

# St. Francis' School Newsletter

21<sup>st</sup> July 2021



## Value of the month – Appreciation

### Dear Parents and Carers

#### Thank You!

We have come to the end of a long and challenging year and the Staff and I wish to thank our Governors and Parents and Carers and Parish Priests all for the support and help over the last year. Who knew, at the start of the academic year, that we would spend a year in and out of school and ALL learn a whole host of new remote learning skills! Governors - what we don't know about Risk Assessments now, probably isn't worth knowing! Let us pray that 2021-22 is a much more settled year!

#### Water 21 In-School Pupil Challenge Winners

Well done to the Water21 School Pupil Challenge. The winners are Pine. The whole school effort raised just over £1000! Thank you so much for your support. The work on replacing the water pipes is already underway!

#### Prom Praise for Schools

We invite all our families and friends to watch the world premiere of "Step by Step" at Prom Praise Together, via the Prom Praise [YouTube channel](#) (or our main website, [www.allsoulsmusic.org](http://www.allsoulsmusic.org)). Can you spot our children singing? Thank you to Mrs Hardy for all her hard work preparing the children and arranging the filming.

#### Year 6 Leavers goodbye

We wish our Year 6 children and their families a fond goodbye. We shared a wonderful zoom assembly with them all this morning and it was emotional listening to their memories and reminisces about their time at St Francis' and share happy memories with us. Many still chuckled as they recollected specific events! We were also able to celebrate their achievements and award the special prizes to the following pupils for their commitment and dedication:

\***Music:** Chloe was awarded the Peter Barraclough Music Cup; the following pupils received medals for their diligence: Madeleine, Olivia, Chloe, Helena, Klara, Isabella, Khasni and Sophia

\***Drama:** Jessica and Ryan were awarded trophies

\***Maths:** The Fr John Maths award for most improved mathematicians went to Talia and Oliver K

\***Growth Mindset:** trophies awarded to Zack and Lia for constant perseverance and self-belief

\***Sportsmanship:** trophies awarded to Lily J and Dylan

\***Gardening:** medal awarded to Amir for tending to the plants around the school

\***Poetry & Prose:** Ethan and Chloe for making a significant contribution throughout their time at St Francis' and winning many awards in the past. Books were also awarded by Mrs Shannon to the following pupils who participated in the Redhill & Reigate Festival several times: Katie, Lily J, Daisy, Bella, Olivia, Ruby, Kieran, Isabella, India, Jessica and Talia (who, at age 6, was Mrs Shannon's youngest entrant ever and won an Honours!)

**Outstanding Effort** medals have been awarded to Alvin, Sophia, Isabel, Kieran, Claire, John, Fraser M, Katie, Olivia and Zach for the amazing effort they have displayed consistently this year

Finally, the **Hamilton Award**, our most prestigious award which is awarded to the pupils who most embody the ethos of our school, went to **Oliver C, Bella and Eden** who have shone throughout their time at St Francis'!

Well done to ALL of the pupils! The children have all been amazing and risen to the challenges of this year with positivity. We hope they have a fantastic Disco tonight to end their time and we wish them well in their new secondary schools.

## Goodbyes

We send a fond farewell to some Staff and Families who are moving on and we wish them a successful and happy time in their new ventures.

My sincere thanks to the Staff leaving for all the dedicated work this year: **Miss Riddell** who is going back to University to re-train as a Children's Mental Health Worker. She was successful in gaining a place on a coveted new Government course and will be back in schools after a year, supporting children's mental health. **Miss Chiavarini**, who is moving to teach closer to home in her own children's school. **Miss Kwan**, who is moving to Blackpool to work with CAFOD, **Mr Keh** who is moving forward on his journey towards the Priesthood and **Mr Pullin** who is moving on to new adventures. We wish them all the very best.

Despite the end of term challenges with closed bubbles, we managed a wonderful 'goodbye', outdoor (and socially distanced!!) assembly. Thank you to Mrs Hardy for her work with the Year 2 Bubble preparing a goodbye song.

Finally, we all wish a special and fond farewell to **Mrs Fawcett our Deputy Head** who is taking early retirement. Mrs Fawcett has been at the school for 20 years as a Parent, Teacher, RE and Literacy Lead and our Deputy Headteacher. She will be very much missed by us all and our past staff, pupils and families, but I am sure that she will be back to visit, or even help out (sewing in Year 3 has already been mentioned!!), once she has settled into her early retirement and found her new routine. One of our Year 1 children said yesterday that retirement is 'for stopping work and relaxing' and that is what I do hope she manages to do. However, knowing Mrs Fawcett I suspect she will be busy in no time at all...gardening, baking, having trips out with her husband Nigel, visiting the odd café or two for tea and playing with her grandson Luca!

Across the week Mrs Fawcett was presented some very special gifts including a wonderful pizza oven for her new garden from Parents, a Leavers Hoodie from the Year 6 Parents, and many personal gifts from parents and staff. The Staff gift included the stunning mosaic mirror, in the picture below, made by the talented Mrs Cox, who spent hours beavering away to complete the mirror in time. Thank you Mrs Cox! We send Mrs Fawcett our love and thanks for her support and dedicated service to the St Francis' community and we wish her well.



**Mrs Fawcett has written to you all in the section below. Please scroll down for this and photos.**

## Welcome

In September we welcome into the school:

- Miss Hannah Morris, our new Deputy Head
- Miss Danielle Whicher who is our new Reception Teacher
- Miss Bethan Hughes our new Y4 part-time Teacher.

I know that we will all give them a warm St Francis' welcome

## Congratulations

To Mrs Jobson, who graduated this week. Miss Jobson has been amazing – over the last five years she has completed an Education Degree and her PGCE while working and bringing up her family. Well done!

To Mr Dean and Miss Denny who will be getting married in the holiday, we wish them all the very best and send our congratulations.

Best wishes for a restful summer break with your families,  
Mrs Wheeler & Staff

Dear Parents and Pupils,

It is with a great deal of sadness that I am writing to you to say goodbye; however, I do want to say a big THANK YOU to all of you for making my time here so wonderful.

As many of you know, I have been here for almost twenty years now and it has honestly been the best school I have ever taught at – and I have taught at primaries and secondaries in two different hemispheres! Right from the start, I was made to feel so welcome by the St Francis' family: the children, the staff and you.

It has been an absolute privilege to work here and I look back with so many fond memories to the fantastic things I have been able to do with the wonderful children we are so fortunate to have year after year. It is very exciting when I see past pupils years later and catch up on how they have moved on, in so many different spheres of life.

I have always appreciated my relationship with parents – many of whom have become friends over the years – and how you have always been so supportive of everything I have done. As you all know, I have always done my best for the school, pupils and staff.

I would like to thank you all for the kind words and messages I have received from all of you, as well as for the gifts you have given me. The personalised hoodie I received recently from the Year 6 parents was a real treat! Thank you, parents, for your generosity – I am looking incredibly forward to making my very own pizzas in the awesome Ooni Pizza Oven I have been given by you!

I want to wish all of you the very best always.

Nanda Fawcett







## Calendar Dates

Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> September	<b>Inset Day</b>
Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> September	<b>School reopens. Gates open at 08:45 for a prompt 9am start</b>

### **Don't miss the Colour Caterham FREE Woodland Story Trail Ends Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> July!**

Looking for FREE activity ideas for the kids this summer? Then don't miss the Colour Caterham FREE Woodland Story Trail which ends on Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> July. Caterham Business Improvement District (known as Caterham Valley For You) has created vibrant window art throughout the town to form a FREE nature trail with a difference. The pictorial trail tells the story of a group of local woodland friends setting off for a picnic, and follows their adventures along the way. Children are encouraged to dress up as their favourite woodland animals and bring along cuddly toys to join in the fun with characters such as Owlbert the owl, Brian the badger, Bella the bee and Cuddles the hedgehog.

There will be prizes for the best costumes, with selfie spots along the route to capture pictures around the town (don't forget to share your photos on the [Caterham Valley For You Facebook page](#)), and also for the winners of a quiz at the end of the trail.

Many of the town's businesses have got involved in the project by offering up their windows to be painted by a professional artist with scenes featuring the woodland friends, whilst others are joining in with themed displays for Colour Caterham.

For more information please visit <https://caterhamvalley.co.uk/countryside-story-trail>