



ST FRANCIS NEWS

27th August 2021

**In Jesus we will do our best as we love, pray, learn
and play because this is the St Francis Way**

Dear parents,

It has been a super start to the academic year and I have been pleased to see the children settle well into their new classes. It has been wonderful to have some restrictions eased and be able to do some of the things that we took for granted pre COVID-19 and which we now realise are such a blessing to have as part of school life. The children and staff enjoyed our first whole school liturgy and we look forward to sharing many more!

I have included a few updates below of the key information. I will aim to send out a monthly newsletter but regular updates in Class Dojo will share any important information as it arises. A roundup of this information will be added to any newsletters. Class specific information will be sent out by class teachers on Class Dojo pages.

We hope that this helps to keep you informed of all that is happening in school but please do ask if there is ever anything that you are unsure of.

Kind regards,
Mrs Brown- Head Teacher



Drop off/Pick Up

Thank you for your patience with regards to drop off and pick up. Before COVID, we have multiple access points to the school site and we have decided not to reopen these due to safeguarding. It is much easier and safer for us to monitor one access/exit point.

Drop Off

We have decided that all children can line up on the playground from 8.45am as our morning drop off has been successful and we don't feel we need the staggered start. The school gates will open from 8.40am.

Pick Up

Please do come onto the playground and make use of the space when waiting for your child. EYFS parents will be able to access the EYFS playground from 3pm. Y1/2 children will line up at the lower end of the playground and Y3/4/5 will line up on the top playground.



KEY CONTACTS IN SCHOOL

For general enquiries and administrative queries, including informing us of a child's absence, please contact the school office. The school office can also be contacted to make an appointment to see Mrs Brown or other members of staff. Meetings are by appointment only so please do call ahead to check staff availability.

Mrs Marraffino and Ms Tookey will be on gate duty on a few mornings per week so you can approach them to leave any messages and raise queries related to the school office.

Emails

Admin Team- adminteam@st-francis.leics.sch.uk
Mrs Brown- gbrown7@st-francis.leic.sch.uk



The Uniform and PE policies are available to view on the school website. School Policies - St Francis Primary School, Melton Mowbray (st-francis.leics.sch.uk)

Please note that we have added the option of trousers for girls. At the moment, there is only one supplier which provides the trousers that have been approved by governors but I do stress that this is optional. We must ask that only the approved trousers are purchased.

Please ensure that all items of uniform are clearly labelled with your child's name as we have a huge amount of lost property at the end of each term. If items have no name then we add these to the school second hand shop.

The second hand uniform shop will be open for Wednesday afternoon between 2 & 3pm.

PE Days

For the first half term, we will be allowing children to come into school in their PE kits, on PE days only. This may change once all COVID measures are relaxed but we feel this will help to ease us back in to a life without restrictions. Teachers will inform you of the PE day for your child's class via Class Dojo.



The St Francis Way

At St Francis we are supporting our children on their journey through our school, using our school's key drivers to guide us. These are: Community; Joy & Spirit; Responsibility; Ambition; Knowledge and Enquiry and Communication.

A positive behaviour policy rooted in the Catholic faith and ethos of our school underpins our approach. Our Draft Behaviour Policy is available for you to view on our school website. Please provide any feedback on this policy directly to Mrs Brown gbrown7@st-francis.leics.sch.uk.

[DRAFT-Behaviour-Policy-2021.pdf \(st-francis.leics.sch.uk\)](#)





Clubs

We will shortly be releasing information about after school clubs.

The clubs will start week beginning 6th September and need to be booked via parentpay.

Reading Club



We are reopening our morning Reading Club from 8.15am and this will begin next Wednesday.

Children should be accompanied to the side door to the hall. This is on the left side of the school as you look at the school from the playground. Children may bring a breakfast snack with them.

The cost of the Reading Club is £1 per child, per day and all year groups are welcome. This is payable one week in advance. There is no charge for the Reading Club for Pupil Premium and Free School Meal children.



Applications for Free School Meals and Pupil Premium entitlement.

Free School Meals

If your child is not registered for Free School Meals and you receive any of the following benefits your child may be able to get free school meals:

- Income Support
- income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- the guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit - if you apply on or after 1 April 2018 your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get)

Children who get paid these benefits directly, instead of through a parent or guardian, can also get free school meals.

Your child may also get free school meals if you get any of these benefits and your child is both:

- younger than the compulsory age for starting school
- Opens another website in new window
- in full-time education.

If your child is eligible for free school meals, they'll remain eligible until they finish the phase of schooling (primary or secondary) they're in on 31 March 2022.

Free School Meals | Leicestershire County Council

Please follow [this link](#) where you can access application forms for Free School Meals.



Pupil Premium

If your child is eligible for pupil premium there are lots of benefits for your child in school.

Your child could benefit from:

- *exciting new learning activities and opportunities to widen their life experiences
- * one to one or small group sessions
- * extra tools, materials and equipment to help with learning in school or at home
- * before/after school clubs or activities

Don't miss out and find out if you are eligible today.

You can find the form that you need to complete on our school website:

Pupil Premium Application Forms and Info - St Francis Primary School, Melton Mowbray (st-francis.leics.sch.uk)



PTA

If you would like to join our fantastic PTA or just contribute on an adhoc basis to events, please email stfrancisschoolpta@outlook.com or send a message to the PTA Facebook Page - Saint Francis Catholic Primary School PTA.

Last year the PTA raised a staggering £2,877.64 which all goes into school funds. Money raised last academic year paid towards a Sensory Room in the school as well as a whole host of other resources to support teaching, learning and enriching experiences for our children.

Please keep an eye out for details of the first PTA meeting this academic year.

Thank you.



Vaccine confidence in parents

The Local Authority has asked us to share a link to a survey to find out your views regarding vaccinating your children.

[https://surveys.leics.gov.uk/snapwebhost/s.asp?
k=162694062795](https://surveys.leics.gov.uk/snapwebhost/s.asp?k=162694062795)

Term Dates

Please note the term dates on the website.

We have an additional INSET day on Friday 19th November which replaces the INSET day that usually takes place in January.

[TermDates-2021-22-.pdf \(st-francis.leics.sch.uk\)](#)



Key Dates for the 1st Half Term

School Starts: Wednesday 25th August

Bank Holiday: Monday 30th August

School Photos: Tuesday 14th September

**Macmillan Coffee Morning: Friday 24th
September**

Feast of St Francis Liturgy: Monday 4th October

Parents' Evenings: Tues/Weds 12/13th October

Half Term: 18th-22nd October

Flu Vaccinations: Monday 25th October