

A community growing in Love for Learning and Life



St Francis Catholic Primary School

NEWSLETTER

Issue:

25th April 2025

Dear Parents,

It is with great sadness that we started term 4 with the news that Pope Francis has joined our Father in Heaven. He was the first Pope to choose the Papal name of Francis, our school Saint.

Saint Francis of Assisi was known for his life of poverty, humility and love for creation and the Pope chose this name to honour Saint Francis and the values he lived by. One of Pope Francis' last acts was to announce 2025 as the Jubilee Year of Hope and we will continue to honour him as we strive to be the Pilgrims of Hope that he prayed for.

At the end of last term our Year 5 children performed the Stations of the Cross. The children and Year 5 team worked incredibly hard preparing for this which was evident in the reverent, respectful and moving service they performed.

Year 3 had an exciting day on the last Tuesday of term when Maidstone Museum came to visit them for the day. The children took part in some amazing workshops to further develop their learning about the Stone Age and the Egyptians, following this they wrote some brilliant letters to the Maidstone Museum staff who visited us to thank them for such an incredible day.

It was wonderful to see so many families attend our Mother's Day Mass at St Francis Church on Mothering Sunday and to see so many parents attend our Parents Evenings at the end of last term. I hope you all found this time with your child's teacher useful in understanding their progress and the next steps they need to take. Please remember that if at any point you have questions about your child's learning or any other issue you can contact your child's teacher via Class Dojo.

We had our Cafod Big Lent Walk this afternoon, don't forget to ask your children how far they managed to walk, and we would be very grateful for donations made for the children's walk to support this cause.

I hope you all have a lovely weekend
Mrs Ebdon

Prayer for the Eternal Rest of Pope Francis

*Eternal rest grant unto him O Lord,
and let perpetual light shine upon him.
May the souls of all the faithful departed,
through the mercy of God, rest in peace.
Amen*



Rooted in God's Love

Mission Tie Awards

St Lucy	<i>Isobel</i>	St Ann	<i>Jawad</i>
St Joseph	<i>Kit</i>	St Matthew	<i>Ivaniya</i>
St Anthony	<i>Kamsi</i>	St John	<i>Mason</i>
St Luke	<i>Hugo</i>	St Mark	<i>Daniel B</i>
St Peter	<i>Elsie</i>	St Paul	<i>Zara</i>
St Bernadette	<i>Roseanna</i>	St Theresa	<i>Zoe</i>
St Margaret	<i>Abel J</i>	St Clare	<i>Tessa</i>



Joy



Trust

St Lucy	<i>Sophia</i>	St Ann	<i>Timur</i>
St Joseph	<i>Ezekiel</i>	St Matthew	<i>Vanessa</i>
St Anthony	<i>Ivasubin</i>	St John	<i>Roma</i>
St Luke	<i>Oscar</i>	St Mark	<i>Isla</i>
St Peter	<i>Zachary</i>	St Paul	<i>Matthew</i>
St Bernadette	<i>Thomas</i>	St Theresa	<i>Reuben</i>
St Margaret	<i>Erin Yeo-Singh</i>	St Clare	<i>Grace</i>

St Lucy	<i>Gian</i>	St Ann	<i>Tommy</i>
St Joseph	<i>Arley</i>	St Matthew	<i>Favour</i>
St Anthony	<i>Max</i>	St John	<i>Alexander</i>
St Luke	<i>Belle</i>	St Mark	<i>Nikita</i>
St Peter	<i>Emily P</i>	St Paul	<i>Katie</i>
St Bernadette	<i>Ranti</i>	St Theresa	<i>Evelyn</i>
St Margaret	<i>Charlie A</i>	St Clare	<i>Abel</i>



