



Dear Parents and Carers,

As we come to the end of another busy and enriching term at St Francis, I would like to take this opportunity to reflect on all that we have shared together as a school community.

This week, as we entered Holy Week, we have been reminded of the importance of faith, reflection and renewal. As a Catholic school, this is a particularly special time for us. It has been wonderful to see our children engaging so thoughtfully with the Easter story, taking part in acts of prayer and reconciliation, and deepening their understanding of Jesus' sacrifice. Culminating the Year 5 Stations of the Cross performance, which was both moving and reverent, allowing our whole community to reflect on this important time in the liturgical year.

Throughout the term, there have been many opportunities for our children to grow in confidence and experience. From exciting learning opportunities such as the Year 5 World War I topic day and virtual reality experience, to visits from external speakers and engaging science workshops, our pupils have shown enthusiasm, curiosity and a real love of learning. It has also been wonderful to see their creativity shine during events such as World Book Day, where classrooms were transformed into imaginative reading spaces.

We are also incredibly proud of our pupils' participation in sporting activities this term. The Intra-House Sports Challenge was a fantastic event, filled with teamwork and determination. Congratulations to St Theresa Benedicta House, who were the overall winners. As a reward, pupils in this house are invited to wear their house colours on Friday 24th April.

Our school community has once again shown tremendous generosity through a number of fundraising events. Thank you for your support with the CAFOD Big Lent Walk, Red Nose Day, World Autism Day, and the PTA Mother's Day celebration. These events not only support important causes and enable us to purchase important resources for the school, they also reflect our shared values of compassion and service to others.

It has also been a joy to celebrate the many individual achievements of our pupils, both in and out of school, and to see the confidence, resilience and kindness they demonstrate each day.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. It is through our strong partnership that we are able to provide such a rich and nurturing environment for our children. Wishing you all a peaceful and blessed Easter.

Mrs Ebdon

Dear Lord,
As we journey through Holy Week,
help us to remember your love,
your sacrifice, and your promise of new life.
Guide us to follow your example
by showing kindness, forgiveness, and
compassion to others.
Help us to grow in faith
and to live each day with joy, trust, and
respect.
Bless our school community,
our families, and all those in need around the
world.
May we carry the hope of Easter in our hearts
today and always.
Amen.

Mission Tie Winners



	Joy	Trust	Respect	Faith	Reading
St Lucy	Simon	Charvik	Ruairi	Raphael	Arabella
St Ann	Mikel	Emelia	Maria	Eden	Poppy
St Matthew	Elizabeth-May	Nia	Rares	Rowan	Kiki
St Joseph	Luca	Brianna	Zara	Gian	Serenity
St John	MJ	Adam	Maya	Tillie	Jesse
St Anthony	Zara	Emily	Lottie	Teddy	Arley
St Luke	Lydia	Ivasubin	Alexis	Oliver	Olivia
St Mark	Grace B	Olivia	Rosie	Antonio	Roma
St Paul	Belle	Lucie	Anderson	Annabelle	
St Peter	Evie	Sebastian	Alex	Neve	Layla
St Theresa	Emelia	Luigi	Sebastian	Tomi	Gabriel
St Bernadette	Tristan	MMesoma	Poppy	Evelyn	Kaitlyn
St Margaret	Evelyn	Joann	Samual	Joshua	Cash
St Clare	Alexander	Poppy	Rene	Jack	

