

St. Francis' School Newsletter

27th September 2019



Value of the month – Perseverance

Dear Parents

Welcome to our **new Reception Parents and the children** who have all now spent their first full week at school – the children are settling beautifully and getting used to the routines - well done!

This week, we had our **PTA AGM** and I would like to say a big thank you to Lucy Kolkman and all those on the PTA team for all their hard work over the past year. It was lovely to see so many parents who came out to attend the AGM, especially those from our new Reception Classes. The PTA are already busy organising the coming year's events! As always, we would welcome further members to help share the load. The PTA meet approximately once term at 7/7.30pm. Please do contact them if you feel that you can help – the contact details are in the Newsletter PTA section below.

Thank you also to all parents who have supported the PTA events – this support has raised a huge amount of money that has enabled us to buy: IT equipment (interactive whiteboards), computing/coding resources, books for our libraries, Reception Class outdoor equipment, equipment to support our Rainbows and Lunch Club groups etc. The PTA also contributed to the refurbishment of the pond, prayer garden and growing area. There is still more to do, but do have a look at how it is progressing. A big 'thank you' to Mr Firth who has designed the area and has been working on the project for us – it is very much appreciated.

Drop Off: Thank you to all those parents who manage our morning drop off procedure and especially to Mrs Dunne for her tireless work organising the rotas. We are looking for volunteers to add to the rota. If you can spare any time in the morning once every two weeks or so, please do contact Mrs Dunne.

Save the Date: Thursday June 25th 2020 (LATE AFTERNOON/EVENING) Details to follow.

Help us celebrate the 140th anniversary of the founding of the school with Mass and a visit to the Circus!

Mrs M Wheeler
Headteacher

Open Mornings and School Tours for next year's Reception Parents

There will be the following events for prospective parents:

- **Open Morning & Tours** - 9:15am – 10:15am
Friday 18th October 2019
- **Open Afternoon & Tours** 1:30pm - 2:30pm
Thursday 14th November 2019

The Headteacher will address parents at the start of both events.

Please could any prospective parents who wish to attend contact the school office to book place.

End of school day collections

Please inform your child's teacher in writing if your child is being collected by someone other than a parent at the end of the school day.

Alternatively, please contact the school office by telephone or email where possible before 1pm.

If your child is collected on regular basis by several different people, please confirm in writing the names of the people you give permission to pick up on your behalf and send this in via the school office. Thank you.

Diary Dates		
1st	October	NSPCC Workshop Years 5 & 6
4 th	October	Feast Day of St. Francis' and Harvest Mass KS2 -2pm Sacred Heart Liturgy KS1- 2:45pm at school
8th	October	Grandparents day – EYFS & KS1 at 9:10am / KS2 at 1:45pm
11th	October	Welcome Disco for reception children and parents only
18th	October	Open morning 9:15am. Prospective parents September 2019.
19th	October	Junior choir singing at St Mary's - letter to follow
21 st	October	Parents Evening
22 nd	October	Parents Evening
25th	October	Year 3 Payment deadline for Science Museum trip 3.30pm – School closes for half term.
4th	November	9:00am, School re-opens for 2 nd half of autumn term Individual school photographs

Reminder for Year 6 Parents: Permission to leave the site at the end of the day

If they have permission to walk home, or to walk and meet you off site please can you remind your children of the following:

1. They should walk straight home quickly and sensibly – do not delay or go via shops etc.
2. If they normally meet you off site and you are delayed they should know that **at 4pm**, if you have not turned up, to walk quickly back to the school and go to the office. Someone is always around and we will keep the children here and phone to check on parents' whereabouts.
3. On the way home they are in school uniform and as such are representing the school. They should behave sensibly and politely at all times on the journey home.
4. If they are worried at all on the journey, they can always return to school and go to the office.

E-Safety 'Acceptable Use Agreements'.

Following a recent review of our E-Safety policy, we now have new 'Acceptable Use Agreements' for using technology in school. Over the next two weeks, all children from Y1 to Y6 will be discussing the agreements with their teachers and be bringing them home to discuss with parents and carers. There is also an agreement for parents / carers to read and sign too.

Please return these agreements to school as soon as possible.

Lunch Money

A reminder that lunch money is now due for the new term. The cost is now £2.35 per day, making the totals as follows:

Weekly - £11.75
First half term - £86.35
Second half term - £77.55
Whole term - £163.90

Cheques should be made payable to **Surrey County Council**.

Alternatively, payment can be made online – if you would like instructions, please ask at the School Office.

Meals are ordered on a weekly basis; you **cannot** alter midweek. Anyone wishing to change from Packed Lunch to School Dinners or vice versa, must let the school office know by the Friday of the previous week. You will be charged for dinners if you have not informed us.

Thank you.

Payments

Please ensure that **all** payments sent to school office are put in an envelope, clearly marked with your child's name and what the money is for. Thank you

School office hours

Please be reminded that the school office is open to parents from 8:45am until 4pm, Monday to Friday only. Outside these hours, the gate buzzer and telephone are not supervised.

If you need to arrange for your child to be collected early from an internally run club, please make sure that you let the school office know as early as possible, preferably before 1pm. If they attend an externally run club, please contact the provider direct to arrange early pickup. Thank you.

Polite Reminder

JEWELLERY - no jewellery should be worn in school. It is County and school policy that children are not permitted to take part in any form of Physical Education if wearing jewellery. This includes earrings, even if they are covered up with tape.

Secondary School Open Days

Oxted School	Thursday 3rd October	6pm-8.30pm
Woldingham School	By appointment only	See school's website
Reigate Grammar School		Book via reigategrammar.org

Please visit the schools' websites to check for full details, as other dates may be available and the dates may be subject to change.

