



St Francis of Assisi Catholic Primary School

Newsletter—No.40
Friday 12th September 2025



At St Francis of Assisi Catholic Primary School, God is at the heart of our school. We try, everyday, to follow Jesus' commandment 'Love one another as I have loved you'. We do this through love for our families, our friends, and our school. We respect our environment and recognise our responsibility for it. We encourage in each other a love of learning. We rejoice in each others' uniqueness. We place prayer and worship at the centre of everything we do. We are a community of love dedicated to God. Our school is somewhere we can grow together.

Dear Parents and Carers,



It has been a wet start to the term but that hasn't stopped us all getting back into the swing of school! We even managed to do some apple picking yesterday as the orchard is bursting with fruit.

New FPN Attendance guidance released from West Sussex— Please look out for Parent Mail with more details regarding these changes.

New Starters

This week we welcomed our new reception children into school for the first time. It was wonderful to see them calm, settled and engaging with the staff in the unit. Next week, the children will start whole days. Exciting!



There will be a meeting on **Monday 22nd Sept at 7.30pm (online)**. You will be sent a parent mail with a link to the meeting. All are very welcome. This is an opportunity to get involved with our amazing fundraising group who raised more than £6000 towards the Raise the Roof Fund. There is also an opportunity to sign up to one of the key committee roles for the year:

1. Chairperson (or persons)

- Leads the group and oversees meetings.
- Sets the agenda and ensures activities align with the school's goals.

Acts as the main point of contact between the group and school leadership

2. Vice Chairperson (or persons)

- Supports the Chairperson and steps in when they are unavailable.
- Often takes on specific projects or initiatives.

3. Secretary

- Records minutes of meetings and maintains documentation.
- Manages correspondence and communication with members.
- Organizes meeting schedules and distributes agendas.

4. Treasurer

- Manages the group's finances, including budgeting and reporting.
- Oversees fundraising income and expenditure.
- Ensures financial transparency and compliance.

There are also member roles to help at events when you can. All help is welcome, and you can offer as much or as little of your time as you want to.

The first event this half term will be school disco in October

There is also a coffee morning on Fri 19th Sept from 8.50am in The Ark. There will be tea/coffee and cake provided. Come along and meet other parents/carers and members of the committee. A great opportunity to meet others and get involved with our school fundraising.

Uniform

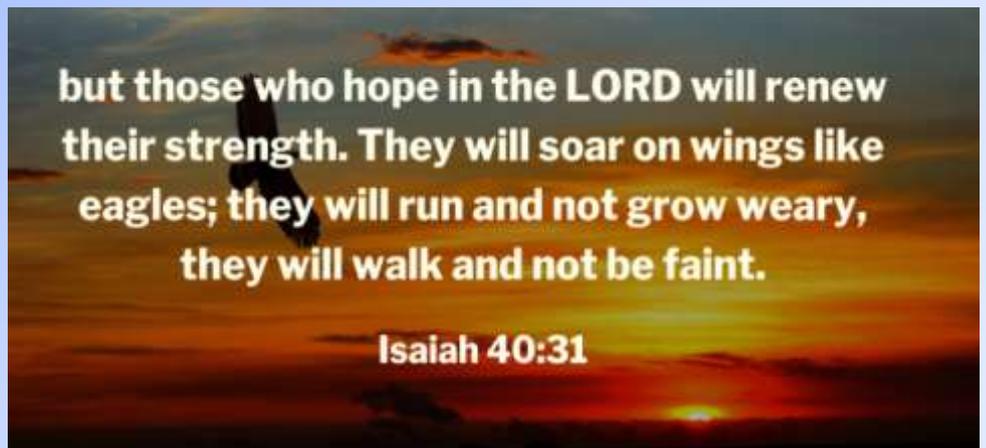
All children in Years 1-6 should be wearing a tie. If your child doesn't have one, please contact the school office. Please also remember that for PE, a plain navy or black sweatshirt needs to be worn when needed. Thank you for your cooperation.

Mass

Thank you to Father Peter for celebrating a joyous Mass on Monday to mark the start of the school year. Father talked about being kind and following the example of Jesus each day. Thank you also to those who attended.

Have a wonderful weekend. I am taking my eldest to university on Saturday so I may look a bit sad on Monday morning! Being in school though will be good food for the soul as the children always bring a smile to my face and joy to my heart.

Warmest wishes, Mrs Winton



**Wednesday 8th October, Wednesday 12th November
and Wednesday 3rd December**

9.15am—10.15am

This is for children applying for a place in Reception Class next September 2026.

Please call the school office to make an appointment.

HARVEST COLLECTION

This year, ST PATRICK House is organising the harvest donations that will be given to our local charity Crawley Open House.

Crawley Open House provides support and services for those suffering the effects of homelessness, unemployment, loneliness, discrimination or other forms of social exclusion. In line with the rising household costs, Crawley Open House have seen demand for their help increase rapidly this year and they are fully aware that this need will only increase as we come into the Autumn. Their support is available to anyone in need.

