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 2

12th September 2025

01983 857449

office@stfrancisventnor.org

Dear Families,
What a wonderful week we've had at St Francis Academy Primary, filled with meaningful moments that have truly enriched our children's learning journey.
Our week began with a particularly powerful Collective Worship on Monday, where we explored the vital importance of planning things carefully so that we can finish them well. It was beautiful to see our children engaging with the understanding that God's dream is for us to know Him and share His love with others. We discovered together that when we love and serve God, we naturally focus fully on what truly matters in life. With God's love as our foundation, we can genuinely live life to the full - what a wonderful message for our children to carry with them.
Wednesday brought us the joy of welcoming back our fantastic 'Open the Book' team, who never fail to captivate our children with their storytelling. This week, they brought the powerful story of 'The Widow's Mite' to life in the most engaging way. Our children were fascinated to learn about Jesus observing a poor widow give two small coins, called mites, into the Temple treasury. What made this story so compelling was understanding that her small offering was actually more valuable than the generous donations of the wealthy, simply because she gave all she had to live on, rather than just a small portion of her abundance. The children grasped beautifully that true generosity isn't measured by the amount we give, but by the sacrifice and devotion involved in our giving. Such an important lesson for us all.
Friday was equally special as we had the pleasure of welcoming our Year 6 parents to join us for lunch. It was lovely to see families connecting with school life in this way, and our Year 6 children were absolutely delighted to share some of their school day with their parents.
Looking ahead, I do hope you'll be able to join us for the parent information sessions taking place after school on Monday. These sessions provide such a valuable opportunity for you to meet your child's teacher and discover more about the exciting learning that will be happening this term. It's always wonderful to see parents engaging so actively in their children's education.
Just a gentle reminder for those of you who have permits to use the car park - please do have these ready to show at the gate. This helps us maintain our security procedures while ensuring smooth access for everyone.

Our Big Question this week was:
What is your big dream?
"My big dream is to write a book with someone." Felix, Y5
"To be a police officer." Robyn, Y3
"To be in the Navy." Toby, Y2
"I dream of being a photographer." Daisy, Y6
"To be the kindest person." Lexi, Y4

Our Big Question next week is:

Can something sad ever lead to something good?

Wishing you all a restful weekend.
Robert Craig
Assistant Principal

Important Dates

Monday 15th Sept -Parent information sessions 3.05pm - 3.25pm.

Wednesday 17th Sept— School Nurse Clinic 9am—10.00am

Friday 19th Sept—Yr 5 Parent Lunch 12.30pm

Monday 22nd Sept—Yr 6 UKSA am

Friday 26th Sept Yr 4 Parent lunch 12.30pm

Thursday 2nd Oct—MHST Anxiety Workshop for Parents 8.45am—10.15am

Friday 3rd Oct—Yr 3 Parent Lunch 12.30pm

Friday 3rd Oct—Grandparents Day 1.pm—2pm

Monday 6th Oct—Flu Immunisation Session 1

Weds 8th Oct—Individual school photos

Friday 10th Oct— Year 2 Parent lunch 12.30

Monday 13th Oct—Yr 6 trip to D Day Museum

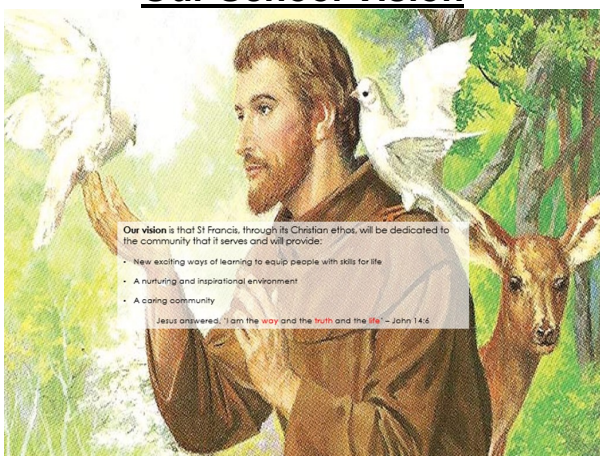
Tuesday 14th Oct – Yrs 1-6 Harvest Festival at St Catherines Church

Tuesday 14th Oct—Family Gardening session 1.30pm—2.30pm

Thursday 16th Oct—Yr 6 Restart a Heart at Shanklin Fire Station

Friday 17th Oct—Year 1 Parent Lunch 11.50am

Our School Vision



Malala Yousafzai Class News.

