St Francis of Assisi Catholic Primary School

Learning and growing together in God's love

Headteacher: Felicity Hope

WEEKLY WHAT'S ON

Issue 37 3rd July 2026

Reception

Friday 11th September 3pm to 5pm
PTFA Welcome BBQ for new parents

Year 1

PE DAYS TUESDAYS and FRIDAYS

Year 2

PE DAY – FRIDAY

Wednesday 8th July – *Welcome to Year 3 Meeting*

Year 3

PE DAY WEDNESDAY

Thursday 9th July China Day
Thursday 9th July Welcome to Year 4

Thursday 25th February 2027 Olly Day Workshop Road Safety

Year 4

PE DAY – THURSDAY

Monday 6th July Welcome to Year 5 3.30 pm

Mon 2nd Nov - Wed 4th Nov - Year 5 residential to Norfolk Lakes –

3rd February 2.30 Annie Theatre Royal

Thursday 25th February 2027 Olly Day Workshop Road Safety

PTFA School Disco & Non-Uniform Day

Tuesday, 7th July: Non-Uniform Tuesday

All students invited to wear their own clothes to school!



Afternoon Session: Reception to Year 4

1.45pm - 3.15pm

An afternoon of dancing and fun during school hours.



Evening Session: Year 5 & Year 6

5.30pm - 7.30pm

An evening disco session for the older year groups.

REMINDER: Bring Your Own Water Bottle!

A PTFA "Thank You" Event

Hosted as a gratitude gesture for your incredible support and fundraising efforts.

*A snack shop with crisps, fizzy drinks and sweets will be available at the evening disco.

SFA MARKETPLACFE

Our cookery room is being refurbished as we extend our NEST provision for those children on semi formal or formal pathways.

The items below are available. This includes two sinks and two cooker/hob and hood units. If you would like these. please send Miss Melanie Betts your donation offer and she will be in touch.

Her email is mbetts28rn@nsix.org.uk





ALL

Tuesday 7th July School Disco

Rec 1.45-2.15pm
Yrs 1&2: 2.15-2.45pm
Yrs 3&4: 2.45-315
Year 5 and 6 5.30 pm to 7.30 pm

Wednesday 8th July Leavers' Mass 2pm Hall - Year 6 parents invited

Thursday 9th Tom the Coffee Pedlar 8.15 to 9.45 Miss Betts and Mr Brackenbury will join

Thursday 16th July am TALENT SHOW (children only)

New Academic Year – Back to School THURSDAY 3rd September

Tuesday 29th September 2026 Individual Photos

Friday 5th March 2027 Class Photos

FAMILY LEARNING EVENTS
For school parents to attend

Friday 18th September 9 – 10.30 Times Table Tips

Tuesday 3/10/17/24th November 1.15 – 3.15 Feeding Fussy Eaters

Thursday 4th February 1.30 to 3pm Handwriting and Fine Motor Support

Thursday 4/11/18/25th March 9 -10.30 Protecting Children Online

Wednesday 14th April 1.30 to 3pm Growth Mindset

Friday 11/18/25 June and 2nd July 2-4 Environmental Heroes

The Nest Pupils

Year 5

PE Day - MONDAY

6th July Welcome to Year 6 3.30 pm Hall
Tuesday 7th July School Disco 5.30 – 7.30 pm
Thursday 9th July 5W Dance Show at The Space
Mon 2nd Nov - Wed 4th Nov - Year 5 residential to Norfolk Lakes –
Thursday 5th and Friday 6th November Pedal Power Group 1
Thursday 12th and Friday 13th November Pedal Power Group 2
3rd February 2027 2.30 Annie Theatre Royal
8th - 12th November 2027 Year 6 Residential (Ullswater, Lake District)

Year 6

PE DAY – TUESDAY

Tuesday 7th July School Disco 5.30 – 7.30 pm
Wednesday 8th July Leavers' Mass 2pm Hall
Friday 10th July 2026– Year 7 Transition Day
Tuesday 14th July Crucial Crew am
14th and 15th July Year 6 Production 6.30 pm Hall
Friday 17th July Year 6 Leaver's Assembly
Monday, 21st September 2026. Hethersett Academy's Open Evening for prospective students and their families
Monday 16th – 20th November Year 6 Residential to Shropshire
Wednesday 16h December 1pm Peter Pan Panto
3rd February 2.30 Annie Theatre Royal

CELEBRATION NAMES

1PL Kian for creating beautiful art inspired by Martin Bulinya.
1L Cillian for writing a fantastic animal riddle.
2B: Thea - For fantastically specific vocabulary choices in her non-fiction writing about cacti this week. Her ideas were an inspiration to her peers. Superb stuff!
2SB **Miles** has been a scientific superstar this week. We were all impressed by the detailed seed lifecycle which he created, as well as his technical description of each stage. Well done Miles!

