



Newsletter

February
2025

Dear Parents,

Welcome to our first half termly newsletter.

Whilst this half term has been the shortest so far, we have certainly managed to pack lots of fun into our learning with several classes have educational visits and workshops to enhance and consolidate their learning in the classroom.

The school celebrated Chinese New Year and also enjoyed a number of activities linked to Children's Mental Health Week. Some classes worked with a local artist to develop their drawing skills while others relaxed with sounds bowls or yoga.

Towards the end of January we launched the Jubilee Year with a special assembly finding out how we can be 'Pilgrims of Hope.'

A new group of volunteers took over our PTA and kicked off their fundraising with a very successful Music Bingo Night. I look forward to working with Mrs Pummell, Mrs Ludwig and Mrs Rae-Shearing on their events. A big thank you also to Mrs Alvarez and her team for providing the children with an evening of fun, watching a film with friends in their PJs.

Our After School Club, which started in January and is being co-ordinated by Mrs Bell is steadily growing in numbers. If you haven't tried it yet, please book your child in and support this enterprise.

Wishing you all a restful half term holiday.

Mrs C. Peear - Head Teacher

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](#)

[Christ The King Parent
Letters](#)

[Parent Lunch Dates](#)

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

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TBC](#)

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Catholic Life of the School



Pope Francis has decided that 2025 will be a year of Jubilee. In the Catholic Church, a Jubilee or Holy Year is a special year of forgiveness and reconciliation, in which people are invited to come back into right relationship with God, with one another, and with all of creation.

The theme is Pilgrims of Hope.

Pope Francis has invited Catholics to renew our hope and discover a vision that can "restore access to the fruits of the earth to everyone". We are also invited to rediscover a spirituality of God's creation in which we understand ourselves as "pilgrims on the earth" rather than masters of the world.

In this Jubilee year, Pope Francis invites us all to be signs of hope in our world and this holy year will be a significant and memorable moment for children and young people. Reflecting on Jesus' message of the good news of justice, freedom and love, there are opportunities for the whole school community to experience the joy of taking action as Pilgrims of Hope in building a better world.

A prayer of hope

God, our loving Father,
in this Jubilee Year,
you remind us of our call to love creation.
Help us to work together
to replant, repair, and renew.

Guide us on our journey
as pilgrims of hope.

Jesus, our light,
In this Jubilee Year,
you remind us of our call to love
our neighbours
and to set free those who suffer.
Help us to treat everyone with dignity;
to be fair, forgiving and kind.

Guide us on our journey
as pilgrims of hope.

Holy Spirit, our inspiration,
in this Jubilee Year, you remind us of our
call to grow in faith and love.
Help us to hear you in scripture, to see
Jesus in others,
and to be united as God's global family.

Guide us on our journey
as pilgrims of hope.

Amen

Written in
collaboration with Missio.



'Clean Up Maldon!' Assembly



Emma Wallace from Maldon Council spoke to us all in assembly about keeping the Maldon environment clean!

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





Congratulations !



Headteacher Awards

Congratulations to the following children

Reception Lyra Riva and Freya Riva

Year 1 Albie Shearing

Year 2 Lucas Berry

Year 3 Sophia Parnham

Year 4 Fraser Kirkaldy

Year 5 Lottie Russell

Year 6 Harrysson Rogers



Reader of the Week

is awarded to

Rocco Jewitt in Year 2

&

Teddy Taylor in Year 4



Pen Licences

Congratulations to:

Jacob Berry

Ollie Pilgrim

Freddie Bennett

who have gained their Pen Licences
this half term.

ATTENDANCE

Class	% Attendance
Year 5	98.64
Year 4	96.88
Year 1	95.00
Year 2	93.67
Year 6	92.50
Year 3	92.07
Reception	89.44
Whole School	93.93



PUNCTUALITY

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

This week's winners are:





Class News



Reception

Reception Class have been learning all about online safety this half term; discussing as a class how to stay safe online and learning Buddy's Song!



Year 1

Despite the cold and drizzly weather Year 1 enjoyed their recent trip exploring our local area.



Year 2

Year 2 spent the day back in 1666 during their Great Fire of London Workshop learning about how Londoners lived at the time.



Year 3

As part of their 'Ancient Egyptians' topic Year 3 have investigated the process of mummification by practising their skills on tomatoes!



