



Newsletter

May
2026

Dear Parents,

It is finally beginning to feel a bit more like summer with the sunshine and warmer weather making an appearance at last. The children are already enjoying spending more time outside and Mrs Smith has been busy with a small team of helpers finding homes for the beautiful bedding plants that were so kindly donated for our May Procession. The colourful displays are already helping to brighten our outdoor spaces, and the children are eager to help care for God's world with plenty of water and, hopefully, continued sunshine!

A special thank you also goes to Mr and Mrs McIntosh, who have generously given up their time to create a beautiful butterfly garden outside the school's main entrance. What was once a tired area has been transformed into a vibrant space buzzing with life.

An update on our outdoor classroom project - We are currently awaiting planning permission for the pergola construction and hope the project can be completed over the summer, ready for the new school year.

As we move further into the summer term, there will be even more opportunities for outdoor learning and play, as well as a number of class trips which are coming up. Some classes have already been out and about with EYFS heading to 'Call of the Wild' and Year 3 visiting the library.

Following Easter, our Year 5 pupils were fortunate to spend a retreat day at New Hall School. The children attended Mass in the chapel, took part in reflective activities with the chaplaincy team, visited the farm and enjoyed a delicious two-course lunch!

Our Year 6 pupils have had an especially busy few weeks, beginning with their residential trip to Hilltop at the end of April, followed by their SATs assessments last week. We would like to congratulate all of Year 6 for completing their SATs with such maturity and calmness. My thanks go to all staff who supported the children throughout the SATs process, including running booster sessions, preparing breakfasts and administering the tests. While these national tests provide a snapshot of attainment, we remain immensely proud of every child for their many gifts and talents that cannot be measured by a test.

Looking ahead, Year 6 will soon begin rehearsals for their end-of-year production, *The Wrong Way Around*. Tickets will go on sale later this term, so please save the dates (15th & 16th July) and come along to support the children.

We are also looking forward to Sports Day on the morning of the final day of term (Tuesday 21st July) as well as the PTA Disco on Friday 3rd July.

I pray that the sunshine remains over the bank holiday weekend and into the half term.

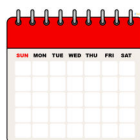
We look forward to welcoming the children back on Monday 1st June when the photographer will be in school to take class photos. Please ensure your child has their full summer uniform, including blazer for this.

Mrs C. Pearar
Headteacher



SCHOOL CALENDAR

Please click [here](#) to view.



CATERING NEWS

Summer Menu Week 1

Please click [here](#) to view.





Catholic Life of the School



May – The Month of Mary



In the Catholic Church, the month of May is traditionally dedicated to Our Blessed Lady, Mary, the Mother of Jesus. During this special month, we remember Mary's faith, love, humility and trust in God, and we look to her as a model of kindness, compassion and devotion.

Throughout May, the children have had opportunities to honour Mary through prayer, reflection and acts of kindness. On Thursday 7th May the whole school took part in a May procession led by Father Jerold, and throughout the month, classes have been praying the Rosary together.

Mary reminds us of the importance of saying "yes" to God, caring for others and showing love in all that we do. As a school community, we ask Mary to guide and protect our families and help us grow closer to Jesus each day.



"Mary is the mother who leads us to Jesus." – Pope Francis

The Memorare

Remember,
O most gracious Virgin Mary,
That never was it known,
That anyone,
Who fled to your protection
Implored your help,
Or sought your intercession,
was left unaided,
Inspired with this confidence,
I fly to you,
O Virgin of Virgins, my Mother,
To you I come
Before you I stand
Sinful and sorrowful.
O mother of the word incarnate,
Do not reject my petitions,
But graciously hear and answer.

AMEN



The Magnificat

My soul glorifies the Lord,
My spirit rejoices in God, my Saviour.
He looks on his servant in her lowliness;
Henceforth all ages will call me blessed.
The Almighty works marvel for me.
Holy his name!
His mercy is from age to age,
On those who fear him.
He puts forth his arm in strength and scatters the
proud-hearted.
He casts the mighty from their thrones and raised the
lowly.
He fills the starving with good things,
Sends the rich away empty.
He protects Israel, his servant, Remembering his
mercy,
The mercy promised to our fathers,
To Abraham and his sons for ever.

AMEN

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



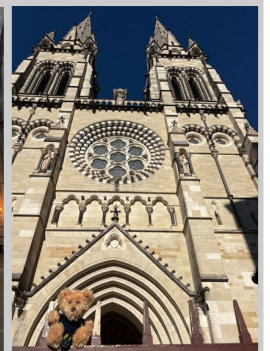


Catholic Life of the School

Which holy destinations have our **St. Francis Bears** journeyed to?