6th
March
2026

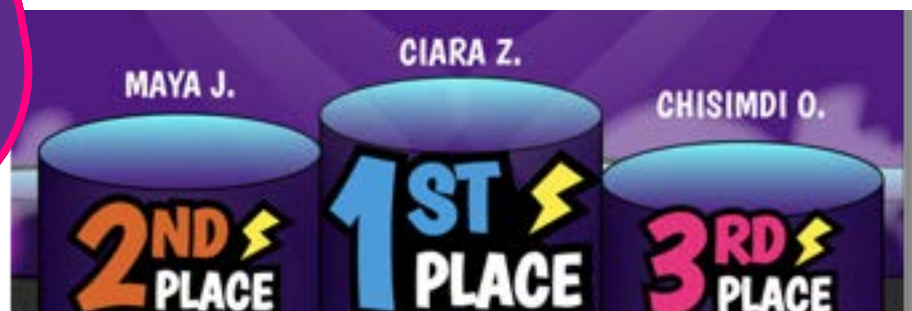
St Lucy	Ashivik	Arabella	Yara	Michel	Juan
St Ann	Imogen	Marc	Poppy	Lionel	Evelyn
St Matthew	Rishan	Spencer	Tommy	Victoria	Zayyan
St Joseph	Cameron	Arthur	Isobel	Nkeoma	Zara
St John	Logan	Layla	Callie	Mateus	Anna
St Anthony	Ruby	Michael	Rosie	Ezio	Wilfred
St Luke	Lewin	Max N	Kamsi	Olivia	
St Mark	Millie	Jaden	Ciaran	Roman	Isla
St Paul	Chloe	Nova	Yaiza	Samuel	Connie
St Peter	William	Mark	Rosie	Daniel H	Aaron
St Theresa	Layla	David	Joshua	Maggie	Dom
St Bernadette	Evania	Issac	Emilia	Kamran	Jessica
St Margaret	Ivy-Rae	Reuben	Sophia	Dominic	Emma
St Clare	Amber	Chloe	Mathew	Eric	Charlotte

20th
March
2026

Year 4 have been working hard in class and at home, practising for their multiplication check coming up.

The top 3 scorers this term are...

TT Rockstars



In the rest of the school children have been practising as well.
Well done to Milo for most minutes played this term!

TIMES TABLES ROCK STARS

LEADERBOARD

FOR

MOST MINUTES PLAYED BETWEEN 23-02-2026 AND 03-04-2026

1ST

MILO A.
YEAR 3
ROCK LEGEND
458m 41s

2ND

JADEN T.
YEAR 3
ROCK LEGEND
300m 13s

3RD

MOROLA A.
YEAR 3
ROCK LEGEND
270m 59s

RANK	NAME	GROUP	ROCK STATUS	MINUTES PLAYED UP TO
4	JAYDEN Z.	YEAR 6	Rock Legend	256m 44s
5	DEBORAH K.	YEAR 3	Headliner	253m 48s
6	MASON M.	YEAR 3	Rock Legend	251m 58s
7	EMMANUEL J.	YEAR 6	Rock Star	126m 25s
8	ARABELLA B.	YEAR 3	Rock Star	122m 30s
9	EMMA L.	YEAR 3	Rock Star	108m 24s
10	NEIL P.	YEAR 3	New Artist	100m 8s
11	SOPHIE M.	YEAR 3	Support Act	96m 5s
12	MATILDA B.	YEAR 6	Rock Legend	92m 53s
13	AYANNA-LEE P.	YEAR 3	Breakthrough Artist	85m 12s
14	PRAISE S.	YEAR 6	Rock Hero	83m 13s
15	ROSIE A.	YEAR 3	Headliner	82m 5s
16	MATHEW M.	YEAR 6	Rock Legend	71m 14s
17	EVELYN P.	YEAR 5	Headliner	62m 17s
18	EMILY P.	YEAR 5	Support Act	60m 48s
19	JOSHUA S.	YEAR 3	New Artist	58m 6s
20	BELLA Y.	YEAR 3	New Artist	56m 23s
21	LILY B.	YEAR 3	Rock Star	54m 22s
22	MIRACLE C.	YEAR 3	Busker	52m 35s
23	LEWIN B.	YEAR 3	New Artist	51m 20s
24	MAISIE T.	YEAR 2	New Artist	46m 57s
25	ISLA E.	YEAR 3	Wannabe	44m 41m
26	JOSHUA S.	YEAR 5	Rock Legend	40m 15s
27	ACHSA B.	YEAR 5	Headliner	38m 15s
28	EVIE A.	YEAR 5	Rock Star	34m 56s
29	LYANNA N.	YEAR 3	New Artist	34m 20s
30	ROMAN T.	YEAR 3	Breakthrough Artist	



