ST FRANCIS CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL
'Recognising Christ in Everyone'

Head Teacher – Mrs Miccoli

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Friday 16th October 2026

Dear Parents & Carers,

Mill Cottage Farm Visit -Friday 2nd October

All the staff and children had a truly wonderful time experiencing the magic of Mill Farm. It was an animal-lover's paradise, packed with cheeky goats, fluffy sheep, and the most adorable little piglets bouncing around.

The children absolutely loved getting up close for quiet cuddles with the rabbits and guinea pigs, and watching the fascinating tortoises explore. The absolute highlight of the day had to be meeting the two beautiful donkeys, whose gentle natures completely stole everyone's hearts.

We extend a massive thank you to our incredibly generous PTA, who funded this fantastic event in honour of our St Francis Feast Day—it was the most perfect way to celebrate our patron saint of animals.



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Football – Tuesday 29th September

On 29th September, St Francis entered two teams in the Year 5/6 mixed Charter Football Tournament, competing against local primary schools.

Both teams performed magnificently across their six fixtures, showcasing excellent football, teamwork and individual skill. One team finished an impressive second overall with 9 points, while the other secured fifth place with 5 points.

All the children had a fantastic time, and we are incredibly proud of their efforts and sportsmanship. A big thank you to Mr Staniforth and Mr Leonard for leading the teams, and to Mrs Franklin for overseeing the event.

Well done to everyone involved! We look forward to the next competition.

Class 4 visit to Chertsey Museum

Class Four had a fantastic day stepping back in time during their recent visit to Chertsey Museum. Immersed in the world of the Romans, the children took part in an amazing array of hands-on activities, from crafting their own traditional wax boards and clay pots to sketching authentic artefacts.

The excitement continued as they acted out Roman plays, practiced marching in formation, and completed an energetic scavenger hunt. Class Four represented our school beautifully throughout the day, and we are incredibly proud of their wonderful behaviour and enthusiasm

Fireworks Spectacular – Ascot Racecourse

The Fireworks Spectacular Family Race day at Ascot Racecourse is on Saturday 31st October. A day of racing where families can enjoy free activities including face painting, arts & crafts, fairground rides and a silent disco. All followed by a spectacular fireworks display.

If you are attending, please book your tickets using the promotional code SFCPSCHOOL and the school will receive up to 25% cashback from the racecourse. See the attached flyer for more information.

EYFS Scarecrow

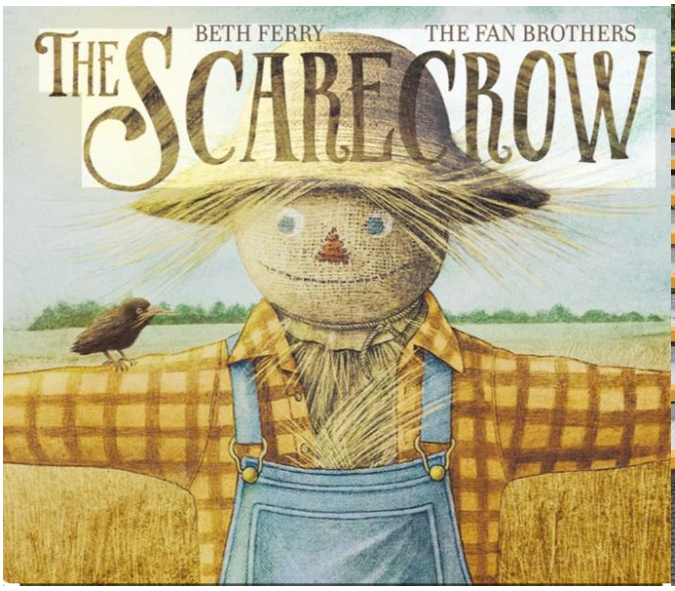
EYFS have entered the Newbury & District Agricultural Society Scarecrow Competition...again! They have called it the Kindness Scarecrow.

The children listened to "The Scarecrow" story by Beth Ferry. Instead of scaring crows, the lonely scarecrow is kind and becomes friends with a crow. His kindness is returned when the crow returns and lays eggs in a nest in his clothing. Now the scarecrow has many crows as friends!

At St Francis school our motto is *Work Hard and Be Kind*. In EYFS the children are learning to follow the scarecrow's example to be kind to others, including the birds. As our old school

is being knocked down we want to help the birds in our garden by having places to rest and food for them to eat……just like the Scarecrow did.
The scarecrow was collected on Thursday 15th for the competition and will be returned on Monday 19th. He will go in our garden area and if you need a friend you can stay by the Kindness Scarecrow just like the crow did in the story.

The competition is held on Saturday 17th October as part of the Society's ploughing match where lots of tractors can be seen! Please follow this link to find out more: https://newburyshowground.co.uk/education-agriculture/





St Francis Feast Day Mass Monday 5th October

Our school family came together for a truly beautiful Mass to celebrate St Francis Feast Day, wonderfully led by our Class Five children. It felt extra special this year because we were joined by pilgrims who were just about to set off for Assisi.
In a lovely act of kindness, they are carrying our school banner and our children's, staff and families' heartfelt prayers all the way to Italy with them. We were so incredibly proud of all the children, who took part with such gentle reverence and respect. Their beautiful, sweet singing filled the air and brought a wonderful sense of joy and love to the whole celebration.

KS2 Cabins End of Day

Just a gentle reminder to enter the KS2 cabins via the Class Three and Four ramp and exit via the Class Five and Six ramp. Only St Francis staff and children should be in our Locker area. Thank you.

STEPS

The STEPS (Sorry, Thank You, Excuse me, Please and Smile) Award is given for wonderful manners shown around school to both staff, peers, and visitors. William H, Coen A, Ted C-P, Charlotte L and Max McD, have all been recently awarded their STEPS

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badge.

TenTen

TenTen resources are used by us to enrich our Catholic faith and mission statement in our school. They are particularly useful for our Celebration of the Word and Collective Worship assemblies. The parent newsletter is a lovely way of sharing this with you.
Please find below a link to the TenTen newsletter below:
https://www.tentenresources.co.uk/prayers-for-home/parent-newsletter/

Reflection

The Beauty of Nature

O God, we thank you for this earth, our home;
For the wide sky and the blessed sun,
For the salt sea and the running water,
For the everlasting hills
And the never-resting winds,
For trees and the common grass underfoot.
We thank you for our senses
By which we hear the songs of birds,
And see the splendour of the summer fields,
And taste of the autumn fruits,
And rejoice in the feel of the snow,
And smell the breath of the spring.
Grant us a heart wide open to all this beauty.
And save our souls from being so blind
That we pass unseeing
When even the common thorn bush
Is aflame with your glory,
O God our creator,
Who lives and reigns forever and ever.

- Walter Rauschenbusch

God bless, see you all on Monday, have a wonderful weekend.

Mrs Miccoli and the St Francis Team

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Community:

- See attached flyer from The Marist School re September 2027 entries
- Fireworks Spectacular Flyer
- Vacancy at Charters School for a DT Technician. For further details and to apply please see their website: https://www.chartersschool.org.uk/7545/vacancies-1
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St Francis Catholic Primary School Autumn Term 2026	
October	
Sunday 18th	Lions Club Swimathon (PTA Event)
Monday 19th	RWInc Development Day
Monday 19th	SALT in all day
Tuesday 20th	Parents Evening 16:00-19:00
Tuesday 20th	No Get Active Care (After School) and Enrichment Clubs (After school)
Thursday 22nd	No Get Active Care (After School) and Enrichment Clubs (After school)
Thursday 22nd	Parents Evening 16:00-19:00
Monday 26th to Friday 30th	**Half -Term**
November	
Monday 2nd	**CPD - RWInc Staff Training Day- School Closed**
Tuesday 3rd	Children return to school
Thursday 12th	Ascot Grange 15:00-16:30
Monday 16th	Anti-Bullying Week -Odd Sock Day
Friday 20th	'Break the Silence' Assembly
Wednesday 25th	Open Morning 09:30 -11:00
Friday 27th	Children's Tour of School 09:00
Friday 27th	Parents Tour of School 15:00
Monday 30th	Flu Immunisation Back-Up Day
December	
Tuesday 1st	Nativity Dress Rehearsal 14:00
Wednesday 2nd	Nativity Performance 14:00
Thursday 3rd	Nativity Performance 18:00
Tuesday 8th	Immaculate Conception Mass – 10:00 Class 4
Tuesday 8th	Key Stage Two Carol Concert Dress Rehearsal 14:00
Wednesday 9th	Open Morning 09:30 -11:00
Thursday 10th	Key Stage Two Carol Concert 18:00
Wednesday 16th	Christmas Lunch & Jumper Day
Thursday 17th	Panto for EYFS, KS1 & KS2
Friday 18th	Christmas Holidays – School Closes at 13:30
January 2025	
Monday 4th	CPD for staff – School closed
Tuesday 5th	**School Opens for all children 08:40**

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