



Newsletter

February
2026

Dear Parents,

It has been a wonderfully busy and joyful time in school. It was lovely to see everyone embracing History Day, with both children and staff arriving in fantastic costumes and taking part in fun activities linked to their chosen decades. The enthusiasm and creativity on display really brought history to life across the school.

On Thursday, we celebrated Chinese New Year (early) and the children enjoyed learning about different aspects of Chinese culture. Mrs Tsai led a whole-school assembly and truly wowed us with a beautiful Chinese Dragon dance performed by some of our pupils. We also enjoyed a delicious Chinese-inspired lunch—many thanks to Mrs Stainer and her team for making this such a special experience.

In half term, we will be making a start on our outdoor classroom project. Phase one will focus on addressing current drainage issues. Following this, we look forward to the installation of a new astro surface so children can use the space safely, along with a water fountain and hand-washing sink. We are still fundraising for the classroom structure and equipment, so please consider making a donation via ParentPay. If you know of any companies that may be able to offer a charitable contribution, we would be very grateful for your support.

The Wednesday of half term is Ash Wednesday. We encourage families, where possible, to attend one of the services at church to mark the beginning of Lent. At the Assumption of Our Lady in Maldon services are at 9am or 7pm and at St Cuthbert's in Burnham, 11:30am.

During Lent, we are hoping to arrange a whole-school BIG Walk on Friday 27th March to raise money for CAFOD and the school. If you are able to help supervise the children, please complete the MyEd form that has been sent out or speak to your child's class teacher.

Due to increased numbers, our after-school club is now based in the school hall. Staff have also begun providing snacks for children staying after 5pm. The children are enjoying the extra space, new toys, and the big screen for relaxing towards the end of the day with some favourite programmes.

Finally, attendance has been affected by lots of illness recently. Hopefully, as the days begin to lengthen and we see more sunshine, the bugs will start to disappear. Let us hope the rain clouds also move on so everyone can enjoy a restful and refreshing half term.

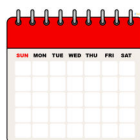
Mrs. C. Peear - Headteacher

Please click [here to complete our short Parental Survey](#)



SCHOOL CALENDAR

Please click [here](#) to view.



Catering News

Winter Menu Week 1

Please click [here](#) to view.





Catholic Life of the School



Pope Leo announces the Jubilee Year of St. Francis of Assisi



Pope Leo XIV Announces the Jubilee Year of St. Francis

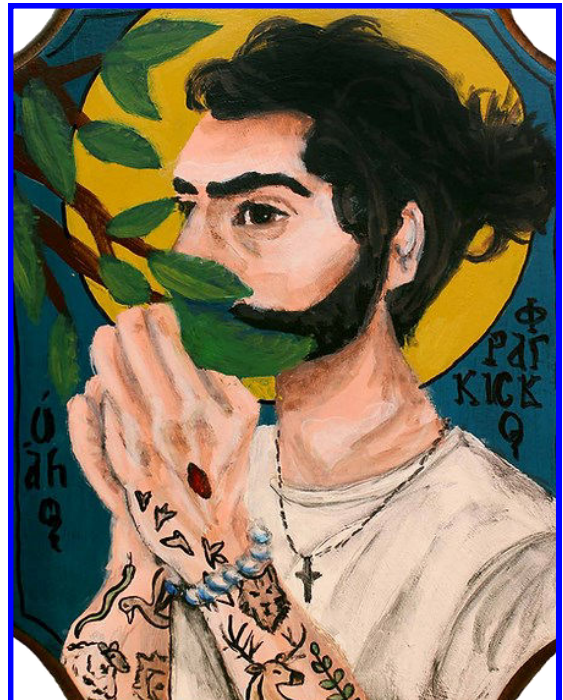
Pope Leo has announced a special Year of St Francis of Assisi, inviting the whole Church to learn from this saint who **loved God**, cared for the poor, and looked after animals and the Earth.

For children, this means trying to be more like St Francis by being **kind, sharing with others, forgiving quickly**, and **caring for God's creation**.

During this special year, we are encouraged to pray more and make loving choices at home and at school. It is a reminder that even small, good actions can make a big difference.

At St Francis Catholic Primary School, we are especially proud of our Franciscan heritage and the fact that our school was founded by the Franciscan nuns.