Lunch: Use of Cutlery

Please can we ask families to help us out by encouraging the children to use cutlery when eating. At lunch, many children are just using forks (or fingers!) and not using their knife. Please can you help them to practise at home. Thank you again for your support and cooperation with this.

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.

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.

Thank you.

School Fund/ Governors Fund Letter

Please can all parents return the response slips attached to our Chair of Governors letter sent out recently, regarding School Fund & the Governors Fund. A reply is required by all families and we do not want to have to chase you. Your assistance is greatly appreciated.

School Uniform

The children came back to school looking very smart in their uniforms. Please encourage them to keep this up and to understand the importance of taking pride in their appearance. Shirts should be tucked in, jumpers/cardigans worn (or in their bag), long hair tied back with a blue/white/black hair accessory and black school shoes worn. Should they have misplaced their shoes, they **MUST** wear plimsolls inside the school and trainers outside. Earrings are not allowed for Health & Safety reasons. Coats are now necessary every day, as the days are getting colder and wetter and we do take them out on occasions for the fresh air if it is only light rain or drizzle. Thank you.

Harvest Festival Donation Wish list

Next week **FRIDAY IS THE ST FRANCIS' FEAST DAY, AND THE CAFOD HARVEST DAY**. As we did last year, we are combining the two and the Juniors will be celebrating Mass at Sacred Heart at 2pm. If you would like to join them and are able to help with walking the children to church, please let the school know. Your offer will be greatly appreciated.

The Infants will have a Liturgy at school instead at 2.45PM, you are most welcome to attend.

See below a list of items for **DONATIONS FOR THE FOODBANK**.

Please send these in by Wednesday so that they can be placed around the altars on Friday. Thank you.

COMBINED HARVEST APPEAL 

HELP BY DONATING AN ITEM OR TWO FROM OUR SHOPPING LIST TO ENSURE WE CAN PROVIDE FOOD TO PEOPLE IN CRISIS

SHOPPING LIST TOP TEN ITEMS

- Tinned fruit
- Tinned tomatoes
- Tinned carrots
- Sponge pudding
- Chocolate
- Soup
- Jam
- Powdered milk
- Small bags of rice
- Bags for life

Don't forget...

You can help transform more lives with a financial donation too.

Caterham Foodbank
www.caterham.foodbank.org.uk
Registered Charity in England & Wales 1155330

School Association

AGM

Thank you to everyone that came along to the meeting on Wednesday. It was lovely to see so many people and new reception parents too.

We thanked Stacey Nash for acting as Treasurer for the past 4 years as he stepped down from this role. Stuart Johnson has kindly offered to take over the position and was successfully voted into the post.

Class representatives were confirmed -

Apple - Sarah Carter and Bonnie Ham

Cherry - Amy O'Neil and Naomi Fernandes

Elm - Gemma Morley and Leah Pullan

Oak - Rachael Kay, Diana Dolce, Sarah Addley and Kat Henry

Beech - Jo McCormack and Tracy Johnson

Larch - Lisa Marie and Judith Dixon

Cedar - Michelle Trumper

Rowan - Charlotte Eade

Pine - Tina Nolan

Hazel - Lynda Earl

Maple - Audrey Dunne

Hornbeam - Dom Sturgess

Willow - Jamie Langan and Nicky Leaker

Linden - currently no rep

Thank you to everyone that has offered to be a class rep - it is a great help with communication and hopefully won't be too much effort for anyone as we appreciate that everyone has very busy lives.

Ice Cream Sales - Thank you to Amy O'Neil and team for organising the Ice Cream Sales after school recently. Its been a lovely treat for the children and parents and raises essential funds for the school.

Welcome Disco - 11th October.

Reception parents and children are welcome to join us in the school hall from 6-8pm for an opportunity to have fun and get to know each other. There will be a DJ, tuck shop and refreshments. Tickets are available - <https://www.tickettailor.com/events/stfrancisschoolassociation/301500>

Christmas Themed Movie Night - 22nd November. This is a chance for children in years 1-6 to get into the spirit of Christmas with a film and Christmas themed treats. There will be a limited number of tickets available due to space in the hall. Tickets available mid October via ticket tailor.

Second hand uniform sales - Thank you to Rachael Kay for organising this and to Sinead Mullholland for helping on the day. The sale raised £50 and was a great opportunity to buy some good quality pre-loved uniform. Second hand uniform will be available to buy at parent's evenings in October.

Cinderella Pantomime at Fairfield Halls. The PTA have secured tickets for the pantomime, Cinderella at the newly refurbished Fairfield Halls on Wednesday 18th December at 7pm. Tickets are £21 each (originally £43!). Please use the link to purchase tickets - <https://www.tickettailor.com/events/stfrancisschoolassociation>. Payment is due by the end of September so don't delay!

Save the date

Mufti Day - 6th December - please bring in a bottle for the bottle tombola

Christmas Fayre - 8th December

Spring Ball - 7th March 2020



Hello VEGI

Do you have a favourite vegetable? Make it a cute cartoon character that excites everyone and spreads the word: Eating vegetables is good for your body, good for the Earth! Grab your brush/pencils and some creative time, give your drawing to your catering team by 14th October! The catering team in your school will select a winner, who will be entered into the overall final where it will compete with other school's entries.

The top 3 winners will get a vegetable hamper with recipes, together with a chef's hat and apron.

In addition, the first prize will have their winning entry turned into an amazing soft toy character.

We can't wait to give you your prizes.

Top 3 winners will be announced on 8th November.

Ready, Steady, Go Get Drawing!!!!!!!!!!

