

# St. Francis' School Newsletter

29<sup>th</sup> January 2021



## Value of the month – Faith

### Dear Parents and Carers

#### Re-Opening of Schools

We are all disappointed, though not surprised, that we are not able to be back fully after half term. The remote learning will continue for those at home and in-school provision will be for vulnerable children and children of critical workers. We shall all be watching the TV in half term for further updates!

**Lockdown Rules:** We know the vast majority of our lovely community are sticking to the Government Guidelines for the lockdown and we thank you for your efforts. Children are always eager to tell their friends and us about their lives and the exciting things they are doing. This week we have been over-hearing and hearing directly of events where it appears that some families may not be adhering to the lockdown rules. The families at home and especially staff in school who are taking risks to support vulnerable and critical worker children should not be put at any additional risk by the actions of a small minority. We are all desperate to be out of this situation as soon as possible, but it will only happen if we all abide by the rules.

#### Exciting News!

#### Infant Playground Works

- Our planned infant playground works (drainage improvements, Apple and Y1 fenced play areas and re-surfacing) have been brought forward from Easter to next week. If the work is done now it means when we are all back together, we will have a lovely new area for the infant children to play in. There will be less puddles, a new Apple and Y1 fenced play area - and smooth playground surface! We feel it will be worthwhile putting up with some inconvenience in school for the next 9 days, for a positive payoff for when we are all back again.

#### Trim Trail and Gym Area

- Our new trim trail and gym area is almost finished and we shall be able to use it very soon!

#### Story-telling and Poetry Area

- Our story-telling chair and benches are now in place. This area is very special to us as the chair has been purchased from donations in memory of Ms Charlotte Eade, one of our parents, who passed away suddenly a year ago, she loved reading and was a regular volunteer in school. The area will enhance the reading opportunities in school and make a fabulous addition for our children to read and recite poetry in. Our thanks also go to Mrs Shannon whose enthusiasm for poetry has helped fund the benches and we are looking forward to seeing poetry club using it to the full when we are all back.



### **Thank you to the PTA and Parents**

We would just like to say a big thank you to Lisa and all PTA Team who worked so hard before Christmas to pull together our remote Christmas Fayre. The Fayre raised a total of £2,700. Many thanks to all the parents and children who supported us. It is very much appreciated, especially in such difficult times.

### **Surrey Support for Parents**

Surrey Council are building a Hub which is intended to become a go-to resource to help parents looking for additional information about how to support children. They are starting small and initially just focusing on behaviour but the intention is that this builds to be much more comprehensive site for parental help. Do have a look at the site: <https://www.surreysfamilyhelphub.org.uk/?view=category>

### **Lateral Flow Testing in School (for Staff only)**

Covid Lateral Flow 'quick' testing for staff in schools begins this week. In primary no children are tested - it is for staff only and not children. If staff members test positive they will have to go for a full 'PCR' covid test to have it confirmed. In light of this, we are anticipating potential disruption to the Critical Worker Bubbles. If a staff member tests positive, we will have to follow the covid test and trace guidelines and may need to close bubbles. If this happens and we cannot open a bubble safely, the office will contact critical worker families as soon as we can, so please be aware and watch out for an email or message.

Best wishes,  
Mrs Wheeler and all the Staff

### **E- Safety: Roblox Guide For Parents**

Please keep a close watch on the 'chat' function in Roblox to ensure children are not sharing inappropriate links. This link may help with

<https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/blog/roblox-guide-parents>



A huge thank you to everyone who supported the Christmas Raffle and Virtual Fair last term. We had a great response from all of the children and parents. The Virtual Fair, Dare a Teacher event was extremely popular with children, congratulations to Mr Dean and a huge thank you to all of the teachers for taking part. A full list of the raffle prizes and winners was published on the St Francis School Association Facebook page last year. In addition to the virtual stalls the children enjoyed a PJ movie and sweets event in school, this included a present from Father Christmas.

The combined Christmas activities held in school and online raised a total of £2,700 which will be put to good use for the children in school. Many thanks to all of you for your continued support.

Hopefully the PTA will be able to host other events later this year but in the meantime there are other ways you can support the school. The PTA recently linked the St Francis School Association to the Amazon Smile charity site. It would be fantastic if parents and family members could support the school by linking their personal Amazon accounts to the charity. Each purchase makes a donation to the school - at no expense to you. Please see below for full details.

The PTA

# DO YOU SHOP AT AMAZON?

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Shop via Amazon Smile and Amazon will donate 0.5% of your eligible purchases to St Francis School Association,

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*Select 'St Francis School Association, Caterham' as your chosen charity.*

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## TURN ON AMAZON SMILE IN YOUR MOBILE APP

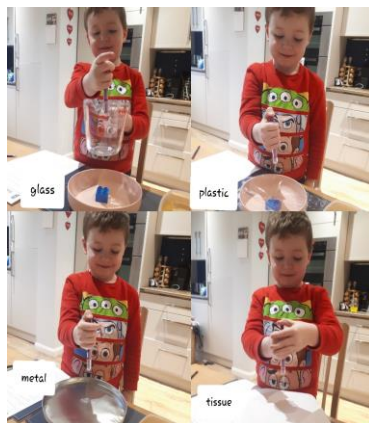
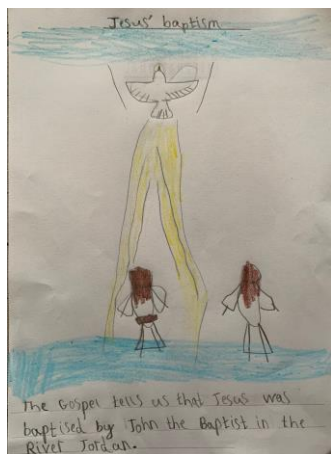


1. Open the Amazon Shopping App.
2. Find 'Settings' in the Main Menu.
3. Tap on 'AmazonSmile' and follow on-screen instructions.

*NB: AmazonSmile is not available in the app on iPads and Tablet Devices.  
Please shop via Amazon Smile in the web browser.*



## Home & School Learning



## Blue Peter

We would like to inform you that we have launched [Blue Peter on YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/bluepeter) at CBBC and we were wondering if your pupils and parents would be interested in this, for entertainment outside of home-schooling hours now we're in lockdown.

Blue Peter is the longest running kids TV show in the world and we are uploading videos to it that are suitable for 5-11 year olds. We have world record breaking challenges, arts and crafts, environmental videos, cooking and baking how tos, inspirational films, gaming, celebrity appearances, dance routines and music performances. We also feature ways of getting a Blue Peter badge, behind the scenes footage and extra content about our incredible presenters Adam, Lindsey, Mwaksy, Richie and Henry the Blue Peter dog.

Please subscribe to <https://www.youtube.com/bluepeter> - (it's obviously completely free to subscribe!) and don't forget to watch the live programme on CBBC at 5.00pm every Thursday, or on BBC iPlayer.



# SURREY URGENTLY NEEDS MORE FOSTER CARERS

**Do you have a spare room?  
Could you open your home  
and heart to a child?**

Have you considered fostering? Meet a foster family in your local area and hear about their experiences.

Email foster carer **Cindy** at [Cindyajmorris@gmail.com](mailto:Cindyajmorris@gmail.com) for more information and/or to request to join the online event.

Call **07851654544** if you have trouble joining the event!

Find out more about fostering: [www.surreycc.gov.uk/fostering](http://www.surreycc.gov.uk/fostering)



**Tuesday  
9<sup>th</sup> February 7:45pm**

**Friday  
26<sup>th</sup> March 7:45pm**

**Thursday  
8<sup>th</sup> April 3pm (half term)**