The school opened in September 1957 with just 22 children, under the care of headteacher, Sister Isabella (pictured below).



Over this special year, we look forward to learning more about these remarkable women and joining with our parish to celebrate their achievements.

If you, or friends or relatives, attended the school when the sisters were in charge and have photos or stories you are happy to share, please email them to admin@stfrancismaldon.co.uk so we can create a special display.





Catholic Life of the School



Racial Justice Sunday

On Monday 2nd February, we came together as a whole school to mark Racial Justice Sunday, reflecting on the theme "Whoever loves God must also love his brother and sister."

We discussed how the words brother and sister remind us of the Catholic belief that we are all children of God, and therefore all part of one family, called to show love and respect to everyone, especially those who may be different from us. We reflected on how true love for God must be shown in our actions, rejecting prejudice and racism, which have no place in Christian life or in a Catholic school.

Racial justice calls us to recognise the dignity of every person and to celebrate the beautiful diversity of our Church and school, where people of every nation, culture and background belong to the one family of God.

"Whoever loves God
must also love his
brother and sister"



Treat everyone with respect –
use kind words, listen to others,
and never tease or leave people
out.

**Speak up when something is
unfair** – tell a trusted adult and
stand by those who need help.



Racial Justice Sunday Theme



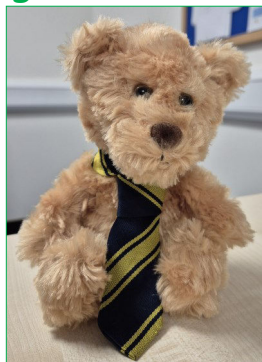
Francis, our Pilgrimage Bears

**Find out how you can take
them on a special pilgrimage**

Each class now has their very own *Francis Bear* and they are eager to go on an adventure with you to any place of worship. It does not have to be a Catholic Church.

If you are going somewhere and know you will be visiting a church, mosque, temple, synagogue or place of pilgrimage, please let your class teacher know either by contacting the school office or putting a note in your child's home school record book.

Don't forget to snap a photo and share it with us!



Thank you!

Thanks to your generosity in contributing to the retiring collection at the end of the Year 2 Nativity and Year 3 & 4's Christmas Carols and readings at the Church, we raised **£150** for Brentwood Catholic Children's Society (BCCS).



BCCS

BCCS is a charity providing counselling and support to children, young people, and families across Essex.





Catholic Life of the School



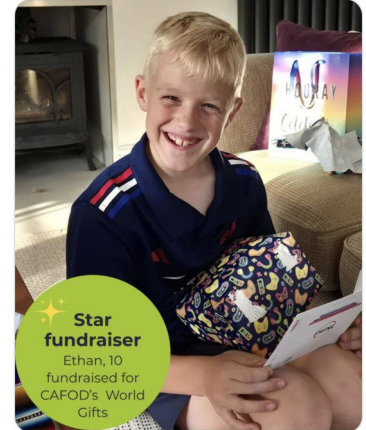
Celebrating a Wonderful Achievement

We are incredibly proud to celebrate the inspiring achievement of one of our Year 6 pupils, Ethan. In September, Ethan set himself the challenge of raising £750 by his birthday in May to purchase a CAFOD World Gift: *Water for a Community*. To reach his goal, Ethan planned a range of fundraising activities, including doing jobs for others and completing sponsored walks.

By the beginning of December, Ethan had already completed two ten-kilometre walks, cut grass, washed cars, and helped with garden jobs, raising an impressive £450 in the process. Determined to go even further, Ethan asked if he could run a cake sale at school. With the generous support of staff and parents - who donated an incredible number of cakes - and the enthusiasm of our school community, the Christmas cake sale ran over two days and raised an additional £300.

By the end of December, Ethan had smashed his original target in just three months. Having raised enough to purchase the CAFOD *Community Well*, Ethan decided to extend his generosity even further by also buying a *Goat that Gives*. He even added some of his own pocket money to purchase a *Forest School* gift.

CAFOD
WORLD
GIFTS



Ethan was inspired by CAFOD volunteers who have visited our school and led assemblies about the difficult conditions faced by some of our brothers and sisters around the world. Learning about the lack of access to clean, safe drinking water motivated him to take action.

At St Francis, we are so proud of Ethan for his compassion, determination, and commitment to helping others. He is a wonderful example to us all. Well done, Ethan!

