St Francis of Assisi
Catholic Primary School

Headteacher: V. Snejberkova-Taylor
Assistant Headteacher: V Oxley

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September 2025

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to a new and exciting school year at St Francis!

I hope you have had a wonderful Summer break filled with joy and relaxation.

As we embark on this new academic year, I am thrilled to welcome you and your children back, and extend a special greeting to our new Nursery and Reception families who are joining our school community this September.

Our dedicated staff team have been working diligently over the Summer – getting the school building and grounds ready; sorting out classrooms; preparing resources; and planning engaging and enriching learning experiences for the year ahead.

We are committed to providing a safe, nurturing, and stimulating environment where every child can thrive academically, socially, emotionally and spiritually within a Christ-centred environment. We believe that a strong partnership between home and school is vital for the success of our pupils. Therefore, we encourage open communication and invite you to reach out to your child's teachers with any questions, concerns, or suggestions.

Together, we can create a supportive and collaborative community that fosters the best possible outcomes for our children. In this regard, this letter will provide you with some key information and important dates for the coming year.

We are looking forward to a fantastic year filled with learning, growth, and memorable experiences.

Thank you for entrusting us with your child's education and for being an integral part of our school community.

Here's to a wonderful school year ahead!

Mrs Snejberkova-Taylor
Headteacher

WELCOME TO YEAR 1

My name is **Miss Peacock** and I am delighted to be teaching Y1, this year. This will be by fourth year teaching, fourth year teaching Y1, and fourth year teaching at St Francis of Assisi. I love it.

I also love travelling, reading, crafting and spending time outdoors. I enjoy running and currently I am training for a half-marathon.

I am looking forward to getting to know all of the children in my class.

Our classroom will be an inclusive and creative space in which everyone and everything is respected and valued.

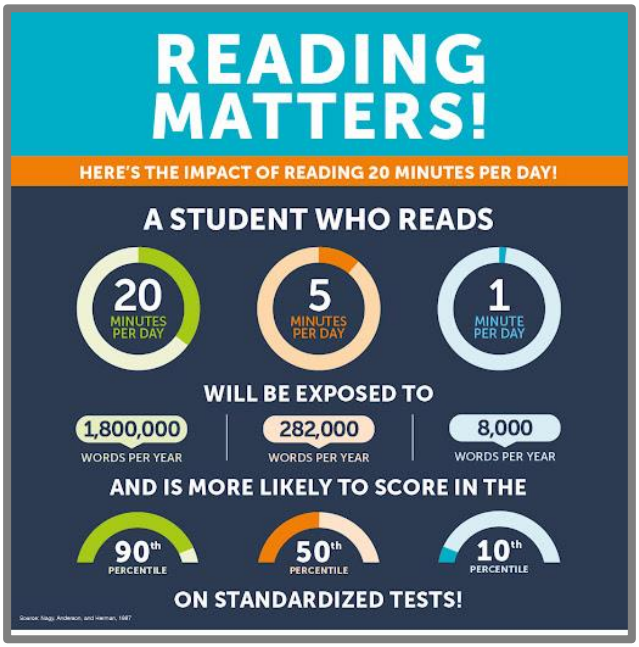
Supporting your child's learning in Y1 will be **Mrs Ingham**, a long-standing and very committed member of our support staff, with 15 years of experience working with children, and **Miss Qureshi**, who has worked in the school for almost 3 years and already gained sound knowledge of early development and education. They will provide class support to those children who may need further explanations and teaching; lead interventions and group work for children with SEND; and support children at playtimes and lunch times.

READING MATTERS

Reading is extremely important! It expands knowledge, boosts cognitive skills and memory, promotes imagination, improves communication, and enhances mental wellbeing.

Reading directly correlates with children's outcomes in all other areas of learning. Reading to your child (yes, even in Y2) can put them almost one year ahead of those who are not read to.

Daily, your child will bring home a reading record along with 2 books. One that is from our reading scheme and one that is a book chosen from the school library.



Please, **encourage and support them to read for 20 mins, EVERY DAY**. Because just 20mins of independent reading per day can equal to your child experiencing 1.8 million words in a year.

Read with them or listen to them read. Then **make a note in their reading record**. Each time you do so, your child will receive a hole punched in their special bookmark. For every 10 holes, they will receive a raffle ticket. Children with the highest number of raffle tickets will be entered into a draw for a prize of a trip to Waterstones bookstore in Leeds City Centre.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

UNIFORM & PE KIT

To ensure all children look smart, they are **expected to wear correct school uniform, and PE kit** on their PE day.

