



St. Francis' Catholic Primary School & Pre-School

St. Francis' Catholic Primary School

LIVING FEELING DREAMING

Living our life as Jesus taught us Feeling the Gospel Values Dreaming of bright futures for all

As children of God, we care for each other and we always try to do our best'

**'As children of God, we care for each other and
we always try to do our best...'**



Dear Parent,

St.Francis' is a Voluntary Aided Catholic Primary School. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for considering our school for your child's education. I do hope that I will soon get to know you and your child.

Parents are the child's most first and enduring educators and we sincerely look forward to working in partnership with you. At St. Francis' we believe in providing a holistic education that is alive and exciting for all children. Our school places Christ at the centre of all that we do and we hope that, with your support, we can encourage all children to grow in the image and love of Christ. Since joining St.Francis' School family, I have been humbled and honoured to be part of such a dedicated staff team. The school is a constant hive of excitement with such a purposeful learning atmosphere and it is a place where happiness permeates throughout.

You are all most welcome to call in to school with any queries or questions you may have. Appointments can be made to speak to myself, Mr Blair (our Chair of Governors) or any of our helpful staff team by contacting Mrs Nuttall, our school bursar.

This brochure contains some of the information that you may need to help you to decide which school your child should attend. It will tell you about the people who work here, our school family, about our philosophy on education and the Curriculum that we use to help our children begin and thrive throughout their learning journeys.

I hope that you enjoy your visit to our school and if you require any further information about our school please do not hesitate to contact me.

With my best wishes,
Miss S Deakin
HEADTEACHER



'The quality of displays, of pupils' work and the arrangement of classrooms to inspire learning is first rate.'

Mission Statement

Everyone at St. Francis' Catholic Primary School and Pre-School tries to be like Jesus. We work together to make our school and community a welcoming and happy place to learn. Made in the image of God, we care for each other and we always try to do our best.



School Values

Respect

To respect others and have love for yourself and others. Christ taught us to 'Love one another as I have loved you.' We show love for each other by showing mutual respect. We are fair, honest and always show kindness.

Aspirations

We aim high because anything is possible if we try and if we believe in ourselves. Christ wants us to have life in all its fullness and we participate in God's creation by working to the best of our ability. We show positive attitudes and any problems are only opportunities to be explored. We have motivation and self-belief.

Resilience

We take risks and have a go because we believe in ourselves. If at first, we don't succeed we try again.

Care

We care for each other and we always try to do our best. We look after one another and we are always thoughtful and considerate towards others.



Meet the Team...

The Governors of our school meet together with the Head teacher, staff and children on numerous occasions throughout the school year. They provide strategic direction, challenge and support in developing the school. Our governors are linked with a class which best suits their interest and skills and the children know them as a welcome face in the classroom.

Mr M Blair	Chairman
Mr C Moran	Vice Chair
Miss S Deakin	Head Teacher
Mr A Dickinson	Foundation Governor
Mrs J Marshall	Foundation Governor
Mr R Coupe	Foundation Governor
Mr J Gilmour	Teacher Governor
Mrs A Holden	Co-opted
Mrs Suzanne Hall	LA Representative
L.A. Val Morris	Clerk to Governors

Miss S Deakin	Headteacher
Mr J Gilmour	Deputy Headteacher
Mrs S Nuttall	School bursar
Mr J McGill	Reception teacher
Mrs N Davies	Year 1/2 teacher
Mrs W Silvester	Year 3/4 teacher
Mrs J Rossall	Year 5/6 teacher
Mrs M Tyrer	Reception teaching assistant
Mrs N Devine	Year 1/2 teaching assistant
Mr J Davies	KS2 teaching assistant
Mrs L Riley	KS2 teaching assistant
Pre-School	Mrs B Luke, Mrs K Gerrard, Mrs E Holden
Breakfast and After School Club	
Ms I O'Kane and Miss N Forshaw	
School Cook	Ms D Cronin
Kitchen Welfare	Ms J O'Kane, Miss A Kirkham

Home, school and Parish in partnership...

St. Francis' School was built in 1880, with extensions in 1960, 1993 and 1999. It is a voluntary aided school, offering a Catholic Primary education to children between two and eleven years of age.