The second week in and Malala class have been busy, and we've had a fantastic week.

We started our new Destination Reader book, 'The Explorer' by Katherine Rundell. The children have been intrigued by the opening chapters. We are keen to discover how Fred, Con, Lila and Max survive after their plane crash in the Amazon rainforest. As a class we have focussed on the characters personalities and relationships.

In Maths we have been looking at number and place value up to 1,000,000. We have considered how adding to different place value columns alters the overall value of the number, regrouping from one column to another.

The class really enjoyed learning Rugby skills with Mr Marshall. We practiced our throwing and catching the ball, as well as communicating with our team-mates without speaking. We saw whether we could pass the ball round the circle faster than one of the children could run around the circle. Then we played a team game where we had to try to pass the ball to each other, without it going out of play or the other team intercepting it. Finally, we finished off with a game of 'Gladiators' the children needed to run with the ball past their classmates right around the playground. It was great fun.

In History and Science, we started new topics: Dinosaurs and Fossils and Life Cycles respectively. The class considered what they already knew about these topics and we tested our prior knowledge by playing Blooket games. At the end of the topics we'll monitor what we have learnt.

All in all a busy, tiring but very enjoyable week. We're looking forward to lots more together.

Parent lunches

Parent lunches are returning this term and you are more than welcome to join your child for lunch on the dates and times below. Please follow the link for your child's class to book your meal and once this is done please go onto Arbor to pay for your meal, this can be found under the Activities/clubs tab. Meals need to be pre booked and paid for before the day.

Year 5 - Friday 19th September @ 12.30pm - book by Wednesday 17th September https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/PSDX7QF

Year 4 - Friday 26th September @12.30pm - book by Wednesday 24th September https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/5FNKJT9

Year 3 - Friday 3rd October @ 12.30pm - book by Wednesday 1st October https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/PSTL9RR

Year 2 - Friday 10th October @ 11.50am - book by Wednesday 8th October https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/PS3RYYP

Year 1 - Friday 17th October @ 11.50am - book by Wednesday 15th October https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/53CRKQV

Reception Class - Friday 7th November @ 11.40 am -book by Wednesday 5th November https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/PSPNTDL

Themed lunch days

Bonfire Night -Wednesday 5th November.

Menu to be confirmed

Dinners are now £3.10.

PE days

Here are the following PE days:
EYFS: Monday and Friday
Year 1: Wednesday
Year 2: Thursday
Year 3: Monday
Year 4: Monday
Year 5: Tuesday
Year 6: Monday and Friday
Please can children come into school in their PE kits on these day.
Also, there may be times (for example poor weather) when the day might need to be changed - the teachers will let you know if that is the case.

Parent information session

Parent information sessions are being held on Monday 15th September , 15.05—15.25. for you to find out what your child will be learning and what topics the will be studying.

Lost Property

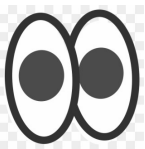
We already have items in the lost property box.

PLEASE name your child's uniform/ belongings so we can return them to them.

PTA

The PTA have been very busy planning some exciting events for the children for this year.

Watch this space !!



Grand Parent day

GRANDPARENTS DAY
To celebrate Grandparents' Day at the beginning of October, we would like to invite grandparents into school on Friday 3rd October to share stories and create hand-print artwork. There might also be refreshments!
We hope to see lots of grandparents there - please use the QR code or this link https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/VBJN9ZV
to sign up.

Anxiety Workshop

ANXIETY WORKSHOP
The Mental Health Support Team are offering a workshop to parents about how to understand and support anxiety in children. This will take place at St Francis on Thursday 2nd October at 8.45 - 10.15.
Please use the QR code or this link https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/YGLJJQQ
to sign up for this workshop.