Dates for the Diary



five

Monday 20 th April	First day of term 5
Wednesday 29 th April	KS2 - parent writing workshop
Monday 4 th May	Early May Bank Holiday
Tuesday 5 th May	Year 4 Forest School
Friday 8 th May to 18 th May	Year 4 multiplication check window
Monday 11 th May	Start of year 6 SATs
Thursday 14 th May	Year 3 Ascension Day Mass
Friday 15 th May	Silent Disco - all year groups
Friday 15 th May	EYFS parents forest school sessions
Monday 18 th May	Start of year 6 residential
Friday 22 nd May	Year 6 return from residential
Friday 22 nd May	Last day of term 5

Six

Monday 1 st June	Development Day - no children in school
Tuesday 2 nd June	First day of term 6
Thursday 4 th June	First Holy Communion Year 4
Friday 5 th June	Inflatable day/school fair
Friday 12 th June	Wear Yellow for Cystic Fibrosis Day & Bake Sale
Tuesday 16 th June	Yera R trip to Kent Life
Friday 19 th June	PTA Father's Day event
Friday 26 th June	Sports Day
Thursday 2 nd July	Year 6 Secondary taster day (Maidstone schools)
Friday 3 rd July	Reserve sports day
Friday 10 th July	Prostrike football challenge Day
Friday 10 th July	EYFS Beach afternoon
Tuesday 14 th July	Year 6 production
Thursday 16 th July	Year 6 disco
Friday 17 th July	Colour Run
Monday 20 th July	Year 6 leavers Mass
Tuesday 21 st July	Last day of term 6

Important reminder

School will close at 2pm On Tuesday 21st July.
There will be no After School Club that day

Year 3

Stoneage visit

On Tuesday 3rd March year 3 visited Kent Life and were immersed in a Stone Age experience which involved meeting a tribe leader, learning about trade and how to grind grain. We were blessed with fantastic weather and the children all behaved perfectly.



Year 2

Australia

The Year 2 classes had a fantastic time celebrating everything they've learned about Australia during our Topic Day this term. We baked lamingtons, created Aboriginal-style art on our boomerangs, and chose traditional Aboriginal symbols to decorate our clay tiles. We also listened to Dreamtime stories, which share the Aboriginal understanding of how the world was created.

To finish the day, we enjoyed a special treat: Miss Butler shared wonderful stories about her time living in Australia.



Year 6

Maidstone Magistrates Visit

On Friday 13th March, Year 6 were visited by Alvin from the Maidstone Magistrates for an engaging and thought-provoking session. During the visit, pupils learned about the age of criminal responsibility, the consequences of breaking the law, and how the justice system in the United Kingdom operates.

Alvin encouraged the children to think deeply about the importance of rules by exploring what the world might be like without them. This sparked meaningful discussion and helped pupils understand why laws are essential in keeping people safe and ensuring fairness in society.

Reflecting on the visit, Alvin shared, "It was an absolute delight to talk at your school. The pupils were attentive and genuinely interested."

Year 5

What an unforgettable day!

Year 5 took a giant leap back in history this week for our World War I Topic Day. From exploring the rations soldiers ate to learning about the incredible bravery of those on the front lines, the atmosphere was buzzing with excitement and reflection.

The absolute highlight of the day was our Virtual Reality Trench Experience. It felt like we had actually stepped into the past! Wearing the headsets, we could explore the narrow, muddy dugouts, hear the distant whistles, and see exactly what life was like for a soldier in the Great War.

"It was like being in a time machine! The VR made everything feel so real—I couldn't believe how cramped the trenches actually were."



Visit from the vet nurses

As part of our animal topic, Reception had a very exciting and educational visit from some real vet nurses. The children were thrilled to learn all about how vets care for animals and what happens during a visit to the vets. They talked to the children about how to keep pets healthy and how they help animals when they are poorly or injured. The vet nurses showed the children how to treat their toy animals with real bandages and lots of TLC.



Easter Egg Hunt

On the last day of term as a special treat the children participated in an Easter Egg Hunt. Each child found an egg in the outdoor environment and was surprised by some real chocolate hidden inside! The children have been using Easter eggs within their provision this week which brought our topic to a nice close.

