



*A community growing  
in love for learning and  
life. Joy, trust, respect  
and faith rooted in  
God's love*

**Term 3**

As we have settled back into school life after the Christmas break, there has been a lovely sense of renewal across our community. The season of Epiphany reminds us that light continues to guide us, and it has been wonderful to see that reflected in the children's enthusiasm and kindness.

This term has been filled with rich learning experiences. Pupils embraced the spirit of friendly competition during our Term 3 Intra-House Skipping Challenge, where teamwork and determination were on full display. We were delighted to celebrate Maximilian Kolbe House as the overall winners.

Across the school, children have been exploring digital responsibility through Safer Internet Day, and our learning around the Winter Olympics has sparked thoughtful conversations about perseverance, global community and celebrating difference—values that sit beautifully alongside our Catholic ethos of respect and compassion.

Our spiritual life has been especially meaningful. Years 4, 5 and 6 each took part in Masses at the church, demonstrating reverence and a growing confidence in their understanding of the liturgical year. These shared moments of worship continue to strengthen the heart of our school.

Creativity and curiosity have flourished in many ways. Year 5 and 6 pupils enjoyed lively DJ workshops, experimenting with rhythm and musical expression, while Year 4 took part in a joyful Daisy session to enrich their literacy learning. These opportunities have brought a wonderful sense of imagination into classrooms.

We were pleased to welcome families into school for Parents' Evening, always a valuable opportunity to celebrate progress and plan next steps together. Year 6 pupils also showed impressive independence during their Bikeability training, developing confidence and practical skills that will serve them well beyond primary school.

Our community spirit has shone brightly through events such as Diversity Week, the International Fair, and the International Gallery. These celebrations highlighted the richness of our school family, with pupils sharing food, stories, artwork and traditions from around the world. Year 6 rounded off these experiences with their Bring & Buy Sale, combining enterprise, teamwork and charitable purpose in a way that made us all proud.

As we move further into this new term, we also find ourselves in the season of Lent, a time of reflection, simplicity and renewal in our Catholic tradition. It offers us a gentle invitation to pause, to think about how we can grow in kindness, and to notice the small ways we can bring God's love into our daily lives. There is much to look forward to in the weeks ahead, and we hope this season will be a meaningful journey for our whole school community.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. Our school flourishes because of the strong partnership between home, parish and classroom. May the rest of this term be filled with growth, joy and moments of grace for all our families.

*Mrs  
Ebdon*

## *Lenten Prayer*

Lord Jesus Christ,  
As we enter this holy season of Lent,  
help us to walk closely with You.  
Teach us to turn away from selfishness  
and sin, and to grow in kindness,  
patience, and love.  
May our prayers draw us nearer to Your  
heart, our fasting strengthen our spirit,  
and our acts of charity bring hope to  
others.  
Guide our school community in these  
forty days, so that, renewed in faith,  
we may be ready to share the joy of  
Easter.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

# Mission Tie Winners



	Joy	Trust	Respect	Faith	Reading
<b>St Matthew</b>	Zayyan	Frankie	Timur	Alexander	Grace
<b>St Joseph</b>	Nicholas	Duben	Adam	Mila	Ugom
<b>St Anthony</b>	Avryl	S Amanda	Anabel	Ellis	Esmai
<b>St John</b>	Mikki	Uche	Louis	Teni	Isabelle
<b>St Mark</b>	Mason	Bella	Morola	Ayanna - Lee	Riley
<b>St Luke</b>	Emma	Apache	Maxim	Hannah	Gosife
<b>St Peter</b>	Max	Lorenzo	Neve	Nikita	Christina
<b>St Paul</b>	Hendrix	Pippa	Diya	Chisimdi	
<b>St Theresa</b>	Amelia	David	Emily	Elsie	Freya
<b>St Bernadette</b>	Sofia	Zara	Reuben	Amelia	Isaac
<b>St Clare</b>	Alfie	Isa	Maya	Lucas	Rene
<b>St Margaret</b>	George	Nathan T.	Jayden G.	Zoe	Evelyn

