



Newsletter

December
2025

Dear Parents,

As we approach the end of 2025 and our autumn term, it is truly amazing to see just how much our staff have managed to fit in to the last seven weeks. This newsletter highlights the way in which staff go above and beyond to enrich the children's enjoyment of learning and make our school so special. The wide range of activities, celebrations and experiences offered has added so much to school life, and I am truly grateful to the wonderful team here at St Francis for all that they do. How teachers have also found time to deliver the full curriculum alongside this is a real achievement, and it is understandable that everyone is now in need of a well-earned rest!

As we enter the final days of Advent, with less than a week to go until Christmas Day, we are reminded of the true meaning of this holy season. Christmas calls us to slow down, to reflect on the birth of Jesus, and to carry His message of love, hope and peace into our homes and communities. Thank you, as always, for your continued support of our school and parish family.

On behalf of everyone at St Francis, I wish you and your families a blessed, joyful and peaceful Christmas, and we look forward to welcoming everyone back to school on **Monday 5th January 2026**.

Mrs. C. Pear - Headteacher

SCHOOL DIARY

Please click [here](#) to view.



Catering News

Winter Menu Week 1

Please click [here](#) to view.



Please click on the links for more information

[Independent Learning
Dates](#)

[St Francis Parent
Letters](#)

[News Listings](#)

[Class Trips/Workshops
\(MyEd forms\)](#)

[Sports Events](#)

[Ten Ten Parents
Newsletter](#)

[Parent Lunch Dates](#)

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[Class Assembly Dates](#)

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Catholic Life of the School



The **final Sunday of Advent** brings us close to the heart of the mystery of our faith: God's love made manifest in the Incarnation. In the Gospel, Mary's visit to Elizabeth demonstrates love in action. Mary's "yes" to God's plan brings Christ into the world, and Elizabeth's recognition of Mary's faith reflects our own call to rejoice in and share the love of Christ.

This week we are encouraged to perform an act of love for someone in need - whether through a charitable donation, volunteering your time, or simply offering a listening ear to someone who feels neglected.

Wishing you a blessed Christmas.



Reconciliation Service



We spent some quiet time reflecting and getting our hearts ready to welcome Jesus this Christmas.

A big thank you to Father Jerold for celebrating the Sacrament of Confession with our older children.

The Reconciliation Service took place on Tuesday, 9th December, and helped the children learn about the importance of forgiveness in order to strengthen our relationship with God.



THANK YOU - CAFOD Cake Sale Fundraiser

One of our Year 6 children has been working hard this term to raise money towards his target of £750. His aim is to bring fresh, safe drinking water to a community through a CAFOD World Gift.

On Tuesday 16th he ran a cake sale and raised £204.



A big thank you to everyone who donated cakes and to those who came along to support the event!

By Ethan (Yr 6)

Wednesday Word click here for links to '[The Wednesday Word Gospel](#)'



Please continue to pray for all those in our school community in need of our prayers.

Click [HERE](#) for the Ten:Ten 'Prayers for Home' newsletter





Catholic Life of the School



Year 2 Nativity



Year 2 delighted parents and guests with a wonderful Nativity performance this week. The children spoke clearly and confidently, showcasing excellent speaking voices and expressive acting throughout the play. Their fantastic costumes added colour and character to the performance, helping to bring the Nativity story to life. It was clear how much effort the children had put into rehearsing, and their enthusiasm truly shone through. The performance captured the spirit of the festive season and was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone who attended.

Year 3 and 4 Christmas Carols and Readings



We were treated to a truly wonderful carol service, with Year 3 and 4 children performing a delightful selection of readings and carols. Their enthusiasm, talent, and festive spirit filled the church, creating a warm and joyful atmosphere for all. The performances beautifully captured the traditional meaning of Christmas, reminding us of the season's message of hope, kindness, and togetherness. It was a memorable celebration that left everyone feeling uplifted and full of festive cheer, showcasing the children's hard work and the joy of coming together as a community during this special time of year. Our sincere thanks to the staff involved in coordinating the event, including Mrs Stone, who has been working with the choir throughout the year.





Catholic Life of the School

Nativity Sets

Thank you for your generous donations for the Nativity sets. The children have enjoyed exploring the different ways the birth of Jesus in the humble surroundings of a stable has been represented. This also reminds us of our school's patron saint, St. Francis, who created the first Nativity in 1223 allowing people to witness the scene for themselves.