Mrs Draycott & Mrs Crates, Year 6 Teachers

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

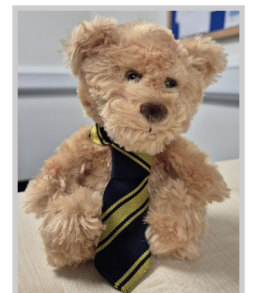
Two of our Pilgrimage Bears, were very busy over the recent Christmas holidays!
Which holy site or place of worship will be next on their travel plans?



*St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church in
Ras Al Khaimah, Dubai, UAE*



*Carpi Cathedral in Carpi,
Emilia-Romagna, Italy*





Congratulations!



Headteacher Awards

Congratulations to the following children

Reception	Luke Tovey
Year 1	Elijah Mackenzie-Parks
Year 2	Mary Burton
Year 3	Arthur May
Year 4	Clarke Hinton
Year 5	Elijah Moore
Year 6	Lottie Russell



Reader of the Week

is awarded to

Esmai Cooch in Year 3
&
Pippa Carus in Reception



Pen Licences

Congratulations to:

Julia Gorajska
Vienna Mae Randall



who have all gained their Pen Licences
this half term.

ATTENDANCE

Class	% Attendance
Year 3	98.97
Year 6	97.27
Year 4	96.67
Year R	96.21
Year 1	94.62
Year 2	94.00
Year 5	93.75
Whole School	95.86

PUNCTUALITY

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

This week's winners are:



★★★★★★★★★★★★
★ Year 5 ★
★★★★★★★★★★★★



Hot Chocolate Friday

It was my pleasure to share a
hot chocolate recently with the
following pupils:



Olive Caporale

Grace Sach

Maisie Pilgrim

Matilda Lee

Marleigh Wade

Elsie Mead

Ollie Pilgrim

They were nominated by their teachers for
consistently going 'above and beyond' what is
expected in school. Well done!

Click [HERE](#) for photo.



Class News



Reception

The Reception Class have enjoyed being Pirates this half term...using a pirate theme in their Maths, writing and Art work too!



Year 1

Year 1 have enjoyed exploring and learning all about our wonderful little town - enjoying a trip to Maldon town centre. They also have been learning all about Jesus when he was a little boy.



Year 2

This half term children in Year 2 have been very busy going on safari and exploring 'Expressive Art'. Read all about their learning by clicking on the photo!



Year 3

Year 3 have been busy mummifying tomatoes as part of their Ancient Egyptian studies! Read all about it by clicking on the photo below!



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



Class News



Year 4

Year 4 have been immersing themselves in the world of *Still Life in Art*; exploring the work of both contemporary and classic artists, carefully observing and discussing the differences in colour, style, form, tone and expression - before creating their own pieces of work.

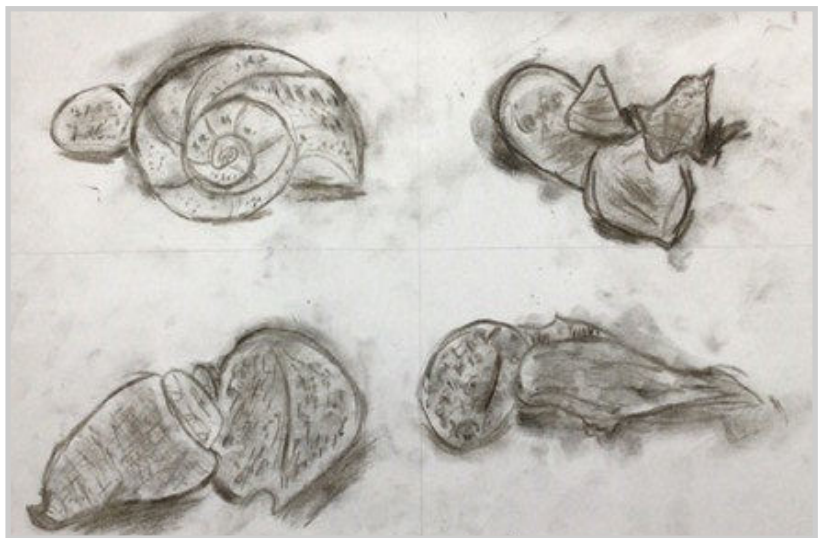


Year 5

Year 5 enjoyed their recent CPR training - learning how to stay calm, to check if someone needs help and to understand what to do in an emergency.

