

St. Francis' School Newsletter

23rd January 2026



Virtue of the month – Faith

Dear Parents and Carers

We are now halfway through this half term! Time is really rushing by and your children have been excellent in school this week. While we have had plenty of rain, they have worked hard and our visitors and prospective parents always comment on how well they behave and how focused they are in lessons. I have also been sent lots of children to show me their classwork (in return for a HT sticker), and I was delighted to read lots of great writing from our Y5s in particular around the Golden Rule. It is unbelievable to watch Reception children learning to write before our very eyes. Thank you for all the support you give them to help this happen.

Uniform, Footwear & Jewellery Expectations

In assembly today, we had a reminder around uniform. Please could you help us by ensuring that your child arrives in the correct uniform each day as it means we can then just get going on the good stuff? Please ensure that your child:



Wears full, correct uniform every day, including a school tie.

Wears appropriate school shoes. Trainers should only be worn for PE lessons or at breaktime if needed.

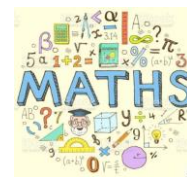
No jewellery or earrings. This is important for children's safety and consistency across the school.

Thank you for your continued support in helping us uphold high standards for all our children.

Fidget Tools in School Some children find fidget tools helpful for staying focused and calm and, when needed, the school will provide an appropriate tool as part of their SEND support plan. This ensures everything used in class is safe and genuinely helpful for learning. Since Christmas, we've also seen more **toys** coming into school. We all love toys, but they can be distracting and often lead to upset if they are lost or broken, so please could you save them for home. While we know this may all sound a bit 'dry', we can reassure you that it really does create a nicer and tidier environment for everyone. Thank you for your support in keeping things calm and focused.

Maths Across the School

There is lots of fantastic maths learning happening across the school, and it's been brilliant to see our children working hard, challenging themselves and having fun with numbers! From exploring new ideas to mastering key skills, pupils are growing in confidence and enthusiasm every day.



In **Key Stage 1**, children are enjoying using **NumBots** to build strong number skills and fluency through fun, interactive games. Over in **Key Stage 2**, pupils are rocking their times tables with **TT Rock Stars (TTRS)** and it's great to see their speed and confidence improving week by week! We would love to encourage families to keep the maths momentum going at home. Little bits of arithmetic and mental maths practice (just a few minutes at a time!) can make a big difference and really boost confidence. We're also excited to be taking part in **NSPCC Number Day (6th February)** a fun and engaging way to celebrate maths with a splash of fun, all while highlighting a worthy cause. We have introduced **Fluency Fridays**, where children revisit and embed previous learning. These sessions help to reinforce key skills, deepen understanding and ensure learning is secure over time. Parents can support maths learning at home using the brilliant **White Rose Maths** resources <https://whiteroseeducation.com/parent-pupil-resources/maths/free-downloads> which link closely to what we teach in school. Another fantastic resource is **BBC Bitesize**, <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/subjects/z826n39> packed with child-friendly videos, quizzes and games to make maths learning enjoyable at home. Thank you for your continued support in helping us nurture confident, capable and happy mathematicians!

Attendance Cup

Well done, **Pine 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.



St Francis' School Development Fund

A huge thank you to everyone who has already clicked the link and donated — we really appreciate it! The St Francis' School Development Fund helps us make improvements around the school and invest in resources that support our children's learning. Every donation, big or small, truly makes a difference and helps us keep moving forward. If you're able to help, we'd be very grateful for a one-off donation or a voluntary monthly gift. Please Donate Here, [Donate](#) or visit the donation page on our website (see image to the side) for more information. All donations are handled confidentially. Thank you so much for your continued support and for helping to make St Francis' such a great place for our children to learn and grow, we couldn't do it without you!



Coffee Morning

Just a little reminder that we'd love you to join us for our upcoming **Coffee Morning**, a relaxed and friendly chance to connect with others, share experiences, and enjoy a chat over a warm drink. See poster below.