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



Class News



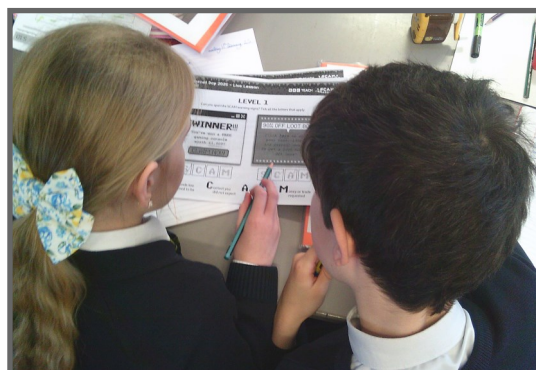
Year 4

This half term Year 4 have been learning all about the Vikings in History and enjoyed a Viking Day!



Year 5

Year 5 presented their class assembly where they enthusiastically shared their knowledge of Ancient Greece and Space. The children also took part in an online BBC live lesson all about spotting SCAMS!



Year 6

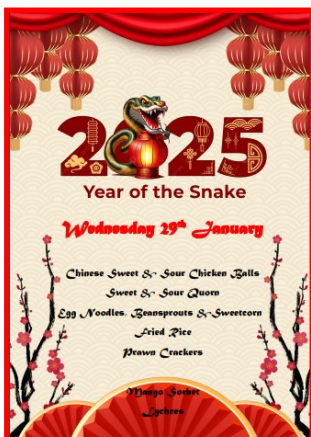
Our Year 6 students recently participated in an engaging and informative Cyber Safety Workshop aimed at equipping them with the knowledge and skills to navigate the digital world safely.



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



Around the School



Chinese New Year

On Wednesday 29th January we celebrated Chinese New Year, the Year of the Snake. Lots of different activities took place in classes around the school.

We were also treated to a spectacular Chinese feast courtesy of Mrs Stainer and her wonderful ladies in the kitchen!



Year 6: Chinese Tea Ceremony



Year 5: PE



Reception: Chinese New Year Lanterns



Year 1: Finding out about China



Year 5: Tangrams



Year 3's Swimming Lessons

This half term it has been the turn of Year 3 to make the weekly journey to the Blackwater Leisure Centre for their swimming lessons.

Find out about how the children got on!

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



Children's Mental Health Week



Monday 3rd - Sunday 9th February 2025

To start the week we had a visit from NED.

NED's Resiliency Ride, is a character education program that centres around three important messages that have lifelong relevance: Never give up, Encourage others and Do your best. During the assembly, the children learnt about the importance of these three life skills while also enjoying storytelling, magic, humour and yo-yo tricks.



For further information www.theNEDshow.com/ned_program.html

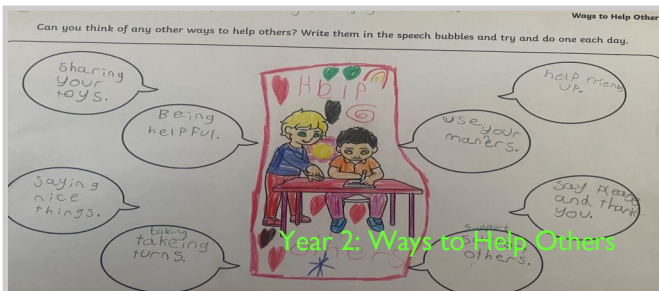
Thank you for helping us to pay it forward with all of your Yo-Yo purchases.



Year 5: Big Emotions



Year 4: Artwork



Year 4: Ways to Help Others



Soundbath Workshops:
Year 3



Reception and their Year 3 Buddies

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



Around the School



After School Club



The children who have joined us after school have really enjoyed spending time with new friends, playing outside now that the evenings are getting slightly longer, taking part in activities and for some, working with peers to tackle homework so that their evenings are free once they get home.

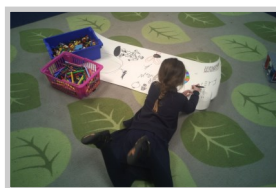
A reminder that there are two options for After School Club:

£4.50 up until 4:30pm

£10.00 up until 6pm

Please book in advance and look out for special themed activities after half term.

Mrs C. Bell—After School Club co-ordinator



PJs and Film Night

The whole school community enjoyed a film and PJs night on Friday 24th January. KS2 pupils chilled together in the hall with sweets and popcorn to enjoy *Inside Out 2* while KS1 children were cosy in their classrooms watching *Flushed Away*.

A BIG thank you to the team, led by Mrs Alvarez, who organised the event and raised just over £600.



easyfundraising

Please support our school by clicking [HERE](#) to sign up and shop.