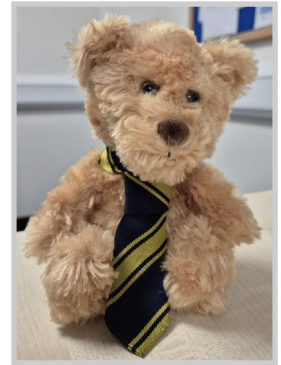


Coming in Spring 2026...

Francis our 'Pilgrimage Bear'

Are you planning to visit a holy site or place of worship here in the UK or abroad, or perhaps planning a special pilgrimage?

If you are - take along Francis - our very special 'Pilgrimage Bear' for a photo!



We will collect all the photos and create a wonderful display to celebrate your journeys and experiences.

British Legion Poppy Appeal

St Francis School proudly raised an impressive **£1,479.90** for the Royal British Legion's 2025 Poppy Appeal. A huge thank you to all our pupils, families, and staff for their generous support - your kindness is helping make a real difference to those in need.

It has been fantastic to see the children so enthusiastic and proud to be part of this important cause!

Class Prayer Bags

The new prayer bags have been such a big hit with the children!

I have been thrilled to see many of them returning their bags to school, excited to share the prayers they have written and to tell others about the thoughts and reflections they have included. It has been wonderful to witness their creativity and devotion.



Remembrance Assembly

The school community gathered together to commemorate Remembrance Day in a special whole school assembly led by the staff. Each class laid a wreath to remember those loved ones who are now parted from us and those who made the ultimate sacrifice for their country.





Congratulations!



Headteacher Awards

Congratulations to the following children

Reception	Arthur Radomille Almeida
Year 1	Lola Knowles
Year 2	Year 2
Year 3	Finley Belham
Year 4	Revenna Gray
Year 5	Indie Sharman
Year 6	Dylan Green



ATTENDANCE

Class	% Attendance
Year 6	100.00
Year 4	98.33
Year 2	97.67
Reception	97.24
Year 1	96.92
Year 5	95.94
Year 3	95.86
Whole School	97.32

PUNCTUALITY

The class with the best punctuality each week will be awarded the 'Punctuality Pup'.

This week's winners are:



★★★★★★★★★★★★
★ Reception ★
★★★★★★★★★★★★



Reader of the Week

is awarded to

Louella Rose in Year 4
&
Penny Cass and Marshall Simpson in Year 1



House Cup



Congratulations to

St. Francis House!



St. Teresa - 261

St. Mary - 258

St. Francis - 265

St. Anthony - 207



Pen Licences

Congratulations to:

Ethan Ppear
Moyin Idowu
Joshua Taylor



who have all gained their Pen Licences



100%



ATTENDANCE AWARD

A huge congratulations to the following pupils who have had
100% attendance this term:

Amelia Alvarez-Mayne	Edie Arter	Anaya Bains	Finley Belham	Henry Buckley
Olive Caporale	Pippa Carus	Amari Chalkley	Fleur Clarke	Jacob Crooks
Joseph Crooks	Alara Dzhahit	Kian-Myles English	Phoebe-Nova English	Charlie-Joe Jeakins
Alice Fullalove	Bonnie Hogan	Jesse Holding	Eliza Kingsford	Minnie Kingsford
Fraser Kirkaldy	Luke Langer	Florence Lee	Matilda Lee	Joshua Lickfold
Albert Ludwig	Arthur May	Oscar May	Zachary May	Elsie Mead
Devon Nutt	Gabriel Olanisebe	Isabella Page	Chloe Pardoe	Lucas Parnham
Sophia Parnham	Sri Saivee Paveenthara	Ethan Peear	Zapryan Petrov	Seth Pettitt
Lily Pilgrim	Ollie Pilgrim	Ronan Qiu	Ruben Rayner	Teddy Rayner
Sara Ribeiro Clara	Louella Rose	Lottie Russell	Grace Sach	Sienna Shiels
Emma Tisi	Molly Tisi	Erone Topacio	Luke Tovey	Amelie Traynor
Sienna Traynor	Art Vata	Jenson Wagstaff	Nate Whenman	Alexander Whymark
Saoirse Williamson				



Key Stage 1 Winner
Key Stage 2 Winner

Molly Tisi
Moyin Idowu

Well done!