*Notre-Dame de Lorette & Cathédrale de Moulins, France; Lourdes, France;
Our Lady of Sorrows, Cape Verde*

Where will he go to next?



In aid of

Havens
Hospices



At our recent school assembly, representatives from **Little Havens Hospice** visited to share the important work they do supporting children with complex or incurable conditions and their families. They spoke about the care, comfort, and specialist support they provide both at the hospice and in family homes, helping children make the most of every day.

Thanks to the enthusiasm and generosity of everyone involved in our St Francis Has Talent competition, an impressive **£232** was raised for the charity. At the end of the assembly, the Head Boy and Head Girl proudly presented a cheque to the representatives from Little Havens Hospice on behalf of the school.

The visit was both inspiring and rewarding, reminding everyone of the positive difference fundraising can make to local families.





Congratulations!



Headteacher Awards

Congratulations to the following children

Reception	Jesse Holding
Year 1	All children in Year 1
Year 2	Lucas Parnham
Year 3	Wynter-Rose Quinn
Year 4	Isabella Bamford
Year 5	Orla Phillips
Year 6	Elsie May

Reader of the Week

is awarded to

Luke Langer in Year 6
&
Sienna Shiels in Year 1



Pen Licences

Congratulations to:

Rex Clarke
Dylan Greene
George Page
Logan Claydon-Cressey
Louella Rose
Isabella Bamford
Josiah Idowu
Devon Nutt
Theo Parsley
Eliza Kingsford
Lily-Rose Fletcher



who have all gained their pen licences this half term.

ATTENDANCE

Our whole school attendance target is 96%
Please help us achieve this by being in school every day.

Class	% Attendance
Year 2	97.33
Year 3	96.00
Year 6	95.91
Year 5	95.47
Year R	93.10
Year 1	90.40
Year 4	88.97
Whole School	93.93

PUNCTUALITY



Please remember that your child must be at school for registration at 8:50am.
The school gate opens at 8:30am to allow a twenty minute window for drop off.

Hot Chocolate Friday

It was mine and Mrs. Scudiero pleasure to share a hot chocolate recently with the following pupils:

Mayson Vata
Elijah Mackenzie-Parks
Harrison Cozens
Fleur Clarke
Eliza Kingsford
Raphael Olanisebe
Erone Topacio



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

Reception class have spent this half-term exploring the fascinating topic of Minibeasts. They also went on an exciting trip to Call of the Wild Zoo.



Year 1

Year 1 enjoyed sharing their learning with the school and visitors in their class assembly and learning all about Plants!



Year 2

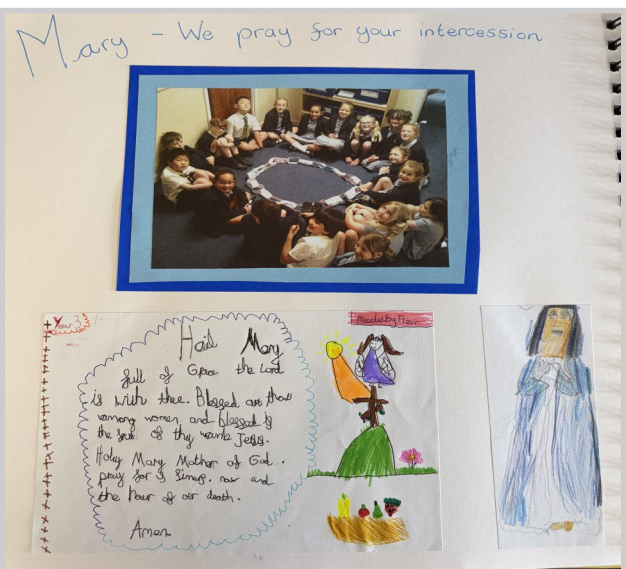
This half term Year 2 have been super scientists! We have been investigating when seeds start to grow and what conditions help a plant to grow well.

Mason Activity 16.04.26			
day 0	day 1	day 2	day 3
The seeds are starting to grow.	The seeds are starting to grow.	The seeds are starting to grow.	The seeds are starting to grow.
day 4	day 5	day 6	day 7
The seeds are starting to grow.	The seeds are starting to grow.	The seeds are starting to grow.	The seeds are starting to grow.



Year 3

In Year 3, we have been spending the month of May reflecting on the importance of Mary and deepening our understanding of prayer and devotion.