Coming Soon...



24 Back to school
Colchester United Assembly

28 9:10 am Year 4 Class Assembly



Ash Wednesday Service Year 2-6
5 PTA Meeting 7:45pm at Maldon Rugby Club, Drapers Farm

7 World Book Day—dress up day!

11 Year 3 Trip to Hyde Hall

13 KS2 Independent Learning 9 - 9:20 am

14 Year 3 Class Assembly 9:10 am

19 Year 6 Parents Evening 4-7pm

20 Year 6 Parents Evening 4-6:30pm

26 Rock Steady Showcase 2:30 - 3:30 pm
Parent Evenings in Hall, Rec - Yr5

Parent Forum 9 - 10 am

27 KS1 Independent Learning 9 - 9:20 am
Parent Meetings in Hall, Rec - Yr5

31 Year 5 Passion - dress rehearsal



Year 6 - Hilltop Residential

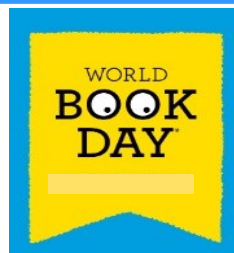
2 **Year 5 Passion Performance to Parents 2 pm**

Year 6 Return from Hilltop

4 End of Term
KS1 at 1:50 pm KS2 at 2pm

World Book Day

Friday 7th March 2025



This year we will be celebrating World Book Day on Friday 7th March.

The children are invited to dress up as their favourite book character. Alternatively, they can just bring in a favourite book from home to show/share. We look forward to seeing the children's costumes!

Mrs Scudiero, English Subject Leader

Parents Evenings

Information about how to book an appointment to see your child's class teacher will be sent home after half term. For now, please **SAVE THE DATE**:



For children in **Reception - Year 5** meetings will be held on
Wednesday 26th March between 4-7pm &
Thursday 27th March between 4-6:30pm

Year 6 parent meetings will be held on
Wednesday 19th* March between 4-7pm &
Thursday 20th March between 4-6:30pm

*KS2 Cross Country Tournament 4-5pm



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

[St. Francis Facebook](#)

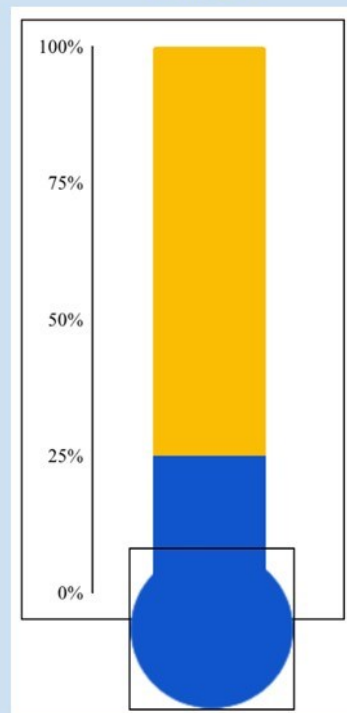
[St. Francis Instagram](#)





Music Bingo Night - FUNDS RAISED

We raised an astonishing £952.80; from ticket sales, donations, and from the raffle on the night! Thank you to all those that helped to achieve this amazing amount. This brings us that much closer to the funds needed for Chromebooks, with a grand total so far of £1,055.58, see our tracking thermometer >>>



REMINDER - Spring Term Committee Meeting

5th March 2025

The first committee meeting has been arranged for Wednesday 5th March at 7:45pm at Drapers Farm Sports Club. We welcome any interested parents, carers or members of staff to join us to discuss future plans for the PTA.

Summer Uniform Donations



After the half term break we will be asking for any unwanted summer uniform for our pre-loved shop in preparation for the spring term, when the uniform changes. So if you are having a sort out please hold on to any unwanted summer uniform, as further details will come out soon on how you will be able to donate.

EasyFundraising Link

Sign up to easyfundraising and see your favourite brands donate to the cause you care about whenever you shop with them. In the last two and half years we have gained over £200, just because people are shopping, it's a no brainer!

[St Francis RC Primary School PTA - Maldon Fundraising | Easyfundraising](#)

Donations

If you would like to donate directly to St Francis PTA then please use this link [Please pay \[\] to St Francis Parents Association](#) or scan the QR code and it will take you straight to our SumUp donation page, adding towards our Chromebook fundraising pot.



Have a great half term break from the PTA xxx