

# St. Francis' School Newsletter

12<sup>th</sup> December 2025



## Virtue of the month – Patience

### Dear Parents and Carers

What a wonderful week of Advent we have had. The children across the school have surpassed themselves in leading us in preparation for Christmas with so many wonderful services. Well done to all the children who sang so beautifully at the lighting of the Cedar Tree. It was a joyful and uplifting start to Advent. A special thank you to **Mrs Hardy**, who prepared the children so well, and to all the staff and volunteer helpers who supported on the night.

After weeks of rehearsals, the Reception and KS1 Nativity/performances have been nothing short of amazing, and very uplifting too. The children learned their lines brilliantly, speaking clearly and with confidence, and the singing was truly superb! My heartfelt thanks go to the **Teachers and TAs** who worked tirelessly to rehearse and prepare the children, and to all the parents who provided costumes. Our thanks also go to **Brad** for everything he does to make these events run so smoothly. Scroll down to see the photos and share in these wonderful moments!

### Attendance Cup

Congratulations, **Hazel 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!



### Staying Safe After School

Some parents have reported that children are using mobile phones while leaving school and not paying attention to traffic. This can be very dangerous because busy roads need our full attention. Let's all remember these safety tips:

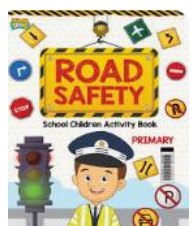
**Phones away until you're home – walking and texting don't mix!**

**Stop, Look, Listen before crossing the road.**

**Stay alert – cars and bikes can appear quickly.**

**Walk with friends and keep your head up so you can see what's around you.**

Your safety is the most important thing. Let's make sure everyone gets home safely every day. Heads up, phones down!



### Help and Support for Families

We understand that the festive season can sometimes bring extra challenges for families. If you are struggling with food or household items over Christmas, please know that you are not alone. You can speak to us in confidence, and we will do our best to offer support or point you in the right direction for help. Your privacy will always be respected. Please don't hesitate to reach out – we are here for you.

### Polka Theatre

Year 4 children enjoyed a wonderful visit to the Polka Theatre to watch **Firework-Maker's Daughter**. The performance was truly captivating, and everyone was engaged from start to finish. We were so proud of how well-behaved and respectful the children were throughout the trip, they represented our school beautifully! It was lovely to see their excitement and joy as they experienced live theatre together. Thank you to all the staff and helpers who made this visit possible.

### Christmas Jumper and Christmas Lunch Day

On **Wednesday, 17th December**, it's time to get festive! Show off your best Christmas sweater, decorate your everyday jumper, or even add some tinsel to Granny's homemade knitwear! **Christmas jumpers can be worn with full school uniform, just swap your usual school jumper or cardigan for your Christmas one.** This will also be the day Father Christmas visits the classes, making it an extra special occasion! Ho ho ho!

### Christmas Carols at Sacred Heart

The Junior Carol Concert will be held in Sacred Heart Church on **Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> 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.



### Silver Coin

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who contributed to our Silver Coin Advent Reflection! Your donations are helping to support CAFOD and the Diocese Crisis Fund in their vital work for those in need. May this Advent season fill your hearts with peace, hope, and joy as we prepare for the coming of Christ. Thank you for sharing His light through your kindness.

### School Lunches Reminder

Innovate have asked us to remind families that all school dinners must be booked via the App. If you forget to book a meal, please ensure you have enough credit on your account and then contact **Primary Support by emailing [primary@impactfood.co.uk](mailto:primary@impactfood.co.uk) or calling 020 4542 7211** to check if a meal can be added. Please note: Innovate **cannot** book a late meal if there is insufficient credit on your account. **Christmas Lunch – Wednesday 17th December** If your child would like a Christmas dinner, please make sure it is booked on the App. **No booking will result in a Jacket Potato being offered on this day.**

### Keeping Children Safe Online

Inappropriate content can take many forms. Children with unsupervised access to the internet can easily stumble across such content, or it could even be sent to them directly by another child or adult. Learn more about inappropriate content and how to keep kids safe online by clicking the link below.

<https://www.internetmatters.org/issues/inappropriate-content/>



### 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!

### Primary school Admissions for 2026

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

### 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

With advent racing through, this Sunday is our 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of advent; Gaudete Sunday. The colour rose fills our churches as we celebrate the joy of Christ coming. Are we looking forward to the joys of Christmas or does Christmas fill up with sadness? Is it a time when there is stress from buying gifts, people visiting and cooking, or do we make the time to enjoy the preparations and then celebrations? How can we change the way we think to be filled with happiness in all we do?

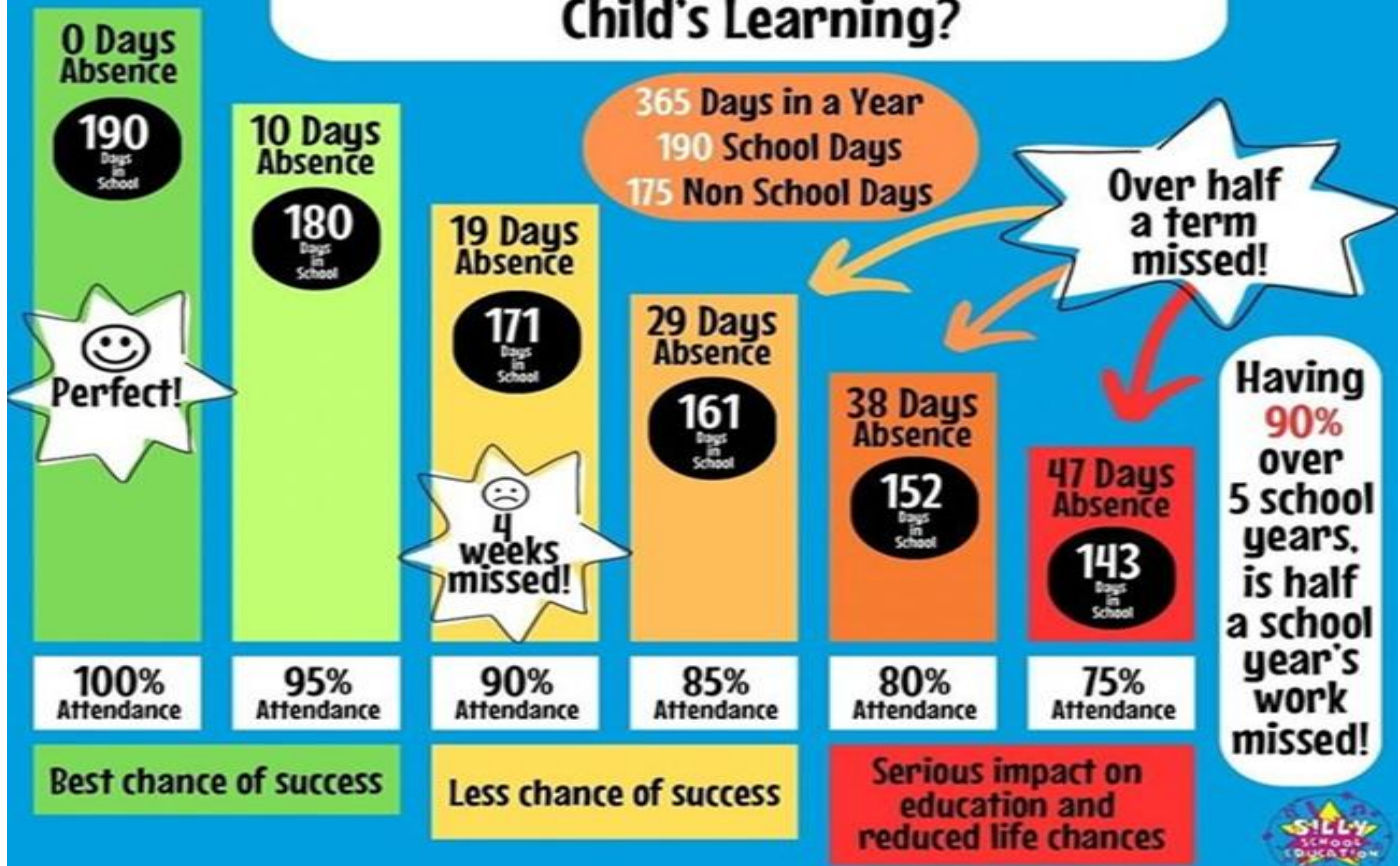
## Volunteer Needed!

We are seeking a dedicated volunteer to take over the role of **Drop-Off Coordinator**. This important position helps ensure students arrive at school safely each morning and supports our smooth, efficient drop-off routine. By coordinating this service, you'll play a key part in helping families get their children to school on time while allowing parents to continue on to work without delay. Please contact **Jon at [dropoff.stfrancis@gmail.com](mailto:dropoff.stfrancis@gmail.com)** to express your interest.

## Calendar Dates

|                              |  |
|------------------------------|--|
| 16 <sup>th</sup> December    | Year 6 & Year 2 to Wintershall                                 |
| 17 <sup>th</sup> December    | Christmas Lunch & Festive Jumper Day ( Father Christmas Visit) |
| 18 <sup>th</sup> December    | KS2 Carol Concert @ Sacred Heart Church -1.45pm start          |
| 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                |

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



# All clubs have now finished for this term.