Class News



Reception

The Reception Class have had a very busy half term finding out all about Castles, Knights and Dragons and taking a trip to Maldon Library!



Year 1

Year 1 have been very busy this half term learning lots of new skills in maths and all about 'Toys' in their history lessons.



Year 2

This half term Year 2 have worked with much enthusiasm to explore, in more depth, the Christmas Story.



Year 3

Year 3 have been finding out about the features we would find inside a church and visited to The Assumption of Our Lady Church in Maldon to see which features they could see.



* Please CLICK on the photographs and open the hyperlinks to find out more! *



Class News



Year 4

Year 4 had a fantastic trip to the Museum of Power this half term, linking perfectly our science and geography learning on the Water Cycle.



Year 5

Year 5 have been busy engineers this half term - designing and testing their own hydropower water wheels during their Renewable Energies work in Geography!

Year 6

Year 6 have been diving into the fascinating world of the human circulatory system! Read about what they have learned!



* Please CLICK on the photographs and open the hyperlinks to find out more! *



Sports



Panathlon Tenpin Bowling

Children from across the school represented St Francis at the Panathlon Bowling Competition - see how they performed here!



Football

Read all about our recent football tournament held at Beacon Hill Rovers.



Tag-Rugby

Year 5 and 6 participated in the Colchester Blackwater School Sports Partnership Tag-Rugby Tournament.
Click on the photo to find out more!



Santa Dash!

Everyone had great fun participating in this Year's Santa Dash!
Read all about it



* Please CLICK on the photographs and open the hyperlinks to find out more! *



Around the School



Rock Steady Concert



This term's Rock Steady Concert featured both regular performers and children performing for the very first time - all of whom showcased their enthusiasm and musical talent. It was inspiring to see the progress the children had made since last term. A truly wonderful afternoon's entertainment!

Choir visit to Lodge Care Home

Our school choir shared the joy of Christmas Carols with residents at Lodge Care home - bringing a smile to faces and delightful to hear the residents joining in with traditional carols.



On Tuesday 16th December, the Choir performed for the final time in 2025.

It was lovely to welcome parents, grandparents, and younger siblings to enjoy their performance, bringing alive the message of Buddy the Elf: *"The best way to spread Christmas cheer is singing loud for all to hear!"*



Tea and Tots Group

Launched this half term was the Tea and Tots group - run by volunteers from the parish in school on a Thursday morning. The session offers adults a chance to get together with others over a cuppa whilst watching their children play. If you haven't brought your toddler/baby along yet, we would love to see you in the New Year. Click [here](#) for more information.

Light-Up Maldon!

Our choir performed at the Maldon Light Switch-On in the Cygnet Room of the Swan Hotel. The packed audience was full of festive spirit, creating a wonderful atmosphere for the performance!



* Please CLICK on the photographs and open the hyperlinks to find out more! *

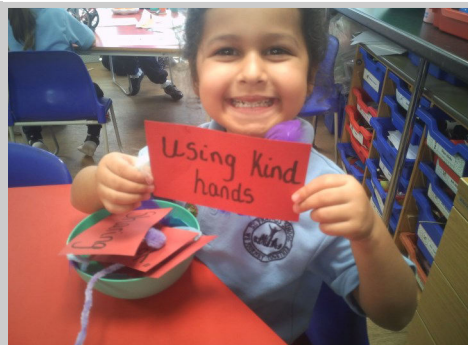
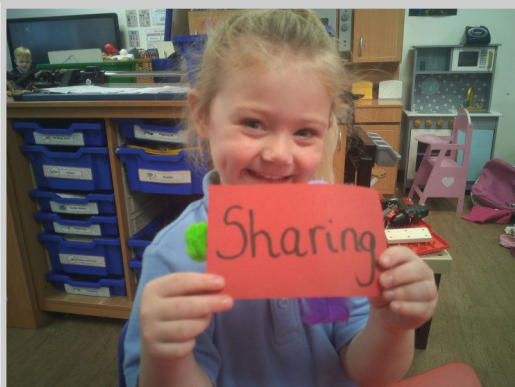
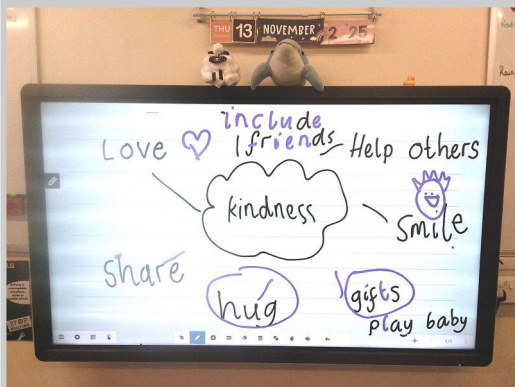


