Kit, Timpani, Orchestral Percussion, Tuned Percussion, Violin, Viola, Cello, Double Bass, Piano, Keyboard, Voice (singing), Theory of Music, Composition & Orchestration, (Samba Drums\*, Cajun Drums\*, Djembe [African] Drums\*)

\* as part of an 'initial access' class



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'Wight Music Tuition are looking to expand their tutor base, with suitably experienced and qualified personnel. We provide expert one to one, small group and whole class music tuition for the island's education sector, offering a wide variety of instruments.

If you are interested in joining our dynamic team, or would just like an informal chat about what it may involve, please contact Sammi Vine our administrator on:

[office@iwmt.org.uk](mailto:office@iwmt.org.uk)



## 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 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 8 15 22 29
S 7 14 21 28	S 5 12 19 26	S 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 2					
STEP 1	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Choose from...	<b>Cheese &amp; Tomato Pizza</b> to go with Baked Beans, New Potatoes	<b>Beef Bolognese</b> to go with Homemade Garlic Bread, Mixed Pasta	<b>Sausage</b> to go with Mixed Veg, Mashed Potato, Gravy	<b>Mango Chicken Curry</b> to go with Herby Rice, Garlic & Coriander Naan Bread	<b>Fish Fingers</b> to go with Baked Beans, Chips, Peas
<b>Main</b>					
<b>Vegetarian</b>	<b>Cheese &amp; Tomato Pizza</b> to go with Baked Beans, New Potatoes	<b>Macaroni Cheese</b> to go with Homemade Garlic Bread, Sweetcorn	<b>Quorn Sausages</b> to go with Mixed Veg, Mashed Potato, Gravy	<b>Vegetable, Pea &amp; Potato Curry</b> to go with Garlic & Coriander Naan Bread, Herby Rice	<b>Quorn Hotdog</b> to go with Chips, Peas
<b>Combo</b>	<b>Jacket Potato</b> with choice of fillings Baked Beans, Grated Cheese, Cheese & Beans, No Topping	<b>Jacket Potato</b> with choice of fillings Baked Beans, Grated Cheese, Cheese & Beans, No Topping	<b>Jacket Potato</b> with choice of fillings Baked Beans, Grated Cheese, Cheese & Beans, No Topping	<b>Jacket Potato</b> with choice of fillings Baked Beans, Grated Cheese, Cheese & Beans, No Topping	<b>Jacket Potato</b> with choice of fillings Baked Beans, Grated Cheese, Cheese & Beans, No Topping
	<b>Pasta</b> with choice of fillings Homemade Tomato & Basil Sauce, Grated Cheese, No Topping	<b>Wrap</b> to go with Side Salad with choice of fillings Tuna Mayo, Ham, Grated Cheese	<b>Pasta</b> to go with Side Salad with choice of fillings Homemade Tomato & Basil Sauce, Grated Cheese	<b>Wrap</b> to go with Side Salad with choice of fillings Grated Cheese, Tuna Mayo, Ham	<b>Pasta</b> with choice of fillings Homemade Tomato & Basil Sauce, Grated Cheese, No Topping
	<b>Blueberry Muffins</b>	<b>Raspberry Sponge</b>	<b>Apricot &amp; Orange Cookie</b>	<b>Fruit Meringues</b>	<b>Chocolate Ice Cream</b>
STEP 2	<b>Fresh Fruit Pot, Yoghurt, Cheese and Biscuits, Jelly</b>	<b>Fresh Fruit Pot, Yoghurt, Jelly</b>	<b>Fresh Fruit Pot, Yoghurt, Cheese and Biscuits, Jelly</b>	<b>Fresh Fruit Pot, Yoghurt, Jelly</b>	<b>Fresh Fruit Pot, Yoghurt, Cheese and Biscuits, Jelly</b>
...and to finish!					
Bread and Salad will be available at Lunch Times					

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.

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.