

Value of the month – Thoughtfulness

Newsletter 12th June 2020



Dear Parents and Carers

Value of the Month: Our Value for June is **Thoughtfulness**. Please do discuss all aspects of this important Value with your children.

Governors letter

Please see a letter from our Governors below.

Critical Worker Children: Pentecost Pictures

Our critical worker children have been truly amazing over the last three months, cheerful and well behaved in what have been strange times. I hope you like some of their Pentecost pictures.

Thank you to all the staff who have been in school on rota and who have made the days interesting and fun for the children.

Increases to the provision for the children of Critical Workers

As many more of our 'critical worker' parents have been required to return to work in the past couple of weeks, it has resulted in us having to review our provision across the whole school. We have followed the Government Guidance and prioritised school places for the children of critical workers.

We have re-organised all our classrooms, lunchtimes, playtimes and timetables to take into account the 2 metre social distancing rules. Unfortunately, this means our classrooms, which all vary in size, can only accommodate between 8 and 12 children at separated desks which adhere to the 2 metre limit.

This has meant that from Monday with Reception Class expanding we have all fourteen of our classrooms in use and all staff members (Teachers and TAs) allocated to run the class groups.

- Y6 – four classrooms
- Y4/5 – one classroom
- Y4 – one classroom
- Y3 – one classroom
- Y2 - two classrooms
- Y1 – two classrooms
- Reception – three classrooms

Regrettably, this has also meant that we cannot offer places to all families that want one. We have established waiting lists, but will need to wait and see if the Government reduce the 2 metre distancing requirements before we can expand the provision further. We will of course keep in touch on this matter.

From Monday the teachers will all be back in school taking Class Groups. They will be maintaining our Home Learning provision (although there is no statutory obligation to provide this), so please continue as you have already been - considerate and patient as the Teachers get into their new day time routines – you may not get replies to emails and questions as quickly as previously.

[Home Learning Queries](#)

Please continue to use the Class Emails for queries around home learning.

[Welcome back to some of our Year 6s and Year 1s.](#)

Last week we welcomed back our Year 6 children and some of our Year 1 children. It was a little strange for them all at first with new classroom layouts and routines, but they settled back into things very quickly.

Following the sadly inevitable cancellation of the Year 6 trip to the Isle of Wight, the Year 6 Staff made sure the Year 6 children had a wonderful 'Kingswood' week in school with lots of fun outdoor team building activities – the children looked very tired as they left school on Friday! A good time was had by all. Well done to the Year 6 team for making it a wonderful week.

We are looking forward to seeing some of our **Reception** children on Monday.

[General Queries](#)

Please use the office email office@stfrancis.surrey.sch.uk for more general queries. We monitor the office email across the day.

[Religious Education \(RE\) Newsletter](#) Do remember to read our weekly RE Newsletter and have a look at the information in the links. It can be found on the website – 'Parents' tab – RE Newsletters.



A message from our Governors

Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope this finds you well. The Governors all met for our first ever virtual meetings this term - another new way of working which we are all getting used to. What a happy bunch!



It has been a very busy and strange time for everyone. As the Chair of Governors, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the Governors for the dedication and professionalism they offer the school. It is a voluntary role and the responsibility is huge, but they offer their expertise, time and support to the team with smiles and genuine love for the school. At a time of crisis like this, they still find the time to diligently prepare for our meetings and log in to our evening meetings from their homes.

We are, as always, very grateful to our wonderful staff at school and thank them for their hard work and cooperation, especially in the past few weeks as the numbers in school have been increasing. The children that are in school at the moment seem to have adapted well and the staff are doing all they can to make it as fun and relaxed as possible for them. We are very lucky to have a hugely devoted Senior Leadership Team in our school. Our Senior Leadership Team; Mrs Wheeler, Mrs Fawcett, Mrs Dommatt and Mrs Marsh (who many of you will be less familiar with, but is our School Business Manager and worth her weight in gold!) have all been working so, so hard and updating themselves and us on the frequently changing guidance as it is released to make sure they are following them carefully and keeping the interests and safety of our children and staff at the forefront of their minds during this period of planning and reorganisation. A special mention must go to Mrs Wheeler, who has had to deal with the huge responsibility of keeping the school running for critical workers and vulnerable pupils through this crisis, while planning and preparing for opening further to get as many children back in school as is safely possible. I know many of you have written to acknowledge and thank her for the difficult job she has had this past few months.

Finally, we wanted to thank you, the parents and carers, for your support and patience during this very uncertain time. It has been a really difficult time as a parent, having to take on roles of home-teachers and entertainers as well! As parents ourselves, we understand your worries, the difficulties of a change to work and home situations and generally the uncertainty that we have all learned to live with recently. Over the next few months, the governors will be focusing on the school community and monitoring the preparations for the academic year ahead. We have a wonderful community in our school and together we will come through this and resume our happy, lively school again.

