

St. Francis' School Newsletter

28th November 2025



Virtue of the month – Respect

Dear Parents and Carers

As we approach **St. Francis Xavier's Feast Day**, we are reminded of his extraordinary missionary spirit, his love for God, and his commitment to serving others. His life inspires us to live with faith, courage, and generosity. To celebrate this special occasion, **we will enjoy a day off on Monday, 1st December**. This is a wonderful opportunity to reflect on his example and spend time with family. **Please see letter attached from James Kibble CEO of Xavier.**

This Sunday also marks the **First Sunday of Advent**, a season of preparation and anticipation for the coming of our Savior. The first candle on the Advent wreath represents **Hope**, a reminder that even in times of waiting, we trust in God's promises and look forward with joyful expectation. Hope is not just wishful thinking, it is a confident expectation rooted in God's love and the assurance that His light will shine in the darkness. As families, this is a beautiful opportunity to talk with your children about what hope means. Consider lighting a candle together at home and saying a short prayer of gratitude and expectation. Let this simple act remind us that we are a people of hope, waiting joyfully for the coming of Jesus.

Attendance Cup

Well done, **Cedar 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!



Year 5 Assembly

Due to a clash with Panto Day, the **Year 5**-year group assembly will now take place on **Wednesday, 3rd December at 2:45pm**. Apologies for any inconvenience.

Christmas Rehearsals

Our Christmas rehearsals are all well under way and it is lovely hearing the children singing their carols and Christmas songs around the school.

Cedar Tree

The Choir will be singing **on 7th December** at the annual **Lighting of the Cedar Tree 6pm**. Do come to watch and support our local Caterham community. It is wonderful that we are part of this annual event.

Christmas Carols at Sacred Heart

The Junior Carol Concert will be held in Sacred Heart Church on **Thursday 18th December @ 1.45pm start**. The children will sit together in classes in the main body and sides of the Church. Junior Parents are welcome to attend, but please be aware that space will be limited and you may be required to stand. We will be returning to school for pick up at the end of the day.



Year Two Football

On Thursday, six year 2 children went to Oakhyrst School with Mrs Wright, to take part in a 5 a side football tournament. The children displayed excellent behaviour, which was remarked upon by the coach, and also played exceptionally well. They played 4 matches, winning them all. The scores were, **2-0, 3-1, 1-0 and 5-1!** Emmy won player of the day for the whole tournament. Well done to all of the players, **Emmy, Leo S, Thomas, Leo P, Reuben and Reece.**

Upcoming Advent Events

As we journey through Advent, we have some special opportunities to reflect, give, and celebrate together:



- **Tuesday, 2nd December – KS1 Advent Reflection**
Our Key Stage 1 children will take part in a beautiful Advent reflection. Please can each child bring a silver coin to support **CAFOD** and the **Diocese Crisis Fund**, helping those most in need.
- **Thursday, 11th December – KS2 Advent Reflection**
Key Stage 2 will gather for their Advent reflection. Again, we invite each child to bring a silver coin for **CAFOD** and the **Diocese Crisis Fund**.

As in previous years, each class will also be choosing a gift to donate to **CAFOD World Gifts**. Instead of sending individual Christmas cards, pupils are asked to bring a **cash donation** to class in an envelope marked with the class name and '**CAFOD World Gifts**'. Please ensure donations are sent in by **Friday, 5th December**. Thank you for your support.



This Advent, we would also love to create a **Reverse Advent Calendar** with the children for the local **Caterham & District Foodbank**, supporting people in need during the festive season. Here are the Top 10 most wanted items: **Long life milk, Long life fruit juice, Tinned fruit, Packets of sweet biscuits, Coffee, Hot chocolate Tomato ketchup, Packets of dry noodles, Packets of chocolate biscuits, Spreads (jam, peanut butter, honey)** Please bring any donations by **Friday 12th December latest**, so they can be collected and given out before Christmas. Thank you so much for your generosity this Christmas.

Keeping Children Safe Online

In today's digital age, screens are everywhere, phones, tablets, TVs, and gaming consoles. While technology can be a great tool for learning and entertainment, too much screen time can affect children's sleep, physical health, and social development. For more advice and ideas, please visit the link below: [Screen time advice hub for parents | Internet Matters](#)



Birthday Treats

Birthdays are special, and we love celebrating them together! To keep our school a healthy and happy place, we kindly ask that sweets, chocolates, and sugary treats are not brought in for celebrations. Why? Because too much sugar can impact children's energy and behavior, making it harder for them to focus and learn. Instead, we encourage simple, healthy alternatives or even fun non-food activities to make the day memorable. Thank you for supporting our healthy choices!

Xavier Day - School closed Monday 1st December.

School reopens **Tuesday 2nd December @9am**



Celebration Assembly

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



Have a lovely long weekend.

Mr Doyle & Staff

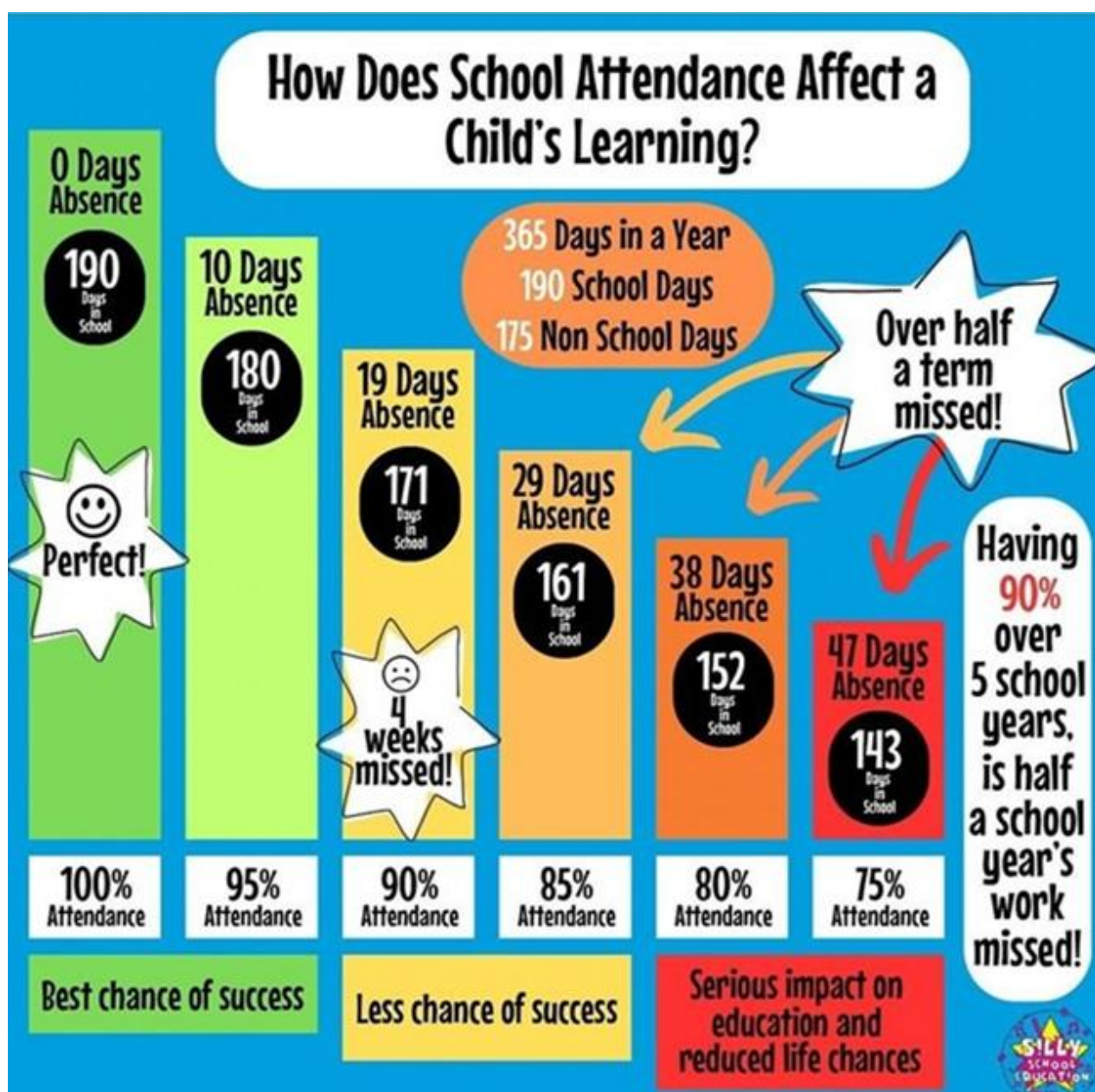


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With last Sunday being Christ the King, the last Sunday in the church calendar, we have reached the end of the year. This Sunday therefore marks the beginning of the new year. A chance to begin again, and with it, the time to prepare for the birth of Our Saviour, Jesus Christ. It is a time therefore to think about what we might do differently - how we might look at Christmas in a different way. How can our preparations match that of the Holy Family, preparing for their travels to be counted in the census? How can we get ready for Jesus' birth in our homes and communities? Perhaps our celebrations can look outwardly to who else could be invited to share in our readiness and on our exciting journey.

Calendar Dates

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| 30 th November | Beginning of Advent |
| 1 st December | Xavier Day School Closed |
| 2 nd December | Westminster Carol Service |
| 3 rd December | Year 5 Year group Assembly 2.45pm |
| 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 |
| 9 th December | Reception Nativity 9.30am Parents Invited |
| 10 th December | Reception Nativity 2.30pm Parents Invited |
| 10 th December | Year 4 Trip - Polka Dot Theatre |
| 10 th December | KS1 Nativity 9.30pm Parents Invited |
| 11 th December | KS1 Nativity 9.30pm Parents Invited |
| 16 th December | Year 6 & Year 2 to Wintershall Details to Follow |
| 17 th December | Christmas Lunch & Festive Jumper Day |
| 18 th December | KS2 Carol Concert @ Sacred Heart Church - 1.45pm start |
| 19 th December | Break up for Christmas Holidays @1pm |
| 5 th January 2026 | School Reopens @9am |
| 25 th February | Dorking Hall Festival -Details to Follow |
| 5 th May | Year 3 Trip Frylands Wood Details to Follow |
| 5 th May | Year 4 Trip to High Ashurst – Details to Follow |



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**



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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 – 30th January 2026



The next Quiz Night will take place on 30th 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 max 8 people which can be from school or outside of school and if you are not in a group, 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!!!!

This week's riddle: What has many needles but doesn't sew? Last week's riddle: What has many teeth, but can't bite? Answer: A Comb