Respect



Faith

St Lucy	<i>Mati</i>	St Ann	<i>Kylian</i>
St Joseph	<i>Zara</i>	St Matthew	<i>Aviana</i>
St Anthony	<i>George</i>	St John	<i>Nashla</i>
St Luke	<i>Thomas</i>	St Mark	<i>Ariana</i>
St Peter	<i>Hattie</i>	St Paul	<i>Ashioma</i>
St Bernadette	<i>Bella</i>	St Theresa	<i>Ramiyah</i>
St Margaret	<i>Erin V</i>	St Clare	<i>Séan</i>

Star Reader

St Joseph	<i>Daphne</i>	St Matthew	<i>Maya</i>
St Anthony	<i>Eva</i>	St John	<i>Rosie</i>
St Luke	<i>Imogen</i>	St Mark	<i>William</i>
St Peter	<i>Ethan</i>	St Paul	<i>Mmesoma</i>
St Bernadette		St Theresa	<i>Joann</i>
St Margaret	<i>Alexandra</i>	St Clare	



A Huge Thank You

We held our first fundraising event for our new sensory room, before the Easter break and our wonderful community raised an amazing £579.35. We cannot thank you enough for your generosity and help in building this wonderful provision at our school.



Our sensory room will be a provision that can be used by all children in the school. As well as designated sessions for children with additional sensory needs, there will also be opportunities for any child to use the space and enjoy the benefits.

An extra special thank you to Belle and Rene and their families for their contributions towards the 'Ausome' stall and ice creams at the end of the day as well as their help organising and their time.

Thank You

PTA - Nearly New Uniform Sale



The PTA will be holding a nearly new uniform sale in the EYFS playground.

Friday 2nd May after school.

Please note we can only accept cash

Science Week – 20th – 24th May

Our School Science week is going to kick off on Monday 20th May, and we are looking for volunteers from the STEM professionals to come to our school and tell children about what they do in their job. It could be doctors, nurses, engineers, scientists, etc.

If you would like to be an ambassador for your profession (quite often the employers will give you time off for that cause) and inspire our children, please call the Office on **01622 771540** or email generalenquiries@stfranciscatholicprimary.com

**Please let us know what days you are available we need volunteers on
20th, 21st, 22nd and 23rd May**

Summer uniform

Please be advised that for terms 5 and 6 children can come to school wearing their Summer Uniform but can still come in full winter uniform should they prefer.
(Year 6 will need to retain a full winter uniform to wear in their leavers photos).

Girl's uniform

- Yellow gingham check dress
- Yellow polo-shirt and brown skirt of standard length or grey trousers if they prefer.
- Brown v neck cardigan or jumper with St Francis logo
- Black school shoes, (flat heels only) - no trainers or boots

Boy's uniform

- Yellow polo-shirt and grey shorts or grey trousers
- Brown v neck jumper with St Francis logo
- Black school shoes - no trainers



Eternal rest grant unto Pope Francis

Gracious God,
You know our needs even before we ask
and heed our faltering prayers, spoken and
unspoken.

Hear our voice above the murmurs of sorrow
for it is the voice of confusion seeking your still
small voice of calm.

Hear our voice as we give thanks for your
faithful servant, for it is the voice of praise
joining with sadness and joy.

Hear our voice as we pray for the future
for it is a voice of hope, longing to see your
Church made whole.

Hear our voice as we watch with those who
deliberate, for it is the voice of humility
asking for their wisdom and discernment.