Collections will take place from Monday .

Please hand in your donations to the class teacher.



School Photographs

The school photographer will be in school on Tuesday 16th September at 9.00am to take individual pupil photographs. All children should come to school in their school uniform. Any children who have PE on Tuesdays should bring in their PE kit in a bag to school.



WANTED

Preschool Cleaner

Monday to Thursday 5.00pm - 6.30pm

Start date 1st of October

Competitive rate £12.60 per hour

Contact us at:

info@friarypreschool.co.uk

Music lessons at St Francis

The beginning of the school year is a great time to take up instrumental or singing lessons. Here, at St Francis, we have a fantastic team of teachers offering lessons to pupils from Year 2 onwards at the school . There are a variety of instruments to learn how to play: piano, keyboard, guitar (classical, acoustic, electric or bass), drums, violin, woodwind and brass instruments. Also how to set and use your singing voice correctly. Our peripatetic teachers are qualified and experienced professional musicians whose primary aim is to create lessons that are child-centered and engaging to inspire students to learn and get involved in music.



If you are interested, please contact our visiting teachers directly:

Mr Alex Hedley – guitar and ukulele. To apply please contact Mr Hedley directly on 07876065727.

Love Music School – piano, keyboard, guitar, electric guitar, bass guitar, ukelele, drums and singing. To apply please visit www.lovemusicschool.co.uk

West Sussex Music – piano, keyboard, violin, woodwind and brass instruments. To apply please visit www.westsussexmusic.co.uk

Please, do not to hesitate to contact me via the school office, if you require additional information.

Mr Szymczyk .



🐾 October Half Term Mindfulness Pony Day for Kids! 🐾

Date: Wednesday 29th October 2025

Time: 9am - 2pm

Location: Ponies 'n' Kids, Eaton Thorne Stables, Woodmancote, Nr Henfield, W.Sussex, BN5 9AG

Join us for a magical day designed especially for children ages 5-11! Dive into a world of peace, friendship, and mindfulness, all while experiencing the calming presence of our adorable ponies.

🌿 What to Expect:

🐾 **Mindfulness Time with Ponies:** Learn calming techniques and emotional regulation skills while spending quality time with our gentle ponies.

🐾 **Pony Care:** Discover the joys of caring for ponies through grooming, feeding, and building a bond.

🐾 **Riding and Mounted Games:** Experience the joy of pony rides and engage in fun, team-based games that promote confidence and cooperation.

🌿 **Connect with Nature:** Immerse yourself in the tranquility of our beautiful, quiet stables and serene surroundings.

🐾 **Make New Friends:** Build connections and friendships with other children in a supportive, nurturing environment.

Scan the QR code or click this link to book: [Mindfulness Pony Day 29th October 2025](#)

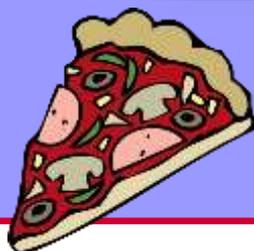


Cost: £140 per child

Spaces limited to 15 children

We are an inclusive team and warmly welcome children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND). We celebrate diversity and are committed to providing a supportive environment where every child can thrive.

ATTENDANCE AND PUNCTUALITY



Congratulations to Wallaby Class for achieving 99% and Armadillo, Alpaca & Toucan Class for achieving 100% attendance this week.

Well done!

Perfect Punctuality Pizza slice awarded to: Penguin and Toucan Classes.

Diary Dates

September

Tues 16th—School Photographer –individual photos

Thurs 18th— Year 6 Junior Citizen

Fri 19th—Easy Lunch Food Tasting—after school

Fri 19th—Friends of St Francis Coffee morning



Koala: Skyler Marday
Wallaby: Ashlyn Dias
Penguin: Milan Buczek
Seal: Jenson Pocock
Meerkat: Aaron Veerabadren
Zebra: Rita Abu-Ghazaleh
Armadillo: Gavin Cheung
Raccoon: Leo Alex
Leopard: Anica Pereira
Panda: Max Gregg
Toucan: Asher Baptiste
Alpaca: Aurane Adolphe



Koala: Isabella Santiago
Wallaby: Joziah Bankole
Penguin: Nola Davies
Seal: Kinsley Ggiibwa
Meerkat: Pearl Legras
Zebra: Ryan George
Armadillo : Sebstastiao Coetzer Ascenso
Raccoon: Aparajith Sudharsan Hemembujavalli
Leopard: Aidan Gibney
Panda: Hanna Kaput
Toucan: Annie-Rose Harrison
Alpaca: Sebastian Fitzpatrick

Child Protection and Safeguarding

At St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Primary School, we are committed to promoting the welfare of all our pupils, ensuring they feel safe and can place their trust and confidence in any adult that is working in, volunteering for or visiting the school.

The designated Safeguarding Leaders at St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Primary School are Mrs Winton, Miss Strudwick, Miss Date and Mrs Jones