

Value of the month – Appreciation

Newsletter 1st July 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

Government Guidance.... what next?

With a limited number of days to go before the end of term, Headteachers across the nation are all really looking forward to today's Government briefing to see what the 'official' Government Guidance is going to be for schools! We are anticipating, from the 'leaked' documents in the press, that children will be back in their normal class groupings, but with various restrictions in place and us all maintaining the handwashing and additional cleaning that is already taking place in school. I will of course be writing again once this is known and I can confirm arrangements for September. The Staff and I will have a lot of planning to do in a short space of time so that we can tell you what is happening and we can all have a lovely start back in September. Please bear with us in the next two weeks.



In addition, with the latest Leicester Lockdown, we will be watching the COVID situation very carefully across the summer holidays. The situation, I am sure, will continue to change through July and August and we will let you all know of any changes as soon as we can, so please do keep an eye on the website and our Facebook Page.

Drop Off and Pick Up: Please can we ask those parents dropping off and picking up to be extra careful on site. We have seen some dangerous drop offs and pick ups this week and we do not want any child, or adult, being knocked over. No child should be dropped off and allowed to exit or enter the car on the bend of the roundabout. This has crept in over the week. There are too many cars doing this and cars are coming around the bend too quickly and may not stop in time. If there is no parking on site please park off site and walk in. Some Parents are also parking on the bend – not in a parking bay and across the Sunnydown gates – please do not do this. Mr Jensen (Sunnydown Head) has been in touch – they need access to their parking area. This is the first time since lockdown in March that I have had to comment on inconsiderate and dangerous driving, which is a shame. We just want everyone to be sensible and to stay safe at this time. Thank you.

Please continue to read the information and look at the children's work below.

**Best wishes,
Mrs Wheeler and Staff**

Value of the Month: Our Value for June is **Appreciation**. Please do discuss all aspects of this important Value with your children. It seems particularly appropriate in these difficult times to consider the all the things we have perhaps come to appreciate and value more.

Religious Education (RE) Newsletter Do remember to read our **weekly RE Newsletter**, which is there to support the spiritual side of our school and have a look at the information in the links. It can be found on the website – ‘Parents’ tab – RE Newsletters. Thank you to Mrs Fawcett who has been creating the Newsletter on a weekly basis.

Increases to the provision for the children of Critical Workers and opening more widely

As many more of our ‘critical worker’ parents have been required to return to work in the last weeks, we are now at capacity with our class groups and staffing. We regret that at present we cannot open more widely for Year 1 and Reception. We know how frustrating this is for parents who are on the waiting lists and it is very disappointing for the Staff and me that we cannot open further at this time. We have followed the Government Guidance for Schools and prioritised school places for the children of critical workers. Unfortunately, although 1 metre distancing can be allowed elsewhere, schools are at this time still expected to follow the hierarchy of protective measures, including the 2 metre rule which limits our class group sizes.

- *Where settings can keep children and young people in those small groups 2 metres away from each other, they should do so.*
- *It is also sensible to rearrange classrooms and workshops with sitting positions 2 metres apart.*

This can be found here: www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-implementing-protective-measures-in-education-and-childcare-settings/coronavirus-covid-19-implementing-protective-measures-in-education

Home Learning Queries

Please continue to use the Class Emails for queries around home learning.

Microsoft Education – Teams Classrooms

Staff training on using Microsoft Education (similar to Google Classrooms) has begun this week and we will share details on how we intend to use this once training has been completed.

General Queries

Please use the office email office@stfrancis.surrey.sch.uk for more general queries. We monitor the office email across the day.

Poetry By Heart Competition - Congratulations!

Just as lockdown began some of our children were taking part in the Poetry By Heart Competition. Many congratulations now go to Nithali who was not only the Surrey regional winner, but who also came third in the National competition! This is a fantastic achievement. Well done Nithali – we are very proud of you.

Children’s Work in and out of School

We hope you like the photos below of some of the work being completed in school and at home:

The Y4 in school Class Group worked on learning about maths equations with nature – well done to Mrs Cox and her group.



At home Children from Year 4 Hazel Class have been creative in different ways

Daniel made Sushi, Josie created Manga illustrations and Grace painted a beautiful Blossom picture. Fantastic! Well done to you all.



Year 5 and Year 3 In School Group

Well done to the Year 5 Friday group and the Year 3 Group who made Nature Mandalas. Perhaps the home group can try this out and send in some pictures.





Whole School 'Shadow Puppet Show' Challenge

All children are invited to take part in a fun shadow puppet show challenge this week. This is optional. Instructions have been sent to all children with their home learning, and the deadline for **entries is Monday the 6th July.**

This project can be accessed by children in all year groups; however, younger children may need more adult support. Videos should be about 3 minutes long.

Teachers will choose one show per class which we hope to publish on the school website! Winners will be chosen based on effort and creativity.

We hope that this project motivates and engages those children still working hard at home, as well as those who have been in school. If you need inspiration – google shadow puppets.

Watch this space for our whole school sports day/physical challenge coming soon...

RNLI Water Safety Advice

Important Water Safety message to Schools from the RNLI - James Woodhouse, RNLI Water Safety Education Manager South East.

This summer, our Lifeguards cannot be everywhere, meaning a heightened water safety risk to beach goers. We are asking you to help us share some important messages to children and their families. Although you may be a fair distance from the beach, we are seeing an increase in distances people are travelling to visit the coast, therefore it is important that we share the messaging inland as well as coastally.

We have already seen the influx of beach goers in the past few weeks after some of the restrictions were lifted and the summer weather arrived. In a normal year, the RNLI helps thousands of people who end up getting into difficulty in or close to the water when doing these types of activities.

Throughout the summer term, our local team of trained volunteers and Lifeguards do their best to visit as many of the schools, colleges and youth groups in our region as possible.

However, due to the ongoing coronavirus outbreak we have not been able to engage with school communities as we normally would in your region.

We have taken the time over the last couple of months to carefully condense and design our resources which are aimed at primary and secondary school children, whilst also ensuring they are appropriate to be taught from home or through online classrooms. This can be by a parent, guardian or teacher.

Below, you will find out ways in which you can help at this time.

Download and use our Water Safety from Home Resources. <https://rnli.org/youth-education/water-safety-from-home>

Educating young people about how to keep safe, in, on and around water is fundamental to saving lives at sea and a core part of the RNLI's water safety activity. This term we have put together two downloadable packs of resources focusing on keeping safe this summer.

Beach lifeguards cannot be everywhere this summer – it is vital every one of us takes responsibility for our own, and our families', safety. <https://rnli.org/pages/beach2020>

Our beach safety resources are also available for download to use on social media and online. https://rnli.org/pages/beach-safety-resources?utm_source=compass&utm_medium=referral&utm_campaign=beachsafety_2020&utm_content=bebeachsaferesources_compassarticle

Foodbank and Crisis Support

As the lockdown continues we know that some families may be experiencing difficulties. Do please contact me via the office email office@stfrancis.surrey.sch.uk if you experience difficulties during the coming weeks. Any matters discussed will be treated with confidentiality. I have access to those that can support families via the local Foodbank, the Church SVP and Diocese Crisis Fund. Do not hesitate to ask – there is no need for any of our families to be in need, especially for food.

Surrey Support for Families Links

Surrey Local Authority have created a web page to help parents and carers be aware of what telephone and online support is available at the moment. These include juggling work commitments with educating children from home, concerns about finance and the uncertainty this period creates. The links are below:

- SCC Advice <https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/people-and-community/families/support-and-advice/keeping-your-family-safe/coronavirus-covid-19-resources-and-helpful-information>
- [Domestic abuse](#)
- [Emotional wellbeing support for children](#)
- [Grief and bereavement](#)
- [Health, development and wellbeing advice](#)
- [LGBTQ+ services](#)
- [Parent/carer support](#)
- [Special Educational Needs and Disability \(SEND\)](#)
- [Support for young people](#)

Masses

Father Seán and Father Stephen are saying Mass via the Sacred Heart Livestream each day <https://www.churchservices.tv/caterham> . Do keep looking at the Church websites for information on 'online' Services.

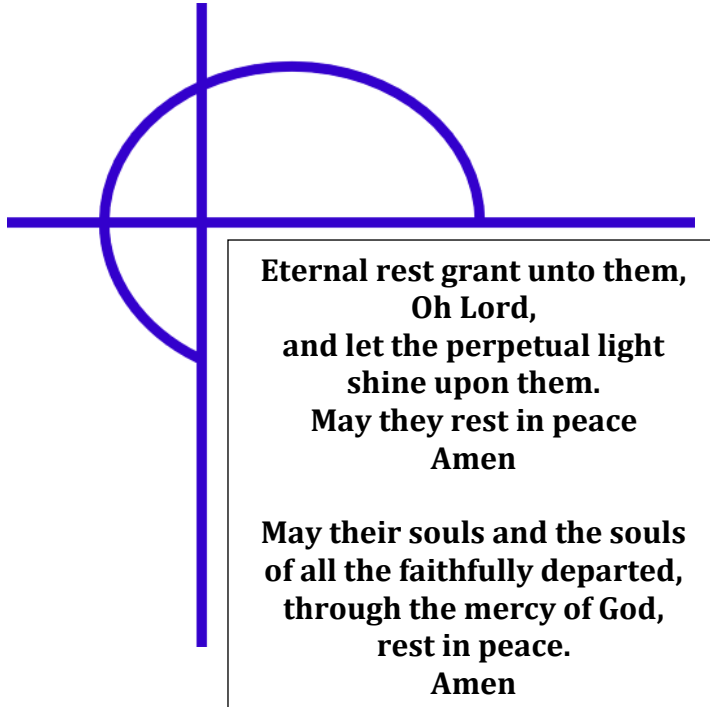
Father Seán has also been uploading, under 'Featured Videos', a History of the Church Course, which Parents may wish to view and listen to.



Special Thoughts and Prayers for Our School Community

Please pray for our whole school community us all at this difficult time. For our Priests, our Parents and family members who are critical workers. For those who have been ill and thankfully recovered, and especially for all those currently in hospital and for those who have sadly lost their lives.

We send our deepest sympathy and prayers for strength, peace and comfort to our families who have lost loved ones.



Sites that may help with explanations for children and adults on the issues of the virus and on dealing with bereavement in this time of crisis are listed below:

<https://www.cruse.org.uk/get-help/coronavirus-dealing-bereavement-and-grief>

<https://www.mind.org.uk/information-support/coronavirus/coronavirus-and-your-wellbeing/>

<https://www.winstonswish.org/coronavirus/>

<https://www.childbereavementuk.org/>

<https://www.jigsawsoutheast.org.uk/charity-news/as-coronavirus-spreads-what-you-need-to-know/>

Many of our families will be experiencing illness, recoveries and bereavements, which is particularly hard in these difficult times. Please do tell the class teacher, or myself about any concerns around family illness and recovery or bereavement as we can help you and the children access any support needed.

We have Mrs Hamilton our Emotional Literacy Support Advisor (ELSA) available now and our Primary Mental Health Worker will be available once we are back in school.

Wellbeing, Mental Health and SEND Support

Please remember that we will not be aware of your worries, or those of your children, unless you share them with us and we actively encourage you to contact us for any help. We monitor our emails and will ring you – we are always happy to talk things through and help or signpost if there are worries or concerns. If you require any specific well-being or SEND

support for you and your family please do contact Mrs Dommett via the link on the SEND Information page (under the School Information tab) of our website.

General queries can be made via the office email office@stfrancis.surrey.sch.uk.

This link may be of use for supporting wellbeing at home: <https://eikon.org.uk/for-professionals/eikon-in-schools/head-smart-camhs-partnership/wellbeing-at-home/>

Online Safety & Reporting Problems

ALERT – ZOOM APP: Please check that the security settings and passwords are firmly in place if you or your children are using Zoom. This may be of assistance:

<https://zoom.us/docs/doc/Securing%20Your%20Zoom%20Meetings.pdf>

In light of the new ways we are all finding to communicate and to access online learning it is timely to remind everyone of the following sites that may be supportive for reporting and learning about online safety. Please check that your Parental Controls are in place and that the sites the children are accessing are monitored closely. Also, continue to discuss online safety with the children regularly and keep reminding them to tell you if something worries them.

Primary age Parental Help sheets can be found here:

https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/?utm_source=Thinkuknow&utm_campaign=176d7bc4c3-

[TUK ONLINE SAFETY AT HOME 30 06 20&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_0b54505554-176d7bc4c3-64767209](https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/?utm_source=Thinkuknow&utm_campaign=176d7bc4c3-64767209)

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/professionals/our-views/parents-helpsheets/>

<https://reportharmfulcontent.com/>

<https://www.childline.org.uk/>

<https://www.ceop.police.uk/safety-centre/>

<https://www.internetmatters.org/>

<https://www.lgfl.net/online-safety>

<https://www.net-aware.org.uk/>

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/> (Also has a section for children to support their understanding of online safety)

<https://parentinfo.org/>

<https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/advice-centre/parents-and-carers>