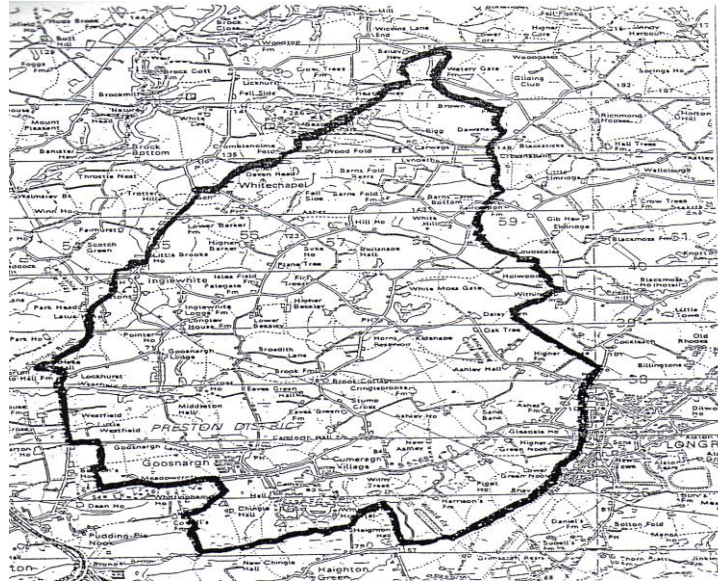
The Parish of St Francis Hill Chapel stretches roughly from Halfpenny Lane in the east to Langley Lane in the west, and from Beacon Fell in the north to South Lodge of the former Whittingham Hospital site.

A map indicating the exact Parish Boundary is shown to the right.

Catholic schools are an expression of the Church's care and concern for the community. Christ's teachings are at the very heart of each and every day. We play an active part in the life of the Parish and have regular visits from Father Sony to help to strengthen the feeling of belonging to the Church and we work hand in hand with you to nurture the faith of your children.

We hold regular Feast Day masses during school time and monthly Family Masses on the second Sunday of the month. These are lively acts of worship and celebration. The school choir and band play at these and children from all year groups are invited to actively participate.

'This is an inclusive and outstanding Catholic School' (Section 48 Denominational inspection)



We foster a dynamic interaction between home, parish and school to provide a happy, caring community in which everyone is valued and included. We support parents as educators of faith...



At St. Francis' we love being immersed in a world of enjoyable, cross-curricular learning. We aim to ignite a love of learning for all and believe that we all have talents and gifts that raise our self-esteem, aspirations, confidence and give us enjoyment. We can do anything if we believe we can and our curriculum framework gives us opportunities to follow children's interests and talents.



"Pupils express high levels of satisfaction, confidence and enjoyment in their learning."



At St Francis' School we aim to provide a community which fosters respect for the individual and where all are valued. We aim to actively promote attitudes and values which enable children to recognise the worth of others.

We aim to provide opportunities for all of our children to reach their full potential in all areas of school life. We undertake a personalised curriculum to ensure that all pupils receive the broad and balanced curriculum to which they are entitled, irrespective of class, race, gender or disability.

A MOTIVATIONAL CURRICULUM

We see the beauty in everything as we grow together and appreciate our wonderful gifts and talents. We nurture children's gifts and work hard to know and understand each individual child's interests and needs...

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

As St Francis' is a Catholic School, we ensure that Christian values and the Gospel Message are demonstrated not only in R.E. lessons but in everything we undertake. We seek Christ at the Centre and we use a range of resources to enhance of Religious Education aspect of our curriculum and to enhance our Catholicity. We use the Religious Education Directory to plan our sequences of learning and we use The Vine and Branches Programme alongside 'The Way, The Truth and The Life' throughout each year group. We also observe special celebrations in the Liturgical year calendar and we learn about Saints, for example St. Teresa, when we celebrate Little Way Week. The whole school embraces Caritas in Action and we learn how to be stewards of the earth, caring for each other and for our common home.

Prayer and Liturgy:

We hold a daily act of worship every day in which the children lead and participate.

This may take the form of whole school gatherings, assemblies or class Prayer and Liturgy sessions.

In our prayer and liturgy sessions, we aim to provide the opportunity for our pupils to worship God, to consider moral issues and explore their own faith. We encourage participation and response either by active involvement or by listening to, watching and joining in the worship offered. We aim to develop a community spirit, promote a common ethos and shared values and reinforce positive attitudes. Children actively plan and prepare for worship, providing stimuli, music and choosing appropriate prayers or readings from scripture.