Family Gardening Sessions

FAMILY GARDENING SESSIONS!
We'd like to invite family members to join their children help prepare our flower beds for planting.
These sessions will be from 1.30 to 2.30 on Tuesday 14th October and Tuesday 11th November.
Please use the QR code or this link https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/VZ3RFVP
to sign up.

Harvest Festival

We will be celebrating Harvest on Tuesday 14th October.

Years 1—6 will be going to St Catherines Church on that day.

Donations of tins and non perishable goods can be bought into school nearer the day.

Class Attendance

Congratulations to Year 6 Class for having the highest class attendance this week.

Year 6 = 99.2%
Year R = 98.5%
Year 1 = 98.1%
Year 3 = 97.8%
Year 5 = 96.6%
Year 2 = 94.4%
Year 4 = 94.4%

Watch out for a future Olympic Star!

On Sunday 7th September Eden competed in the IGA Levels 9-10 South Gymnastics Competition in Milton Keynes and absolutely smashed it coming 3rd in Floor routine, 2nd in the Bars routine and 1st in the Beam routine!

Eden also finished 2nd overall and qualified for the IGA National Final in November.

There were 50 participants in Edens level 10 group.

Well Done Eden St Francis is very proud of you.

Online Safety

Isle of Wight Secondary Colleges and 6th Form 2025-26 Open Day/Evening dates (as at 20 July 2025)

School/College	Date	Time
Carisbrooke College	29 September 2025	Year 6 open evening: 5-8pm
Christ the King College	18 September 2025	Year 6 open evening: 5.30-7.30pm
	06 November 2025	6th Form open evening: 5.30-7.30pm
Cowes Enterprise College	1st to 31th October 2025	**Year 6** *Open Month*
	3 November 2025 – 8 December 2025	**6th Form** Open Month
Island Free School	11 October 2025	Y6 open day: 09.30-1pm
		Headmaster's Talks at 10am, 11am and 12noon
Medina College	23 September 2025	Year 6 open evening: 5-8pm
Ryde Academy	8 October 2025	Y6 Open Evening
	19 November 2025	6th Form Open Evening
Ryde School	4 October 2025 7 February 2026	Y6 and 6th Form Open Morning: 10-12.30pm
The Bay CE School	2 October 2025	Y6 Open Evening: 5-8pm
The Island VI Form	13 November 2025	VI Form open evening: 5-8pm
The Isle of Wight College	23 September 2025	4.30-6.30pm Open Evening
	15 November 2025	10-2pm Open Day 10-2pm Open Day
	10 January 2026	Open Day
	7 March 2026	
The Priory School of our Lady Walsingham	n/a	Don't hold open days. Ring up to make an appointment for a show round. Marion Ahmed – Tel: 861222 or email: mail@prioryschool.org.uk

• *Please note St George's School is not offering open days.*

Places are allocated via the SEND department.

Term Dates 2025 - 2026

SEPTEMBER 2025						
M	1	8	15	22	29	
T	2*	9	16	23	30	
W	3	10	17	24		
T	4	11	18	25		
F	5	12	19	26		
S	6	13	20	27		
S	7	14	21	28		

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

NOVEMBER 2025						
M		3*	10	17	24	
T		4	11	18	25	
W		5	12	19	26	
T		6	13	20	27	
F		7	14	21	28	
S	1	8	15	22	29	
S	2	9	16	23	30	

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

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

FEBRUARY 2026						
M		2	9	16	23*	
T		3	10	17	24	
W		4	11	18	25	
T		5	12	19	26	
F		6	13#	20	27	
S		7	14	21	28	
S	1	8	15	22		

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

APRIL 2026						
M		6	13*	20	27	
T		7	14	21	28	
W	1	8	15	22	29	
T	2	9	16	23	30	
F	3	10	17	24		
S	4	11	18	25		
S	5	12	19	26		

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

JUNE 2026						
M	1*	8	15	22	29	
T	2	9	16	23	30	
W	3	10	17	24		
T	4	11	18	25		
F	5	12	19	26		
S	6	13	20	27		
S	7	14	21	28		

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

AUGUST 2026						
M		3	10	17	24	31
T		4	11	18	25	
W		5	12	19	26	
T		6	13	20	27	
F		7	14	21	28	
S	1	8	15	22	29	
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	Easter Monday	6 April 2026
Boxing Day New Year's	26 December 2025	May Day Holiday	4 May 2026
New Year's Day Holiday	1 January 2026	Spring Bank Holiday	25 May 2026
Good Friday	3 April 2026	Summer Bank Holiday	31 August 2026

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.

