

St. Francis' School Newsletter

4th April 2025



Value of the month – Courage

Dear Parents and Carers

It has been six months since St. Francis' Catholic Primary School joined Xavier Catholic Education Trust, so it is a good time to let you know about some of the initiatives we have been working on. If your child attends Treetops, you will have noticed we have embarked on a re-furbishment of the accommodation. A deep clean and new storage, alongside the relocation of the music equipment to its new home in the rear of the main hall, means more space for children to eat, play and relax. We are really grateful to the Xavier Estates Team who carried out this work over the February half term.

We have launched a number of curriculum initiatives, mainly around reading. Since September, our KS2 children have been becoming 'Master Readers'. This is a new scheme at St. Francis, focusing on excellence after phonics, which has resulted in excellent outcomes for children across Xavier Catholic Education Trust. We are lucky to be working with Miss Natalie Bye, a Master Readers expert from one of our Beacon Master Reader schools. In addition, we are planning work with Sussex Library Service, to ensure high quality texts to support our learning in fiction and non-fiction. Later this year, we will be training our entire teaching and learning support staff in 'Read Write Inc', a programme that supports early reading and writing, as well as providing intervention for struggling older readers.

Our Learning Support Assistants joined Xavier colleagues from throughout the Trust on a bespoke training day at our Salesian 6th Form College in Chertsey. They spent the day learning about positive ways to deal with children's behaviour in the classroom and on the playground. Ask your children about the new ways we are encouraging them to be 'ready, respectful and safe'. One of them includes wearing our school uniform with pride – shirts tucked in, ties on for the juniors and school shoes rather than trainers.

Finally, and most importantly, we are beginning to launch our new vision statement for the school which we have based on the prayer of St. Francis: At St. Francis' Catholic Primary School, we believe that children are beautifully and wonderfully made: they make God's world a better place.

With Christ as our guide:

**we pray together to nurture faith; we learn together to seek truth;
we look to our future with hope; we aspire to be the light;
to make our school a place of joy.**

Thank you, Goodbye and Good Luck!

Today it is with sadness for us we say Goodbye to Miss Pylypenka who has worked at the school since May 2024. Congratulations to Mr Murphy who also leaves us today to go to St John's in a promoted post as interim Deputy Headteacher. We wish them the very best of luck in their new endeavours and thank them for their hard work and dedication to all the pupils at St Francis.



Holy Week Reflections

This week has been a wonderful reminder to all the children of why we celebrate Easter.

Each day a different Year group has taken responsibility for sharing a part of the story and leading us in songs and prayer. Thank you to all the staff and children for their work in creating these shared occasions for us. It has also been lovely to be joined by so many parents this week- thank you!

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Catholic Children's Society

Thank you so much to the many families that have returned the purple boxes full of coins. The money raised will be going to the CCS which use it to fund emergency support in our local area. For more details please visit their website. <https://www.cathchild.org.uk/>



Sports News

On Tuesday this week our team of Y5 & 6s took part in the county finals of Sportshall Athletics held at Guildford Spectrum. They had qualified for this competition at the previous event earlier in the year. The standard was tough and much more competitive than before, but each and every member of the team gave it their absolute best. When the results were announced, St. Francis had placed 11th but this was out of almost 400 schools in Surrey and they also beat St. John's - the team that had finished ahead of us in the previous round! Every member of the team should be incredibly proud of their performances, they were true representatives of the school. Massive thanks to all the staff and parents who helped us to organise this event, we could not have done it without you!

Congratulations

Congratulations to Leo in Beech Class for landing a voice-over role in Hey Duggee! What an amazing opportunity- we can't wait to see what's next for you!



Celebration Assembly

Well done to all those certificate winners this week and to **Thomas More House** for winning the House Points Cup.

Best wishes, for a wonderful and Holy Easter break.

Mrs McGrath and Staff



The staff and I wish you all a Happy and Holy Easter



Calendar Dates

22 nd April	School Reopens @ 9am
9 th May	Year 5 Trip to Gatton Park
15 th May	Year 4 Trip to High Ashurst Year 3 Trip to Frylands Wood
26 th May – 30 th May	Half Term Break
2 nd June	School Reopens @9am

Absence Procedures

In August 2024 the DFE published new guidance with regard to attendance in schools, 'Working together to improve school attendance'. The Children's Commissioner for England has put together a document outlining why attending school regularly is so important for children and parents' responsibilities. If children are taken out of school without authority for 5 or more days (which do not have to be consecutive), Please see grid below.

Absence Category	0 - 21 Days	22 -28 Days	More than 28 Days
First Absence since 19 August 2024	£80	£160	Prosecution
Second Absence (within 3 years of first Penalty Issue date)	£160	£160	Prosecution
Third Absence (within 3 years of first Penalty Issue date)	N/A	N/A	Prosecution

ST GEORGE'S DAY FAMILY FUN NIGHT

SAT
26TH
APRIL

DOORS OPEN
6PM - 11PM

KIDS GO FREE!

FOR THE KIDS!

- FREE SOFT PLAY
- TATTOOS, FACE PAINTS & BALLOONS
- OPTIONAL FANCY DRESS!

FOR THE ADULTS!

- FULLY LICENSED BAR
- DJ PLAYING ENGLISH HITS FROM 7PM
- HILARIOUS PHOTO OPPORTUNITIES WITH OUR PATRIOTIC INFLATABLE PROPS
- PLUS! A MEGA RAFFLE TO BE DRAWN

scan to book!



ADULTS
£5 ONLINE
£8 ON THE DOOR

KIDS GO FREE!

the arc **THE ARC**
39 WESTON DRIVE
CR3 5XY

FISH, CHUNKY CHIPS & PEAS. AVAILABLE TO BUY UNTIL 7:30PM



ROTARY EASTER BUNNY FUN RUN



SUNDAY 13th April 2025

1 km Fun Run starts 10.00 a.m.
5Km Race starts at 10.30 a.m.

All finishers will receive an Easter Egg
Prizes for 'Best Dressed Bunnies'



**Queens Park
Caterham-on-the-Hill**

Registration Fee and a Signed Form are required for each runner
£5.00 1km Fun Run | **£7.00** 5km Race
DOUBLE ON THE DAY

Enter Online caterhamrotary.org.uk/event

Or by mail: **Rotary Runs, 11a Queens Park Road, Caterham, Surrey CR3 5RB**



North Downs Hospital
Part of Ramsay Health Care

ROSS CYCLES

Vet on the hill

CR₂ CR₂
CR₂
RH₆
RH₆ TN₁₆

TESCO

cornvale
heating

ROKWOOD COURT
CINNAMON LUXURY CARE

Whoop!
FITNESS & WELLBEING



School Disco

Thank you to all of the volunteers that supported the disco's last week, the children had so much fun! They were a big hit!!

Summer Fayre – 4th July 2025

The school Summer Fayre will be taking place on Friday 4th July this year.

There will be a planning meeting arranged shortly to begin to make arrangements for the fayre, the date for this will be given after the Easter holidays – for those that can't make it in person you will be able to attend via Zoom.

Save the Date!!!



4th October 2025

We are really excited to announce that we will be having a laser show at the school on 4th October 2025 –
More details to follow nearer the time

Thank you!

PTA

Last week's riddle: David's parents have three sons: Snap, Crackle, and what's the name of the third son? Answer: David

This week's riddle: I follow you all the time and copy your every move, but you can't touch me or catch me. What am I?