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION:

The Parish & School work in partnership with parents in preparing the children for the sacraments of Holy Communion, Reconciliation and Confirmation. Parents are expected to fully participate in the sacramental preparation programme. We use the 'With You Always' programme and Mrs Rossall is our pastoral parish link teacher. If you require further information, please don't hesitate to contact us.

Education is not the filling of a pail, but the lighting of a fire. -William Yeats

CURRICULUM SUBJECTS:

FOUNDATION STAGE

- The pre-5s curriculum is based on the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum and planned for within topic areas. The Prime and Specific areas of the EYFS curriculum are treated with equal importance to develop each individual child from Pre-School to Reception Class. We use Development Matters and our guide.

YEARS 1 - 6

English: Reading and writing are a feature of most lessons. We place great emphasis on children becoming confident speakers and use every opportunity to develop children's speaking and listening skills through giving them ownership and purpose of tasks and starting drama activities such as freeze framing, hot seating and role play from Reception class onwards. Our children speak in public, take part in productions and show visitors around school. The children are used to performing in concerts, which are exceptional, and they have a huge talent for performing arts. We have a professional sound system with head microphones and three quarters of the school plays an instrument. We teach English explicitly every morning but we love to explore other genres in other topics and lessons.

Mathematics : At St.Francis' we believe that Maths is a cross curricular and creative subject where children learn best in the real world. Maths is taught every morning as an explicit subject but skills are used, applied and revised in the afternoon sessions such as PE, Science and topic work.

Science: The National Curriculum for Science places emphasis not only on knowledge, but also on the development of scientific skills. All our science activities offer opportunities to develop these skills. Our children use success criteria to understand how to work and think like a scientist and we pride ourselves on offering children hands on and exciting science lessons where they can make links with other subjects and the real world! We work outdoors wherever possible to enable children to make sense of the world. Our science curriculum is not seen in isolation. Opportunities are provided within a cross-curricular framework in order to maximise learning and to transfer knowledge and skills from one area of the curriculum to another.

Computing: Children need to embrace technology from an early age if they are to make their way successfully in our ever changing and demanding world. All children have regular, first-hand experiences of the wide range of technology that captures, stores and communicates information. Daily opportunities to use laptops and Ipads support these aims.

Music: This is taught by our specialist teacher, Mr Warren in KS2 and Mrs Davies in KS1. We follow the Model Music Curriculum and engage in a variety of concerts and performances in the community. School band and choir are on Fridays.

Human Relationships and Sex Education: Through assemblies, lessons and class discussions (circle time) children develop a strong sense of community and their place in the community. Children are encouraged to understand their rights and responsibilities. The children are consulted about school rules and they expect them to be followed by their class mates. We always teach and encourage children to reflect upon British Values wherever possible. We use the Ten:Ten Life to the Full programme of study and supporting materials. Our topic overviews are on our website.

At St.Francis' we are inspired by Jesus to be the very best we can be. We look after one another and show respect and love through our relationships with one another. Jesus is invited into our hearts. In the Beatitudes, Jesus invites us to lead a full life with him by explaining what makes people blessed or happy. This is about understanding how loving our neighbour enables us to be happy too. Therefore, having a good relationship with ourselves and the other people in our lives makes us grow and flourish and we respect that everyone is a unique and beautiful part of God's creation. We are all children of God, called to grow in love for him through the person of Jesus Christ and to spread the Good News through the action of the Holy Spirit.

Design and Technology: Through our Design and Technology curriculum children produce designs then make simple models, structures or two-dimensional representations of their ideas. Evaluation is seen as an important part of the learning process. Work is usually linked to topics. Children from the Reception class onwards have access to tools that enable them to design and create, using a variety of skills.

Art: Art is a subject in its own right and has specific skills and knowledge, which need to be taught. Once learned, these skills can be applied across the curriculum to support work in many other subjects, such as Science, RE, Mathematics, Geography and DT. Children learn to draw, paint and sculpt as well as design and create aesthetically pleasing objects in two and three dimensions. Pupils learn about the achievements of great artists, designers and craft workers. We give the children the opportunity to use as wide a variety of materials and resources as possible including textiles, clay, chalk, ink, oil pastels, watercolour, poster paints, collage, charcoal, printmaking and mixed media. Our children also have sketch books to gather, collect, experiment and reflect in.