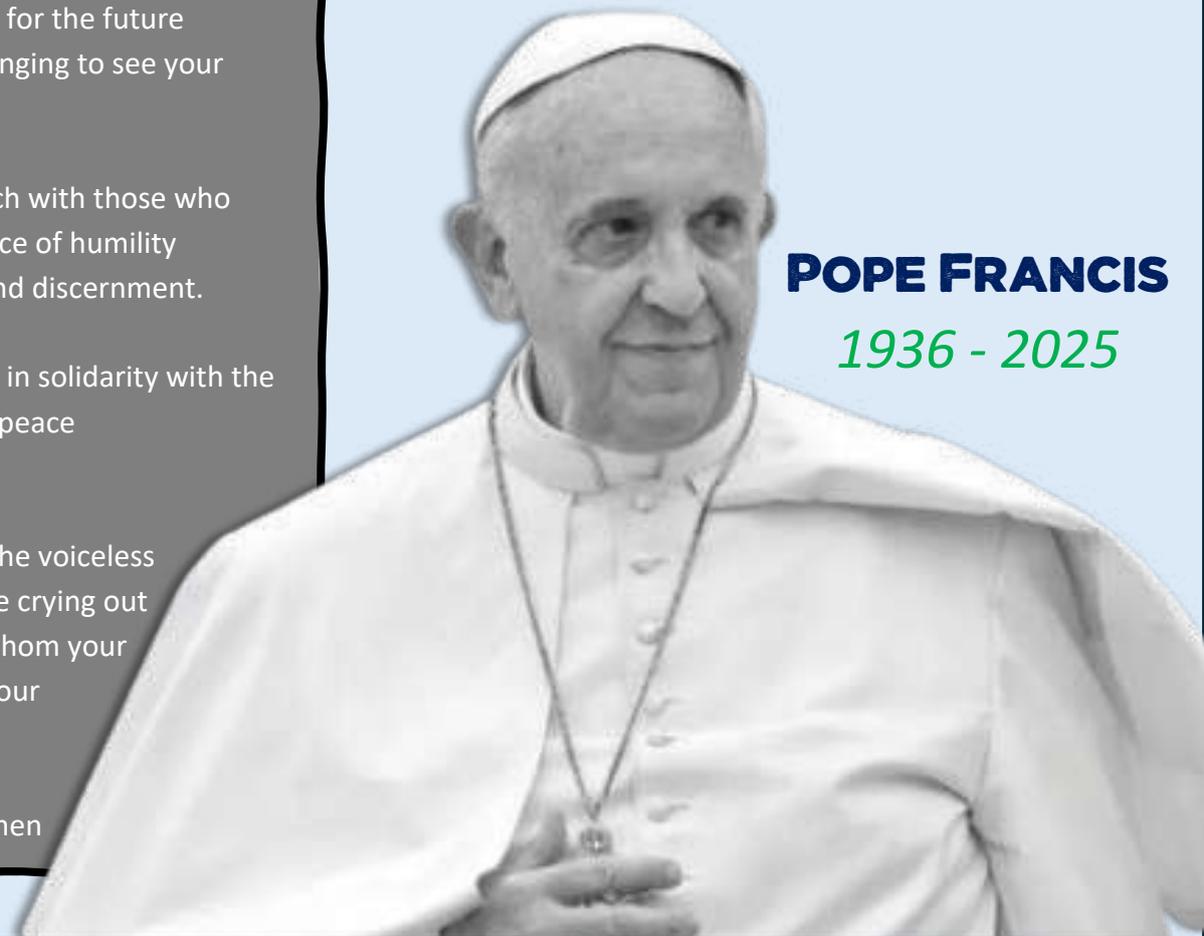
Hear our voice as we pray in solidarity with the
poor, for it is the voice of peace
searching for justice.

O God, hear the voice of the voiceless
for it is the voice of silence crying out
from the cross, through whom your
Spirit may be heard and your
will be recognised.

For Jesus Christ's sake, Amen

Pope Francis was born Jorge Mario Bergoglio on 17
December 1936 in Buenos Aires, Argentina. He was
ordained a priest in 1969; from 1973 to 1979 he was the
Jesuit provincial superior in Argentina. He became the
Archbishop of Buenos Aires in 1998 and was created a
Cardinal in 2001 by Pope John Paul II. He was elected
Pope on 13 March 2013 and chose Francis as his papal
name in honour of Saint Francis of Assisi.

Pope Francis died on Easter Monday 2025, having
dedicated his entire life to the service of the Lord.
We give thanks for his life, and commend him to God's
mercy and love.



