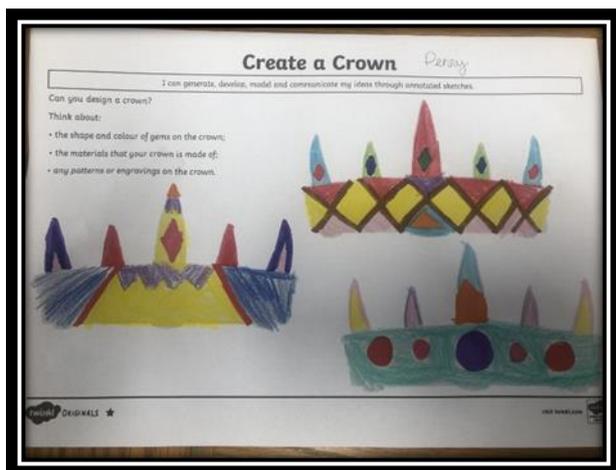


Value of the month – Courage

COVID-19 - Stay Home, Protect the NHS & Stay Safe - Week 3!



Dear Parents and Carers

Home Activities and Learning: We do hope that you like the pictures. If you are happy for photos to be shared in our newsletter, do send us pictures of your family activities, so we can share some of the things we are all doing at home.

Well done and thank you to Penny for the lovely photo of the Crown Design and to Jack, Dougie and Max who have been helping make a 'rag rug'. Well done also to our school critical worker children and staff team finished off the Seasons Posters last week.



Message from Nathalie Walsh and our Governors: On behalf of the Governors we would like to thank parents for their support and understanding and for keeping their children at home wherever possible. The safest option for the whole community is that any child who can stay at home does. We would also like to take this opportunity to thank all critical workers in our community; the teachers and school staff, NHS workers, and all the roles that are critical to keeping us safe and fed while the world battles against the virus. The rest of us are staying at home, which is also saving lives. The phrase 'Health is Wealth' has never been truer. At these times we are reminded of the most important things; our family, friends, community, prayers and love. We hope, in all this chaos, you have a peaceful Easter at home and we look forward to seeing a full playground again soon, full of the happy, kind, fun-loving and talented children that we are all so proud of.

Dean & Denny's Facebook Page – It is great to see so many of you enjoying this page and taking part in the exercises and competitions. Well done to everyone for their picture entries and to the winners: Jakub for his Eagle, Alex for his Giraffe and Hayden for his Skate Park.

Value of the Month: Our Value for April is Courage – something we are all having to find in these difficult times. As we are not in school please do discuss all aspects of this important Value with your children.

Holy Week Services and 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 Holy Week '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

We are beginning to get messages from our families, staff and friends who are very sadly being affected by this awful virus. Please can I ask all our families and staff to find some time each day to come together and keep praying for us all. There is always comfort and strength to be found in our prayers for one another. If you would like a prayer request for family members affected by the virus, please do let us know.

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/>

Foodbank and Crisis Support

Do please contact me via the office email office@stfrancis.surrey.sch.uk if you experience difficulties during the coming weeks. We monitor the email daily. 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.

Wellbeing, Mental Health and SEND Support

The coming weeks will be difficult for all families. We will not be aware of your worries unless you share them and we actively encourage you to contact us for any help – even if it is just to talk through worries. 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 page of our website, or for other queries via the office email admin@stfrancis.surrey.sch.uk.

Home Learning

The Staff will not be setting any home learning for the Easter Holidays. This will give families time just to be together and to 'catch up' on any outstanding home learning. Please do not worry if you cannot manage the learning, the class emails are in place – just let the teachers know if you are having difficulties. We don't want any family stressing over home learning. A little bit at a time is all that is needed. Just try and maintain reading, spelling and timestables practice sessions. (It is good to see our children playing against our Deanery Schools on Timestables Rockstars – keep going on the next challenge!)

School Opening for Vulnerable Children and children of Key Workers

Easter Holidays: The school is currently closed as most families have leave or care arranged. If you need to contact us please do so through: office@stfrancis.surrey.sch.uk

Please remember as we enter the most critical period - The updated Government advice is clear that even for Vulnerable Children and those children of Critical Workers – **where there is someone at home, the children are safest looked after at home** in order to reduce the spread of the disease. Please respect this, we do not want any child or adult exposed to the virus when there is a safe alternative at home.

Online Safety & Reporting Problems

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.

ALERT – ZOOM APP: Please be aware that if you are using Zoom there have been some very unfortunate incidents of 'hacking' reported on this site when security controls have not been set properly. Please check that the security settings are firmly in place if you or your children are using Zoom.

<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>

Best wishes,

Mrs Wheeler, the Staff and Governors