16<sup>th</sup>  
January  
2026

<b>St Lucy</b>	Jenninia	Evie	Arabella	Frida	Jidena
<b>St Ann</b>	Caileb	Gaia	Mikolaj	Maria	Evelyn
<b>St Matthew</b>	Ionsubin	Liam	Isabella	Evanna	Rares
<b>St Joseph</b>	Jack	Eli	Ife	Gabriel	Tommen
<b>St Anthony</b>	Wilfred	Elijah	Eze	Nigel	Ruby
<b>St John</b>	Favour	Vanessa	Vyn	Anna	Vihaasan
<b>St Mark</b>	Lana	Milo	James	Riley	Morola
<b>St Luke</b>	Nicole	Lily	Gosife	Reggie	Lyanna
<b>St Peter</b>	Megan	Jethro	Daniel B	Kezia	
<b>St Paul</b>	Aditi	Santiago	Jessimae	Connie	
<b>St Theresa</b>	Mehjabin	Tomi	Amelia	Jaiden	
<b>St Bernadette</b>	Kosi	Eliza	Onose	Hattie	Evelyn
<b>St Clare</b>	Alfie	Emmanuel	AJ	Ethan	Jack
<b>St Margaret</b>	Ramiyah	Dante	Robert	Nevaeh	Evelyn

30<sup>th</sup>  
January  
2026

<b>St Lucy</b>	Michal	Juan	Vihaan	Jidenna	Vinnie
<b>St Ann</b>	Filip	Quinn	Hailey	Casey	Nathan
<b>St Matthew</b>	Hayden	Mireya	Ronnie	Amelia	Rares
<b>St Joseph</b>	Adam	Sophia	Serenity	Maisie	Arthur
<b>St Anthony</b>	Isabelle	Aviana	Yifei	Zach	Graceson
<b>St John</b>	Ellan	Daphne	Ben	Yasin	Amanda
<b>St Mark</b>	Evin	Grace O	Mason	Nashla	Milo
<b>St Luke</b>	Toby	Riley	Arabella	Franchesca	Kamsi
<b>St Peter</b>	Florence	Beth	Francisne	Aaron	Megan
<b>St Paul</b>	Emily	Eddie	Kaleb	Imogen	Sophie
<b>St Theresa</b>	Ethan	Eliza	Dom	Lezi	Luigi
<b>St Bernadette</b>	Katie	Aiden	Matthew	William	Ember
<b>St Clare</b>	Bella	Kayden	Oliver C	Oliver D	Alex
<b>St Margaret</b>	Banbury	Kaitlyn	Jadon B	Jayden Z	Edward

13<sup>th</sup>  
February  
2026

# Dates for the Diary



four

Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> February	First day term 4
Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> March	Year 3 - Stone Age Day @ Kent Life
Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> March	World Book Day
Friday 6 <sup>th</sup> March	PTA Mothers Day Event
Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> March	Start of British Science Week
Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> March	Maidstone Magistrates visiting Year 6
Sunday 15 <sup>th</sup> March	Parish Mass @ St Francis Church
Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> March	Class photographs
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> March	Red Nose Day - children wear red
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> March	10am - irock concert
Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> March	BIG CAFOD Lent Walk
Monday 30 <sup>th</sup> March	PTA Easter event
Monday 30 <sup>th</sup> March	Start of Arts Week
Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> April	Stations of the Cross @9.30
Thursdy 2 <sup>nd</sup> April	Non - Uniform Day (Autism Awareness Day)
Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> April	Last Day of term 4

five

Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> April	Good Friday
Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> April	First day of term 5
Wednesday 29 <sup>th</sup> April	KS2 - parent writing workshop
Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> May	Early May Bank Holiday
Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> May	Start of year 6 SATs
Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> May	EYFS parents forest school sessions
Monday 18 <sup>th</sup> May	Start of year 6 residential
Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> May	Last day of term 5

Six

Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> June	Development Day - no children in school
Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> June	First day of term 6
Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> June	Inflatable day/school fair
Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> June	Wear Yellow for Cystic Fibrosis Day & Bake Sale
Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> June	PTA Father's Day event
Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> June	Sports Day
Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> July	Reserve sports day
Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup> July	Year 6 production
Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> July	Year 6 disco
Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> July	Year 6 leavers mass
Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup> July	Last day of term 6 - school finishes @ 2pm

## Year 3



In St Mark we have been sewing as part of Design Technology and have created worry dolls inspired by Guatemalan culture. The children sewed and made the bags in which to put them

## Year 2

The Year 2 classes enjoyed their Topic Day on the Great Fire of London where they made bread and biscuits following 17th Century recipes. They also built houses of the period using junk modelling to deepen their understanding of how quickly the fire spread.