Around the School



**POWER
FOR
GOOD**
#ANTIBULLYINGWEEK

Anti-Bullying Week
2025



* Please CLICK on the photographs and open the hyperlinks to find out more! *

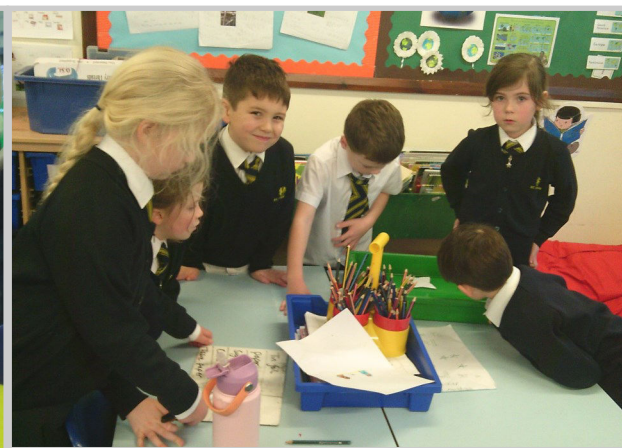
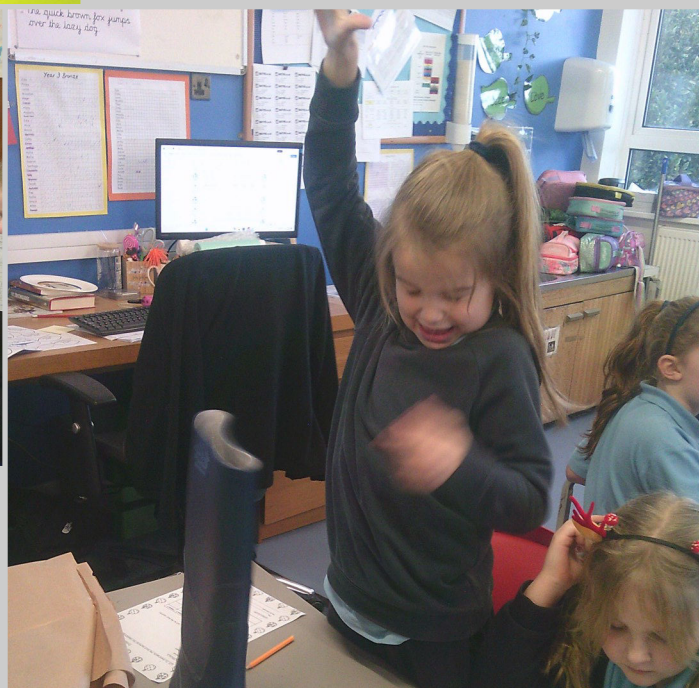
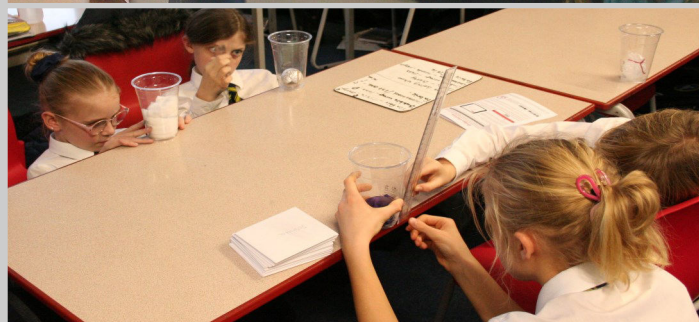


Around the School



Festive Science!

Over the past few weeks, children across the school have been taking part in a series of exciting festive science challenges, giving them the opportunity to explore, investigate and develop their scientific thinking through hands-on learning.
Click on the pictures to find out more!



* Please CLICK on the photographs and open the hyperlinks to find out more! *



Thank you!