At the beginning of each term you will receive a curriculum letter from your child's teacher telling you all about what your child will be learning.

Chocolate

As part of their topic "Should we stop eating chocolate?" Children in year 4 have designed and made their own chocolate boxes and chocolates. They had to think about their designs being successful and appealing to various audiences and enjoyed creating their own signature chocolates.



Year 1

Throughout this term, our focus has been on the Easter story, delving into the meaning of Lent and the sacrifice Jesus made. This week, we combined Holy Week with Art Week; children expressed their learning through palm leaf crafts, rubbings, and prints to represent Jesus' arrival in Jerusalem.



Bubbles, Beakers, and Brilliance:

FIZZ POP SCIENCE VISITS ST. FRANCIS

The school hall was transformed into a bubbling laboratory as we welcomed Fizz Pop Science for an unforgettable, high-energy exploration into the hidden world of chemistry and physics. Students from Years 1 through 6 traded their notebooks for a front-row seat to the fascinating "Science of Bubbles."

Beyond the foamy fun, the assembly provided incredible insights into the complex physics of surface tension and light. The children were mesmerized to see how white light splits into the shimmering colors of the rainbow as it passes through a thin soap film—a beautiful lesson in optics that captivated our youngest and oldest students alike.

The highlight of the session was the "Ultimate Bubble Challenge," where students investigated the engineering behind the perfect bubble. Using specialized polymer-rich solutions, the children were able to create the biggest bubbles they had ever seen. The excitement reached a fever pitch when several brave volunteers were actually able to stand inside a giant bubble, demonstrating how flexible and strong surface tension can be when handled with scientific precision!

It was more than just a science demonstration; the session sparked curiosity across the entire school and highlighted the diverse, exciting career paths available within STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math). The day culminated in a sea of bubbles and a genuine "pop" of excitement for scientific discovery.

A huge thank you to Fizz Pop Science for inspiring our next generation of scientists!



On Monday 2nd March year 3 were visited by Maggie from CAFOD who delivered some interesting workshops that highlighted all of the important work that CAFOD does at home and abroad. The children then created some posters as well as writing some prayers.



We would like to say a huge thank you for your support this year with the CAFOD Big Lent Walk. The children really entered into the spirit of the occasion and worked hard to complete as many laps as possible, as you may have noticed from their stamped tickets. We are thrilled to say that we raised due to your incredible generosity. This money will go towards supporting families who go hungry across the world where failure to grow crops is heavily impacted by climate conditions. If you would still like to donate, then please use the following link:

The St Francis Mini Vinnie Team

WORLD BOOK DAY

Stories • Creativity • Imagination

This World Book Day, we celebrated the joy of reading in a relaxed and creative way. Instead of dressing up, our school focused on building a love of books through imaginative activities in the classroom.

READING DENS

Each classroom was transformed into a cosy reading haven as children worked together to build their very own reading dens.

Using blankets, chairs, and lots of creativity, the children designed inviting spaces to curl up with a good book.



FAVOURITE AUTHOR SHOEBOXES

Children were invited to create a shoebox all about their favourite author. The results were incredible—packed with creativity, care, and a love of reading!

From JK Rowling and David Walliams to Cressida Cowell and Jacqueline Wilson, each shoebox celebrated the magic of stories and the authors who bring them to life.



World Book Day was a wonderful reminder that reading is for everyone, every day. Whether lost in a den or creating a shoebox tribute, our children showed amazing enthusiasm, creativity, and a real love of books.

HAPPY WORLD BOOK DAY!

MOTHER'S DAY

Forest SCHOOL

This term, the PTA hosted a truly wonderful Mother's Day celebration that brought our school community together in the most joyful way. It was a fantastic event, filled with creative crafts, thoughtful handmade gifts, and a variety of delicious treats that were enjoyed by all. The atmosphere throughout the day was warm and lively, with children taking great pride in creating something special for the important people in their lives.

