



Newsletter

October
2026

Dear Parents,

As we reach the end of a busy first half term, I would like to share a few highlights from life at St Francis and thank you for your continued support.

We are delighted to introduce our new Pupil Leadership Team, including Raphael, our Head Boy, and Amelia, our Head Girl. Congratulations to all the children who have been elected or appointed to positions of responsibility, including our School and Eco Councils, librarians, sports leaders, IT helpers and RE Ambassadors. These roles provide wonderful opportunities to develop leadership skills and contribute positively to our school community. You can find out more about our pupil leaders [here](#).

Throughout October, the children have taken part in activities to celebrate Black History Month, learning about the achievements and contributions of Black individuals. Our Key Stage 2 pupils have explored the poem 'Mother of Mankind' by Banji Alexander, while Key Stage 1 have enjoyed learning through the book 'Coming to England' by Floella Benjamin. Click [HERE](#) to see more.

Our Year 6 pupils and staff are currently enjoying a memorable residential at Bawdsey Manor in Suffolk. The children embraced a range of challenges, from archery to high ropes, demonstrating wonderful teamwork, determination and resilience - even in this wet weather! We look forward to sharing photos with you after half term.

It was lovely to see so many of you at our parent-teacher consultations last week. The partnership between home and school is invaluable, and we greatly appreciate your support in working together to achieve the very best for your children.

Thank you, too, for your patience following the unexpected change to our MyEd communication system earlier this month. While we explore alternative arrangements, please contact the school via Studybugs or email admin@stfrancismaldon.co.uk. Please also ensure you are signed up to ParentMail to continue receiving school letters, forms and other important communications.

A reminder that children should return after half term in their winter uniform. Please check the uniform list and ensure all items are clearly labelled with your child's name. Please also note that Friday 27th November is a staff INSET day, when the school will be closed to pupils.

Finally, I wish all our families a happy and restful half term. Many children and staff have been battling colds and other illnesses, and we hope everyone has an opportunity to recharge. Our current whole-school attendance is 94.43%, below our target of 96%, and we look forward to welcoming everyone back feeling refreshed. Don't forget to enjoy the extra hour in bed this Sunday when the clocks go back!

We look forward to welcoming the children back on Monday 2nd November for a busy and exciting run-up to Christmas.

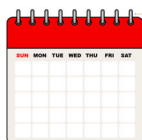
With best wishes,

Mrs C. Pearar
Headteacher



SCHOOL CALENDAR

Please click [here](#) to view.



CATERING NEWS

Autumn Term 2—week 1

Please click [here](#) to view.





Catholic Life of the School



Celebrating the Feast of St Francis



On 2nd October, we celebrated the Feast of St Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of animals, the environment and our school. Inspired by his love of God and all living things, we reflected on how we can follow his example each day by living out our school values: Love Christ, Love Others, Care for Creation and Serve with Joy.

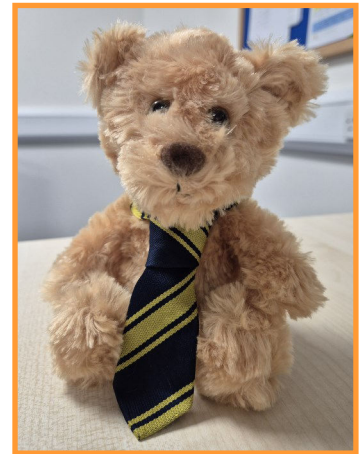
During the day Father Jerold joined us to celebrate Mass and the children completed a range of activities with their buddies.

[HERE](#) are some photos of our celebration.

Month of the Holy Rosary

Throughout October, the Month of the Holy Rosary, the children have been learning the prayers of the Rosary and exploring its mysteries, reflecting on key moments in the lives of Jesus and Mary. Many have enjoyed creating their own Rosaries, helping them to deepen their understanding of this special Catholic tradition and the importance of prayer in their daily lives.

Our R.E. Ambassadors have wonderfully led the Rosary Club throughout the month, creating a peaceful space for children to come together in prayer. It has been lovely to see the children engaging so enthusiastically, growing in faith and reflecting on Mary's example of love, kindness and trust in God, while strengthening our school community through prayer.