Correct uniform:	Correct PE kit:	Please ensure:	For H&S reasons, these are NOT permitted:
✓ Black trousers or skirt ✓ White shirt or polo shirt ✓ Red cardigan or jumper ✓ Black shoes (outdoors) ✓ Black pumps (indoors)	✓ Black shorts ✓ White t-shirt ✓ Black joggers or leggings ✓ Black hoody or jumper ✓ Black trainers	✓ Long hair is worn tied up ✓ All items are plain and without logos ✓ All items have your child's name in ✓ A pair of wellington boots is kept in school for outdoor play in all weathers	× Jewellery or accessories × Make-up, lip gloss or false nails × Extreme hairstyles × Short leggings or cropped tops

ESSENTIAL EQUIPMENT

Please provide a **clear pencil case**, including the following items:

- ✓ **Black pen** (for handwriting)
- ✓ **Green pen** (for marking)
- ✓ **Purple pen** (for punctuation)
- ✓ **Orange pen** (for grammar)
- ✓ 2x **HP pencils**
- ✓ A clear 20cm **ruler**
- ✓ 2x **highlighters**
- ✓ **Glue stick**
- ✓ **Sharpener**
- ✓ **Coloured pencils** (optional)
- ✓ **Rubber** (optional)

MEDICAL & DIETARY

All our staff are First Aid trained, with four trained at a higher level (Paediatric & Adult FA). Children MUST NOT have medicine in their school bag, including inhalers and pain relief. If your child has a **medical condition**, **special dietary needs**, requires an **epi-pen**, **inhaler** or any type of **medication**, please speak to a staff member.

EMERGENCY DETAILS

It is vital that we have correct contact details for your child, in case there is an emergency. We should have at least **2 contacts on our system**, to be sure we can reach you. Please contact the school office to ensure your details are up to date.

RESTORATIVE APPROACH

"The behaviour and attitude of the pupils is exemplary in and out of lessons." S48 RE Inspection, May 2023

"Pupils know that they are special in God's eyes. They are confident, happy and extremely well cared for. The love of Christ is evident in all relationships and interactions between pupils and staff." S48 RE Inspection, May 2023

"Pupils demonstrate great respect for each other, regardless of their background, faith or ethnicity." S48 RE Inspection, May 2023

"St Francis school is an oasis at the heart of the community. Pupils love to attend this caring school where everyone is made to feel welcome." Ofsted, Oct 2024

"Pupils delight in the opportunity to support their peers. They fulfil their buddy role with a sense of responsibility and pride." Ofsted, Oct 2024

"Pupils love to attend school. Staff receive the same care as pupils. 'Circle time' allows everyone to meet and discuss... It embodies the vision of putting people at the heart of the school. Ofsted, Oct 2024

These wonderful comments, received during our Ofsted and S48 RE Inspections, are a result of our **strong Catholic ethos**, and an approach called Restorative Practice, which focuses on **building and maintaining positive and supportive relationships**.

We firmly believe that every **child is unique**, a gift from God to be nurtured and developed, and that every child has the right to feel clever and achieve greatness. We offer our pupils as many opportunities as possible to embrace their personal strengths, while challenging themselves to be the best they can be! For effective teaching and learning to take place, strong, positive relationships need to underpin everything that happens at St Francis.

We are a visibly Catholic school with Christ at the heart and we model to our children calm and good behaviours, using the **high support - high challenge** principle.

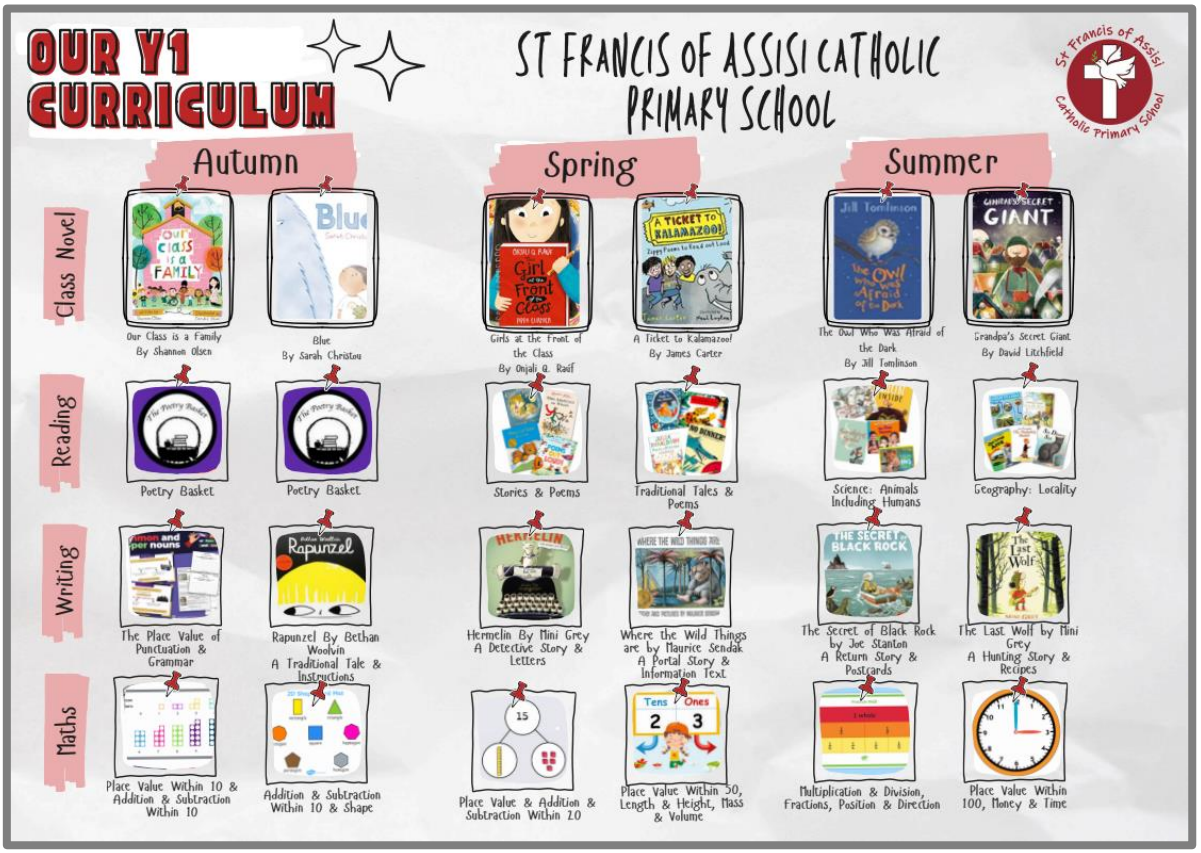
We strive to ensure our practice is that of a restorative school, where relationships lay at the heart of everything we do. **Developing connections** is a crucial part of restorative practice, as where those connections are strong, **corrections of behaviours** are more easily achieved.

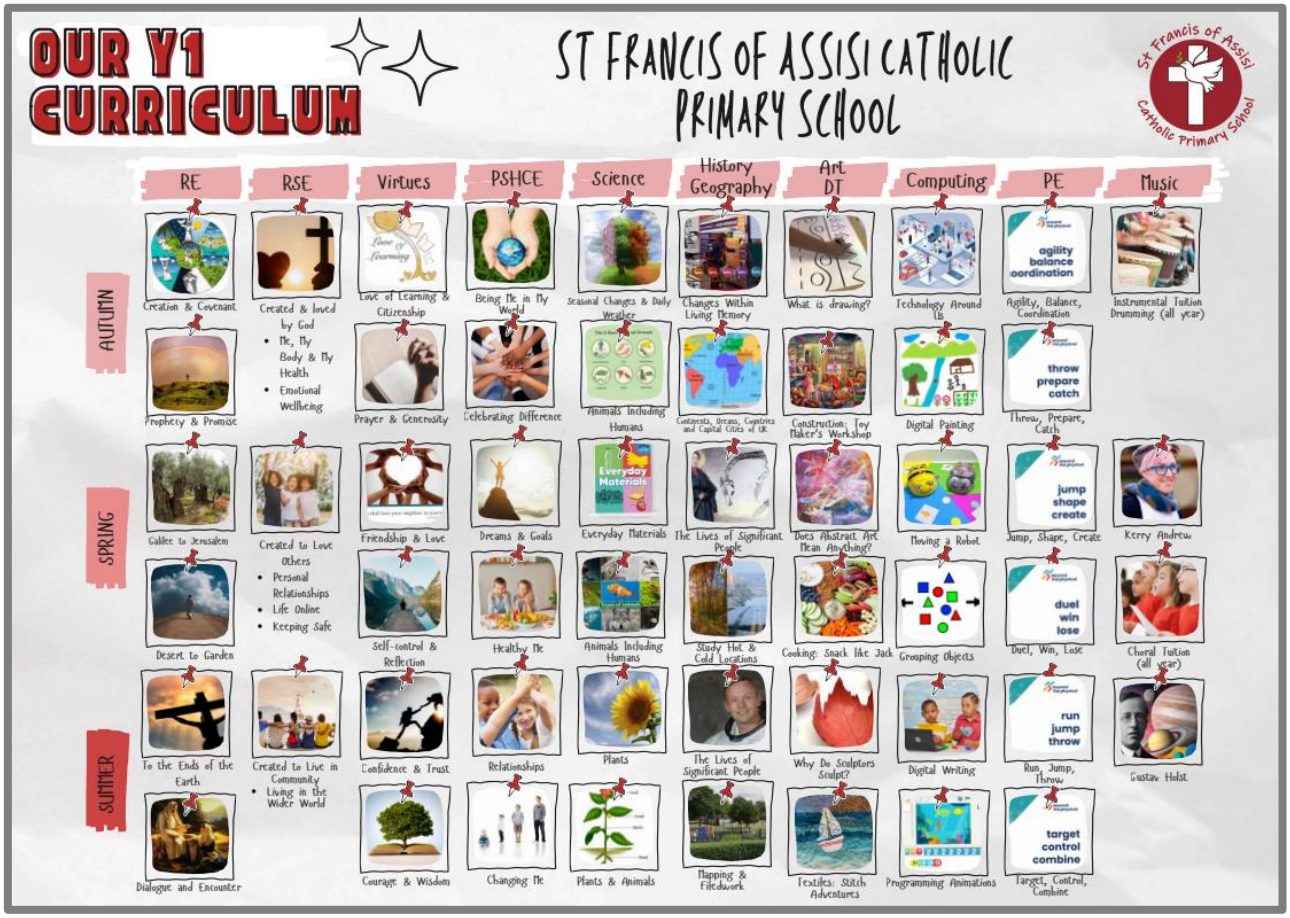
We promote and teach **respect** and that we **value the opinion of others**. Even if something has gone wrong, we show value in every child/ adult having a voice.

We also help the children to understand **accountability for their actions** and how these affect them and others. We model that we may not always get things right, even us as adults. Therefore, we teach children to take responsibility and what to do to **reflect and repair** any mistakes.

YEAR 1 CURRICULUM

We are very proud of our **bespoke, engaging and highly ambitious curriculum**. Its intent is coherent and balanced. It is systematically, clearly and rigorously implemented by our dedicated and highly skilled staff team, in order to meet the needs, interests and aspirations of all our pupils.





YEAR 1 TIMETABLE

Our timetables are very full – full of learning, enrichment and fun. Learning starts from the moment the children **enter the door at 8:45am**, so please make sure they arrive on time. This is especially important on Monday mornings, when the children go straight into **Social Circles** for their check in activities.

Y1 PE will be on Thursdays until Oct and on Mondays from Nov. Please ensure your child arrives to school wearing their CORRECT indoor/outdoor PE kit. **Spelling test** will be on Fridays.

Whole school Prayer & Liturgy is on Monday and Friday afternoons, while **class Collective Worship** takes place on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays.

On Tuesdays, the children will continue to learn to play **djembe drums** with a specialist instrument teacher from Art Forms. On Thursdays, they will continue with their **choral** tuition delivered by a wonderful teacher from the Leeds Diocese Schools Singing Programme.

	8.45-9.00	9-9:15	9:15-10.00	10.00-10:45	10.45-11.00	11-11:15	11:15-12	12.00-1.00	1-1:10	1:10-3			3.00-3.30
Mon	Handwriting	Social Circles CHECK IN 9.05 - 9.20	Maths 9:20-10	Phonics 10-10:45	Break	Picture News	Writing 11:15-12	Lunch	CN 1-1:10	Science 1:10-2:10	Art/DT 2:10-3		Whole School Prayer & Liturgy 3-3.30
Tue	Spelling	MM	Maths 9:15-10	Phonics 10-10:45	Break	Handwriting	Writing 11:15-12	Lunch	CN 1-1:10	Geo/His 1:10-2	Drumming 2-2:30	RE 2:30-3:15	CW – Ten: Ten
Wed	Handwriting	MM	Maths 9:15-10	Phonics 10-10:45	Break	Writing 11-12		Lunch	CN 1-1:10	Computing 1:10-2	RE 2-3:20		CW – Wed Word
Thu	Spelling	MM	Maths 9:15-10	Phonics 10-10:45	Break	Writing 11-12		Lunch	Choir 1-1:30	Music 1:30-2	PE 2-3	CN	CW – Virtue
Fri	Handwriting	MM	Maths 9:15-10	Phonics 10-10:45	Break	Writing 11-12		Lunch	CN 1-1.10	Spelling + Test 1:10-1:30	RSE 1:30-2	PSHE 2-2:30	Whole School Prayer & Liturgy 2:30-3	Social Circles CHECK OUT 3.05-3.20

HOME LEARNING

We are focusing on **practicing KEY SKILLS** that children need to secure in their primary school journey. Therefore, all children are expected to do:

- COUNTING – count back/forth, practice simple bonds to 20, add/subtract – **as often as possible**
- SPELLING – access & use **Spelling Shed,** completing 10 activities **– 1x per week**
- READING – most importantly, **read** at home – at least **4x per week**
- HANDWRITING – some children may also receive **handwriting practice**

If children do not complete their homework, there will be an expectation that they do so within time in school, which will likely be playtime or lunch time.

CLASS SAINT & CLASS CHARITY

The Y1 class saint is **St Francis of Assisi**. As well as learning about him, we will look and pray to him for guidance over the coming year.

Every class will also have a **class charity**. The children and staff will support their efforts in helping local community projects, national initiatives and worldwide humanitarian work.

SCHOOL CLUBS

Breakfast Club	After-school Clubs
• runs daily 8.00-8.45am • costs just £5 per week • to secure a place, contact school office	• run on Thu & Fri, 3.30-4.30pm • costs just £2 per session • for further details, look out for separate letters

SCHOOL DINNERS, MILK & FRUIT

We **promote healthy eating** and provide nutritious, hot dinner at lunchtimes, as well as milk and fruit during the day.

Y1 children will receive **a hot school dinner** (as all EYFS & KS1 children are entitled to Universal Free School Meals - UFSM). Some children also receive FREE **milk**. If you wish to purchase milk for your child, please contact the school office. For details regarding our milk provider, click here: https://coolmilk.com/. **Fruit** is provided free of charge, to all Nur/Rec/KS1 children.

Please let us know if your child's **dietary requirements** have changed; and make us aware of any food allergies.

ATTENDANCE & PUNCTUALITY

High attendance and good punctuality are vital! They ensure academic success by fostering engagement with the curriculum, build essential life skills like discipline and problem-solving, promote social and emotional development through peer interaction and routine, and provide a strong foundation for future educational opportunities.

We are grateful for your understanding, support and cooperation in helping us to ensure your children do not miss even a minute of their learning.

We continue to have attendance awards and prizes throughout the school year. The school minimum attendance expectation is 97% - although we would like **every child to aim for 100%!**

If for any reason your child cannot be in school, contact Miss Daniels or the school office before 9am.

SAFEGUARDING

We are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of our children. The schools **Safeguarding Team** is made up of six members of staff who monitor and ensure children's and adults' wellbeing and safety in school.

Mrs Snejberkova-Taylor
Headteacher
Safeguarding Lead

Mrs Oxley
Assistant Head
Safeguarding Deputy

Mrs Massey
Business Manager
Safeguarding Officer

Mrs Smith
SEND Support Officer
Safeguarding Officer

Miss Daniels
Family Welfare Officer
Safeguarding Officer

Miss Kousar
Administrator
Safeguarding Officer

Safeguarding is **everyone's responsibility**. If you are worried about a child's welfare or safety, report it! Speak to us or ring Leeds Safeguarding on 0113 222 4403.

WELLBEING

Mrs Smith
SEND Support Officer

Miss Daniels
Family Welfare Officer

✓ Do you have any concerns regarding your child's learning or development?
✓ Are you worried about your child's SEND needs, their social, emotional and mental health or behaviour?
✓ Do you need support at home with food, uniform, finances, housing, or any other home related items?
✓ Or you simply need a chat?

Come and see our wonderful **Wellbeing Team - Mrs Smith and Miss Daniels**. They are both highly skilled and very experienced, and can support you, your family and your child in all kinds of ways. Speak to them on the school gate or come to the office to make an appointment.

SEND

Mrs Snejberkova-Taylor
Headteacher & SENCO

Mrs Smith
SEND Support Officer

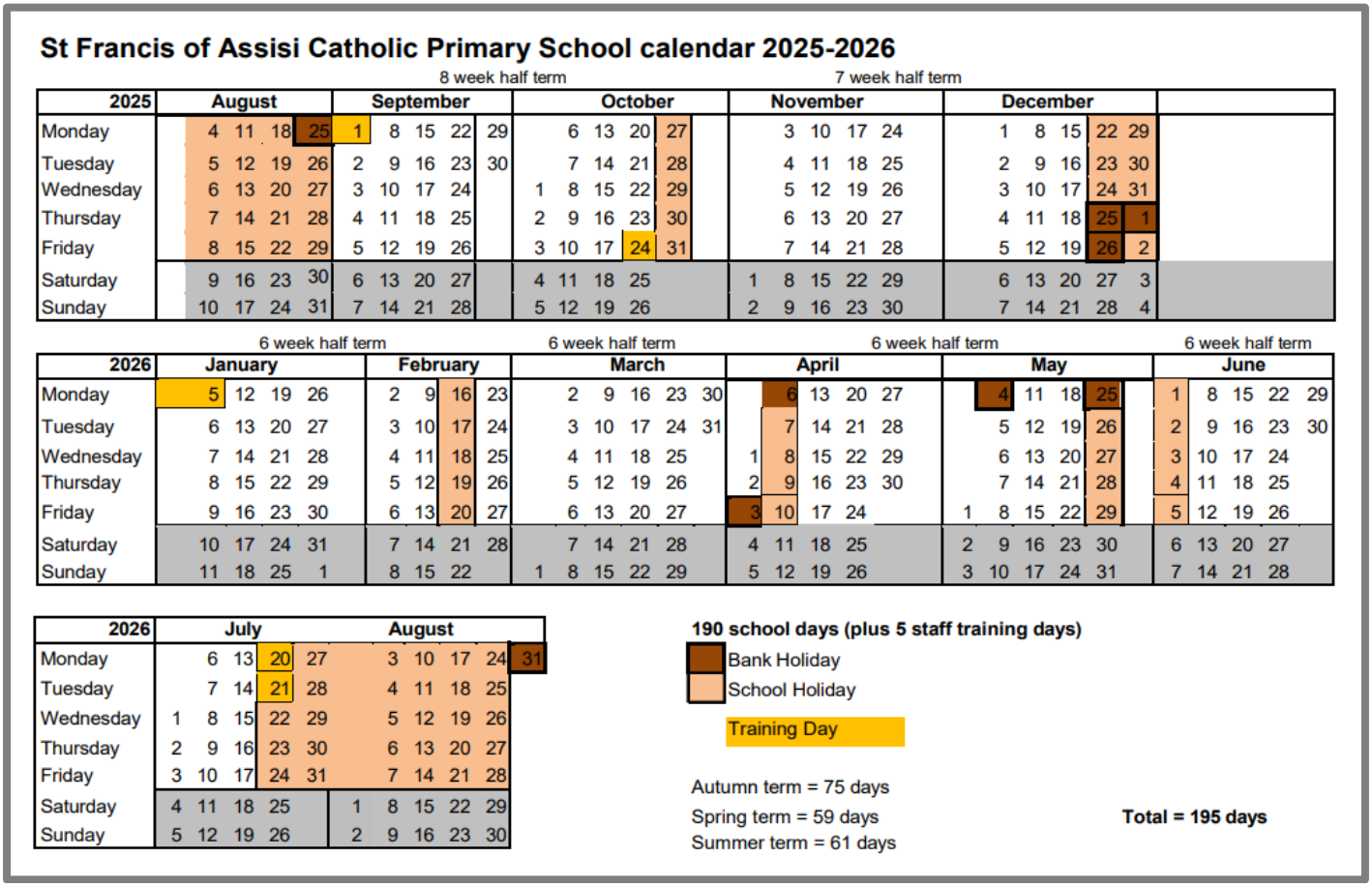
Special educational needs & disabilities (SEND) can affect a child's ability to learn, develop and grow.

We pride ourselves on the support we give to all our pupils with SEND, by providing excellent support through adapted teaching and highly bespoke curriculum.

