

St. Francis' School Newsletter

26th September



Virtue of the month – Perseverance

Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope that you have had a lovely week and that your children have been coming happy in our somewhat chillier afternoons (and not too full of cold!). Thank you for all the support you have given us this week with uniform and standards, and also for those who volunteer at car drop-off. It makes the start of the lessons much smoother for everyone. We are proud of how the school is going this term; if you would like to come round on a tour, you would be very welcome. The same goes for anyone interested in sending their child here. Please contact the school office to book a tour.

Attendance

Please pass on any attendance issues via the normal channel of absence@stfrancis.surrey.sch.uk rather than your child's teacher. The message will still get to them. I have asked teachers to prepare and give great lessons, which means that they may not be reading emails or be able to give a timely reply.

Food at school – Innovate

We've got off to a good start with our new caterers (Innovate) and have been working our way through the teething issues that naturally come with the big change we've had. I've been asked to ask you 3 things:

1. Please sign up to the app
2. Please make a meal selection for your child (available up to half term now)
3. Speak to Innovate Primary Support Team: 020 4542 7211 or primary@impactfood.co.uk

McMillian Coffee Morning

A huge thank you to all the parents who supported our McMillian Coffee Morning! Whether you baked, donated cakes, or simply joined us, your generosity made the event a wonderful success. It was lovely to meet so many of you and chat informally. Your contributions will help make a difference to a great cause. We are grateful for your kindness and support and look forward to more opportunities to come together throughout the year.



St Francis Feast Day

On **Thursday 2nd October** we are celebrating St Francis Feast day. It is a joy to be able to invite you into school to celebrate with us **@ 9am**. The children may wish **to wear one item related to animals or nature alongside their usual school uniform** as St Francis was known for his love of animals. We will be learning and doing activities based around the story of St Francis. Parents are invited to see the children's work at **3pm in the school hall**. Once you have seen your child's work, you can take your child/ children home. We look forward to sharing this special time with you.



Writing Competition

The UK's most successful writing competition for children, BBC 500 Words, opened, Tuesday 23 September. If your child is bursting with creativity, this challenge might be right up their street. This is a great competition for all ages! These should be stories that they would love to read as well. Feel free to have a look at the BBC 500-word competition previous stories, useful tips and the application process. Miss Coggins, Year 6 Linden, would also love to read any entries to the competition. Stories must be submitted by **9pm, Friday 7 November**. Happy writing!

Year 5 Learners meet their Reception Buddies!

This week, Year 5 learners met their Reception buddies for the first time and had a wonderful time playing together in the sunshine. It was lovely to see the older children supporting the younger ones as they began forming new friendships. The buddy pairs will continue to meet throughout the year for fun activities that encourage friendship and teamwork.

World Mental Health Day

To show our support for *World Mental Health Day* and the incredible work they do to support young people's mental health, we invite all children and staff to wear **yellow** on **Tuesday 10th October**.

Whether it's a single yellow item or head-to-toe yellow, the important thing is that we come together to show young people that they are not alone and that their mental health matters. We kindly ask for a **£1 donation**, Let's unite in yellow and make a difference!

Open Mornings for next year's Reception Parents

There will be the following events for prospective parents: **Open Morning & Tours** – 30th September @ 9.15am & 11th November @9.15am. The Headteacher will address parents at the start of both events.

We invite all prospective parents who wish to attend contact the school office to book place.

Secondary School Applications

If your child will reach the age of 11 between 1 September 2025 and 31 August 2026, they will be due to start secondary school in September 2026. You can apply for a secondary school place from 1 September 2025. The closing date for applications is **31 October 2025**. If you miss the deadline, you will reduce the chances of getting one of your preferred schools for your child. To help you prepare, click below to find out everything you need to know about the schools application process. <https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/schools/admissions/secondary/apply>

Passwords

Thank you to those who have provided us with a pick-up password. This should be given to anyone that you have asked to pick up your child/children after school. To safeguard your child, staff will not release your child to anyone who cannot provide a password and they will be asked to come to the office for us to check with the parents. The word you have provided will be logged against your child/children until they leave St Francis. If you have not filled out the form yet, please email the school office for the link to the form.

Inset Day Friday 3rd October

Please remember next **Friday 3rd the school is closed** to pupils as this is a staff training day.

Celebration Assembly

Well done to all those certificate winners this week, and to **Anne Line** for winning the house cup points this week.

Have a lovely weekend,
Mr Doyle & Staff

RE

"Does God listen to me when I pray? I pray but nothing happens," is something I have heard many times in R.E. Lessons. My usual response is, "Did you listen for an answer?" Often our prayers can be answered in our daily lives but we don't even realise it. Prayer is a wonderful way we can share our thanks, concerns or anything with God. The answer, often we forget about as things we were worried about work themselves out, but do we reflect the support from God? Sometimes making time to pray, but more so, taking time to listen to Him can bring us closer to God. Try to make time in the evening to say "Thank you" to God for the good things which have happened during the day.



Photos of The week



Calendar Dates

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
17 th October	Phonics Meeting for Reception, Year1, Year 2 @9am
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
7 th November	Individual Photographs
30 th November	Beginning of Advent
1 st December	Xavier Day School Closed
2 nd December	Westminster Carol Service- Details to Follow
4 th December	Whole School Panto Day
7 th December	Cedar Tree Carols and Switching on Christmas Lights 6.00pm
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
25 th February	Dorking Hall Festival -Details to Follow



PTA Chair

The current PTA Chair is stepping down at the next AGM, which is coming up soon (date TBC), due to other professional commitments.

In order to keep the many wonderful events going at the school, which are led by the PTA, a new Chair of the PTA will need to be elected.

The PTA plays a vital role in organising events, fundraising for new resources and supporting the school in general

Since the message from the PTA Chair went out at the end of the Summer term there has not been any interest to date and there does need to be a Chair in place for the PTA to continue all of the wonderful work they do for the children at the school.

If you are interested on taking on this role either as an individual, or as a group, there is already a lovely team of PTA members in place that can support the PTA chair going forward.

If you are interested in taking on this role or if you have any questions about the role please email: stfrancisschoolassociation@googlemail.com

Bouncy Boss Bouncy Castle & Soft Play Hire

If anyone is looking to hire a Bouncy Castle or Soft Play please consider Bouncy Boss:

<https://www.bouncyboss.co.uk>

They are a local hire company and if you place an order with them and give this code when booking then the school will get some money donated back to them for each booking from a St Francis family, the code is: STFRANCIS

CANCELLED: October Laser Show – 4th October 2025

Unfortunately, the Laser Show that was due to take place on 4th October has been cancelled.

Last week's riddle: What has one eye but cannot see? Answer: A Needle

This week's riddle: What has many needles but doesn't sew?