## Year 6

### *On Two Wheels: Bikeability Success*

Year 6 have been busy catching their balance and hitting the road! We want to give a massive well done to everyone who took part in our Ride 2 Pass program. Learning to ride a bike is a huge milestone, and seeing the determination of those just starting out has been truly inspiring.

The momentum didn't stop there:

Level 1: Riders mastered the basics of control and safety in a traffic-free environment.

Level 2: Our more advanced cyclists took to the streets, learning how to navigate real-world road scenarios with confidence.

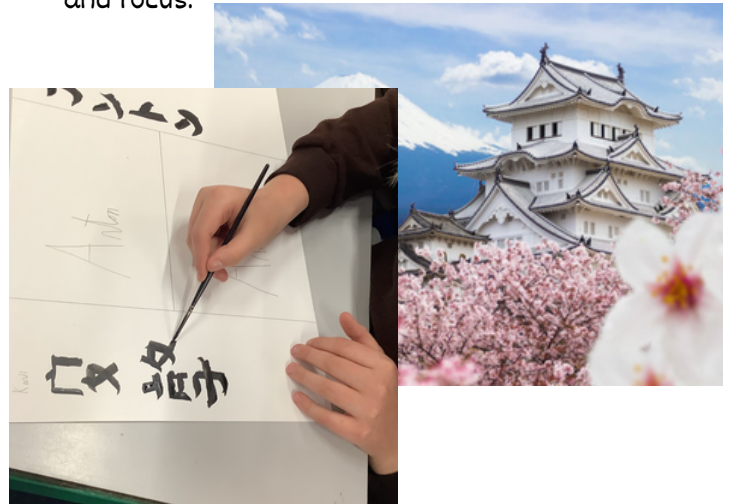


### *Diversity Week: Japan*

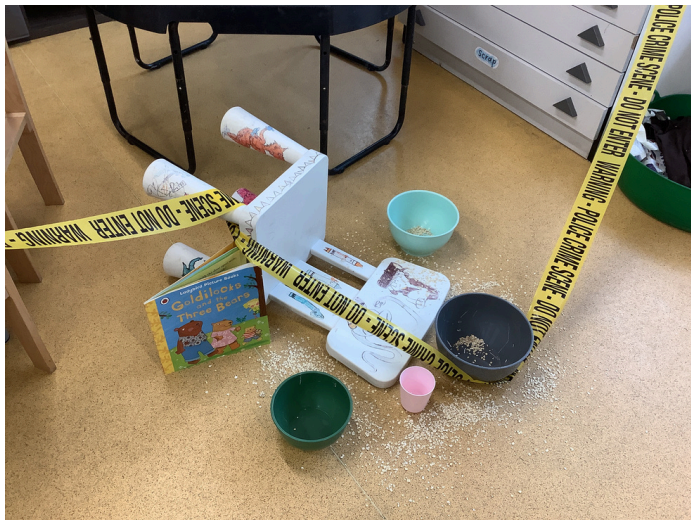
Our classroom in St Clare felt a world away as we explored the vibrant culture of Japan. Students learned about the islands' geography and compared it to our own locality.

Highlights included:

- Spirit & Tradition: Exploring the religions that shape Japanese life.
- Unique Wildlife: Discovering animals such as Snow Monkeys and the adorable Shima Enaga bird.
- A Day in the Life: Comparing our routines with a typical Japanese school day, including students cleaning their own classrooms.
- The Art of Writing: Finishing the week with hands-on calligraphy, practicing traditional brushwork and focus.