POPE FRANCIS
1936 - 2025

The Candlelight Fund has been created by CAFOD as a lasting tribute to Pope Francis. It provides a space for you to leave a message of condolence, light a virtual candle and donate in his memory so that, in this year of Jubilee, and in the spirit of hope, Pope Francis' passion and commitment to justice and equality will continue in their work. Any donations made in his memory will go to CAFOD's Refugee and Conflict Fund.





THE BIG LENT WALK

We are delighted to say that all the children completed the CAFOD Big Lent Walk this afternoon and should be bringing home a stamped record of how many laps of the school field they completed.

There are no sponsor forms for this event as we are very grateful for any donation you can make to our online sponsor page:



Contributions can be made by scanning the QR code, which will take you directly to our Big Lent Walk fundraising page.

We would prefer contributions to be made online, but if you wish to make a cash donation then please can this be placed in an envelope with your child's name, class and the heading 'Big Lent Walk' on the front.

Thank you very much in advance for your support.
The St Francis Mini Vinnie Team

"All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would...distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need"

Acts 2:44 - 45



The Common Good

Term 5 Clubs

SG17 – football club

Starts Monday 28th April
3:15pm to 4:15pm,
Y3 to Y6 only

Spanish Club

Starts date TBC
3:30pm to 5:00pm,
YR - Y2 only

Crafties Club

Starts Thursday 24th April
3.20pm to 5.00pm,
Y3 – Y6 only

Diary Dates

Year 5 WW1 day	Monday 28 th April
Minnie Vinnies visiting residential home	Tuesday 6 th May
May bank holiday:	Monday 5 th May – <u>no pupils in school</u>
Marian Mass – whole school lead by year 3	Tuesday 6 th May @ 9.30am – all parents welcome
Year 6 SATs week	Monday 12 th May to Thursday 15 th May
Hearing screening – Year R	Thursday 15 th May
Last day of term:	Thursday 22 nd May
Staff Inset Day	Friday 23 rd May – <u>no pupils in school</u>
Half term	Monday 26 th May to Friday 30 th May
First day of term 6	Monday 2 nd June
Year 6 residential trip	Monday 2 nd June – Friday 6 th June
Wear Yellow for Cystic Fibrosis and cake sale	Friday 13 th June
Year 6 secondary school transition day	Thursday 3 rd July
Year 6 Leavers Mass	Monday 21 st July
Last day of term 6	Tuesday 22 nd July

Academic Year 25/26

Staff Inset day	Monday 1 st Sep – <u>no pupils in school</u>
First day back for all pupils	Tuesday 2 nd Sep

Inclusion News

We aim to be nut free



We do not allow nuts or nut products at St Francis to protect children with allergies. Please ensure that you do not bring any nut products into the school.

Full details about how we manage this can be found in our *Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions Policy*.

Thank you for your help in keeping everybody safe in our school.



For more information regarding Kent's local offer please scan the QR code to



Hello! My name is Mrs Neill, I am the Special Educational Needs Coordinator (SENCO) at St Francis. My role is to support children with additional needs, ensuring they receive the right help to thrive and succeed. I work closely with staff, parents, and external professionals to create an inclusive and supportive learning environment for every child.



If you ever have any questions or need support, please don't hesitate to reach out—I'm always happy to help!

sen@stfranciscatholicprimary.com

01622 771540

FREE SCHOOL MEALS

We would like everyone to check if your child is eligible to receive Free School Meals from Kent County Council. Go to:

<https://apply.cloudforedu.org.uk/ofsm/kent> and enter your personal details. If eligible, you will receive confirmation and KCC will inform the school directly.

SEND Google form

Thank you to everyone that has completed the SEN information form. We have now received 335 responses. We still have a further 85 outstanding. If you haven't yet completed the form, please could you do this. Even if you don't believe your child has special education needs, it is still important for all responses to be logged. Please follow the link below or scan the QR code.

<https://forms.gle/z8TQXSaEihtTaAKu7>

