

# St. Francis' School Newsletter

11th February 2021



## Value of the month – Caring & Friendship

**Dear Parents and Carers**

### **Well Done to every one of us!**

I would like to say many congratulations and well done to every child, parent and the staff members who have all worked so hard to make the last few weeks of remote and in-school learning such a success. It has been hard on us all in various ways, but we have all demonstrated the virtue of 'Fortitude' to the full... perseverance and courage! In addition to the 'well done' certificates in yesterday's celebration assembly, led by Mrs Fawcett, I would like to say well done and thank you to our Office Staff, our School Business Manager, Brad - our site manager and to the Kitchen and Cleaning team. They all work so hard in the background and contribute to making our school a safe, positive and happy place.

**Half Term Holiday Challenges** – scroll down.

**Science Challenge:** See the Science holiday 'banana' challenge detailed below – send us some pictures!

**Share a Wave:** Positivity Activity – detailed below

**Shrove Tuesday:** Make pancakes with your families – send us some pictures!

**Lenten Promises:** draw a leaf and write your Lenten promise on it. Keep it safe until we are back at school.

**CAFOD Lenten Calendar:** this is being sent home via the class emails/Teams. It has ideas on it for Lent

**Speech and Drama Club:** Thank you to Mrs Shannon for her continuing hard work with the children in the Speech and Drama Club. Well done children for participating in the 2021 Poetry by Heart competition. See the details below.

### **For our families who have suffered bereavement**

Among all the positives there is sadness too. We send our condolences to our families who we know have suffered bereavements during the pandemic, especially those who have lost loved ones recently. We are keeping you all in our thoughts and prayers.



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

Any child or family needing support or to talk to us, can contact us in confidence, via the office. We have our in-school Rainbow group and our two ELSAs, who can help.

**Inset Day Friday 12<sup>th</sup> February:** School is closed tomorrow for our Inset Day

**Return to school for vulnerable children and children of critical workers is:** 22<sup>nd</sup> February.

We, like you, will be watching the television for any further news relating to changes in the lockdown arrangements. I am not expecting any changes, but if anything does change I shall email to let you all know.

Best wishes for the half term holiday,  
Mrs Wheeler and all the Staff

## ST FRANCIS SCHOOL SPEECH AND DRAMA CLUB

### POETRY BY HEART

As our 2020 national finalist in this prestigious competition, we are thrilled that Year 5 pupil – Nithali been invited to *The Globe Theatre* for the official Awards ceremony in the Summer.

**Congratulations** to the many St Francis Children taking part in the 2021 **Poetry by Heart** Competition (via Zoom) as well as working also towards **LAMDA** exams and the **Reigate and Redhill Music and Drama Festival**. Despite the challenges of the lockdowns, the fact our pupils are achieving so much during the pandemic demonstrates their resilience and desire to succeed, which will prepare them well for the future.

Mrs Shannon is grateful to Mr David Lawson Lean, (Director of *Kingston Junior Drama* and Head of Prep School Drama at *Notre Dame, Cobham*) for giving of his time to adjudicate our heats of the **Poetry by Heart** competition. Mr Lawson Lean has commended our pupils on the exceptionally high standard of recitation and talent of all the children from Reception up. As the deadline has been extended there is still time to take part.

### REIGATE AND REDHILL MUSIC AND DRAMA FESTIVAL 2021 (Online)

The deadline for this year's competition is 15<sup>th</sup> March. This link will take you to the website

<https://www.reigate-redhillmuisconfest.org.uk>

Contact Mrs Shannon on 01883 344373 – [faboshannon@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:faboshannon@hotmail.co.uk) for more information.



## Share a Wave!

We would like the children to spread some positivity and friendship around our community. Could the children at home create their own 'wave' and put it in their window. I am sure the children will love spotting lots of friendly waves them on walks around our community!



Sharing a wave is easy! Just draw around your hand and decorate it, then display it in your window.

### Year 6 'Spy' Persuasive Writing Unit!

Year 6 did some brilliant writing focused on persuading people to get their spy gadget. The writing was fantastic and they had an option after to create their gadget too. These are just a few of them.



## *Parents' Virtual Coffee Morning*



***Friday's at 9:30am***

As we are currently unable to run our usual Termly Coffee Mornings due to COVID-19 restrictions we will be running Virtual Coffee Mornings to offer Parents/Carers an opportunity to join together virtually in mutual support.

This will be an opportunity for parents to ask any questions or have any queries answered. It is also an informal chance to meet with other parents and carers, who may have similar experiences; we are keen to build a network of people that can provide support and encouragement with the rewarding, but challenging, life of a parent.

Please email [lorna.dommett@stfrancis.surreysch.uk](mailto:lorna.dommett@stfrancis.surreysch.uk) to request the link to the Zoom.

**The next coffee morning is on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> February – after half term.**

## Science at St Francis

As part of our mission to provide and deliver quality science learning opportunities at St Francis, we would like to introduce a weekly science experiment for our families to have a go at home! They are aimed at all ages and great fun for everyone to get involved in. Each experiment will require very little in terms of resourcing and there is an explanation of the science to support in understanding what, why or how something has happened.

We would really love it if you can take photographs or 'write up' what you did as a family and then if you can send these into your child's class teacher and these will all then be collated and used as part of our display in school.

2 of our science principles are:

- Children are engaged and interested in finding out about the world around them.
- Children are curious; they ask questions, discuss and explore ideas.

So, hopefully these fantastic experiments will engage us all and remind us that SCIENCE MATTERS! We can't wait to see you enjoying science at home!

# At St Francis, Science matters!



## Science Experiment

### Message on a Banana

Can you use your cocktail stick to draw a picture on the banana skin?

What colour has your picture become?



## Message on a Banana

### Science Experiment

#### Method

1. Use the cocktail stick to mark a pattern, draw a picture, or write a message on the banana skin. Press firmly enough to dent the skin, but not too hard to break through the skin.
2. Wait for the message, picture, or pattern to appear.

#### You will need:

Banana  
Cocktail stick



## The Science Behind the Experiment

By using the cocktail stick to bruise the banana skin, some of the banana's cells become damaged. This allows oxygen from the air in to the cell, which in turn causes the enzymes in the cells to start to oxidise chemicals in the cell. Melanin is produced, which is brown in colour.

\*Cocktail sticks can be very sharp. Children should be closely supervised during this activity and encouraged not to put the sharp end of the cocktail stick near their skin.

We would love to see a picture of you completing this experiment.  
Stay safe! Have fun!

# MY CHALLENGE

A 100 MINUTE DISCO TO RAISE AWARENESS OF  
ABDOMINAL MIGRAINES



## THE CHALLENGE

Ten 10 minute mini discos.

For my challenge I decided to do a 100 minute kitchen disco and karaoke to raise awareness of abdominal migraines which my little sister suffers from.

Abdominal migraines make my little sister Robyn very sick. She looks very pale and can go very faint when she is having an episode. She can get naughty and her tummy really hurts her. Sometimes she has to go into hospital and stay there which makes me worried. But I get to go and visit her and play in the playroom.

I have enjoyed doing my challenge very much because I've got to dance and sing with my little sisters and all my friends at school in Larch class.

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