# EYFS



This term our topic has been Bears, and we had two very exciting WOW days to bring our learning to life!  
 Day1: The children arrived to find our classroom in complete disarray. A chair had been knocked over and porridge oats were scattered all over the floor! The children quickly turned into detectives, searching for clues and discussing who could have caused such chaos. After much investigation, we suspected that Goldilocks had paid us a visit! The children then worked incredibly hard to write their own crime scene reports, describing what had happened.

Day2: To finish our bear topic, we held a wonderful Teddy Bear Picnic. The children were delighted to bring their favourite teddies to school and enjoyed sharing them with their friends. We decorated biscuits before sitting down together with our teddies for a lovely picnic. It was a fantastic way to celebrate all of our learning and bring our topic to a memorable close.

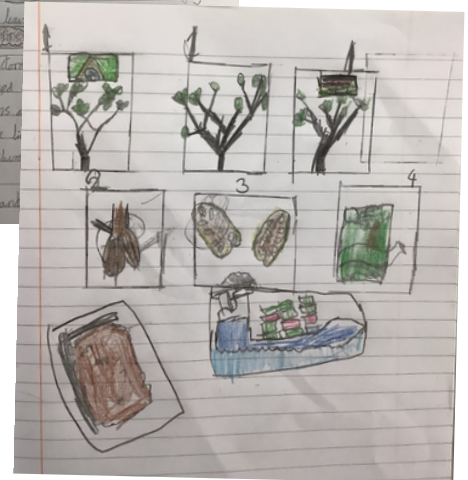
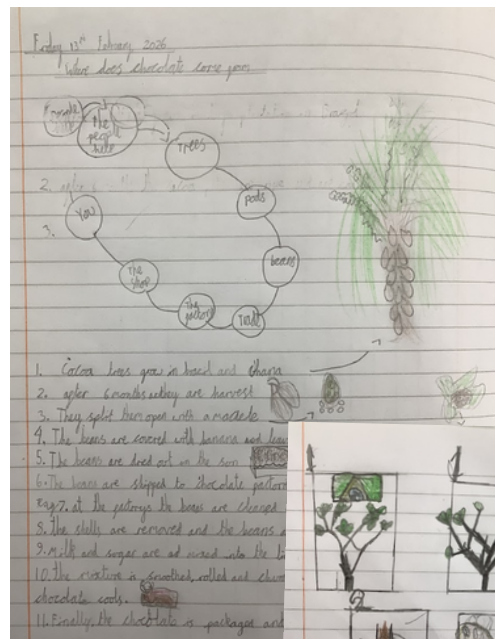


# Year 1

This term we have continued learning about toys from the past. We had fun playing with lots of old toys. We enjoyed learning about other countries from around the world. St Matthew learnt all about France and made pictures in the style of Henri Matisse. St Joseph made colourful carnival masks and learnt to Samba dance.



# Year 4



Year 4 have begun learning about chocolate, where it comes from and how it is made. We look forward to continuing this topic into term 4 where we will taste and compare chocolate and even make our own box of chocolates!

# Diversity Week

19th - 23rd January 2026

Last Term we held our annual Diversity Week celebration. During the week the children (and staff) were able to learn about the many different cultures and communities represented within our school and beyond.

Firstly, each class had a country to focus their learning on and the creativity and enthusiasm shown by everyone throughout the week was amazing to see. Art, poetry, DT projects, music, PE, languages, geography, history - a wonderful opportunity to embrace cross curricular learning.

On Thursday we hosted our annual International Fair - our biggest yet! A HUGE thank you to the families from our school community who were able to come together and transform our school hall into the hustle and bustle of an International Fair! Your effort, enthusiasm and generosity was remarkable and provided our children with an enriching morning of learning that reached far beyond the classroom. We welcomed familiar faces and many new ones, it is a pleasure to be able to plan and provide this celebration. The children and staff had a wonderful morning - definitely a highlight of the school year!



