

St. Francis' School Newsletter

12th September 2025



Value of the month – Perseverance

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to our new Reception Children and Parents!

We wish our new Reception pupils and their parents a very warm welcome to St Francis' and look forward to having them in full time next week. The children are a delight and are settling well into school life. They have enjoyed all the new toys and sandpit! If you have any queries, please do ask the class teachers.

Thank you for bringing your children in looking so enthusiastic and ready to learn. It has been a really good first full week. Uniform has also been excellent – thank you. Please remember that we are a nut-free school.

Meet the Teacher

Thank you so much for attending our "Meet the Teacher" event. It was a pleasure to welcome you and for the teachers to share insights into your child's learning journey for the year ahead. Your involvement plays a vital role in your child's education, and your presence helped make the evening both meaningful and successful. If you have any follow-up questions or would like to share feedback, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Reading at Home

It is virtually impossible to overstate the importance of your child reading regularly at home. Even 15mins a day has a huge impact over time, so please do anything you can to encourage your child to tuck up with a good book each day. The Surrey Libraries app may also save you lots of money.

Class Assemblies

We will be continuing Class led assemblies to parents. Over the course of the year, each class's parents will be invited. In the Autumn term it will be Year 6 and Year 2. In the Spring term it will be Year 5 and Year 1, and in the Summer term it will be Year 4, Year 3 and Reception. Please look out for the dates in class communications and on our newsletters. We are all looking forward to welcoming parents in to celebrate the wonderful work the children do. The theme of these will be linked to our RE learning, but may bring in other areas.

PTA

Are you interested in heading up our PTA? We have a good team who will help and support you, so be assured that you won't be left holding a hot potato! Please contact the office if you (with a friend?) are interested.

Local Interest

I have had 2 events brought to my attention: Firstly, the **Woldingham School Junior Choir Festival** on Tuesday 14 October 2025: 6.15pm – 7.30pm. We are participating and have a strong track record! Please come! Secondly, '**Saturday Plus**', which is a "programme to boost pupil premium primary school children's access to academically selective independent and state-maintained grammar schools." For more information, go to <https://www.caterhamschool.co.uk/about/engagement/saturdayplus/>

Teacher recruitment – Xavier Teach SouthEast

If you know of anyone considering a career change or who would like to know more about getting into teaching or being a Teaching Assistant, please follow this link: <https://www.teachsoutheast.co.uk/> The site lists a number of online and in-person information sessions.

Congratulations to Our Lunch Team

We're thrilled to announce that our Lunch Team has received a **5-star rating** from **Innovate** for excellence in **food quality and food safety**! This outstanding achievement is a testament to the team's dedication, hard work, and passion for delivering delicious, safe, and high-quality meals every single day. Thank you for making every lunch a moment to look forward to. Keep up the amazing work!



McMillian Coffee Morning

We're excited to invite you to our **Macmillan Coffee Morning** at **Treetops**, a lovely opportunity to enjoy a cuppa, share a slice of cake, and support a great cause. This will take place on **Friday, September 26th 9-10am** Our **SENCO** Ms Bertram will be there for informal chats in a relaxed setting. If you'd like to **bake or buy a cake**, we'd be thrilled (nut free) all proceeds will go towards **Macmillan Cancer Support**, helping make a real difference. We hope to see you there!

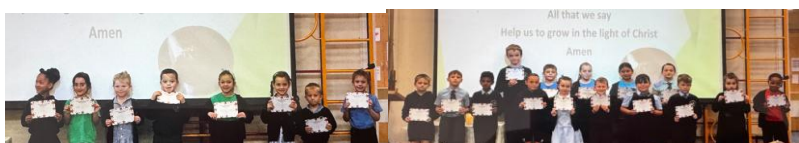
Pickup Safe Word

If you have not yet provided the school with a safe-word which enables others to pick up your child at the end of the day, please can you do so. You should have received an email with a link to the form. Please call the office if you did not receive this

Celebration Assembly

Well done to all those certificate winners this week.

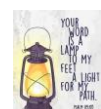
Have a lovely weekend,
Mr Doyle & Staff



RE

'Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.' Psalm 105

Venturing into a new academic year can sometimes feel a little daunting for some, while others are positively excited by the experience. For the receptions, there has been a definite spring in their step as they have begun their time at St Francis' Catholic Primary School. The passage from the Psalm reminds us that when we follow God's word, we can be guided in the ways which are just and right. It can be a comfort to know we are never alone and God will always be there with us. It also is a challenge for us to read his word and live it out in our lives day-by-day. With this in mind, we can think about how we can help and support our children; through their academic abilities, reading with your child, readiness for school in the morning or making lunches to name some, in order to help our children to have the best possible start at following in Christ's footsteps.



Calendar Dates

26 th September	Macmillan Coffee Morning 9am- 10am
30 th September	Open Morning for Prospective Parents @ 9.15am
2 nd October	St Francis Feast Day
3 rd October	INSET Day- School Closed
14 th October	Larch Class Assembly to Parents @9.10am
14 th October	Choir Festival Details to Follow
16 th October	Linden Class Assembly to Parents @9.10am
16 th October	Harvest
21 st October	Parents Evening Detail to Follow
22 nd October	Parents Evening Details to Follow
27 th October- 31 st October	Half Term
3 rd November	School Reopens @9am
30 th November	Beginning of Advent
1 st December	Xavier Day School Closed
4 th December	Whole School Panto Day
8 th December	Clubs Finish
10 th December	Year 4 Trip - Polka Dot Theatre
19 th December	Break up for Christmas Holidays @1pm
5 th January	School Reopens @9am



SOUTH EAST SURREY DYSLEXIA ASSOCIATION

Affiliated to the British Dyslexia Association

SESDA Reg. Charity no.281076

Support Evening for Parents and Carers

Monday 22nd September 2025

8pm to 10pm

A chance for parents and carers to meet Committee members, who are themselves parents of dyslexic youngsters, and specialist dyslexia tutors, to talk about any concerns they have about dyslexia at home or in school. Some issues may have arisen since the start of a new school year.

Session will include Study Skills and homework tips for all ages

See BBC Bitesize for helpful advice in key subjects for all pupils. Lots of other tips for school too. Well worth a look.

This meeting is free and open to all parents and carers who have an interest in dyslexia.

It would be helpful to know numbers beforehand but not essential. Contact sesdadyslexia@hotmail.com

**Canada Hall, All Saints Church,
Battlebridge Lane, Merstham. RH1 3HA**

SESDA Helpline: 01737 556 173

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