Safety Online

Parenting today is an exciting journey, even if it sometimes comes with its challenges! Childhood looks very different from when we were growing up, and there's no one-size-fits-all guide. Add in the fast-moving digital world, and it's completely normal to feel like you're learning alongside your child. This link [A guide for parents and carers on managing children's digital lives](#) is designed to help make conversations easier, spark confidence, and give you practical reassurance as you support your child. You don't need to have all the answers, and you're certainly not alone.

Celebration Assembly

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

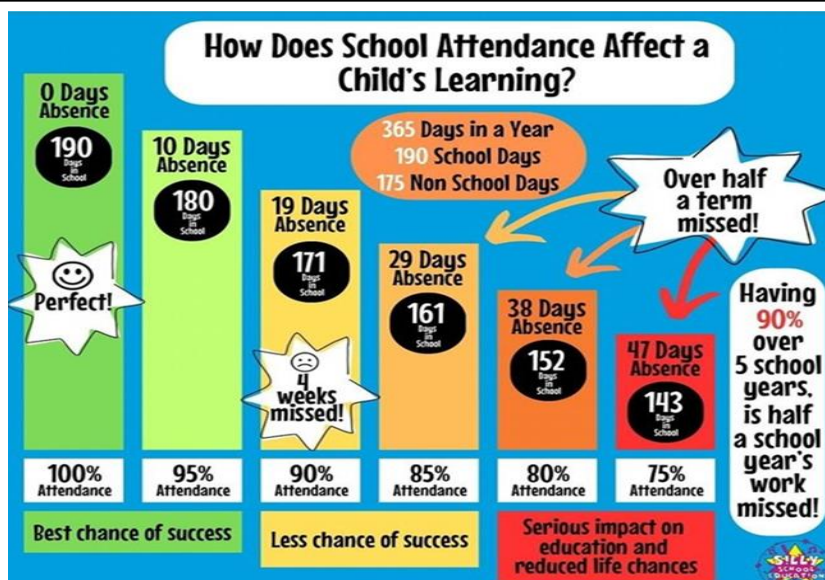


Best wishes,
Mr Doyle and Staff



RE

It is amazing how the weather can make us feel. The warmth of the sun lighting and energising us, the rain, often making us feel sad, but add a little cold and snow falls and the feelings change again. All of us think differently from one weather to the next and yet all the weathers work together to create a harmony for the world and everything in it. It's symbiotic relationships nurturing and supporting one another. How we view them therefore, could be seen as God helping us all to grow and thrive within his wonderful creation. Mr Yarnell



Calendar Dates

9 th -13 th February	Mental Health
10 th February	Safer Internet Day
13 th February	Break up For Half Term
23 rd February	School reopens @9am
25 th February	Dorking Hall Festival
27 th February	Random Acts of Kindness
27 th February	PTA Reception Disco TBC
5 th March	World Book Day (Dressing Up) Details to Follow
6 th -12 th March	Book Fayre Details to Follow
9 th -12 th March	Science Week
16 th -20 th March	PTA Easter Bonnet Competition Details to follow
13 th March	INSET – School Closed
17 th March	Royal Albert Hall – Details to Follow
18 th -19 th March	Parents Evening Details to Follow
25 th March	Easter Reflections - Reception & KS1 @ 9.10am Parents Invited KS2 @ 2.30pm -Parents Invited
27 th March	Stations of the Cross – Yr 6 - @9.10am Parents Invited 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
1-12 th June	Year 4 MTC
26 th June	Sports Day -Details to Follow
17 th July	Break up From School @1pm

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>

A promotional poster for a Quiz Night event. The background is a photograph of the back of a person's head and neck, with text written on their skin. The text is written in a hand-drawn style. At the top right of the image is the SFPTA logo. The main text on the back of the head reads 'QUIZ NIGHT' in large red letters, followed by 'FRIDAY 30TH JANUARY' in white letters. Below that, '19:00' is written in black letters. At the bottom of the image, there is a white box containing the following text: 'MAX TEAMS OF 8', '£7PP FOR ENTRY', '£10PP ENTRY & A DRINK', and 'IN THE SCHOOL HALL @ ST FRANCIS'.

QUIZ NIGHT
FRIDAY 30TH JANUARY
19:00

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