

**Rooted in Faith
Growing in Love
Learning for Life**

Newsletter—No. 3

Friday 23rd January 2026



“When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow you: when you walk through the fire, you shall not be burned: neither shall the flame kindle upon you.”

Isaiah 43:2

Dear Parents and Carers,

Would you like a say in the future of our school?

We are currently seeking **Parent Governors** to join our Governing Body.

Parent Governors play a vital role in helping shape our school. You don't need any special experience — just an interest in education, a willingness to ask questions and a passion for supporting our wonderful children.

As a Parent Governor, you will:

- Represent the views of parents
- Help set the school's strategic priorities
- Make decisions that positively impact pupils' education and wellbeing

This is a rewarding opportunity to contribute your skills, gain new experience and be part of a team committed to making our school the very best it can be. Meetings are held at convenient times and training is provided.

👉 **For more information or to express interest, please contact clerk@stfrancisassisi.org.uk.**

History comes to life!

Panda Class had their class assembly this week and gave us all a very action-packed history lesson about the Anglo-Saxons and The Vikings. The children wore costumes, brandished weapons and had a full-on battle on the stage. Well done Panda Class, Miss Ainsworth and Mrs Alfieri on a super exciting assembly.

St David's House

This week the children in St David's house enjoyed their treat for having the most house points in the autumn term. A massive thank you to Head of House Mrs Pitcairn-Hill and Miss Lucchesi for treating the children to a campfire, smores and games. I even managed to join in and have a smore too - yum! More pictures overleaf!

I hope you all have a wonderful weekend.

Warmest wishes,
Mrs Winton



Sports News!

On a very wet and windy Thursday afternoon, the Girls Football Team attended the Crawley Schools Football Tournament as they had reached the quarter finals, thanks to their amazing 1st place position in League B.

They were up against the mighty Milton Mount and they dominated the entire game, taking the lead and controlling the majority of the match. Against the run of play, Milton Mount scored an equalizer and despite some fantastic attacking football, heroic defending and sublime saves from our keeper, a second goal eluded us and it went to the dreaded penalties. We ended up losing 3-2 after 4 penalties each, with our keeper, Favour, getting a hand to 3 of the penalties!



Beyond the heartache and tears, injuries and goals, the girls have represented St Francis impeccably and they should be so proud of themselves with all they have achieved so far.

It's not over yet, there is more football to bring home!

Absence—Reminder



Please can we ask you to call or email the school office **every day** if your child is absent from school. We have an answerphone service so that you can leave a message at any time.

Please help us look after your children by keeping us up to date with how your child is. If you are leaving a message, please remember to give us a short summary of their illness.

Thank you.

NUT FREE SCHOOL

As we have several pupils in school who suffer from a severe nut allergy, please could I take this opportunity to remind everyone that our school is a NUT FREE School. Those pupils, if they encounter a nut product, can suffer life threatening consequences.

Please can I ask parents and carers not to send food into school that contain nuts.

This includes: All nuts, spreads and sandwich fillings containing nuts such as peanut butter, Nutella, sesame seed rolls, cereal and chocolate bars, cakes and biscuits.





St David's House



📖 Exciting News: We're Going All In for Reading! 📖

We are thrilled to announce that we are taking part in the **National Year of Reading 2026**. This is a nationwide celebration of reading and is a fantastic opportunity to celebrate all things BOOKS!

What is the National Year of Reading?

The National Year of Reading 2026, powered by the National Literacy Trust, invites every school to help spark a renewed national love of reading. More than a campaign, it is a chance to reshape how children experience books, seeing reading not as a task but as a vibrant, social and meaningful part of everyday life.

Why does this matter?

When students enjoy reading, they read more; when they read more, their skills accelerate. Regular reading for pleasure also predicts better outcomes in vocabulary, maths and spelling, and supports mental wellbeing, emotional resilience and empathy.

However, only one in three children and young people aged 8 to 18 reported enjoying reading in their free time, while just one in five read something daily!

What will we be doing at school?

Throughout 2026, we'll be taking part in exciting activities including:

- **Author visits and virtual events**
- **Reading challenges and competitions**

World Book Day celebrations on Thursday 5th March 2026.

On this day we would like to invite children to come to school dressed as a word! This is a fun, creative activity that promotes rich vocabulary discussions. More information to come on activities for the day!



- **The Great Big World Book Day Footy and Booky Quiz** (5th March)
- **National Storytelling Week activities in school** (3rd-4th February)
- Creating vibrant **reading areas** around school

Reading rewards and celebrations for all pupils

How can you help at home?

The most important thing you can do is read with your child for just 10-15 minutes every day.

Research shows that if parents enjoyed reading themselves, children were 25% more likely to be read to every day and 40% more likely to enjoy reading themselves.

Top tips for reading at home:

- Let your child choose what to read – books, comics, magazines, recipes – it all counts!
- Make it fun and relaxed
- Talk about the stories together
- Take turns reading

Show your child that YOU enjoy reading too

Lets Go All In together!

ATTENDANCE AND PUNCTUALITY



Congratulations to Wallaby Class for achieving 98% and Alpaca for achieving 99% this week.

Sadly no Perfect Punctuality Pizza slice awarded this week.

Diary Dates

January

Tues 20th—Panda Class Assembly—Parents/Carers/Grandparents welcome

Tues 27th—Meerkat Class Assembly—Parents/Carers/Grandparents welcome



Ladybird: Austin Bateup
Bumblebee: Jacob Wakerell
Koala: Amelia Correia Cameira
Wallaby: Hope De Silva
Penguin: Krisha Pardava
Seal: Joanna Rodrigues
Meerkat: Edward Lane
Zebra: Towdah Eromosele
Raccoon: Zarah Abbasi
Leopard: George Alex
Panda: Chevy Fernandes
Toucan: Raphael Joseph
Alpaca: Marco Ferreira



Ladybird: Adhyan Rajaguru Prithviraj
Bumblebee: Thendral Muthumadan
Koala: Oleksandr Nahaiovski
Wallaby: Aanya Jain
Penguin: Milan Buczek
Seal: Emma Ciocan
Meerkat: Bernard Fernandes
Zebra: Kingsley Wright
Armadillo: Adhish Sanjeev Kumar
Raccoon: Lacey O'Flaherty
Leopard: Eliana Moutou
Panda: Sebastian Mrowiec
Toucan: Oliver Niblock
Alpaca: Jakub Matlak

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