Rainbow Raffle

A BIG thank you on behalf of the School Council to everyone who donated items and purchased tickets for the RAINBOW RAFFLE. We are delighted to share that a total of **£329.93** was raised! Your generosity and support are truly appreciated and will make a real difference to our school community.

Thankyou PTA

Thank you to all members of the PTA for your tireless efforts in planning and running such wonderful experiences for our children — School Disco, Reindeer Visit, and Elfridges - to name but a few! You have created truly special memories that our children will cherish, and your dedication and hard work are deeply appreciated.

To all of our wonderful volunteers:

From those who come in every week to support in the classroom or listen to readers, to those who help with trips and special experiences; from our fabulous PTA team who enrich the children's lives, to the electricians who generously give their time and expertise to develop our school.

To everyone who contributes to our school community in any way -
a BIG thank you, and Merry Christmas!

Christmas Film Night

A big thank you to Mrs Alvarez-Mayne for coordinating the event, and to all the other parents who helped - supplying snacks and running the tuck shop.

Thank you also to the school staff who gave up their Friday evening to support and supervise the children.

We are pleased to share that the total raised was **£578.03**

Pearly Queens Advent Appeal

Thank you to the Pearly Queens for launching our Advent appeal, and to Mrs Gilbank for coordinating the collection of donated items.

Your generous contributions to the Neonatal Unit at Broomfield Hospital will truly bring joy to a child and their family who are spending this Christmas in hospital.

* Please CLICK on the photographs and open the hyperlinks to find out more! *



Coming Soon...



JANUARY

- 5 Spring Term begins
- 6 Epiphany - Whole School assembly
- 19 KS2 - Independent Learning

FEBRUARY

- 2 KS 1 - Independent Learning - Story time
2:45 - 3:10 pm
- 5 Year 5 Class Assembly 9:10 am
- 9 Hi5 Netball Tournament at Wentworth School.
Years 4,5 and 6 4 - 5:15pm
- 10 Safer Internet Day
- 13 Historical Figures Day - non uniform

16th - 20th February HALF TERM

- 26 Year 5 Trip to Science Museum and Theatre
- 26 Year 4 Class Assembly 9:10 am

MARCH

- 2 Year 4 Viking Workshop
- 5 World Book Day
- 9 KS 2 - Independent Learning
9 - 9:20am



Please support our school by clicking

HERE

to sign up and shop.



Please see the following links to our Facebook and Instagram accounts:

[St. Francis Facebook](#)

[St. Francis Instagram](#)



PTA NEWSLETTER



🦌 A Look Back at a Magical Day: Reindeer, Shopping, and Success! 🦌

Reflecting on the festive buzz from last week, we are still smiling about the incredible success of our Elfridges Shop and Reindeer Visit. It was a day filled with Christmas wonder that brought the whole school community together.

Stars on the Driveway

The highlight for many was the arrival of Buzz and Woody, our two beautiful visiting reindeer, who took up residence on the school driveway. Accompanied by Santa himself, they greeted the children with true North Pole style! It was wonderful to see the students learning about the reindeer and enjoying such a unique experience right here at school.

Savvy Shoppers & "Selfless" Gifts

Inside the DT Suite, our transformed Elfridges Shop was open for business. We were so impressed by the children's budgeting skills; they took their worksheets and tokens very seriously, proving they are quite the experts at managing their money!

There were some truly heartwarming moments as gifts were chosen for friends and family. However, we did have a few giggles watching some "strategic" shopping—more than one child picked out a gift for "Mummy" or "Daddy" that we suspect Mummy or Daddy will be expected to share with the children immediately on Christmas morning!

A Fantastic Result

Beyond the magic, the event was a huge success for our school's fundraising. We are thrilled to announce that Elfridges raised just over £400! These funds will go directly back into school projects and resources to benefit all the children.

Our Heartfelt Thanks

An event like this doesn't happen overnight. A massive thank you goes to our amazing team of volunteers who have worked tirelessly over the last few months—from hand-selecting the gifts to the marathon wrapping sessions and the busy event day itself. We literally couldn't have done it without our "Super-Elves."

Thank you to the school staff for their logistical support and to all the parents for helping the children participate in such a memorable day.

PTA socials, click for links:



TOTAL RAISED THIS TERM: £3,925