Autumn Menu

WEEK 3

STEP 1 Choose from...

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Main	Meat Feast Pizza to go with Coleslaw, Sweetcorn	Cottage Pie to go with Carrots, Homemade Tomato & Herb Bread, Gravy	Roast Chicken to go with Broccoli, Sweetcorn, Gravy, Yorkshire Pudding	Homemade Giant Chicken Nuggets to go with Corn on the Cob, New Potatoes, Side Salad	Cod in Batter to go with Baked Beans, Chips, Peas
Vegetarian	Cheese & Tomato Pizza to go with Coleslaw, Sweetcorn	Veggie Cowboy Pie to go with Carrots, Homemade Tomato & Herb Bread, Gravy	Quorn Roast to go with Broccoli, Sweetcorn, Gravy, Yorkshire Pudding	Roasted Vegetable Cheesy Stack to go with Corn on the Cob, New Potatoes, Side Salad	Homemade Crispy Vegetable Nuggets to go with Baked Beans, Chips, Peas
Combo	Pasta to go with Side Salad with choice of fillings Homemade Tomato & Basil Sauce, Grated Cheese, No Topping	Jacket Potato to go with Side Salad with choice of fillings Baked Beans, Grated Cheese, Tuna Mayo, Cheese & Beans	Pasta to go with Side Salad with choice of fillings Homemade Tomato & Basil Sauce, Grated Cheese, No Topping	Jacket Potato to go with Side Salad with choice of fillings Baked Beans, Grated Cheese, Tuna Mayo, Cheese & Beans	Pasta to go with Side Salad with choice of fillings Homemade Tomato & Basil Sauce, Grated Cheese, No Topping
Packed lunch	Packed Lunch - Box 4 with Baked Tortillas & Salsa, Crunchie Vegetables and Flapjack to go with Ham Sandwich on White, Cheese Roll, Egg Mayo Wrap	Packed Lunch - Box 2 with Baked Tortillas & Salsa, Carrot Cake Muffin and Fresh Fruit to go with Cheese Sandwich on White, Tuna Mayo Baguette, Ham Wrap	Packed Lunch - Box with Baked Tortillas & Homemade Salsa, Carrot Cake Muffin and Fresh Fruit to go with Cheese Wrap, Ham Wrap, Egg Mayo Wrap	Packed Lunch - Box 3 with Crunchy Vegetables & Cream Cheese, Chocolate Malt Brownie and a Melon Wedge to go with Tuna Mayo Sandwich on White, Ham Baguette, Cheese Bap	Packed Lunch - Box 7 with Crunchy Vegetables, Cheese & Biscuits & Fresh Fruit to go with Ham Sandwich on White, Cheese Baguette, Egg Mayo Wrap
...and to finish!	Oat Cookies	Iced Lemon Muffins	Banana Flapjack	Chocolate Shortbread Biscuit	Apple Crumble to go with Custard
	Fresh Fruit Pot, Yoghurt, Cheese and Biscuits, Jelly	Fresh Fruit Pot, Yoghurt, Cheese and Biscuits, Jelly	Fresh Fruit Pot, Yoghurt, Cheese and Biscuits, Jelly	Fresh Fruit Pot, Yoghurt, Cheese and Biscuits, Jelly	Fresh Fruit Pot, Yoghurt, Cheese and Biscuits, Jelly

STEP 2 ...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 for Allergen Information

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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 - Reception, Yr 6,3,4.

Tuesday - Yr 5

Wednesday - Year 1

Thursday - Year 2

Friday - Reception & Yr 6

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.