On Friday, we hosted our International Gallery which gave children and staff the chance to turn their own classroom into an exhibition space and then visit all the creative and enriching learning that had taken place in every other class across the school. To conclude our afternoon families were invited to attend the gallery - thank you to the families who were able to join us in school. It is always a special time to see children sharing their learning with family and friends.

Mrs  
Edwards

# Safer Internet Day

10TH FEBRUARY 2026

On Tuesday, 10th February, we celebrated Safer Internet Day. This year's theme was Exploring the safe and responsible use of AI.

The children completed a variety of age-appropriate activities designed to show them how AI works.

We looked at:

- Understanding that AI uses patterns and data, rather than "thinking" like a human.
- We learnt that while AI is helpful, it isn't always right!
- We also Reminded the children to be mindful of the personal information they share when interacting with smart technology.



The school hall was transformed into a high-energy recording studio on February 5th as we welcomed Jon Glover, Founder and Lead Tutor of the Kent DJ Academy, for an unforgettable hands-on workshop for Years 5 and 6. Students traded their pens for Pioneer decks, diving into the technical world of beatmatching, EQing, and seamless transitions.

Beyond the music, Jon provided fascinating insights into the mathematical structure of rhythm and the "creative technology" that powers the modern music industry. It was more than just a lesson in DJing; the session boosted student confidence through performance and highlighted the diverse career paths available within the creative arts. The day culminated in a series of impressive student-led "mini-mixes" that showcased incredible rhythm and newfound technical flair—a huge thank you to Jon for inspiring our next generation of artists!



Let's  
**celebrate!**



## Intra House Challenge

On Wednesday 11th February, our pupils took part in a fantastic whole-school Intra House Challenge. Despite a few light showers, the weather stayed kind enough for us to enjoy the event outdoors in a bright and cheerful atmosphere.

Every child participated in a 30-second skipping challenge, aiming to complete as many skips as possible. The activity encouraged teamwork, patience, and careful concentration, with pupils quickly discovering that a steady rhythm was far more successful than rushing.

The event was superbly organised and led by our Year 6 house captains and pupil leaders, who confidently took responsibility for running the challenge for the entire school. KS1 pupils were the first to compete, setting a wonderful tone for the day with their enthusiasm and determination. Children proudly represented their houses—St Maximilian Kolbe, St Martin de Porres, St Alphonsa, and St Teresa Benedicta—as they worked hard to earn points for their teams.

At the end of the event, St Maximilian Kolbe House emerged as the overall winners, completing an impressive 2,598 skips. A special mention also goes to our EYFS pupils, who showed great effort and engagement throughout the challenge.

As a celebration of their success, pupils in St Maximilian Kolbe House were invited to come to school dressed in red, their house colour, on Friday 27th February. This was a lovely opportunity for them to celebrate their achievement together.

We are delighted to share that Adam Mikolajczuk has been recognised by the Football Fun Factory at their Monday evening Football Fun & Development sessions. With over 70 children attending each week, Adam was chosen as the very first recipient of the Blue Card Shiny—a special award linked to January's Value of the Month: Positivity.

Adam's coaches describe him as bubbly, always smiling, hardworking, and an absolute joy to coach. His positive attitude shines both on and off the pitch, and it's wonderful to see this recognised beyond school. Adam was overjoyed to receive the award, and his parents are incredibly proud of him.

A huge well done, Adam—your positivity is inspiring to us all.





# Up coming events

**THE BIG LENT WALK**  
Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March

On Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March the children will be participating in the CAFOD Big Lent Walk.

We would also encourage families to participate outside of school hours, by enjoying some walks together.

To be able to share our achievements with each other and hit our target, we have set up a CAFOD fundraising page that you can add comments to, and make online donations.

[CAFOD fundraising page](#)

Any contributions to the fundraising page are gratefully received but as a suggestion you may wish to motivate your children by offering £1 for each kilometre they achieve.

We have a commitment to supporting CAFOD, Catholic Agency for Overseas Development, who work in some of the poorest communities in more than 40 countries, working together to end poverty and injustice. Being involved with CAFOD reminds our children that we are all brothers and sisters across the world and deserve to be treated fairly and equally.



