

St. Francis' School Newsletter

10th September 2021



Value of the month – Perseverance

Dear Parents and Carers



Welcome back to everyone and a big 'thank you' from all the staff for your kind gifts received at the end of the Summer Term. They were very much appreciated. We hope everyone had a wonderful Summer holidays. The first week and a half have flown by. The children have been amazing with settling back into new routines; they are cheerful, positive and hardworking. Well done to them all – we are so proud of them.

Welcome to our new Reception Classes!

We wish our new Reception pupils and their Parents a very warm welcome to St Francis'. The children are a delight and are settling well into school life. If you have any queries, please do ask the class teachers, or email in to the office and we will reply as soon as we can.

Parents Evenings

This year these will be held before the half term. We shall let you know how these will work nearer the time, whether face to face or virtually.

PTA

We are fortunate to have a committed and active PTA. Please scroll down to read the letter on the PTA page below. If you are interested in joining them, **please come along to the AGM on Wednesday 29th September to learn what they do to support the school.** If you can't make that date do email Lisa Donohue on stfrancisschoolassociation@googlemail.com for more details.

Trainers: Children should keep a pair of trainers in school at all times and not take them home, this is so they are there ready for any opportunities we may have of using the field and no one has to miss out.

Assemblies

Assemblies were so special this week, we managed it in smaller groups (with Covid in mind) and it was the first time back together in the hall since March last year– it was just wonderful and made all the staff very emotional!

Well done to our Certificate winners this week.

Best wishes,
Mrs Wheeler & Staff



Calendar Dates

September 29 th	AGM Meeting
October 1 st	Inset Day School closed to pupils
October 12 th	Woldingham School Choir Festival-Details to follow
October 19 th & 20 th	Parents Evening Details TBC
October 25 th	Half Term Break
November 1 st	School Re-opens
November 24 th	Year 6 Trip -Tower Of London
December 2 nd	Whole school Pantomime
December 6 th	Woldingham Carol Concert -Details to Follow

Class Emails

The Teachers felt that the class emails will continue to be useful for sending you messages, reminders and homework – spellings etc. Please see the list of class emails below and 'opt in' to your child's new class by sending a short 'hello' email giving your child's name and surname. If you have more than one child, you need to sign up for each child.

As teachers are now back to whole class teaching, the emails will only be used for quick messages from the teachers to you and they will only be monitored once a week. . Parents should still email via the office Office@stfrancis.surrey.sch.uk for important, or urgent messages regarding the children (medical appointments, changes to pick up arrangements etc.) and via absence@stfrancis.surrey.sch.uk for absences. Please remember that emails should be polite, courteous and respectful.

EYFS & KS1 Email

Username: appleclass@stfrancis.surrey.sch.uk

Username: cherryclass@stfrancis.surrey.sch.uk

Username: oakclass@stfrancis.surrey.sch.uk

Username: elmclass@stfrancis.surrey.sch.uk

Username: beechclass@stfrancis.surrey.sch.uk

Username: larchclass@stfrancis.surrey.sch.uk

KS2 Email

rowanclass@stfrancis.surrey.sch.uk

pineclass@stfrancis.surrey.sch.uk

cedarclass@stfrancis.surrey.sch.uk

hazelclass@stfrancis.surrey.sch.uk

hornbeamclass@stfrancis.surrey.sch.uk

mapleclass@stfrancis.surrey.sch.uk

willowclass@stfrancis.surrey.sch.uk

lindenclass@stfrancis.surrey.sch.uk

Absence Procedures

Please remember to use absence@stfrancis.surrey.sch.uk to report that your child is ill or will be in late or leaving early for an appointment. Please do not use office email.

Notification should be made by 9.30am on the first day of absence. You need to notify the school on **each** continuing day of absence, even if you expect your child to be off school for a few days. Where possible, all other appointments should be made outside school hours.

Request For Toy Donation Elm Class

Request out to parents for 'up to 10 piece' puzzles and children's construction toys/bench, like plastic hammers/ saws etc. Thank you.



All

A very warm welcome from St Francis' School Association.

We are very fortunate at our school to have an Association that is, and has been, such an integral part of the school community for many years. The St Francis School PTA exists to strengthen the relationship between parents and teachers of the school and ensure we all deliver the best education to the children.

In the next few weeks all parents and carers will be invited to the St Francis School PTA, AGM. Watch this space for details. The AGM is an opportunity for you to hear about what the PTA has been doing in recent years to support the school, hear about the immediate successes of last year and some of the plans for the upcoming year. After the pressures of lockdown and home schooling over the last 12 months the PTA are keen to help the teachers bring the school community back together - we have some exciting plans. We would encourage you all to attend and be a part of the school association.

The AGM is also an opportunity for you as parents and carers to support the PTA and all members of the school community can be involved, so please let us know how you can help - even if you only have a small amount of time. We understand time is very precious.

Equally if you would like to take on a more formal role the AGM is an opportunity to volunteer as a class representative or join the committee. Please let us know how you can support the PTA and in what capacity. stfrancisschoolassociation@googlemail.com

To be the first to know about planned events join the PTA mailing list. Your name and email address will be added to the St Francis PTA Google Group and you will remain on the distribution list until you unsubscribe. <https://forms.gle/udHfx9A11s8jpDJ28>

In the meantime, please find attached a flyer that explains a little more about the PTA, what we do, how you can benefit and why we need your help.

Thank you,
Lisa Donohue Chair of the PTA

1

SUPPORT THE SCHOOL

The PTA is vital to the success of the school. Funds raised enrich your child's learning and make every student's experience better. Be part of the group that pays for the playground your child loves or funds the library that's their favourite place to be.

2

IT'S TOTALLY FLEXIBLE

Whether you're a full-time parent or working the nine to five, anyone can get involved. It's less commitment than you think, and you don't always have to attend meetings. Small jobs such as designing a poster, distributing letters or running a stall keep everything running smoothly.

3

MAKE LASTING FRIENDSHIPS

Meet and chat to a wider circle of families from different classes and year groups. Get to know other parents, and bond over exciting events, socials and get-togethers. Find a place to belong and spend time with others who share your values.

4

BE BETTER CONNECTED

Create closer links with the head, teachers and staff. If you're new to the school, the PTA is an excellent way to find out how things work and become part of the community. If not, you'll still gain greater insight by seeing how things work from both sides.

PTA⁺
The home of school fundraising.

10 REASONS TO JOIN THE PTA

5

BECAUSE IT'S FUN!

Be part of the team which organises the best events and get-togethers. Debrief over a glass of wine (or two). Suggest your most hare-brained idea and watch as it catches on and everyone wants a piece of the action. Laugh. Cry. Be there for each other.

6

CHANGE SCHOOL FOR THE BETTER

Have your say on important decisions. Work with the school and other parents to see where improvements can be made, and implement them. Directly influence the experience of your child and hundreds of others.

7

LEARN NEW SKILLS

Everyone has something they can bring to the PTA, but you can also learn new skills by trading with others. Always wanted to perfect that cookie recipe? Not sure how to design a poster? Want to hone your public speaking skills? You can do it with the support of the committee.

8

IMPROVE YOUR CHILD'S LEARNING

Studies show that children whose parents are involved in their education do better in school. Engaging with the PTA shows your children's education is important to you. Play your part in improving the school and watch them

9

IT'S NOT JUST FOR MUMS

Everyone is welcome, and it's especially important to have dads and male carers represented, as male role models are crucial in children's upbringing. Dads can bring different skills; they can bring a different perspective, and they can bring along other dads.

10

CREATE LASTING MEMORIES

Our children are only at school for a few years, but they will remember the difference we make for a lifetime. They will cherish the activities and games we fund, learn using resources we buy, and remember the events we hold. Help keep the PTA going so future pupils can benefit too.