



Virtue of the month – Patience

Dear Parents and Carers

As we prepare for the joy of Christmas, our focus for December is Advent. This is why we focus on the virtue of **Patience**, which we hope gives us the opportunity to purify ourselves as we prepare for the arrival of Christ in our world. This arrival is not something from outside or beyond us; the fact that God comes into our world from within us might give us pause to reflect on where we feel God within our hearts. Instead of looking outside, why not spend some time reflecting on Pope Benedict's question in 2010 and see where it takes you: "What kind of person would you really like to be?" This should provide clues as to where God would like to take you.

On a different note, we've had lots of visitors and prospective parents visit the school, and it crossed my mind that some of you haven't seen the school beyond the hall or Treetops. If you'd like to see how your children are getting on, **we'd love to show you around!** Contact the office for a tour and I or one of the leadership team will take you around. It's a great way to see our classrooms, explore the facilities, and get a feel for the wonderful environment where your child learns and grows. Just don't embarrass them as you go around or you'll never live it down.

Attendance Cup

Congratulations, Linden Class! Your outstanding attendance this week has earned you the Attendance Cup. Your dedication shows just how much you value learning and growing together. Remember, every day in school is a step toward success! To all our other classes: keep aiming high, your turn to shine could be just around the corner!



Westminster Cathedral

The choir went to Westminster Cathedral as part of the Woldingham Girls School Christmas Service. The children sang beautifully. It was a busy and very long day with travelling, the rehearsals and the Carol Service itself, but the children embraced it and were exceptionally well behaved throughout the day. It is a real privilege to be invited to join Woldingham School and we send our thanks for the invitation. Our children are to be commended for representing the school so well. Thank you to Mrs. Hardy and staff who supported all the children.



Year 5 Shine in Assembly & STEM Morning at Caterham School

A huge well done to our Year 5 children for their fantastic assembly! They worked incredibly hard to prepare and deliver an assembly full of confidence. Thank you to all the parents who joined us, your support means so much to the children. Also, this week, year 5 headed to Caterham School for an exciting STEM morning. The children immersed themselves in a variety of hands-on activities, including exploring the world through microscopes, investigating pendulums, making parachutes, and even trying their hand at coding. Each activity sparked curiosity and creativity, giving the children a chance to apply their problem-solving skills in fun and engaging ways.



Pantomime

Yesterday, our school was filled with laughter and excitement as the children enjoyed a fantastic performance of **Dick Whittington**. The pantomime was absolutely hilarious, and it was wonderful to see every child engaged and having such a great time.



Christmas Jumper and Christmas Lunch Day

On **Wednesday 17th December**, show off your best Christmas sweater, decorate your everyday jumper, or even tinsel up Granny's homemade knitwear! Christmas jumpers can be worn on this day.

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. If you are able to help with walking the children to church. Please contact your class teacher.

Let's Go Green Together!

We're working towards our Green Flag goals, and we'd love your help! If your child does anything linked to the environment, gardening, recycling, healthy eating, or litter picking in the community please send in pictures! We'd love to share them in our newsletter. If you have green fingers and can spare some time, we'd love your help with planting and improving our sensory garden area. Please let us know if you can volunteer! Please support our initiatives by talking about balanced diets and active lifestyles at home. Every little bit helps us make our school greener and healthier, thank you for your support!

Upcoming Advent Events

As we journey through Advent, we have some special opportunities to reflect, give, and celebrate together: **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, 12th December**. (extended Deadline) 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.



School Annuals For Our Playground!

If anyone is able to donate annuals for the children to enjoy at playtimes, it would make a big difference to the children. Ideally 2024/2025 editions.



Keeping Children Safe Online

Cyberbullying can have a serious impact on children's wellbeing and confidence. It's important to talk to your child about staying safe online and knowing what to do if they experience or witness bullying. Please click the link below for more information and helpful advice:

<https://www.internetmatters.org/issues/cyberbullying/learn-about-it/>

Primary school Admissions for 2026

Please remember the deadline for **Reception 2026 applications** to School Admissions is the **15th January**. Any applications received after this date are treated as late applications.

Celebration Assembly

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

Have a lovely weekend.
Mr Doyle & Staff

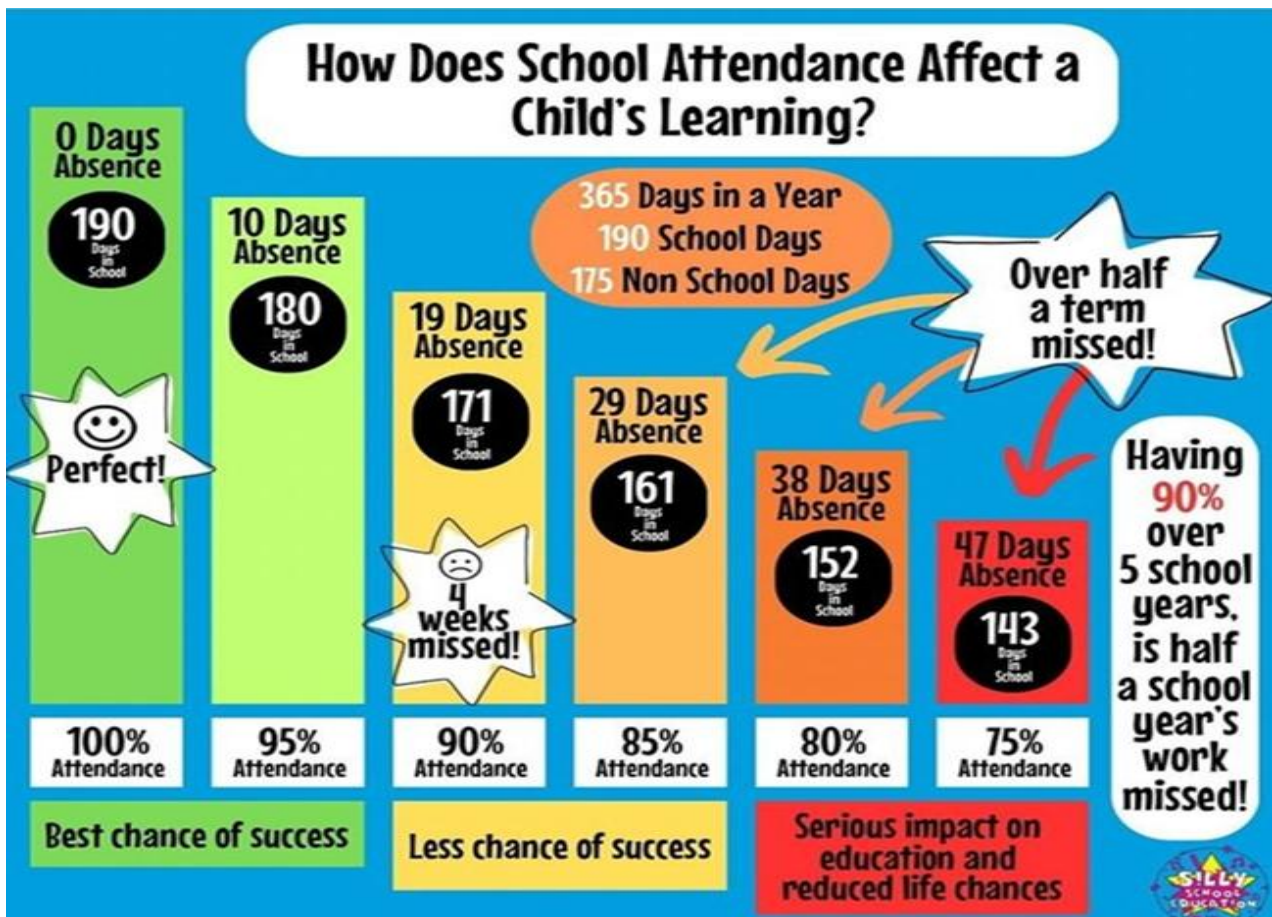


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Last weekend we lit the first of the advent candles - the candle of Hope or the Prophets candle. This candle makes us think about the stories from the Old Testament about the coming of Jesus. We hear often at Christmas from the book of Isaiah about the preparing the way for the Lord. A hope that breaks the silence, the brings light to the darkness and shines in the world for all to see. As we light this candle, we remember that Christ’s hope is not temporary or uncertain. It is living, active, and available to us in every circumstance. The candle’s light symbolises the movement from anticipation to arrival and from promise to fulfilment—a pattern God continues to work in the lives of His people today. Every season of waiting becomes an opportunity to trust, lean in, and prepare our hearts for what God will do next.

Calendar Dates

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 9.30am Parents Invited
11 th December	KS1 Nativity 9.30am 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



After School Clubs – The last sessions for after school clubs are next week.



Important Christmas Activities & Values at St Francis' Primary School

We are excited to bring the spirit of Christmas to St Francis' Primary School this year, guided by our core value: "For it is in giving that we receive."

Father Christmas Visit and the Spirit of Giving

On Wednesday 17th December, we have a very special visitor!
Father Christmas will be paying a visit to the school to personally collect the children's completed Christmas letters.

All children will be sent home with a special letter template in their book bags very soon.

We ask that the letter has two parts:

- One item request for your child.
- One prayer or thought for those who may be in need during this time.

We hope this activity helps teach our children about the true spirit of Christmas and our core Christian values by encouraging them to think of others.

When your child brings their letter back on the 17th to give to Father Christmas, he will also deliver a class present for the children to enjoy together.

To help cover the costs of making this day as magical as possible, we kindly ask for a £2 voluntary donation per child. This can be paid in advance at

: <https://www.pta-events.co.uk/stfrancisschool/index.cfm?event=event&eventId=106199>

PTA Fundraising Appeal

This year, the PTA is aiming to raise funds to achieve three major goals:

1. To buy new play equipment for the school. - Costs TBC
2. To purchase solar panels to help reduce electricity costs and to ensure a greener future for our children. - Costs TBC
3. To establish a dedicated fund of £200 per class, per year for essential class supplies (which are currently often funded by the staff themselves).

Did You Know? If you are making a donation via a business, this and any donation may be tax deductible. Please speak to a financial accountant for more information.

Christmas Fair Update

Unfortunately, due to the late onboarding of the new PTA chairs, we will not be having a Christmas Fair this year. We understand that this may be disappointing, but we hope to start sharing some of the exciting plans from the new PTA members in the new year.

Key Christmas Dates

Please mark these important dates in your calendar:

- Sunday 7th December, 6:00 PM: Cedar tree light switch on
- Wednesday 17th December: Father Christmas Visit and Christmas Jumper Day – £1 Donation (payment for Father Christmas to be done prior to visit)

Thank you for your continued support in making St Francis' a nurturing and joyful environment

This week's riddle: On Christmas Eve, Santa leaves his workshop in the North Pole to deliver presents to all the children. What direction does he travel? Last week's riddle: What has many needles but doesn't sew? Answer: A Christmas Tree

Sports multi-skills

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EXTENDED DAY
UNTIL 6PM



CHILDCARE
VOUCHERS