Which places of worship has Francis bear visited recently?

Find out [HERE!](#)

Harvest Collection

Thank you for donations to the Maldon Food Pantry, our harvest charity.



**MALDON
FOOD
PANTRY**

Your offerings were blessed by Father Jerold during our Feast day mass on Friday 2nd October and have now been collected and taken for distribution.

Click [HERE](#) to see photos!

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!



ATTENDANCE

Class	% Attendance
Year 3	95.33
Year 6	94.38
Year 4	89.67
Year 2	88.40
Year 1	88.18
Year 5	82.76
Year R	79.00
Whole School	88.33

Reader of the Week

is awarded to

Jacob in Reception

Jacob in Year 4



Pen Licences

Congratulations to:



Frankie
Riley



who have gained their Pen Licence this half term

Headteacher Awards

Congratulations to the following children

Reception	Missi
Year 1	Amily
Year 2	Amari
Year 3	Joseph
Year 4	Alara
Year 5	Max
Year 6	The whole of Year 6, Mrs Smith and Mr Peear!



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





Class News



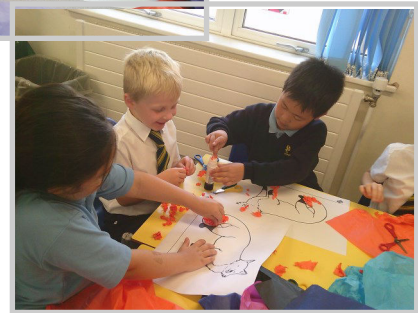
Reception

Reception have been learning all about themselves as part of our topic, 'All About Me'.



Year 1

On Friday 2nd October, we celebrated the Feast of St. Francis by spending a special morning with our Year 4 buddies.



Year 2

This half term, Year 2 have been exploring the world around them through drawing, sketchbooks and collage.



Year 3

This half term, Year 3 have enjoyed exploring creatures from The Black Hat story where the children were able to create their own animals and complete a big write using descriptive writing, rhyming words and alliteration.



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



Class News



Year 4

This half term, Year 4 have explored our school mission statement, Jesus said "Love one another as I have loved you", focusing on what it means to be a loving community.

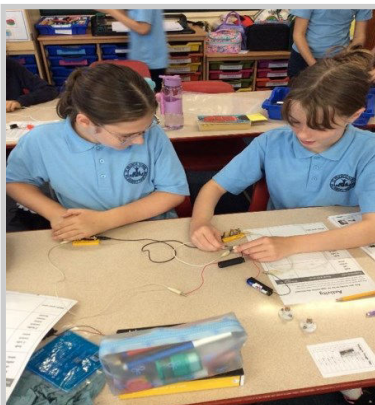
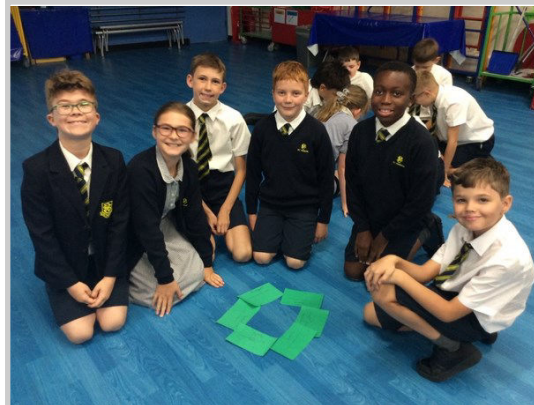
Year 5

Earlier this term, the children had an exciting and inspiring day out at the Let's Talk Trash Festival at Braxted Park, where they explored the importance of looking after our planet and protecting the environment.



Year 6

Year 6 have been busy exploring the fascinating world of electricity!



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



Around the School



Hi all

As we welcome the new menus for autumn/winter term, I wanted to introduce myself to those of you new to the school & tell you a little bit about the catering department at St Francis.