Your sponsorship can and will change lives.

Every £1 raised through the Big Lent Walk will help fight poverty globally in countries like Afghanistan, Colombia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and South Sudan.



**FRIDAY 20 MARCH**

On Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March children can come to school wearing as much red as possible!

Red hair, red hats, red clothes, red socks!

How about red nail varnish or a bit of red lipstick or paint your whole face red! And don't forget your red nose!

In exchange we ask for a donation to the Comic Relief Red Nose Day Appeal. You can either bring cash on the day or simply make a donation on the just giving page Simply click below. Thank you!

[Just Giving - Red Nose Day link](#)



We'll celebrate stories without costumes this year. Each child is invited to create a 'Favourite Author Shoebox' to showcase in our school gallery. Classrooms will become cosy reading spaces, and every child will receive a £1 book token.



# FUNDRAISING

A huge thank you to our St Francis community for supporting our fundraising events over the last few months.

Without your generous donations and participation these events would not be a success. A special thank you to our wonderful PTA and staff at St Francis for the time and effort that goes into these events to make them a success.

PTA  
Uniform Sale

**£241.50**

PTA  
Disco

**£870**

Year 6  
Bring & Buy

**£1250.15**

PTA  
Meet Santa

**£670**

Have a look at the upcoming events page to see what the next event will be, we raise money for external charities as well as our school. If you feel you could support these events by volunteering please contact the school



[generalenquiries@stfranciscatholicprimary.com](mailto:generalenquiries@stfranciscatholicprimary.com)

# Inclusion News

## Kent's Local Offer

To access a link to the latest KCC SEND newsletter scan the QR code or click the link



To access information regarding the KCC local offer, scan the QR code or click the link



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 need any help feel free to contact me.



[sen@stfranciscatholicprimary.com](mailto:sen@stfranciscatholicprimary.com)



01622 771540

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.

## Sensory Room

We have now raised enough money to start work on our sensory room, we will be re-painting and modernising and filling the room with sensory equipment. We cant wait for the children to be able to make the most of this wonderful resource.

# Every Child Achieving and Thriving

## WHAT IT MEANS FOR OUR SCHOOL



Department  
for Education

The Government has published a new plan called Every Child Achieving and Thriving. It sets out how schools, councils and services across England will work together to help every child feel safe, happy and able to learn.

The plan focuses on seven big areas of change, all designed to make school a better and more supportive place for every child.

### 1. Services working together

Children and families often need support from different services — schools, health, and the local council. The plan aims to make these services work more closely together so families get the right help at the right time. (“This means children and families will get good support when they need it.”)

### 2. Better experiences at school

The plan focuses on smoother transitions — such as moving from nursery to primary, primary to secondary, and secondary to college. It also aims to help more children learn to read, write and use numbers confidently, while still enjoying wider experiences like sports, trips and creative activities.

### 3. Including every child

Some children face challenges outside school, such as housing or food difficulties, which can affect learning. The plan aims to make sure every child is supported, whatever their circumstances. Schools in certain areas will work together to understand local needs and improve support.

### 4. Improving SEND support

The plan introduces clearer, quicker support for children with SEND.

Key changes include:

- Individual Support Plans for children in mainstream schools who need extra help day-to-day
- A Specialist Provision Package outlining the types of support available for children with higher needs
- Continued use of EHCPs, with improvements to make the process clearer and more consistent
- More training for teachers so they feel confident supporting a wide range of needs

(“We will make it clearer for families what support their child can get at school.”)

### 5. Working with families

The plan recognises that children do best when school and home work together. Families will have clearer information about:

- what their child is learning
- how they are doing
- how to raise concerns if they need to

### 6. Supporting teachers and school staff

The Government aims to recruit more teachers and give all staff — including teaching assistants, office staff and cleaners — better training and fair pay. This helps schools provide the best possible support for children.

### 7. Schools working together

Schools will increasingly work in groups called trusts, sharing ideas and supporting each other.

There will also be clearer checks to make sure trusts are helping all their schools to do well.

[Click here for a link to the full white paper](#)