3MD **Julian**: for writing a very thoughtful and emotional dialogue description in English
Kylian: for his excellent Maths skills and his start on the Time topic
3BM Oliwier, Gabriel and Teddy get the celebration awards for their very careful work creating dragon eyes from clay. They spent a long time putting lots of detail into their work to make them look fantastic. Well done!

4D **Dylan M** for being a great role model every day.
Gigi for working hard at her recount writing this week.
4H **Dylan B** for working so hard on his recount and being such a motivated learner.
Harry for his infinitely positive attitude towards his work and that of his peers.

5W Lenny, Elio and Eden – For their wonderful and very creative contributions in our English lesson this week.
5J Thea – For her enthusiasm, kindness, hard work and resilience every day in Year 5!
Frank 5J – For his hard work and determination in maths and for his mature and responsible way with others.

6SW - Betsy is a star for her wonderful commitment to our production - her singing is beautiful and she has learnt her lines with enthusiasm and commitment. Well done Betsy!
6HD - Daisy is a star for her fantastic teamwork skills during enterprise; her team were an asset to Year 6.

LEARNING THIS WEEK

Year 1 Having learnt lots about animals and their characteristics already this half term, this week we learnt about reptiles and amphibians! This caused lots of excitement as many of the children's favourite animals were in these classifications. In art, we looked at the Kenyan artist Martin Bulinya and created our own artwork of Maasai warriors inspired by his paintings. We also created a poster all about Jewish life to showcase what we'd been learning and thought about the differences between fruit and vegetables in readiness to make our own fruit platter next week.
Year 2 have been learning all about money this week and have had fun finding different ways to 'buy' an item. We also explored the history of money; where and why humans first started using early currency, instead of simply exchanging goods. In science we continued our learning about plants and studied the life cycle of a seed in depth. We all found it fascinating, which led to some wonderful written outcomes that included accurate scientific vocabulary. Lastly, we were delighted to have so many of you in school for our parent evenings. It was a true pleasure to discuss all the successes of the year, as well as identify the next steps to best support your children. Thank you for joining us.
Year 3 this week we have been exploring Time in our maths lessons, recapping last year's learning on o'clock and half past, and moving on to reading and telling the time to quarter to, quarter past and in 5 minute intervals on an analogue clock. When you are at home or out and about, why don't you challenge your child by asking them to tell you the time on an analogue clock? Extra recall and rehearsal is always very beneficial to your child's learning and understanding of time! In Art the children used clay to create dragon eyes, linked to our China topic. They all look fantastic and the children are eager to bring their creations home with them soon!
Year 4 had an interesting trip to the Sainsburys Centre at the UEA this week. We were very lucky to have the opportunity to explore 'The Meaning of Life' exhibition and experience some fascinating works and artefacts. We have written great recounts of our trip to Kentwell Hall in English and have learned to gather, show and interpret data in Maths.
Year 5 This week we have been thinking about how factors of a particular number can help us when dividing bigger numbers. In Science, we have continued to explore friction – in particular air resistance and we carried out an experiment with the help of some very troublesome, new students!! (Thank you to all parents who attended our Year 5 workshop). In RE, we have continued to learn about the Shema prayer and have designed our own Mezuzah cases. In Topic, we have looked at how Victorians used transportation to Australia as a form of punishment.
Year 6 This week, the children have continued to work hard on their lines and singing for the production. We are looking forward to the coming weeks, and celebrating their achievements with you in the Leavers Mass and Production evenings. The children represented the school superbly on our Retreat and were an asset to Year 6. It was a wonderful day of reflection, contemplation and celebration of their time at St Francis.



DONATIONS TO OUR SCHOOL

https://www.zeffy.com/en-GB/donation-form/donations-for-st-francis-of-assissi-curriculum

If you are so generous as to donate to our school, please note that there is an optional donation to Zeffy which you may or may not wish to click.

Dear Parents and Families,

A few years ago, as we faced financial pressures, we asked you for help to raise money towards the cost of Art, DT and creative activity resources . We were so grateful for all the generous donations that this appeal raised; it helped us to continue to provide children with a wide variety of quality creative experiences.

At the time, feedback from parents highlighted the disadvantage of donating through Wisepay – only a single donation could be made, and only by someone holding a Wisepay account, thus preventing contributions from Grandparents and others.

We are now, once again, faced with a critical situation in our budget. Rising costs for utility bills, a significant cut in funding for SEND (despite rising needs) and a change in how funding is given to schools has led to a bleak picture nationally. St Francis is particularly vulnerable because of the historic low reserves that we hold, due to our commitment to spend what we have on our children.

Added to this, the Government have just announced that schools must find upcoming annual staff pay rises from their own school budgets; this will have a significant impact on the money left to spend on teaching and learning resources.

To give you an example of how serious the situation is, from September 2026 the annual budget for Art and DT remains at £1000 for the year; that works out as £2.35 per child for the year (or 78p per term). This funds all paper, paints, glue, textiles, clay, etc. This is now the fourth year that the Art and DT budget has remained at this level, and other subject areas are similarly affected.
Therefore, today, we are asking if you could possibly help once again. The method for doing this is on the reverse of this letter and the QR code will now be included in our weekly Newsletter each week, enabling people to make more than one donation across the year if they wish.You have already been amazing, through your support of the PTFA, at raising funds for air conditioning for many of our classes, plus play resources for children and books. I am now so grateful to the PTFA that, by setting up this QR donation opportunity, they will ensure that any contribution you make via 'Zeffy' will be channelled directly into classroom resources.





St John the Baptist Cathedral First Holy Communion and Confirmation Programmes 2026-27

The online registration form for the next academic year's programme is now available on the cathedral website – please click on the link in the newsletter or scan the QR code below

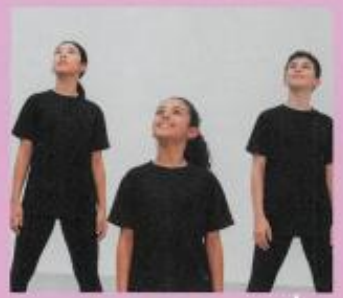
Deadline - 31 August 2026. Spaces are limited and applications after the deadline will be invited to apply again in the following year. So please get your registration forms in before the summer holidays!

We look forward to meeting you after the summer.



STAGE STARS NORWICH





Join our new Musical Theatre School in the heart of the Golden Triangle.

Classes at St Thomas Church, Earlham Road NR2 3RG.

Professional training in singing, dancing & acting in a warm, nurturing environment where every child is celebrated.

Contact Miss Sophie
to book your trial class today!

stagestarsnorwich@gmail.com
www.stagestarsnorwich.com



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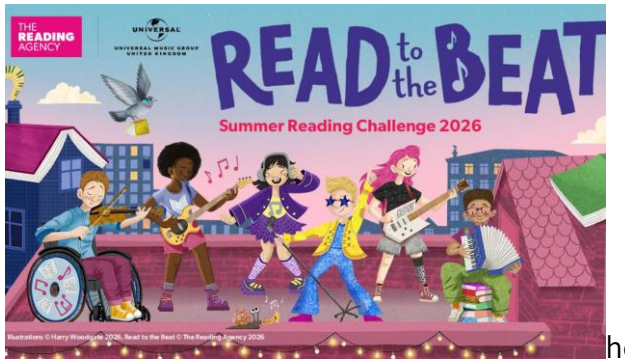
SUMMER READING CHALLENGE



The Summer Reading Challenge is a free activity for children aged 4-11 delivered by The Reading Agency in partnership with public libraries and powered by Universal Music UK. It's all about reading for fun, aiming to improve children's skills and confidence over the summer holiday.

Children can pick up their Summer Reading Challenge pack and free magazine from their local library. They set their own reading goals and read anything they like from the library. They collect reward stickers as they achieve their reading goals. At the end of the summer, children who complete all their goals earn a certificate and a medal. For under 5s there is a mini challenge, so they don't miss out. **There is also a digital platform with different activities and digital rewards**.
This year's theme is Read to the Beat, giving everyone the opportunity to discover diverse musical genres and cultural influences through specially curated reading lists and engaging activities that celebrate the connection between storytelling and sound. **There will be lots of free children's activities in our libraries including professional music and dance artists**.
To sign up, just pop into your local library. Children will need to be library members - you can do this in a library or online. It's free of charge and children will receive their own library card for which there are no overdue fees. **Find out more about joining the library in branch or online**.
Nationally the Summer Reading Challenge has engaged over half a million children annually for more than 25 years. It starts on Saturday 4 July and finishes Saturday 12 September.

MUSIC OF THE MONTH IN SINGING ASSEMBLIES – July

Entrance Music – Famous Requiems
Mozart's Requiem
Verdis Requiem
Karl Jenkin's Requiem

VALUE ASSEMBLY

In July Value is Courage

The Value Assembly themes are:

Courage , and
Catholic Social Teaching Preferential Option for the Poor

LANGUAGE OF THE MONTH for July

TAGALOG

We will be celebrating this language in July

If any parent is familiar with this and would like to share some knowledge in an Assembly, please get in touch with Mrs Furness.

THURSDAY COFFEE/TEA 8.30 to 9.30

We have Tom the Coffee Pedlar joining us on Thursdays for the rest of this term selling his coffee and food in the main gate entrance – chairs will be provided (and maybe a table or too)