My name is Sue Stainer & I am the catering manager here at St Francis. I come from a very different catering background & spent most of my career in London doing corporate catering for Deloitte, BICC & C E Heath to name a few.

The catering team includes Jo Sledmere, assistant cook with Clare Hames & Angela Fallon as our catering assistants and together we strive to give the children a varied & nutritious meal every day.

We use local suppliers including Maldon Fruit supplies who provide us with locally sourced produce wherever possible & Meatline butchers who provide us with a great standard of fresh meat weekly.

We pride ourselves in using the best quality ingredients we can afford, the best selection of fruit & salads on a daily basis offering the children some different choices they may not have tried before.

All our cakes & biscuits are made from scratch using butter only & Jo's chocolate brownie & shortbread are to die for!

Although as you may be aware lots of changes are happening in school catering going forward I can assure you the children will continue to have 3 choices daily incorporating the new guidelines of more whole grain produce/ pulses (we will be sneaking lots in!) & less sugar not less yumminess!! Hope the children enjoy the new menus they have had some input so fingers crossed!

Sue Stainer



Sports



KS2 Girls Tag Rugby Tournament

Our KS2 girls took part in an exciting Tag Rugby Tournament on Friday 9th October. Well done to all the girls for their brilliant effort and enthusiasm! [HERE](#) are some photos from the event.

Gaelic Football Fun!

On Friday 25th September, pupils from all years enjoyed a fantastic afternoon of Gaelic football! It was great to see everyone getting involved, having fun and showing brilliant teamwork and sportsmanship.

Click [here](#) to visit our website and see photos from the day!



The Big Dash & Stride Challenge

The Big Dash & Stride Challenge took place on Monday 5th October. It was fantastic to see everyone getting involved, showing great energy, enthusiasm and determination. A huge well done to all our runners and striders! Take a look at the photos [here](#).

Dance

This half term, KS1 have been enjoying ballet with Lucy Blanchfield. They have been developing their movement, coordination and confidence while learning ballet techniques and having lots of fun along the way!



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



Coming Soon...



2	Return to school
3	Year 5 & 6 Swimming
5	9:30am School Tour for prospective Reception pupils 27/28
10	Year 5 & 6 Swimming
11	Remembrance Day Lunch—special menu
12	Year 2 visit to Maldon Library
16	9:30am Open Morning for prospective Reception pupils 27/28 10:30am Open Morning for prospective Reception pupils 27/28
17	Year 5 & 6 Swimming Dodgeball for selected Year 5/6 pupils 4pm-5:15pm
18	Year 2 and Year 5 Class Mass at The Assumption of Our Lady Church
19	Rocksteady Concert 2:30pm

School Tours & Open Mornings

We are holding School Tours & Open Mornings for Prospective Reception Pupils for 2027/28.

Visit our [website](#) to view available dates and times!



Winter Uniform Reminder

As we approach the second half of the term, please be reminded that our winter uniform will be required after half term.

Please refer to our schools Uniform Policy [HERE](#).

Thank you for your continued support in helping us maintain our high standards of school uniform.



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](#)



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

[St. Francis Facebook](#)

[St. Francis Instagram](#)





PTA NEWSLETTER

23RD OCTOBER 2026



PTA Meeting



Thursday 19th November
6:00pm - 7:00pm
at St Francis Catholic Primary School



Meet other parents



Get your questions answered



Discuss & Plan Events

Pre-loved Uniform Shop

As uniform is about to change to winter uniform pick up quality, pre-loved St Francis uniform at budget-friendly prices 🧥

Every item you buy keeps good clothes in use and supports classroom resources for our children.

How it works:

- [Click here to shop uniform](#)
- Browse available sizes and items 🧑
- Place your order

Note, pick up is from the school office. You will be notified when the uniform is ready - usually there is a drop off once a week.

The Christmas Shop is Back!

Getting ready for the festive season? We've brought back our online Christmas Shop to make holiday preparations easy, magical, and stress-free for St Francis friends and families! From festive elf kits and North Pole activity packs to holiday treats. Click on the link below.



PTA socials, click for links:

