

# St. Francis' School Newsletter

21st November 2025



## Virtue of the month – Respect

### Dear Parents and Carers

I can't believe that we are already at the end of another week! Your children have been a real credit to you, and the amount of awards and recognition that they have received in Friday assembly for good effort, improved attendance, gymnastics, music and LAMDA show how well they are throwing themselves into things. This is especially the case during this biting cold weather, and they have done so well to keep focused in class when the weather has prevented them having as much fun as usual.

I wanted to mention something that has been on my mind for a while around how we treat each other. Your children are at the heart of everything we do here, and every time I see parents volunteering to help others (like opening the car doors at drop-off in the mornings) I feel so proud to be part of our community. These small acts of kindness go to the heart of what a Catholic school is, and they make things better for everyone (especially your children). There are other – thankfully rare – times when people let themselves down and forget that we are all on the same side, i.e. we are all here to serve your children. Sometimes people say/write things or act in a way that runs the school down, in front of others, and they seem to think that it is ok. It is not! If you feel that things aren't right, please come in and talk to us and we will do what we can to put things right. Bring gentle words and a generous attitude. You will be warmly received. I have had lots of good chats with people who have had an issue with something in school and have come in to see me or teachers, and we have always resolved things positively.

On a related theme, we kindly remind all parents and visitors to park responsibly when dropping off or collecting children. Please do not park directly outside Audley to ensure clear passage for pedestrians and vehicles. Always keep crossings clear and be respectful of pedestrians using them. Please do not park on pavements, zebra crossings, or in the staff car parks at any time. Your co-operation helps keep our school community safe and considerate for everyone. Thank you for your support!

As the colder weather sets in, we kindly ask parents and carers to ensure that children come to school dressed appropriately for the cold weather. Warm coats, hats, and gloves are essential to keep children comfortable during outdoor activities and playtime. Please make sure **all items are clearly labelled with your child's name** to prevent loss and mix-ups. Thank you for your cooperation in helping us keep everyone safe and warm.

### Attendance Cup

Well done, Maple class! Your outstanding attendance this week has earned you the Attendance Cup. Your commitment shows how much you value learning and growing together. Remember, every day in school is a step toward success. Other classes, your turn to shine could be just around the corner!



### Gymnastic Competition

We are thrilled to celebrate the fantastic achievements of **Ciara, Amber Cristina, and Florence** From Year 2, who represented St Francis at the **Flexi Flicks Competition** held at the weekend. The girls attend the early morning gymnastics sessions every Friday at 8:00 a.m., and this was their **first-ever competition**. Each of them performed their floor routines with confidence and skill in front of a large audience of parents and fellow pupils. We are especially proud to announce that **Ciara won a silver medal for her level 2 routine (Years 1 & 2 group)**, and all three girls received medals for their participation. Well done to everybody involved.





## Red Wednesday

Thank you for supporting our Red Wednesday. We reflected on how fortunate we are that we are able to practice our faith safely. Our prayers to God were for him to help those who are being treated unfairly and persecuted throughout the world. If you would like further information on this, please visit this website.

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

## Mental Health Coffee Morning

Our Mental Health Coffee Morning was a great success this week. We extend our sincere thanks to everyone who attended and helped make the event so positive and welcoming. We hope to make this a regular opportunity for parents and carers to come together and support one another. Your participation truly makes a difference, thank you for being part of it!



## Advent Fundraising - CAFOD World Gifts

As in previous years, each class will be choosing a gift that they want to donate to CAFOD and the children have been asked to bring in a cash donation to class, instead of sending individual Christmas Cards. Pupils should send in donations to the class, in an envelope marked with the **class name** and 'CAFOD World Gifts' Please can we have money in by **Friday 5<sup>th</sup> December**. Thank you for your support

## Maths Challenge

A group of talented Year 6 children represented our school at Caterham School in an exciting maths competition. Competing against nine schools, our team demonstrated fantastic problem-solving skills and teamwork throughout the event. Their hard work paid off as they achieved an impressive **3rd place overall!** We are incredibly proud of their effort and enthusiasm, well done to all involved!



## Keeping Children Safe Online

We encourage all parents to take an active role in their child's online safety. Please take a moment to look at the link below for helpful tips and resources on how to keep your children safe while using the internet and social media. Find step-by-step guides and learn how to activate parental controls to manage children's devices, apps, and platforms to give them safer online experiences. [Parental controls and privacy settings guides | Internet Matters](#)



## Celebration Assembly

Well done to all those certificate winners This week and **Thomas More** for winning The House Points Cup.

Have a lovely weekend.

Mr Doyle & Staff



## RE

Today we celebrate the presentation of the Virgin Mary, when she was first presented in the temple as a young girl. It reminds us that her heart was always in the right place and always thinking about God and his role in her life. We often can get caught up in the busyness of life, but forget that as parents, we are the primary educators of our children. As such, with the Godparents, we have key roles in bringing up our children in the catholic faith. So, how can we bring a bit more of God in to the activities of our lives and be more God-centred?

# Calendar Dates

25 <sup>th</sup> November	Year 5 Stem @ Caterham School
25 <sup>th</sup> November	Whole School Sniff <b>Height and Weight for Year 6 Only</b>
30 <sup>th</sup> November	Beginning of Advent
1 <sup>st</sup> December	<b>Xavier Day School Closed</b>
2 <sup>nd</sup> December	Westminster Carol Service- Details to Follow
4 <sup>th</sup> December	Whole School Panto Day
7 <sup>th</sup> December	Cedar Tree Carols and Switching on Christmas Lights 6.00pm
8 <sup>th</sup> December	Clubs Finish
9 <sup>th</sup> December	<b>Reception Nativity 9.30am</b> Parents Invited
10 <sup>th</sup> December	<b>Reception Nativity 2.30pm</b> Parents Invited
10 <sup>th</sup> December	Year 4 Trip - Polka Dot Theatre
10 <sup>th</sup> December	<b>KS1 Nativity 9.30pm</b> Parents Invited
11 <sup>th</sup> December	<b>KS1 Nativity 9.30pm</b> Parents Invited
16 <sup>th</sup> December	Year 6 & Year 2 to Wintershall Details to Follow
17 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Lunch & Festive Jumper Day
19 <sup>th</sup> December	<b>Break up for Christmas Holidays @1pm</b>
5 <sup>th</sup> January 2026	<b>School Reopens @9am</b>
25 <sup>th</sup> February	Dorking Hall Festival -Details to Follow
5 <sup>th</sup> May	Year 3 Trip Frylands Wood Details to Follow
5 <sup>th</sup> May	Year 4 Trip to High Ashurst – Details to Follow



## ST FRANCIS SCHOOL SPEECH AND DRAMA

*"Every child a winner"*

Supporters of the National Open Youth Orchestra

Welcome - National Open Youth Orchestra



***Start by doing what's necessary; then do what's possible; and suddenly you are doing the impossible"***  
St Francis of Assisi

### LONDON ACADEMY OF MUSIC AND DRAMATIC ART EXAMINATIONS – SEPTEMBER 2025

Congratulations to the following children who worked hard over the summer holiday for their achievements in their performance and communication exams taken at LAMDA, Hammersmith in September.

Alfie and James (Yr 2) and Rose (Yr 3) - Introductory Stage 1, Romeo (Yr 2) Introductory Stage 2, Joel (Year 5) Introductory Stage 3, Olivia (Yr 5) – Entry Verse and Prose all with Distinction and Scarlett (Yr 4) Entry Acting with high Merit.

Well done to the children and the parents/guardians who have supported you in this process.

Thank you once again to David Lawson-Lean, Head of Prep school drama at Notre Dame, Cobham for overseeing the mock exams once again and for his invaluable input and support.



### TEACHER-PARENT CONFIDENTIALITY DATA AND CHILD PROTECTION

St Francis Speech and Drama is a traditional year on year developmental speech and drama (elocution) programme focusing on communication, performance and life skills through a combination of festival, Poetry by Heart and LAMDA/New Era examinations but adapted to the needs of each child as if they were having private tuition. Pupils are coached by Mrs Beverley Shannon MSTSD, Miss Francesca Shannon SSTSD with mocks overseen by David Lawson Lean a professional coach, actor, playwright and teacher, all of whom have trained since childhood through and have a long connection with LAMDA Examinations as well as other performance/exam bodies. Exams are taken from Introductory up and across all key communication and performance areas in strict sequential order when it is deemed each child is ready in full consultation with parents/guardians

At their first exam entrants are allocated a PIN (personal identification number) by LAMDA which is then published on exam entry/ report marking slips and certificates. As St Francis speech and drama is an "in-school" led club (membership of which is booked through the school website) information regarding PINs, exam results and comments are confidential to the coaches, mock examiner, parents/family, child and Head Teacher. This also applies to Reigate and Redhill Festival, Poetry by Heart and International Oratory Festival reports.

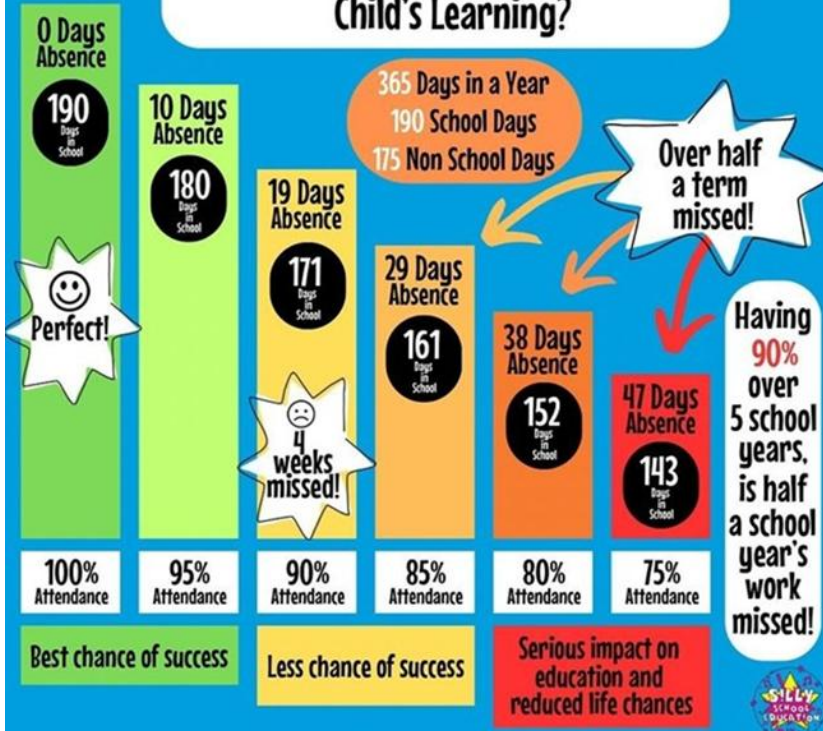
Exam reports/PIN numbers and Festival reports should not be copied, shared or supplied to anyone else whilst that pupil is being coached by Mrs and Miss Shannon and if anyone is approached to supply such information for financial gain they should inform Mrs Shannon or the school office immediately. Neither Miss or Mrs Shannon will ever ask for sight of copies of any documents/results pertaining to any other teacher unless they relate to their own pupils who have been entered for exams with LAMDA or NEW ERA without their knowledge or consultation.

Under Society of Teachers of Speech and Drama Guidelines, poaching of pupils for financial gain is deemed unethical and requesting of such information, whether from the parent or child, is against laws of data protection and child protection. Two terms' notice in writing is required to discontinue speech and drama but should a parent then approach another teacher for coaching, it is expected that teacher will approach the former to check if there is any reason not to take a pupil on board (eg failure to pay exam fees, festival entry, to give proper notice, etc). Charges will apply for work undertaken but then not seen through to its natural conclusion.

***'Communication is key to a successful society'***

Catherine West MP at English Speaking Union "Discover your Voice" workshop

## How Does School Attendance Affect a Child's Learning?



## KNIGHTS & SCHOOLS IN PARTNERSHIP

We have donated a tree to the school and would like to offer a discount to the parents.



CHELSHAM & WOLDINGHAM

# 10% OFF

Real Christmas Trees  
with this Voucher in-store



612727213034

Terms and Conditions: voucher must be presented at the time of purchase. Valid at Knights Garden Centre, Woldingham & Chelsham only until 24/12/2025. Only 1 voucher per Christmas Tree purchased. Not in conjunction with any other offers.



### Quiz Night – 30<sup>th</sup> January 2026

The next Quiz Night will take place on 30<sup>th</sup> January 2026 from 7pm.

The Parent's Quiz Night is a fantastic social event which is so much fun and always very popular. The quiz teams are made up of 6 people which can be from school or outside of school and if you are not in a group of 6 you can let us know and we can put teams together. The quiz is for adults only due to the timings of the quiz.

We are looking for Raffle Prizes for the quiz night so if anyone is able to donate any prizes – either monetary, vouchers or otherwise please do contact the PTA to let them know.

Booking for the Quiz Night will be available on the PTA events website shortly so please keep a look out .... And start thinking of your team names!!!!

### 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>

If you give this code when booking then the school will get some money donated back to them the code is:

STFRANCIS



The PTA have an account with the Stampstastic name label company and will get money back with every order if you choose our school from the drop down menu <https://stampstastic.co.uk/>

This week's riddle: What has many teeth, but can't bite?

Last week's riddle: What can you catch but not throw?

Answer: A Cold