History and Geography: Through topic work children develop a sense of history and of the world beyond their own locality. Teaching is closely linked to children's experiences and a sense of wonder is developed through the use of artefacts, field trips, visitors and multimedia.

Spanish: This is taught in Key Stage 2 by the class teachers.

PE: Our PE activities incorporate the development of early games and gymnastics skills. Co-operation and team spirit are encouraged through a variety of activities. Our children compete in a number of extra activities including fencing, archery, football, netball, cricket, rounders and athletics. Please see our sports section on our homepage to see our school success and enthusiasm for sporting activities.

EDUCATION FOR ALL

A Catholic school is not simply a place where lessons are taught, it is a centre that has an operative educational philosophy, attentive to the needs of today's world and illuminated by the Gospel message. We aim to provide a community which fosters respect for the individual and enables children to develop their potential.

We take into account ethnic and cultural diversity and provide a curriculum which is equal in opportunity for all pupils regardless of ethnic origin or gender. We aim to develop knowledge of other World Religions and prepare children well for life in a diverse and Multi-Cultural society.

'As children of God, we are for each other and we always try to do our best'

"Pupils show exemplary attitudes to their learning."

EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Children are given the opportunity to learn musical instruments in addition to the National Curriculum. We aim to enrich our curriculum by inviting a broad range of PE specialists into school to give children opportunities they would not usually have. Children enjoy Judo, Fencing and much more.

SPORTING AIMS:

We aim to teach and develop skills in all sports through the PE curriculum and extra-curricular coaching. Our teams excel in Tennis, Netball, Football and Swimming. We feel that swimming is a lifesaving skill, so all children in Year 2 swim weekly. The school is represented in various sporting areas such as football, netball and swimming.



“Such successful celebration of learning is because of the high expectations set”

All children have an opportunity to take part in singing lessons and are introduced to the work of composers in music lessons and assemblies. Glee Club is very popular and children have many opportunities to perform. We offer brass, woodwind and percussion lessons to pupils from Year 1 upwards. Children from Year 1 also learn to play the recorder and we have a wonderful school band. Our school choir has children from Year 2 upwards and we enjoy performing within our school in weekly assemblies and to the wider public at concerts and festivals. We have a music showcase at the end of the school year and we invite families and our local community in to 'coffee morning' concerts.



EDUCATIONAL VISITS

Visits are arranged to enhance pupils' learning and may involve trips to the theatre, other schools, museums, religious places, beaches, field studies and other places as we see fit to enhance our curriculum. The children will also be able to take part in a residential visit in Years 5 and 6.



A group of children in fencing gear practicing in a gymnasium, with an instructor in the center.

CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS

The school has regard to The Code of Practice on the identification and assessment of children with Special Educational Needs.

Children who experience Learning difficulties may be entitled to receive additional support. A child is regarded as having 'Special Educational Needs' if he/she has a Learning difficulty which calls for special educational provision to be made. It is our policy to identify a child's special needs as soon as possible after entry in to school. We work in full partnership with parents, carefully monitoring and assessing progress, applying the most appropriate teaching strategies and providing the necessary resources whenever possible. Where necessary help and advice will be sought from external agencies provided by the Lancashire Education Authority.

Children identified as having Special Needs have an Individual Education Plan which is reviewed each term at a meeting with parents.

A copy of our policy setting out provision for children with Special Educational Needs is available on our school website or in school should you wish to familiarise yourself with this.

The Governors meet each term to discuss current policy and special needs provision. The success of the school policy is reflected in the full integration of the children with special needs, in the academic and social life of the school.

OUR HAPPY SCHOOL

Our Positive Behaviour Policy aims to...

- Ensure that all our pupils live and learn in a happy, secure and loving environment.
- Ensure that all our pupils have a positive view of the school.
- Ensure that pupils show respect to any individual with whom they have dealings, including fellow pupils, staff and parents.
- Develop the children's understanding of the value and the need for a code of conduct within school.
- Encourage the children to exercise self-discipline and differentiate between appropriate and inappropriate behaviour.

“Pupils show excellent behaviour throughout the school day.”

