



Virtue of the month – Faith

Dear Parents and Carers



Phonics

A love for Language: Phonics, Reading and Writing Together

Miss Rudman, our Phonics Lead, has been working hard to ensure the smooth running of our phonics programme. She is delighted to report real improvements in the children's phonics skills, which is fantastic progress. The children are excited to be in their new phonics groups and are approaching this next step with enthusiasm and confidence. It's wonderful to see their eagerness as they take on new challenges and build essential skills for their future learning. We know that parental engagement is key to continued success, and we truly value the support from families. Practising sounds at home, reading together, and encouraging a love of books all make a big difference.

We have had a very exciting and busy start to the term in English at St Francis! Miss Coggins, our English Lead, has shared that reading and writing are thriving across the school. Children are engaging with a wide range of texts and developing a real love for reading. Our focus is not only on decoding words but also on building comprehension skills, so that every child can understand and enjoy what they read. Each year group has been fully immersed in their new Big Writing Missions:

- **Year 6** have become investigators, exploring whether Goldilocks was framed by Baby Bear and preparing a report for the Chief of Justice.
- **Year 5** are researching the Middle Ages and creating non-chronological reports about medieval life.
- **Year 4** are diving into the world of space tourism with great enthusiasm.
- **Year 3** have written persuasive letters from the viewpoint of a gnome who has been pushed out of his home.
- **Year 2** are reporting on Jack's adventures up the beanstalk.
- **Year 1** are learning all about recycling and how we can look after our planet.

To support your child at home, we encourage you to continue sharing their weekly **Talk Homework**. Speaking and orally rehearsing sentences is an important first step before writing. Reading around their mission topic—and simply enjoying books and conversations together—remains one of the most powerful ways you can help your child progress. This term, children across the school are also using **orange pens** to help them focus on capital letters. Handwriting is another whole-school priority, so please speak to your class teacher if you would like additional resources or guidance to use at home. Thank you for your continued support in helping our children become confident readers and writers!

Attendance Cup

Well done, **Hornbeam Class!** Your fantastic attendance this week has earned you the Attendance Cup. It's great to see your commitment to being in school and learning together. To all our other classes: keep going, your turn to shine next week.



Coffee Morning- Let's Talk!

We'd love for you to join us for our upcoming Coffee Morning – a relaxed and friendly opportunity to connect, share experiences, and enjoy a chat over a warm drink.

Date: Wednesday, 28th January Time: 9:00–10:00 AM straight after drop off. Location: Treetops

The Mental Health Team will be leading an open discussion on:

- ✓ Supporting smooth transitions from home to school
- ✓ Understanding and managing anxiety in children. We look forward to seeing you there!



Coming Soon: Parent Workshops on mental health and wellbeing

Transition to Secondary School Workshop – practical tips to help your child prepare for this big step
Autism Support Workshop – strategies and resources for supporting children with autism. Details to follow.

St Francis' School Development Fund

The St Francis' School Development Fund plays a vital role in helping us improve our school facilities and learning resources, ensuring we continue to provide a welcoming and inspiring environment for every child. Your support truly makes a difference, every contribution, big or small, helps us move forward. If you're able to help, we would greatly appreciate a voluntary monthly gift or a one-off donation. Please [Donate Here](#) or visit the donation page on our website (see image to the side) for more details. All donations are handled with complete confidentiality. Thank you for your generosity and continued support in making St Francis' the best it can be!



Safe & Age- appropriate Online Gaming

While we would prefer that children spend less time online, it's important to ensure that when they *are* using digital devices, they are engaging with age-appropriate and safe games. Making mindful choices about what they play supports their wellbeing and helps create a safer, more positive online experience. **Click the link to find out more and start exploring safe gaming options you can feel confident about.**

[Family Gaming Database](#) these are family-friendly games that have been extensively researched for children. Each game has been hand-picked, carefully reviewed, and tested with real families to ensure it is age-appropriate, engaging, and secure.

Celebration Assembly

Well done to all the certificate winners this week and to **Margaret Clitherow** for winning the House points.