We were delighted to see such a strong turnout, with families coming together to share in the occasion and support the school. Most excitingly, thanks to everyone's generosity and enthusiasm, we raised an incredible £496 for our school. This contribution will go a long way in supporting future activities and opportunities for our pupils. We would like to extend a huge thank you to the dedicated volunteers who gave their time and energy to help run the event so smoothly. From setting up and guiding activities to serving refreshments, your efforts made all the difference. We are also especially grateful to those who stayed behind afterwards to help tidy up—your support did not go unnoticed. Events like these truly highlight the strength and spirit of our school community. We couldn't have done it without you, and we look forward to many more celebrations together in the future!

This term, our pupils have been enjoying the many benefits of Forest School, where learning takes place in the natural environment. Surrounded by trees and fresh air, children have taken part in a range of hands-on activities, including den building, nature crafts, and exploring local wildlife.

These sessions encourage curiosity, independence, and teamwork, while also helping pupils develop important life skills such as problem-solving and resilience. Forest School also supports wellbeing, providing a calm and engaging space where children can feel confident and relaxed.

We are proud of how enthusiastically our pupils have embraced these sessions and look forward to continuing our outdoor learning adventures.



FROM OUR COMMUNITY



Rene from Year 6 has been making a splash! He won 5 bronze medals on 14th March at the Beachfield Splash and Dash Swimming Competition. He was in the top 6 on each event. These are his results. Great job Rene!

- 3rd place - 50m butterfly
- 5th place - 50 m breaststroke
- 5th place - 50m backstroke
- 6th place - 50m freestyle
- 3rd place - 100m individual medley (4 different stroke)

LEO AND BELLA HEAD TO SPAIN

Bella and Leo, both from Year 6 went to Fuerteventura, Spain in February, to participate in the 'Winter Warrior 2026' International Korean Karate tournament. They attend Promahos Martial Club and were chosen to represent the Club and Kent.

"Bella(Y6) overcame her fears when it came to sparring with bigger girls, she won bronze for sparring and gold at her forms. Leo was amazing at his sparring, as all the contestants were much much taller than him, he won bronze for sparring, silver for forms and bronze for weapons forms.

They were both very excited to go to Spain, very nervous before as they had to show their abilities in front of many people. They had the opportunity to compete with many countries such as Denmark, Sweden, Belgium, Scotland, Wales, Spain and United States".

Congratulations to both children!



A REPORT ON A SPECIAL TRIP, FROM KIEFFER, YEAR 4.



I was happy and excited as I went to China to celebrate Chinese New Year. It was a very long flight and took 11 hours to get there. When I arrived, the buildings were decorated with beautiful lights and red lanterns. I watched a dragon dance, and saw beautiful and colourful lights in the sky. I ate Strawberry Tanghulu which is a crunching, Chinese fruit snack and it was delicious. Me and my brother received money in a red envelope.



What's Coming Up

What's Coming Up

SILENT DISCO

◆ 15TH MAY ◆
FOR ALL YEAR GROUPS!

Get ready for a truly **UNIQUE EXPERIENCE!**
Put on your headphones, feel the music,
and dance the night away with your friends.

A party like no other...
fun, energetic, and unforgettable!

TICKETS COMING SOON
Don't miss out!

Dance like nobody's listening!

INFLATABLE DAY!

5TH JUNE

FOR ALL YEAR GROUPS!

GET READY FOR AN **EPIC** DAY OF FUN!

THE SCHOOL FIELD WILL TRANSFORM INTO AN
INFLATABLE PLAYGROUND

- ★ GIANT SLIDES!
- ★ BOUNCY CASTLES!
- ★ OBSTACLE COURSES!
- ★ HILARIOUS CHALLENGES!

DON'T MISS IT! ★

• CYSTIC FIBROSIS

WEAR YELLOW DAY!

& BAKE SALE!

— FRIDAY —
12th JUNE

JOIN US FOR A GREAT CAUSE!

BAKE SALE!

WEAR YELLOW - SHOW YOUR SUPPORT!

SPORTS DAY

★ 26th JUNE ★

LET THE GAMES BEGIN!

FUNDRAISING

A huge than 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.

CAFOD
Big lent walk

£298

World
Autism Day

£198

PTA
Mothers Day

£496

Red Nose
Day

£263

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

Inclusion News

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



01622 771540

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



Dandelion Time is a nature-based charity that gives support to children helping them overcome their emotional and behavioural issues as well as build self-esteem and confidence.