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

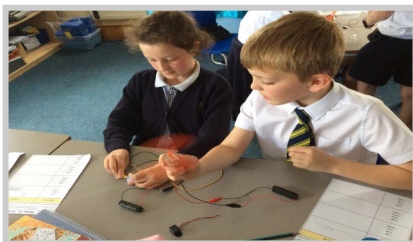
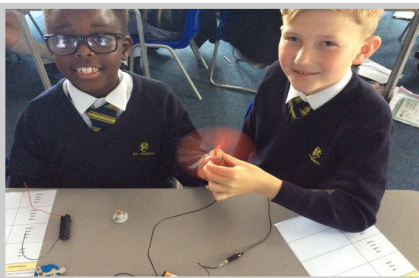
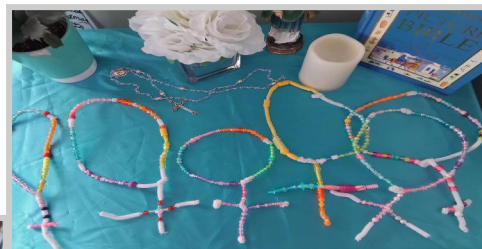


Class News



Year 4

This half term in Year 4, we have been learning about how to pray the Rosary, especially focusing on the Glorious Mysteries. In Science, we have been learning



Year 5

This half term, Year 5 had the pleasure of visiting Newhall School for a special retreat day!



Year 6

Year 6 should be incredibly proud of themselves for the hard work, determination, and positive attitude they showed throughout their SATs week. To celebrate completing their tests, the children enjoyed a well-deserved "Yes Day" filled with fun and relaxation.



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



Around the School



Sir David Attenborough's 100th Birthday Celebrations!

We have had great fun celebrating Sir David Attenborough's 100th birthday in school, with wonderful support from the PTA.

Our celebrations began with a special launch assembly where the children guessed different animal noises. The sounds made by house cats — chirping, purring and meowing — caused lots of laughter! We also held an animal mask-making competition using recyclable materials. The entries were fantastic, showing great creativity and effort. Congratulations to our winners: Maisie from Year 1 for KS1 and Indie from Year 5 for KS2.

One of the highlights of the week was a live video link to the Kruger National Park in South Africa, where two park rangers introduced the children to the “Big Five” animals — lions, elephants, rhinos, leopards and buffalo — as well as the “Small Five”, including the elephant shrew and rhino beetle. The children loved learning that the park is the size of Wales and home to hundreds of species of mammals, reptiles, birds and trees.

Alice from Year 3 said :

“It was really interesting when they showed us how big the park was and videos of all the animals. I really enjoyed it!”

We also held a ‘Walking with Dinosaurs’ themed lunch on Sir David’s birthday. Mrs Stainer would like to thank Kelton Riley for all the dinosaurs & decorations he lent to her for the lunch.

The PTA also arranged Beach Explorers workshops for every class, where the children learnt about sea creatures, habitats and conservation. They discovered fascinating facts, including that a blue whale can grow to nearly 30 metres long and its call can travel up to 1,000 miles away.

A huge thank you to the PTA for organising these fantastic events, especially Mrs Riley for all of her hard work and support.

Throughout the celebrations, the children developed a greater understanding of wildlife, conservation and the importance of protecting our planet — a wonderful way to honour Sir David Attenborough and his inspiring work.



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



Around the School



Year 6 Hilltop Residential



Year 6 had an unforgettable time on their recent residential trip to Hilltop, where they embraced every challenge with enthusiasm and determination.

Throughout the visit, the children were encouraged to take part in "challenge by choice" activities, helping them to build confidence and resilience while supporting one another. They enjoyed a range of exciting experiences, including team-building games, the thrilling big zip wire, and an adventurous tree-top trail high above the ground. The pupils also took part in bushcraft activities, learning valuable outdoor skills and working together brilliantly.

It was wonderful to see the children stepping out of their comfort zones, encouraging their friends, and thoroughly enjoying every moment of the trip.

...And for those children who stayed at school, a few days of fun involving cooking, project work, P.E. and helping out the younger children by being excellent role models in the different classrooms.



Football Cup Winners

On Sunday 17th May, Lottie and Wren (Year 6) played in the U/10s Southey League Cup Final with their girls football team - Hatfield Peverel Vipers.

They both played amazingly and the team won the match 3-0 and became Cup winners!

Mrs Draycott showed up to support them, which was great for the girls.

Congratulations to Lottie & Wren!



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



Around the School



A Musical Celebration

On Wednesday, we enjoyed listening to our talented musicians, including our recorder groups and solo pianists; Year 5 pupils Amelie, Sienna and Evan. Our wonderful choir also presented 'The Button Box' - which demonstrated and celebrated music from other cultures around the world.

Please click on the photos to go to the website to enjoy more photos and to listen to the choir!