Best wishes,
Mr Doyle and Staff



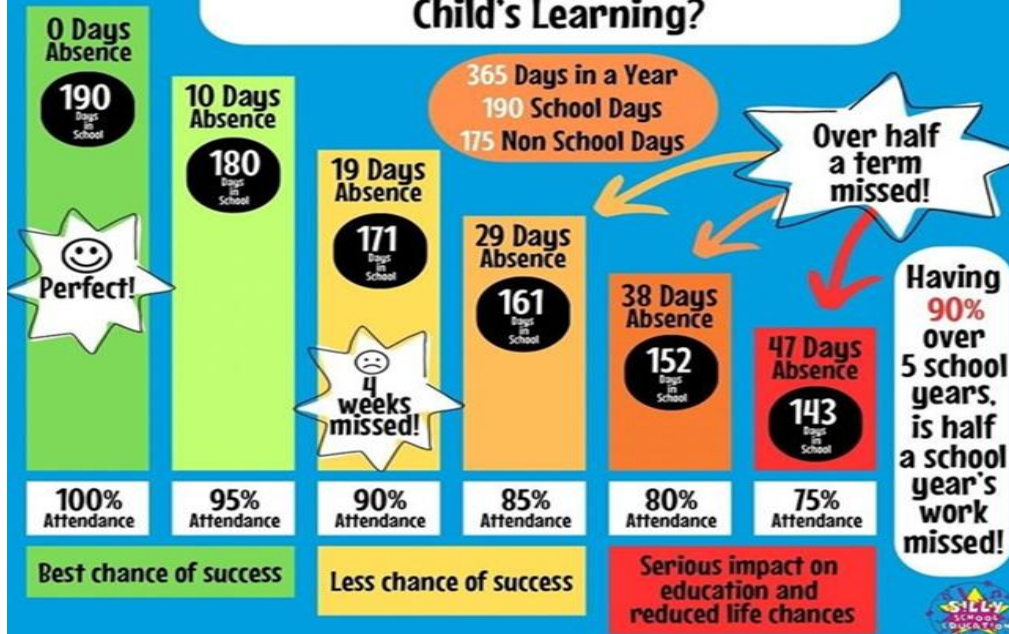
RE

I wonder what you see the world as? A number of years ago, the Matrix films came out, showing the mission of Neo, a computer hacker seeing the world as a series of 1's and 0's. But what about you? When it rains, what do you see? The obvious answer is "Rain". Alternatively, do we recognise that it is God looking after and watering the world he created. Do we see the cold as annoying and bitter or see it as a time for animals and plants to rest and restore themselves ready for the spring time. When we think about our lives and the lives of those in our families, we have so many different "ages and stages" of their development. How can we remember the miracle of life and the world in all we see? **Mr Yarnell**

Calendar Dates

13 th February	Break up For Half Term
23 rd February	School reopens @9am
25 th February	Dorking Hall Festival
13 th March	INSET – School Closed
17 th March	Royal Albert Hall – Details to Follow
27 th March	Break Up From School @1pm
13 th April	School Reopens @9am
4 th May	Bank Holiday -School Closed
5 th May	Year 3 Trip Frylands Wood
5 th May	Year 4 Trip to High Ashurst
11 th – 14 th May	Sats Week for Year 6
22 nd May	Break Up For Half Term
1 st June	School Reopens @9am
17 th July	Break up From School @1pm

How Does School Attendance Affect a Child's Learning?



Coffee Morning

Wednesday 28th January
9am -10am @ Treetops.
Come along after drop off

Join Us to Share, Listen & Support



The Mental Health Team
will be leading an open discussion on:

Supporting smooth transitions from home to school
Understanding and managing anxiety in children

We look forward to seeing you there!

Tickets Are Selling Fast!



We're excited to see so much enthusiasm for our upcoming event! Tickets are selling quickly, and we want to make sure everyone who would like to attend has the chance to get one. If you haven't secured your ticket yet, please do so soon to avoid missing out. Buy your tickets here - <https://www.pta-events.co.uk/stfrancisschool/index.cfm>

The poster features a close-up, back view of a person's head and neck. The person's skin is dark, and they are wearing a grey, textured sweater. On the back of their head, the words 'QUIZ NIGHT' are written in large, bold, red capital letters. Below that, 'FRIDAY 30TH JANUARY' is written in white capital letters. Further down, on the neck, the time '19:00' is written in dark red capital letters. In the top right corner of the image, the SFPTA logo is visible. At the bottom of the image, there is a black rectangular box containing white text: 'MAX TEAMS OF 8', '£7PP FOR ENTRY', '£10PP ENTRY & A DRINK', and 'IN THE SCHOOL HALL @ ST FRANCIS'. The background of the image is a blurred crowd of people in a school hall, with some people wearing blue clothing.

**QUIZ
NIGHT**
FRIDAY 30TH
JANUARY

19:00

**MAX TEAMS OF 8
£7PP FOR ENTRY
£10PP ENTRY & A DRINK
IN THE SCHOOL HALL @ ST FRANCIS**