

St. Francis' School Newsletter

26th February 2021



Value of the month – Caring & Friendship

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome back

The half term has started well and we are all looking forward to 8th March and everyone being back in school.

Returning on March 8th

Please look out for a letter early next week giving full details for the return. However, to give you a little forewarning:

Uniform: Uniform – children should return preferably in winter uniform as it will still be cold up to Easter - even though we have had some beautiful weather this week! However, if the children have outgrown their winter clothes, they may move into summer uniform early, just for this year. If they are in summer uniform, they will need lots of layers to keep them warm though and children will need long socks or tights. No ties are to be worn.

PE: Children should come into school on PE days wearing their PE kits. Plain navy tracksuits where possible. We will confirm PE days as soon as we have finalised PE rotas.

Footwear: School shoes should be worn, again however, if children have outgrown these and you want to wait to Easter when shops are (hopefully) open, then children should wear plain dark coloured trainers.

The children will still need their wellies and/or a separate spare pair of trainers for the field.

World Book Day: please see the information below – scroll down.

PTA Spring Fundraising: please see the information below – scroll down.

Treetops

Do you need a little extra time to yourselves when children return?

After supporting your children with home learning, whilst juggling all other aspects of daily life, you may feel the standard school day isn't quite long enough to get everything done, or may just want time to yourselves! Treetops could offer you a little bit of extra time after lockdown when children return to school. Remember that once you have registered your child for Treetops, you are able to book whatever sessions suit you (subject to capacity), so it can be used as and when you need it, with no long-term commitment. It will be open to all children who have registered from Monday 8th March. Your child can relax in a friendly environment and enjoy a healthy breakfast or after-school snack. The sessions are:

Breakfast club from 7.30am £7.50

Short after-school until 4.30pm £5.50

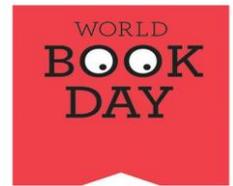
Long after-school until 6.15pm £12.50

You can pay with childcare vouchers and sessions must be booked in advance. Please contact the school office or download a registration form from the school website [here](#) (Treetops page is under 'Parent Information') and send the completed form to office@stfrancis.surrey.sch.uk

Wishing everyone a lovely weekend – let us hope the sun lasts a little longer!

Mrs Wheeler and all the Staff

World Book Day!



World Book Day is on the 4th of March this year and as we will be doing it virtually, it is going to be based around 'My Favourite Book'.

Staff in each year group will be sharing some of their favourite books with the children and we would love St Francis' parents to share their favourite books across the Zoom lessons too. Please can you let your child's teacher know if you are interested in doing this.

Throughout the day, the children will be completing a variety of activities-based on their favourite books such as: creating an artistic front cover, making a character puppet, book-based maths challenges, a books quiz, wordsearches, crosswords etc.

The PTA is also running a competition for the best book model where the children need to make a model based on their favourite book. This could be made out of junk, Lego, clay etc. (anything that you have handy at home really). The children will be asked to show their models on Zoom and the teachers will be picking one winner per class. Each winner will receive a prize. More details about this will have been sent home via your class emails.

We are also giving the children and parents a choice to dress-up as a book character for this day to make the day as fun as possible. However, if they don't want to then that is not a problem.

World Book Day vouchers are being sent electronically this year and as soon as we have received the link we will forward it to you.

We hope that you all have a wonderful World Book Day and enjoy a range of exciting books and stories!

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 to request the link to the Zoom.

At St Francis, Science matters!



Science Experiment

Bouncy Egg

What do you think the vinegar will do to the egg shell?

What do you think the vinegar will do to the egg inside the shell?

Look closely at the egg in the vinegar, what can you see?

What does this experiment smell like? Do you like it?

After 3 days.

What has happened to the egg shell?

Can you describe how the egg feels now?

Bouncy Egg

Science Experiment



Method

1. Place the boiled egg in the bowl.
2. If you would like the finished egg to be coloured, add a few drops of food colouring to the vinegar.
3. Cover the boiled egg with vinegar and cover the bowl with cling film.
4. Leave for 3-5 days.
5. After 3 days, remove the egg from the bowl and rinse the shell off the egg under a gently running tap.

You will need:

One boiled egg
White vinegar
Food colouring (optional)
Bowl
Cling film

Parents/Carers:

The activities set out in this resource are potentially hazardous. The activities are not suitable for all children and adult supervision may be required for some of the activities. It is your responsibility to assess whether the children in your care are able to safely carry out the activities and whether the children require adult supervision. You are responsible for carrying out proper risk assessments on the activities and for ensuring that activities can be carried out safely. It is also your responsibility to ensure that those participating in the activity are fit enough to do so. If you are unsure in any way, we recommend that you take guidance from a suitably qualified professional.

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Gavin Stephens
Chief Constable

Dear Parent/Carer,

In the spring of 2020 I wrote to parents and carers across Surrey to explain how The Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions), (England) Regulations 2020 applied to children and young people. Little did we know then that almost a year hence we would find ourselves in the position we are today. Lockdown measures are still in place, many of you are juggling the demands of home schooling, work and all of the other challenges in modern life. None of us know when the lockdown will end.

We do know that the impact on children and young people is huge, restricting their lives immeasurably, often with hours staring at a screen and little opportunity to exercise, see friends and explore. It is therefore really important that we all reinforce the message that the measures continue to be critical in order to protect friends, family, the NHS and the wider public.

There is light at the end of the tunnel with the rollout of the vaccination programme, but lives are still being put at risk by those who are breaching restrictions. Meeting with friends in groups prolongs the lockdown and increases the chance of spreading the virus.

Across Surrey we are seeing persistent 'hot spots' where children and young people gather – we see parties in homes and groups meeting in skate parks. This isn't exclusive to children and young people but they can be part of the solution in helping us get control of the infection rate, by following the rules.

We would ask – “Do you know where your son or daughter spends their time?”

Officers and PCSOs are doing all they can to patrol 'hot spots' - engaging, explaining and encouraging anybody in breach of regulations to adhere to the rules. Where these approaches fail, we will use our policing powers to remove that child or young person and return them home. In circumstances where we find persistent and blatant rule breaking then enforcement action will be taken against the parent or carer of that young person (under 18). For a first offence this is a £200 fine.

We understand that the restrictions on families are hugely challenging and are grateful for all that you are doing to reinforce the message with loved ones in order to keep people safe. Together we will recover from this pandemic and the more we adhere to the restrictions, the sooner that will be.

There are resources available to support families during the pandemic in relation to children and young people including:

yourpolice.uk – Instagram channel for young people to ask questions and find out more about the law and policing.

www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/ - On-line safety advice for parents

www.activesussex.org/activeathome/children-and-young-people/reboot-activesussex-activity-schedule-2/ - free online physical activity sessions for young people during this lockdown.

www.nhs.uk/oneyou/every-mind-matters/childrens-mental-health/ - Support and Advice for parents on how to help keep young people's mind stay mentally healthy

www.victimandwitnesscare.org/ - Provides an online directory of local victim and witness specialist support services.

Yours Sincerely

Gavin Stephens Chief Constable