In September each year, we admit those children who will have their 4th birthday before or on 31st August that same year. The children are grouped in classes with more than one age group. These groupings may vary from year to year, as we try to keep the classes small wherever possible. Changes are only made in the best interest of the children. All children are encouraged to work to maximum potential.

Our classes are named after local hills and fells.



Name of Class	Year Groups	Number in class
PENDLE	Reception	15
PARLICK	Year 1 & 2	30
FAIRSNAPPE	Year 3 & 4	30
BEACON	Year 5 & 6	29

Fundraising and Charity Work

Christ taught us to love one another. Because of this, we fundraise for various charities, locally and globally, and we try to make our world a better place.

The children lead CAFOD Club and plan their own fundraising initiatives. They take part in events with other schools and the local community. We have an active Eco-Warrior group, School Council and our children are Playground Pals and Peer Mediators.

“St.Francis’ is a special place to be educated.”

SCHOOL MEALS & LUNCH ARRANGEMENTS

As of September 2014 all children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are entitled to a school lunch. Meals are cooked here on the premises; they are nutritious and thoroughly enjoyed by the children who take them. Children have the opportunity to choose their meals. They may have school meals each day or order a meal on certain days each week. (e.g. school meals on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday – packed lunch, Thursday & Friday). Any change in arrangements requires one week's notice, in writing, as food is ordered in advance.

You will be informed about current prices when your child starts school (it is £2.40 at present).

Where parents' income falls below a certain level, free meals are available for the children. Details of how to apply will be given to you on request.

Alternatively, children may bring a packed lunch. If you prefer to send packed lunch, please bear in mind that drinks should be in plastic flasks, plastic cartons or other sealed containers. Glass bottles and flasks with glass linings are not allowed, for reasons of safety.

Children having a school meal will eat in the dining hall, along with the children on packed lunches.

BREAK-TIME

Friday, is 'Fair Trade Friday', where a small chocolate wafer can be purchased for 30p and /or Fair Trade fruit juice (40p), this is run by the children. All other days children can bring in a piece of fruit to eat.

NATIONAL FRUIT SCHEME

All pupils in the Reception Class and Years 1 & 2 receive a FREE piece of fruit every day. This is funded from Lottery Grants.

WATER & MILK

Every pupil is provided with a named water bottle which is kept in class. Pupils are encouraged to drink water through the day (we have filtered water machines in a classrooms). All bottles are sent home daily to be washed. Replacement bottles and tops can be purchased from school.



All children under the age of 5 years old are entitled to free milk. Children over this age are able to purchase milk by registering online at www.coolmilk.com for a price of £14 per term.

Snack

Children are free to bring in their own healthy snack, as well as fruit being available.

Toast is 10p.

MONDAY—Fruit

TUESDAY—Fruit

WED—Toast

THURSDAY— Fruit

FRIDAY— Fairtrade

(Drinks are available for 40p. Fairtrade snacks available between 25p – 45p)



ADMISSIONS POLICY

1. Looked after and previously looked after Catholic children.
2. Catholic brothers and sisters, siblings, residing at the same address of children at school at the anticipated time of admission.
3. Catholic children whose parents reside within the Parish boundary and who are worshippers at St Francis, Hill Chapel
4. Catholic children who reside within the parish boundary,
5. Catholic children whose family reside outside the parish boundary but who are worshippers at St Francis, Hill Chapel.
6. Catholic children who reside outside the Parish boundary.
7. Non Catholic looked after and previously looked after children
8. Non Catholic brothers and sisters, siblings, residing at the same address of children at school at the anticipated time of admission
9. Children whose families are worshipping members of other denominations and faiths, and reside within the parish.
10. Other children who reside within the parish.
11. Any other applicant.

Our admissions number is 15. Please see our school website or contact school for more information.