Our staff are trained in autism, dyslexia, colourful semantics and other specific areas to meet and support the needs of our children with additional needs. We also buy services from a Speech & Language therapist and a Dyslexia teacher to provide targeted and highly specialist support.

Should you have any questions regarding your child's learning and development, or their social and emotional needs please speak with your class teacher or make an appointment to see our **SEND Team - Mrs Smith or Mrs Snejberkova-Taylor**.

ACADEMIC CALENDAR



St Francis of Assisi Catholic Primary School calendar 2025-2026

8 week half term — 7 week half term

2025	August	September	October	November	December
Monday	4 11 18 25	1 8 15 22 29	6 13 20 27	3 10 17 24	1 8 15 22 29
Tuesday	5 12 19 26	2 9 16 23 30	7 14 21 28	4 11 18 25	2 9 16 23 30
Wednesday	6 13 20 27	3 10 17 24	1 8 15 22 29	5 12 19 26	3 10 17 24 31
Thursday	7 14 21 28	4 11 18 25	2 9 16 23 30	6 13 20 27	4 11 18 25 1
Friday	8 15 22 29	5 12 19 26	3 10 17 24 31	7 14 21 28	5 12 19 26 2
Saturday	9 16 23 30	6 13 20 27	4 11 18 25	1 8 15 22 29	6 13 20 27 3
Sunday	10 17 24 31	7 14 21 28	5 12 19 26	2 9 16 23 30	7 14 21 28 4

6 week half term — 6 week half term — 6 week half term — 6 week half term

2026	January	February	March	April	May	June
Monday	5 12 19 26	2 9 16 23	2 9 16 23 30	6 13 20 27	4 11 18 25	1 8 15 22 29
Tuesday	6 13 20 27	3 10 17 24	3 10 17 24 31	7 14 21 28	5 12 19 26	2 9 16 23 30
Wednesday	7 14 21 28	4 11 18 25	4 11 18 25	1 8 15 22 29	6 13 20 27	3 10 17 24
Thursday	8 15 22 29	5 12 19 26	5 12 19 26	2 9 16 23 30	7 14 21 28	4 11 18 25
Friday	9 16 23 30	6 13 20 27	6 13 20 27	3 10 17 24	1 8 15 22 29	5 12 19 26
Saturday	10 17 24 31	7 14 21 28	7 14 21 28	4 11 18 25	2 9 16 23 30	6 13 20 27
Sunday	11 18 25 1	8 15 22	1 8 15 22 29	5 12 19 26	3 10 17 24 31	7 14 21 28

2026	July	August
Monday	6 13 20 27	3 10 17 24 31
Tuesday	7 14 21 28	4 11 18 25
Wednesday	1 8 15 22 29	5 12 19 26
Thursday	2 9 16 23 30	6 13 20 27
Friday	3 10 17 24 31	7 14 21 28
Saturday	4 11 18 25	1 8 15 22 29
Sunday	5 12 19 26	2 9 16 23 30

190 school days (plus 5 staff training days)

Bank Holiday

School Holiday

Training Day

Autumn term = 75 days

Spring term = 59 days

Summer term = 61 days

Total = 195 days

IMPORTANT DIARY DATES

EVENT	DATE	DETAILS
Curriculum Exhibitions	Wed 22 Oct 2025 Wed 17 Dec 2025 Wed 11 Feb 2026 Wed 1 April 2026 Wed 20 May 2026 Wed 8 July 2026	A half-termly celebration of the children's learning across the national curriculum. A wonderful showcase of their amazing achievements and outcomes. (3-3.40pm)
Parent Consultations	Wed 5 Nov 2025 & Wed 25 Feb 2026	An opportunity to discuss your child's development, behaviour, and overall well-being. A space to share concerns, receive tailored advice, and discuss your child's learning needs, with the goal of developing strategies to support them further at school and at home. (1-4.40pm)
Phonics Screening Check	Mon 8 June – Fri 12 June 2026	A mandatory national curriculum check, designed to confirm whether pupils have learnt phonic decoding to an appropriate standard. It will also identify pupils who need extra help to improve their decoding skills.
Road Safety & Balance Ability	Nov 2025 & June 2026	A very important aspect of learning which involves understanding and applying road safety rules, using the "Stop, Look, Listen, Cross" method, wearing reflective gear/seatbelts/helmets, recognizing traffic signals & signs, and using safe crossing places. Focus is also on the skills to ride a pedal bike without using stabilisers, while promoting the fundamental skill of cycling - balance.