Mrs Duran and I had the pleasure of accompanying 11 of our children to Dandelion Time during Term 4.

We attended for 3 sessions and got to engage in many different activities including: caring for the animals, foraging in the woods, making a bird feeder, crafting, planting seeds and having a camp fire in the woods!

The children who attended thoroughly enjoyed the sessions and challenged themselves to have a go at everything they were presented with. It was wonderful to see the team work that took place, the way the children supported each other and how achievements were celebrated

Well done all of you for making the experience so special!



INFORMATION FROM THE KCC SEND NEWSLETTER



April is World Autism Acceptance Month, all about understanding, inclusion, and support for autistic people. Throughout the month there are a number of events by the National Autistic Society.

[Learn more about the month](#) or take a look at webinars from [Autism Speaks Sibling Support Programme](#).

[The Autistic Girls Network](#) is a charity dedicated to supporting autistic girls and women. They offer loads of useful resources for women and girls, including advice around sleep, periods, anxiety, meltdowns and burnout.

In Kent we are using the Autism Education Trust's (AET) training and guidelines to help all schools and places in Kent support autistic children and young people better. The AET Young Experts Panel are a group of autistic individuals aged 17-25 who share their experiences to shape autism education and awareness. On the [Autistic Young Experts YouTube Channel](#) you'll find videos where they share their personal experiences and views and why they see autism as a difference not a deficit!



Request for more special schools to meet growing needs

We have confirmed we want the Department for Education to press ahead with building two new special schools in Whitstable and Swanley and an alternative provision in Northfleet, rather than taking a cash alternative to expand existing facilities.

The schools are part of the government's £3bn investment announced in 2025 to improve special educational needs (SEN) provision across England. With Kent seeing a significantly higher proportion of children with Education, Health and Care Plans than the national average, KCC says these new schools are essential to easing the growing pressure on SEN services.

Trusts have already been appointed to run the schools, and the council hopes this decision will allow the projects to progress quickly.

[Read more about KCC's request for more special schools by clicking here.](#)

WHAT IS "THIS IS ME" AND HOW CAN IT HELP NEURODIVERSE CHILDREN?

"This is Me" is a child-friendly tool used by many schools across Kent to help them understand each child as an individual. It asks simple, supportive questions so school staff can learn about a child's strengths, interests, and what helps them feel calm, comfortable, and ready to learn.

Watch the NHS video for more information



This video by the NHS explains what 'This is Me' is and how it can be used to support children with neurodiversity





PARENT/CARER WORKSHOP: SUPPORTING TRANSITION TO SECONDARY

Factors that Promote Resilience in Children and Young People

We are pleased to invite you to an event led by **Kent Educational Psychology Service**, which is open to all **parents/carers of children in Year 5 & 6** whose children attend local primary schools in our Community of Schools.

As a **Community of Schools**, we work together and alongside local professionals to share best practice and resources and access the right support at the right time in order to benefit our children.

What the event will involve:

Our link Educational Psychologist, **Dr Miquela Walsh**, will share information on factors and approaches that support and promote resilience.

There will be opportunity for questions and discussions.

Refreshments will be available.

This event is for all children attending our local community schools:

Allington Primary School
Brunswick House Primary School
Jubilee Primary School
Palace Wood Primary School
Sandling Primary School
St Francis' Catholic Primary School
St Michael's CE Infant School
St Michael's CE Junior School
West Borough Primary School
Maidstone Grammar School for Girls
The Maplesden Noakes School
Oakwood Park Grammar School
St Augustine Academy
St Simon Stock Catholic School



Tues 28th April

4:00-5:30pm



St Simon Stock
Catholic School

Resilience is seen as a key factor in promoting successful long-term outcomes for children and young people.

Please note, due to limited capacity:

We may need to prioritise those who have children with **additional needs**. This event is for parents/carers only and **children will not be able to attend**. However, we are offering a range of other transition sessions to support Year 6 students in preparing for secondary school. If you wish to attend, please **use the QR code to book** a place (no ticket, no entry!)

