

St. Francis' School Newsletter

2nd October 2020



Value of the month – Responsibility

Dear Parents and Carers

Individual School Photographs

We have arranged for individual photographs to be taken of all the children on Monday 5th October 2020. Please can you ensure that your children are looking smart. All junior children should wear ties with their shirts for the photos. Unfortunately, this will mean that classes will not have PE on Monday, so full uniform must be worn. If you have any problems, please contact the school office.

Thank you to our families!

The Staff and I would just like to say 'thank you' for all your support with the Covid measures we have had to put in place. These are difficult times and we appreciate you all being careful, trying to keep distanced and keeping us informed when we have family members awaiting test results. If you have any concerns or queries around illness, the office ladies are now experts in giving helpful advice around Covid processes! Do ring if you are unsure about anything, we are happy to help.

Staffing Arrangements

In the current climate, we are taking measures to ensure that we keep the whole school community as safe as possible and this influences processes around our staffing too. With the need for individuals to self-isolate if they, or a family member, experience symptoms and they are awaiting test results there are likely to be higher incidences of staff absence than normal. As we have to restrict staff movement across year groups this means that there are fewer options for existing staff to cover each other. In the case of teacher absence, we will always try to cover this with another of our own teachers if at all possible. We are only using supply cover where there is no other option thus, reducing the increased risks associated with supply teachers who work across many different schools.

If a teacher cannot physically be with their class due to isolation, but they are well and can still plan work remotely, there may be occasional times where our teaching assistants will cover classes and they will be supported by other staff members. Although this situation is not ideal, it allows us some consistency, enables children to be supported by adults with whom they are familiar, who are working within the same year-group bubble and who have worked closely with the class teacher. This minimises the disruption to the children's education, as well as reducing movement between year groups and the need for further adults to come to the school site. We apologise if you find on occasions that your child's class is being taught by more people than usual and ask that you bear with us through these challenging times. Thank you for your understanding.

Communicating with School

Please remember that the best contact for the school is office@stfrancis.surrey.sch.uk This email address is monitored throughout the school day and your query will be passed on to the relevant person. Please note that the class emails that were established during lockdown are now used solely for teachers passing on messages and academic work to parents. If you have a concern or query only relevant for your child's class teacher, please put a note in your child's planner, or speak to your child's teacher at the end of the day.

Road Closures, parking and a request from local residents

The Headteacher's of all three schools have received a request from residents in local roads asking us to remind our parents to show respectful and considerate behaviour towards the residents and the environment when parking. A number of them are elderly, vulnerable and wheelchair bound and there has been some less than thoughtful behaviour experienced by some of them lately, as well as litter being thrown in gardens and on the pavements, some of this by pupils too. At St Francis' we pride ourselves on our school values - this month is to show how we can be responsible! Therefore, please can we all remember to show consideration to the local residents and their properties.

We are aware that the recent road closures are causing real issues and have heard reports in the last two days of dangerous driving on the main Whyteleafe Road. Please do be careful and patient when driving in and out of school, we do not want any child or adult to be involved in an accident. We still actively encourage you all when possible to walk or scoot to school, or to park down by the Salmon's Lane green and walk in.

Have a lovely weekend - best wishes,
Mrs Wheeler and Staff

2020- 2021 Dates

5 th	October	Individual school photographs
9 th	October	Inset Day- Whole School Training – Talk for Writing
12 th	October	Inset Day- Whole School Training – Talk for Writing
Parents Evening Dates TBC after the half term.		

Vacancies

We are currently looking for:

Two **Midday Supervisors** (one for Year 5 working 5 hours a week and one for Reception working 6.25 hours per week). There is one job profile and one job description to cover both positions on the website. The closing date for applications for these is **Tuesday 6th October at 5pm**

Caterham School Open Event



Parents are welcome to attend the Caterham School virtual Open Morning on Saturday 19 September from 9.30am.

Details, including registration for this event, can be found here: <https://www.caterhamschool.co.uk/admissions/open-days-and-visits/>

'de Stafford School Open Event

'de Stafford School will be hoping a Virtual Open Event on Thursday 8 October.



Please complete this online form to register your interest: <https://forms.gle/vSSeoZ2XqQCWEsy2A>

The Virtual Open Event will include:

- Welcome presentations from the Executive Headteacher and Head of School
- A Virtual Tour of the school
- Video testimonials from staff, students and parents
- Curriculum and Admissions information
- The opportunity to submit your questions to the Senior Leadership Team"

Families Magazine

Dear Parent/Carer,

We're pleased to be able to send you the Sep/Oct Families magazine. It is full of resources and ideas to help you and your family through the autumn term and to keep your children entertained, busy and productive.

You can read the magazine [here](#).

We hope you enjoy it.

Enjoy
Autumn
with
Families
Magazine



Health, Wellbeing and Emotional Wellbeing Support for Children in Surrey

Guide for Parents and Carers, September 2020

Your child's health and wellbeing is important to us and now more than ever we want to ensure you know how to access the right advice, guidance and support for your family at the right time. This brief guide aims to summarise the key resources available to help maintain your child's wellbeing and address any emotional needs.

Health Concerns



NHS

It's not a 999
emergency, but you
need medical help fast.

Call 111 for medical advice, assessment and
direction to the best medical treatment for you.

www.nhs.uk/111

If your child is unwell or has an injury and you are not sure what to do call NHS 111. They are available 24/7 and will get you the right support and help.

Visit WWW.NHS.UK to find information and advice on health conditions, symptoms, healthy living, medicines and how to get help.

It's still important to get help from your GP if you need it. Contact your surgery for advice.

In an emergency always call 999

Family Information Service

Information and signposting service for families with children aged 0 – 19 in Surrey covering childcare, education, family finance and wellbeing plus COVID-19 resources.
www.surreycc.gov.uk/people-and-community/families

Family Community NHS Services

Children and Family Health Surrey is your local NHS service providing health and care services for families with children aged 0 – 19.

Health visitors, community and school nurses and therapists provide advice and care for health and wellbeing concerns. Contact their advice line for advice on all aspects of child health, development and parenting or visit the website for useful and practical information.

0 – 19 Advice line: 01883 340 922
8am-5pm Mon-Fri exc Bank Hols

www.childrenshealthsurrey.nhs.uk



COVID-19 & Returning to School

Surrey County Council has a dedicated web page with information on returning to school this autumn and how to stay safe.

www.surreycc.gov.uk/people-and-community/emergency-planning-and-community-safety/coronavirus/schools-and-childcare

Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health Resources

Every Mind Matters

Advice for parents and carers on looking after your child's mental health and self care videos for young people:

www.nhs.uk/oneyou/every-mind-matters



Young Minds

Useful tips and ideas for how to support your children with worries or mental health problems:

youngminds.org.uk/find-help/for-parents/supporting-your-child-during-the-coronavirus-pandemic/

MindEd for Families

Advice and information from specialists and parents to help you understand what problems occur and what you can do best to support your family: www.minded.org.uk

Childline

Counselling service for children and young people available any time via phone or online:

childline

ONLINE, ON THE PHONE, ANYTIME
childline.org.uk | 0800 1111

Free Online Parenting Guides: Children and Teenagers

Online guides to help you understand your child's emotional development to improve your relationship. Each guide has around 10 sessions of roughly 20 minutes each, there are activities that can be carried out between sessions:

childrenshealthissurrey.nhs.uk/services/free-online-guides-families

Surrey Wellbeing Parenting Facebook Page

Plenty of ideas and tips to help you meet the emotional and developmental needs of your children right now. www.facebook.com/Surrey-Wellbeing-Partnership-103386114667958

The Surrey Wellbeing Partnership is a group of voluntary sector organisations working together to help improve the wellbeing of Surrey children, young people and families. Contact your school to see if there is a charity working with your school.

Qwell for SEND Children

Online emotional wellbeing support for parents and carers of children and young people with special educational needs and disability in Surrey: www.qwell.io

Kooth.com

Online mental wellbeing support for children from 10 years upwards in Surrey including a virtual chat with a trained member of the team. www.kooth.com

kooth

Free online counselling support for young people!