

St. Francis' School Newsletter

13th November 2020



Value of the month – Respect

Dear Parents and Carers

Pick-Up

Thank you all for your support with the new pick-up arrangements and patience while we make adjustments. It is certainly allowing us all more space to keep distanced. Thank you too for wearing masks on site, whilst it is helping to keep us safer we have all noticed that it is making talking to each other trickier as sound is muffled – we will all just have to speak a little louder and bear with this!

Exciting news for one of our pupils!

Who can spot the St Francis' pupil in the John Lewis advert? What an amazing opportunity and a great message in the advert. Well done to Natalia!

<https://twitter.com/jlandpartners/status/1327144164933308416?s=20>

Red Wednesday

On **Wednesday 25th November 2020**, ALL pupils (and staff) are asked to come to school dressed in their uniform with an item of clothing or accessory that is red for world-wide Red Wednesday. Red Wednesday is a day to gather together to draw attention to the plight of those who are persecuted and oppressed for their religious beliefs.

We shall be saying prayers in class and each key stage will have an assembly on the topic of, 'Freedom to Believe'. No donation is requested. If you would like further information on this, please visit this website:

<https://acnuk.org/our-campaigns/redwednesday/>

Microsoft Class Notebooks

Well done to all of the Junior children who have now logged on to Microsoft Class Notebooks at school this week and practised working online so they are ready in the event of a bubble closure. We shall be sending home details next week so parents can practise at home with the children.

Good things on being back in school in Covid times:

- PE: Wearing PE kits into school has a positive side – the children are having more PE time as they do not have to spend so much time changing.
- Children are more organised and self sufficient and better at managing themselves.
- Children have a new found appreciation of school and their friends
- The children are normally well mannered, but saying good morning and goodbye is making for a very cheerful and positive vibe in school.
- Treetops Wrap Around Care: we are receiving lots of positive feedback about how Treetops is a fun and safe place for children to play after school.

Treetops Wrap Around Care

Please note that if you need occasional childcare time after school, for example for a bit of peace while shopping or doing extra work in these difficult times, you can book a one-off short stay 3:30-4:30 on an occasional basis. Costs are: 3.30-4.30 = £5.50 (longer sessions are available)

Roundabout Safety Reminder

The children have been reminded in school today about not running on and especially off site at pick-up time. Whilst the road is closed to the main traffic at pick-up, we do still have to allow entry and exit for one or two of our families who need to use the disabled bays and we have staff who sometimes need to leave at around that time to go and pick up their own children. Many thanks to all of you who are driving slowly and with care. Mr Colyer and I are always on the gate to keep an eye on the children and we know meeting parents and playing in the autumn leaves on the green is exciting and a big pull at present, but we need to be safe. Please try to keep the children close to you when exiting at pick-up and remind your children about crossing the road areas safely – stop, look and listen! Thank you.

Offensive Language

I was informed this week that there was an incident where some very inappropriate offensive language was used by one parent to another parent at drop off time. Please be patient at all times and refrain from using bad language. This is not in keeping with the values and ethos of our school.

Wishing everyone a happy and safe weekend.
Mrs Wheeler and Staff

Food Bank and Support for Families in Need

Please can our families be aware that the school has some access to support networks for families in need. This might be particularly important as Christmas can be a difficult time of year for some families and especially in Covid times.

If a family needs support, please do not hesitate to contact me or one of the Senior Leadership Team for details of help available. All enquires will be dealt with in utmost confidence

Any Carpenter's out there?

We are looking into costings for benches for our Prayer Garden. Do we have any Parents, family members or friends who might be able to make wooden benches? We have had an offer of a discount on wood, so are just investigating the differences in prices, between wooden benches and the heavy duty plastic ones. Please do speak to me if you have any contacts.

2020- 2021 Dates

7th & 8th December

Visit from Wintershall over two days for whole school

Workshop	Mon 7th	Tues 8th
9.00 – 10.00	Yr1 Bubble	Y2 Bubble
10.10 – 11.10	Y4 Hazel	Reception Bubble
11.30 – 12.30	Y4 Pine	Y6 Willow
1.00- 2.00	Y6 Linden	Y5 Maple
2.10 – 3.10	Y3Bubble	Y5 Hornbeam

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.

For the Parishes of Caterham, Whyteleafe, Oxted and Warlingham

2021-22 Catholic applications – for Reception places for St Francis' Catholic Primary School

For those needing a [Reception place in 2021-22](#), there is a [Virtual Tour of the School](#) on the Admissions page of the website. Please do remember to read and follow the Admissions instructions below. If you need any help or advice on Admissions, do contact the school Office

Extraordinarily for this year, due to the COVID situation and to best protect Fr Seán and Fr Stephen, they will not be meeting parents in person to sign the SIF forms.

The general process for applications remains the same. Before the closing date for applications:

- Parent/Carers complete their Local Authority Common Application Form online.
- Parent/Carers must also complete the **SIF** and return it **to the school minus the section usually completed by the priest**.
- The school will formally log receipt of each SIF form from each Catholic applicant.
- The school will then take all the Catholic applicants' SIFs to the priest in one go for the priests to complete the relevant section for each applicant and return to the school.
- If you wish to receive a copy of the final signed SIF, please email the school office on office@stfrancis.surrey.sch.uk.

Blue Peter on YouTube

Blue Peter is the longest running kids TV show in the world and videos are being uploading to YouTube! it is suitable for 5-11 year olds. they have world record breaking challenges, arts and crafts, environmental videos, cooking and baking how tos, inspirational films, gaming, celebrity appearances, dance routines and music performances, they also feature ways of getting a Blue Peter badge, behind the scenes footage and extra content about the incredible presenters Adam, Lindsey, Mwaksy, Richie and Henry the Blue Peter dog.

If you think your child/children would be interested, then do subscribe to <https://www.youtube.com/bluepeter> - (it's completely free to subscribe!) and don't forget to watch the live programme on CBBC at 5.30pm every week, or on BBC iPlayer.