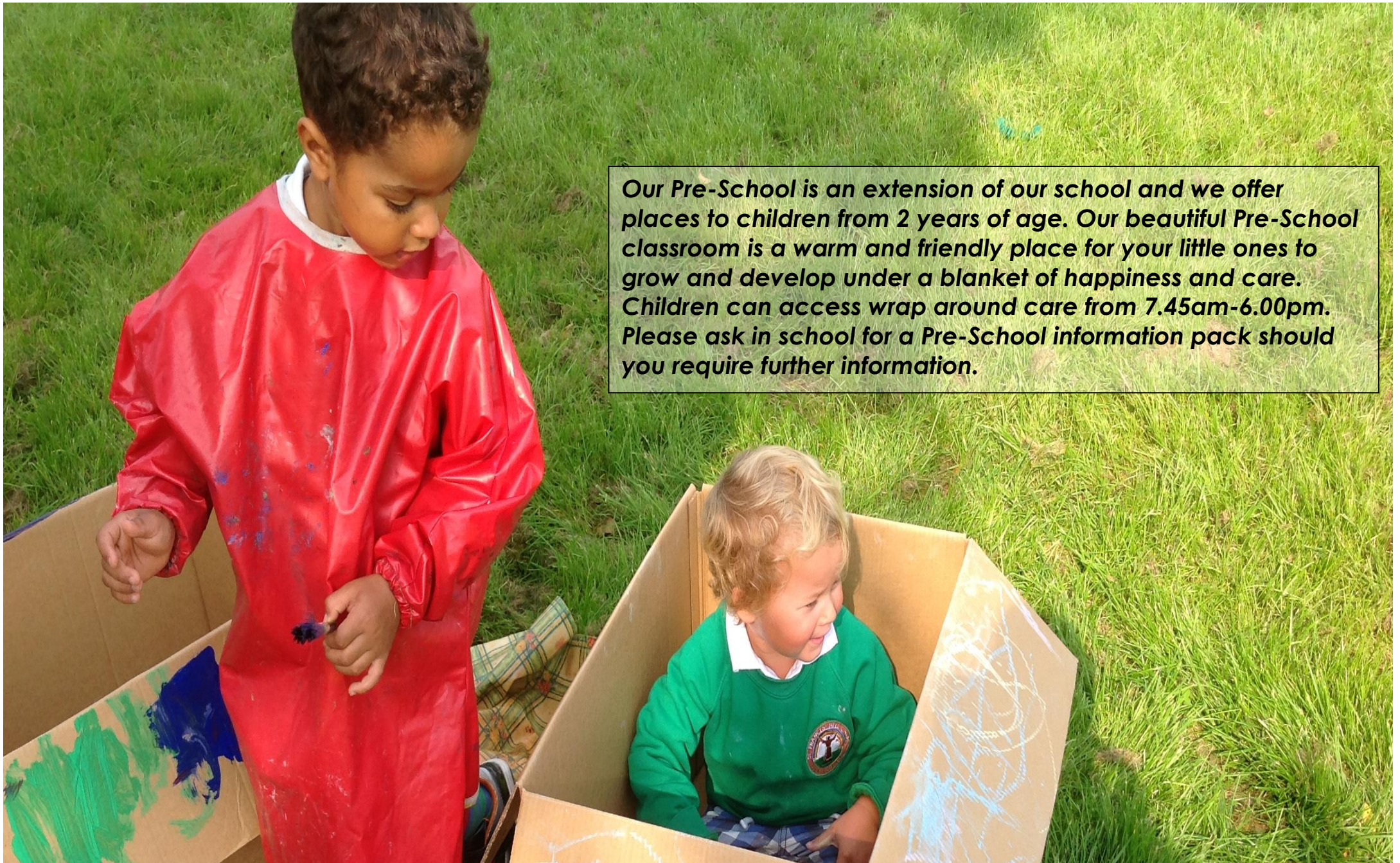
Early Years Foundation Stage

We follow a creative curriculum led by the children's interests, which allows the pupils to access all areas of learning in an engaging and interactive way.

Nursery and Pre-School



Come and visit our 'Land of Pure Imagination' ...



Our Pre-School is an extension of our school and we offer places to children from 2 years of age. Our beautiful Pre-School classroom is a warm and friendly place for your little ones to grow and develop under a blanket of happiness and care. Children can access wrap around care from 7.45am-6.00pm. Please ask in school for a Pre-School information pack should you require further information.

OUR SCHOOL DAY

Morning Session

8.45am - 12.00pm (Key Stage 1)

8.50am - 12.15pm (Key Stage 2)

Afternoon Session

1.00pm - 3.15pm (Key Stage 1)

1.10pm - 3.20pm (Key Stage 2)

ATTENDANCE

Please do ring school as soon as possible if your child is unwell. Children arriving after 8.50 am without a note or telephone message will be entered in the register as late. If your child is not in school by 9.30 am – someone from school will telephone to ensure your child is safe. Although the teachers are often on the premises by 8.00 am, it must be pointed out that they are not legally responsible for the pupils before 8.45 am. or after 3.25 pm. As concerned and caring staff, this does not mean that we do not look after any children who arrive early, or whose parents are late collecting them at the end of the day. We ask that, for the benefit of your child, you are punctual as possible.

The school cannot authorise absences for holidays even with written requests to school. Any holidays taken during school term will result in unauthorised absences.

UNIFORM...

It is important that children pride in their appearance. Our school uniform has a personal meaning for the children. Our school colours are brown and green. The brown skirts, pinafore dresses and trousers were chosen in honour of St. Francis, our patron. The green jumpers and cardigans represent the hill on which we stand and the nature that surrounds us.

SUMMER UNIFORM (Summer Term)

In summer, pale green gingham dresses and short brown trousers with white polo shirts may be worn. All uniform is available from Mary Frances, Derby Road, Longridge, apart from the summer dresses which are available from all local supermarkets.

WINTER UNIFORM (Autumn – Spring Term)

To be worn until after the Easter holiday.

In winter, our uniform consists of brown trousers, skirt or pinafore, white polo shirt and green jumper or cardigan. All are available from Mary Frances, Longridge.

PE KIT

PE kits must be worn on PE days. All children wear a green tracksuit with green shorts and a white polo shirt. Tracksuits and shorts are available from Mary Frances.

SOCKS AND TIGHTS

Socks: white or brown

Tights: green or brown

JEWELLERY

Jewellery is not permitted in school.

If earrings must be worn only studs are permitted and these have to be removed for all P.E lessons, including swimming.

PARENTS TEACHERS and FRIENDS ASSOCIATION (P.T.F.A.)

We have a very active PTFA which organises a number of functions throughout the year, raising considerable funds for the school. All of our children benefit from this and therefore we invite all parents to become involved and support the various events.

We hope you will be able to come to the social events which take place throughout the year, so that we might get to know each other in an informal and relaxed atmosphere.

You will receive a welcome pack from our PTFA at the beginning of each school year, which informs you of new members and the work undertaken by our dedicated group of parents.

REPORTING TO PARENTS

One of the main aims of our school is to involve parents in all aspects of their children's education. By regular communication, we aim to keep parents informed of their children's progress and development in all areas of school life. At the end of every half term, we communicate with parents. This is by a parent meeting or by a report. An extensive end of year written report is sent home and this can be discussed with the class teacher. You can book an appointment to see your child's class teacher at any mutually convenient time.

ASSESSMENT

Children's progress is continually being assessed by their teachers and work is planned to meet individual needs.

Children assess and appraise their work in order to review their individual next steps in learning.

In Foundation Stage, Year 1, Year 2 and Year 6, children are assessed by external testing arrangements. The EYFS scores are a culmination of the whole year's work and the class teacher assesses them. We are then moderated by the LA.

Standard Assessment Tests and Tasks (SATs) and the Phonics Screening are administered by the class teacher and parents informed on the annual report of results.

PARENTS AND SCHOOL

Parents are the first and foremost educators in a child's life. Children benefit from your involvement and if you are able to offer an hour or two to help in school you would be made very welcome. Please let us know if you have a particular talent you would like to share. Your assistance is always very much appreciated.

Monthly Newsletters are posted on our Website along with other useful information. The newsletters are a celebration of what is happening in school, and often the children also contribute to them. Newsletters, and any other letters will be sent home with your child. We have a school Seesaw APP, a Facebook page, a Twitter page and an informative website. You can ask in school for any additional information you may require. We are happy to help.

HOME & SCHOOL CO-OPERATION

We respect your role as your child's first and foremost educator and we want to build on this partnership for the benefit of your child. We welcome parents into school and appreciate offers of help in the classroom. We look forward to a happy relationship with you and your child. At the beginning of your child's school journey with us, you will receive a positive behaviour leaflet and behavioural contract to agree our positive partnership.

Please contact us at any time

Headteacher: Miss S Deakin
St Francis' Catholic Primary School
Horns Lane
Goosnargh
Preston
PR3 2FJ

Telephone: (01772) 865369

Fax: (01772) 863947

Bursar: bursar@st-francis.lancs.sch.uk (Shelley Nuttall)

“Pupils show great care for one another and respect differences between people, families and communities”