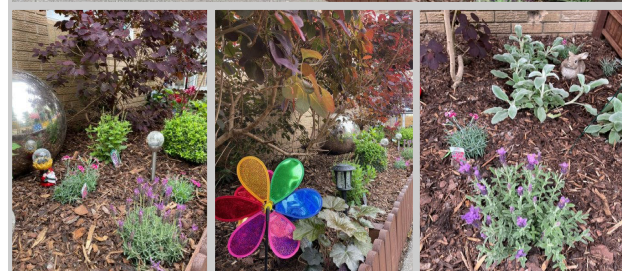


Garden Makeover

Many thanks to Mr and Mrs McIntosh who recently gave up a whole weekend to come into school to give the office block garden a most welcome makeover! I'm sure you will agree that it looks amazing - who knew Mrs McIntosh had such 'green fingers'?!

Thank you so much for giving up so much of your time to make our school environment look so much nicer.

Thank you also to those parents that donated plants and new items for our Butterfly Garden makeover and to Claremont Nursery and Wickes for their discounts.





Sports



KS1 Fun Run

Despite a rather ominous start with dark clouds overhead, the weather soon brightened as the sun appeared and a brisk wind set in - perfect conditions for our Years 1 and 2 Fun Run.

The event proved to be a great success, with all participating children proudly completing the challenging 700-metre course across varied terrain. Their determination and enthusiasm were evident throughout, making it a fantastic experience for everyone involved. As a first-time event, the Fun Run exceeded expectations and was thoroughly enjoyed by pupils and staff alike.



Click [HERE](#) for more information!

We are excited to be launching our upcoming **ProStrike Speed Challenge** fundraising event on **Tuesday 7th July 2026**.

As a school, we are continually looking for ways to enhance opportunities and resources for all of our children, and fundraising events such as this play a vital role in helping us provide those extra experiences and improvements that benefit every pupil.

We would be incredibly grateful for your support in helping make this event a success. We encourage all families to get behind the event by helping children collect sponsorship from friends and family and by promoting the importance of taking part enthusiastically and responsibly.

Every contribution, no matter how small, will make a real difference to our school community.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support and generosity.



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...



25

Spring Bank Holiday
Half term 26th–29th May



1

Back to school
Class Photographs—Full summer uniform
Year 4 Multiplication Checks
Year 6 - Dance

2

Year 3 Swimming

4

Parent Forum 9am

5

Year 4 Walk around Maldon and Promenade park

7

Corpus Christi

8-11

Year 1 Phonics Screener

8

Year 6 - Dance
Year 2 Phonics Screener re-take

9

Year 3 Swimming

10

Reception Teddy Bear Picnic
Year 4 Parent Lunch 12pm
Year 6 Crucial Crew

11

Year 3 trip to Colchester Castle
Reception Class Assembly 9:10am

12

Year 5 trip to Maeldune Centre

15

Year 6—Dance
Adult and child initial play session—
Reception 26/27 - 9:30am-10:30am

16

Year 3 Swimming
Year 1 trip to Abberton Reservoir

18

Year 6 World War II Workshop

19

Year 2 trip to Southend Sealife Centre

22

Year 6—Dance

23

Year 3 Swimming

24

Year 6 Transition Day
Year 5 Parent Lunch 12pm

25

Rocksteady Concert 2:30pm

28

Feast of St.Peter and St.Paul

29

Year 6 - Dance
Parent/Carers meeting in school hall
for Reception 26/27 starters -
2pm-3pm

30

Year 3 Swimming



easyfundraising

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

22ND MAY 2026

TIME FOR A
BREAK



Thank you to all those that brought in their unwanted clothing items. Following the collection by the Little Recyclers on Wednesday morning we donated 200kg and have raised £90.

Thank you to the school's Eco Warriors who helped with ensuring all the donations were collected. There were lots of full bags!

We will be running a clothes recycling drive again in October so have a box or bag put to one side to collate those unwanted items.



SAVE THE DATE

SUMMER DISCO

FRIDAY 3RD JULY



The parents' lottery
Support your school with every ticket

£25,000 jackpot!

Support our school

Scan this QR code and visit our school website to join The Parents' Lottery

How does it work?

There will be guaranteed prizes up for grabs each week including the chance to win the £25,000 jackpot! Keep your eyes on the Friday weekly draw to find out if you're a winner this week.

Choose an entry for the lottery
£1 ticket entry (includes weekly draw)
Play with up to 10 tickets
Win a prize
Each ticket supports the school

Parentland **megaballs lottery**

TIME FOR A
BREAK

PTA socials, click for links:

