

St. Francis' School Newsletter



26th November 2021

Value of the month – Patience

Dear Parents and Carers

Well, we have made it to Advent! Our value for December is Patience and we shall endeavor to be like Mary, Mother of God, and look forward to celebrating the birth of Jesus with patience, joy and hope – all important values.

Advent Collection for Cafod

As part of our Advent preparations we will be beginning with our Advent Reconciliation Liturgy. We always support Cafod at this time of year and collect for individual class Cafod gifts, however, knowing how difficult it is this year, we made the decision that instead of each class donating their own CAFOD gift, there will be one gift donated from St Francis' School as a whole. So, we would ask every pupil, if possible, to bring in a voluntary donation of coins, as we usually do, for the Advent Reflection Liturgy. This contribution will be used to purchase the CAFOD World Gift. The gift we give is dependent on how much we collect, but we are hoping to give either a 4-Gift Bundle (a goat, a chicken, some books for children and a kitchen starter kit) or a 6-Gift Bundle (a goat, a chicken, books for children, a mini-library for a school, a kitchen garden starter kit and some toys for children)

Cafod - <https://worldgifts.cafod.org.uk/>

Cedar Tree

The Choir will be singing on 28th November at the annual **Lighting of the Cedar Tree** 6.45pm– do come to watch and support our local Caterham community. It is wonderful that we can once again be part of this 'live' event. The organisers have suggested that those attending do a Lateral Flow Test before going to the event.

Red Wednesday

Thank you for supporting our Red Wednesday. The day started with a quiet reflection. We reflected on how fortunate we are that we are able to practise our faith safely. Our prayers to God were for Him to help those who are being treated unfairly and persecuted throughout the world.

Christmas Lunch and Jumper Information: Scroll down to see the plans!

Covid Update and Christmas Events **Please read the important letter emailed to all families today.**

We monitor the covid cases and those who are out testing on a daily basis and thankfully, at present, these are very low for us. Thank you to all parents and carers for keeping us informed and ringing in to the office to ask for advice. It helps keep us all safe and is really appreciated across our whole school community. At present we carry on, but please be assured we are keeping things very much under review and respond to any Surrey LA Health updates and advice.

Covid Testing:

If your child has Covid symptoms, please keep them off school and book a PCR test via [Get a free PCR test to check if you have coronavirus \(COVID-19\) - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#) or by calling 119

Wishing everyone a happy and safe weekend.
Mrs Wheeler and Staff

CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY & SCHOOL ROAST LUNCH

Christmas Jumpers can be worn on both days.

As the school has become too big for the all the children to sit and have Christmas dinner together in one sitting, we have split this over two days.

Caroline our Cook and her team will be providing Roast Lunch on the **14th & 15th December 2021**. As this is a mammoth task, the grid below shows how the kitchen will cater for the children over both days.

Any alterations to your child's dinner choices for **that week** need to be communicated to the office no later than **Friday 3rd December** as the kitchen need to place the food order.

	Tuesday 14th Dec 2021	Wednesday 15th Dec 2021
Junior children	Roast Lunch	A festive buffet or packed lunch will be provided by the kitchen for those who normally have a school dinner on this day.
Infant Children	A festive buffet or packed lunch will be provided by the kitchen for those who normally have a school dinner on this day.	Roast Lunch



Calendar Dates

November 28 th	The Lighting of the Cedar Tree – Choir are singing. 6.45pm
November 30 th	Advent Liturgy in School – Silver Coin Advent Charity Collection – children bring in a voluntary donation of coins to place on the silver cross during the Liturgy
December 2 nd	Whole School Pantomime - Aladdin
December 3 rd	Mufti Day –Bring a Bottle Day to contribute to the PTA Christmas fayre
December 6 th	Woldingham Carol Concert -Details to Follow
December 6 th	Bags2school 9am
December 7 th	- Reception Classes Christmas Performance – 9.30am We're Going on a Baby Hunt! Booking details to follow
December 8 th	KS1 Nativity 9.30am- Details to follow Reception Classes Christmas Performance –2:30pm - We're Going on a Baby Hunt! Booking details to follow
December 9 th	KS1 Nativity 1.45pm Booking details to follow
December 10 th	Carol Service TBC
December 14 th	KS2 Roast Lunch & Christmas Jumper Day
December 15 th	KS1 Roast Lunch & Christmas Jumper Day
December 12 th	Christmas Fayre/Market – details below – scroll down
4th January 2022	Inset Day
5 th January	School Reopens 9am

Food Bank and Support for Families in Need

Please can our families be aware that the school has access to some support networks for families in need. This might be particularly important as Christmas can be a difficult time of year for some families. If a family needs support, please contact Mrs Wheeler (Headteacher) or one of the Senior Leadership Team for details of help available. All enquires will be dealt with in utmost confidence.

Admissions Consultation for 2023-2

Please read the **Draft Admissions Policy for 2023-24** and **Supplementary Information Form (SIF) for 2023-24** on our Website - under the 'admissions' tab, especially if you have children who will be eligible to start school in September 2023.

Comments on the Policy and SIF can be made via the school office by letter, or email: office@stfrancis.surrey.sch.uk

The closing for the consultation is Friday 31st December 2021

Open Sessions for Prospective Reception Classes Parents & Admissions for 2022-2023

Wednesday 17th November 4pm

For the Parishes of Caterham, Whyteleafe, Oxted and Warlingham

2021-22 Catholic applications – for Reception places for St Francis' Catholic Primary School

For those needing a [Reception place in 2022-23](#), there is a [Virtual Tour of the School](#) on the Admissions page of the website. Please do remember to read and follow the Admissions instructions below. If you need any help or advice on Admissions, do contact the school Office.

Extraordinarily for this year, due to the COVID situation and to best protect Fr Seán and Fr Stephen, they will not be meeting parents in person to sign the SIF forms.

The general process for applications remains the same. Before the closing date for applications:

- Parent/Carers complete their Local Authority Common Application Form online.
- Parent/Carers must also complete the **SIF** and return it **to the school**.
- The school will formally log receipt of each SIF form from each Catholic applicant.
- The school will then take all the Catholic applicants' SIFs to the priest in one go for the priests to complete the relevant section for each applicant and return to the school.

If you have questions or queries please telephone the school office.

SANTA VISIT IN SCHOOL

Unfortunately, it has not been possible to organise Santa's Grotto at the Fayre this year, however the PTA have arranged for Father Christmas to visit the school during the school day, wish the children a Merry Christmas and leave a present for each child. The event will take place during the last week of term. The presents will all be individually wrapped and are age appropriate for the children. We very much hope this will be a nice surprise for the children in the lead-up to Christmas.

To cover the costs of running the event the PTA would ask parents to make a voluntary donation of £3.50 per child to cover the costs of providing the gifts and arranging the visit. Payment can be made through the school payment application Tucasi.

Many thanks the PTA.

Club4 returns for Christmas

After its successful roll out during the summer holidays The Club4 programme (known nationally as Holiday, Activity and Food Programme - HAF) is returning for Christmas. This initiative is for children in Reception class up to school year 11, that are eligible for benefits related free school meals or classed as vulnerable. It aims to give them a healthy meal in a fun, active and stimulating environment during the holidays.

Eligible FSM families can book directly with providers through the Club4 website –

<https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/club4holidayoffer>.

Nicola Fraser is Holiday Activity Programme Manager at Active Surrey:

"We would love schools to promote this offer to those that are eligible. The Club4 programme is hugely beneficial to children and their families, it supports wellbeing and welfare, develops individuals social skills and connects families so children are better prepared when they return to school after the holidays."

For more information please contact HAF@surreycc.gov.uk



Cash Raffle Prize £100 ★ Lots More Prizes

Christmas Shopping Stalls ★ Bottle Stall ★ Festive Food

Christmas Crafts ★ Bar & Mulled Wine ★ Tea & Coffee

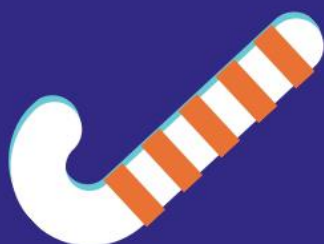
Lots of Fun Games ★ School Choir ★ Poetry & Drama

Entry £1 per adult, children free

St. Francis' RC Primary School, Whyteleafe Road, Caterham, Surrey CR3 5ED



Christmas Raffle Tickets now on sale



www.pta-events.co.uk/stfrancisschool





Christmas Fayre

Child Activity Ticket 10 Stamps £5.00



St Francis School
Christmas Fayre



Hook-a-Duck ★ Name the Teddy
Lucky Dip ★ Sweets Stall
Children's Bar ★ Fun games
Craft Products ★ Festive Food

*Purchase online collect at the Fayre

<https://www.pta-events.co.uk/stfrancisschool>



**ST FRANCIS
SCHOOL**

£12.50



**PLEASE JOIN US FOR THE
TREETOPS CHRISTMAS PARTY**

THURSDAY 9TH DECEMBER

3:30– 6:15PM

**PARTY GAMES •
DANCING
ARTS & CRAFTS
PARTY FOOD INCLUDED**

BOOK NOW

BAG 2 SCHOOL FREE FUNDRAISING FOR SCHOOLS

In partnership with your school or organisation



St Francis Catholic Primary School



Bag 2 School is a company that specialises in the reuse and recycling of good quality second-hand clothing and we have arranged to make a collection from your school. All the bags will be weighed and you will be paid for the total weight collected. Remember, the more you collect the greater the benefit to your school.



PLEASE USE YOUR OWN BAGS, OR BAG 2 SCHOOL BAGS
(THERE IS NO LIMIT)

When the clothes have been removed from the bag the plastic will be packed and sent for recycling.

We are collecting good quality items for RE-USE:

Men's, ladies' & children's clothing, paired shoes, handbags, belts & accessories.

(No uniforms, workwear, pillows, duvets or pieces of fabric please)

The more we weigh the more we pay!

Extra bags are welcome - there's no limit

Please return your Bag2School on:

Monday 6th December 2021 by 9am



01609 780 222



www.bag2school.com



helpdesk@bag2school.com



Need to talk?

Call our free 24/7 emotional wellbeing
and mental health crisis line.

Available for young people aged 6 years and over,
their families and carers within Surrey.

Call 0800 915 4644

Proud to be part of

**Mineworks
Surrey**

The children and young people's emotional
wellbeing and mental health service

NHS

**Surrey and Borders
Partnership
NHS Foundation Trust**