Year 6

Using the medium of charcoal, Year 6 used a range of techniques to create beautiful close observational drawings of shells.



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



Around the School



On Thursday 22 January, the whole school came together for a *Wicked* sing-along, which was being streamed worldwide. Children and staff had all been busy practising the songs and enjoyed dressing up in pink and green for the occasion!

A Visit from a Magistrate!

Year 6 were recently visited by Darren Legg from the *Magistrates in the Community* project. Mr Legg taught the children all about the criminal justice system and what it means to be a magistrate. Pupils took part in an engaging role-play trial, acting as magistrates, barristers, witnesses, defendants and ushers. The session was both fun and informative and helped everyone gain a real insight into how courts work in real life. Read more about the visit [here](#).



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



Around the School



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



Around the School



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



Sports



Hi 5 Netball

Our Year 5/6 Netballers recently took part in a local inter-schools Hi-5 Netball tournament... click the photo to find out the result!



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](#)

[Sports Tournaments](#)

[Community Events](#)

[After School Clubs](#)

[St Francis PTA](#)

[Wraparound Care](#)

[Class Assembly Dates](#)

[Academic Term Dates](#)



Coming Soon...



FEBRUARY

16th - 20th February HALF TERM

26 Year 5 Trip to Science Museum and Theatre

Year 4 Class Assembly 9:10 am

MARCH

1 National Offer Day 11+

2 Year 4 Viking Workshop

Parents find out secondary school places

5 World Book Day (normal uniform)

6 British Science Week begins 6-15 March

9 KS2 - Independent Learning 9 - 9:20am

10 Year 3 trip to Hyde Hall (parents to

12 Year 3 Class Assembly 9:10 am

16- Parent meetings for pupils with EHCP /
20 One Plans (to be arranged with teachers)

16- 'St Francis Has Talent' - audition week
20

18 Cross Country Tournament at St Francis
3:45 - 5pm - selected pupils only

20 Year 5 Passion rehearsal performed to
Years 1,2 & 3

Parent Forum 2pm
23 KS1 Independent Learning - Storytime
2:45 - 3:10pm
Year 2 Parents' Evening 4-5:30pm

Year 5 Passion performed to parents,
25 Year 4 & 6 - 2pm
Parents' Evening 4 - 7pm (All classes)

Non-uniform day - £1
26 'St Francis Has Talent'
Parents' Evening 4 - 5:30pm (Not Year 2)

National Skipping Day

CAFOD BIG Walk

27 END OF TERM - EYFS/KS1 - 1:50pm
KS2 - 2pm After School Club 4pm

Year 3&4 / Year 5&6 Tag rugby
Tournament (Selected pupils only)

St Francis HAS TALENT!

AUDITIONS: Week beginning 16th March

Open to Year 3 - 6

Two acts from each class to go to the final!

Voted by the class - Thursday 26th March

Children to provide costumes, props, music & more!

Magicians, Musicians, Dancers & Comedians,
Show us your hidden talents!

Thursday 26th March
NON-UNIFORM DAY!

£1 Charitable Donation
for the rest of the school



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 FRIDAY FLYER

**SAVE
THE DATE**

13TH FEBRUARY 2026

MUSIC QUIZ

Friday 20th March
Doors open at 6:30pm
• Raffle • Curry
• BYO Drink & Snacks
• £10 per Ticket

Music Quiz

The previous PTA music bingo night and quiz nights have been well received, we are hoping to go one better this time with a music quiz night, including live performance.

So gather your team, save the date and watch this space for ticket sales.

Pre Loved Uniform Donations

We have plenty of stock, but if you have any items that are no longer needed and still in good condition please do donate to our pre loved shop, it helps others with uniform and raises funds little and often for our school. Donations can be left bagged up with the school office.

We particularly need items of uniform that would fit year 5 and 6 pupils.

PRE LOVED UNIFORM SALE



**Monday 23rd
March
3:15-4pm**

Cash & Card Payments Accepted
Cash Preferred

REMINDER

Children change to **SUMMER**
uniform
after the Easter Holidays



2026 FEBRUARY

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28

enjoy!

PTA socials, click for links:

