

Value of the month – Peace

[COVID-19 - Stay Home, Protect the NHS & Stay Safe!](#)



Dear Parents and Carers

[Our 'Message' Video](#)

Thank you for the many kind messages and comments about our message video. We are glad you enjoyed our messages. It made us cry too when we saw it put together. The video is on the website under the 'Our School' tab – St Francis' Life in Lockdown. We shall add more content to the page as we go.

[Religious Education \(RE\) Newsletter](#)

We have added our new weekly RE Newsletters to the website – 'Parents' tab – RE Newsletters. Please do take time to read it and have a look at the information in the links.

As part of our Monday assembly, we read the Sunday Gospel and discuss aspects of it with the children. If you would like to continue this we have added the Gospel reference for and the TenTen Assembly resource link to help accompany it.

As May is the 'Month of Mary' we would focus on praying the Hail Mary in school. Please could you support us in this by encouraging the children to use the prayer this month. The younger children would be learning the words of the Hail Mary, so saying this prayer regularly in order for the children to learn it would be most appreciated.

[Value of the Month:](#) Our Value for May is Peace. As we are not in school please do discuss all aspects of this important Value with your children.

All Together Anti-Bullying and Well-Being Gold Award

Some good news was received just as we went into lockdown, St Francis' was awarded the Gold Standard Anti-Bullying Charter Mark. Congratulations to all the children for their work towards the award and to Mrs Dommett and Miss Denny for all their work leading this. It is a well-deserved achievement.



Green Flag Eco Schools Award: Our prestigious 'Green Flag' is now flying on our new flag pole! Thank you to Miss McCutcheon, the Eco Warriors, and all the children in school for their work towards achieving the award. A special thank you too to Mr Colyear for embedding and hoisting the flag pole!

The children currently in school are doing a great job of keeping up the good 'eco' work by litter picking once a week while on our daily mile walk around the school field.

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.

Re-Opening of Schools

I am sure that you are all seeing the constant press speculation at present about the re-opening plans for schools. We know that you must be as fed up with all the speculation and waiting as we are! There is nothing we all want more than to be back, but it must be when it is safe to do so. Headteachers were asked to respond to a survey on Friday 1st May from the National Association of Headteachers (NAHT) on the variety of ways that this could be achieved, and issues around re-opening safely. Today Heads also took part in an NAHT Q&A session online about our concerns over re-opening. I am afraid that we are all still non-the-wiser on what will be announced on Sunday! The teaching unions are, however, very much working with the Government to ensure that we only open when it has been planned and safe for both children and staff. I am sure we will all be watching Sunday's briefing with interest!

Please be assured, that will manage whatever the transition may be when we know. It will all be dependent on advice from the Government, the DfE, Unions and Surrey Local Authority Education Department.

The staff and I are already planning a 'recovery curriculum' that includes time for re-adjustment, time to talk and explore well-being, as well as time to regain routines and begin to pick up learning with the children. We are used to dealing with children of all abilities, children returning after a long summer holiday, children starting the school mid-way through years, missing learning through hospital stays, starting school with English as an additional

language etc. We will share further information on any transition plans as soon as we can after Sunday's announcement.

[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:

<https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/people-and-community/families/support-and-advice/keeping-your-family-safe/coronavirus-covid-19-resources-and-helpful-information>

- **[Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) general information and advice](#)**
- **[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](#)**

[Home Learning Queries](#)

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

[General Queries](#)

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

[Masses](#)

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

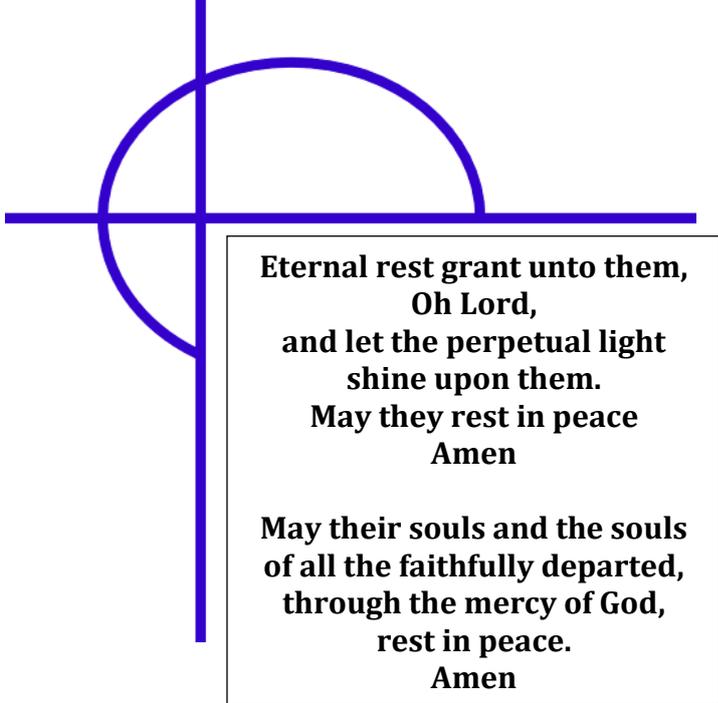
Father Seán has also been uploading, under 'Featured Videos', a History of the Church Course, which Parents may wish to view and listen to.



[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 recently.



**Eternal rest grant unto them,
Oh Lord,
and let the perpetual light
shine upon them.
May they rest in peace
Amen**

**May their souls and the souls
of all the faithfully departed,
through the mercy of God,
rest in peace.
Amen**

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 also want to continue to support all our children once we return to school.

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: There continues to be news reports about Zoom and inappropriate 'hacking' issues, when security controls have not been set properly. 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 sheet can be found here:

<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>

VE Day – We wish all our families a happy bank holiday weekend and hope you like our school VE display (pictured above). If you are out cycling or walking, do pop by and have a look.

Best wishes,

Mrs Wheeler, the Staff and Governors