With best wishes,

Nathalie Walsh

Chair of Governors, on behalf of all the Governors of St Francis Catholic Primary School

Science at Home - Bean Growing!

Well done to Evie and Fia who have been growing the beans that they took home in March!



Foodbank and Crisis Support

As the lockdown continues we know that some families may be experiencing difficulties. Do please contact me via the office email office@stfrancis.surrey.sch.uk if you experience difficulties during the coming weeks. Any matters discussed will be treated with confidentiality. I have access to those that can support families via the local Foodbank, the Church SVP and Diocese Crisis Fund. Do not hesitate to ask – there is no need for any of our families to be in need, especially for food.

Surrey Support for Families Links

Surrey Local Authority have created a web page to help parents and carers be aware of what telephone and online support is available at the moment. These include juggling work commitments with educating children from home, concerns about finance and the uncertainty this period creates. The links are below:

<https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/people-and-community/families/support-and-advice/keeping-your-family-safe/coronavirus-covid-19-resources-and-helpful-information>

- **Coronavirus (COVID-19) general information and advice**
- [Domestic abuse](#)
- [Emotional wellbeing support for children](#)
- [Grief and bereavement](#)
- [Health, development and wellbeing advice](#)
- [LGBTQ+ services](#)
- [Parent/carer support](#)
- [Special Educational Needs and Disability \(SEND\)](#)
- [Support for young people](#)

Masses

Father Seán and Father Stephen are saying Mass daily via the Sacred Heart Livestream each day <https://www.churchservices.tv/caterham> . Do keep looking at the Church websites for information on 'online' Services.

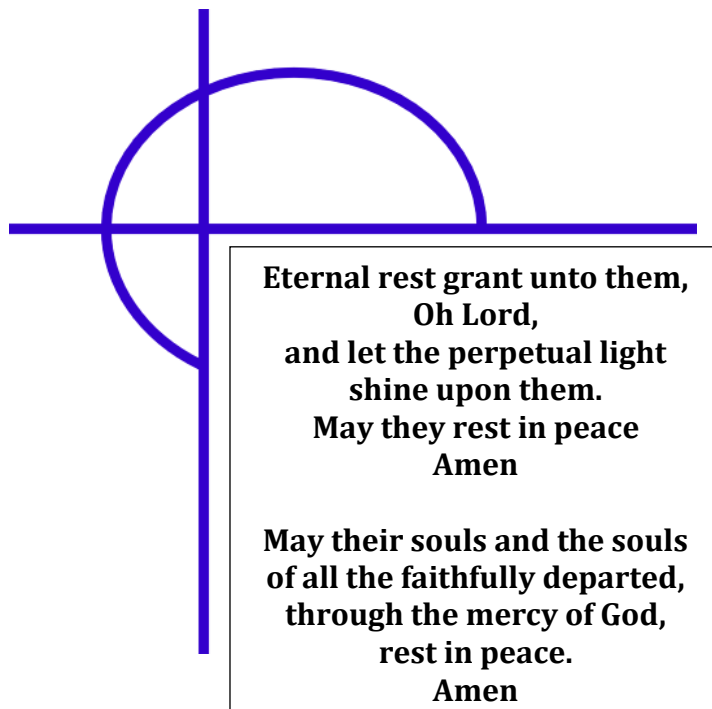
Father Seán has also been uploading, under 'Featured Videos', a History of the Church Course, which Parents may wish to view and listen to.



Special Thoughts and Prayers for Our School Community

Please pray for our whole school community us all at this difficult time. For our Priests, our Parents and family members who are critical workers. For those who have been ill and thankfully recovered, and especially for all those currently in hospital and for those who have sadly lost their lives.

We send our deepest sympathy and prayers for strength, peace and comfort to our families who have lost loved ones.



Sites that may help with explanations for children and adults on the issues of the virus and on dealing with bereavement in this time of crisis are listed below:

<https://www.cruse.org.uk/get-help/coronavirus-dealing-bereavement-and-grief>

<https://www.mind.org.uk/information-support/coronavirus/coronavirus-and-your-wellbeing/>

<https://www.winstonswish.org/coronavirus/>

<https://www.childbereavementuk.org/>

<https://www.jigsawsoutheast.org.uk/charity-news/as-coronavirus-spreads-what-you-need-to-know/>

Many of our families will be experiencing illness, recoveries and bereavements, which is particularly hard in these difficult times. Please do tell the class teacher, or myself about any concerns around family illness and recovery or bereavement as we can help you and the children access any support needed.

We have Mrs Hamilton our Emotional Literacy Support Advisor (ELSA) available now and our Primary Mental Health Worker will be available once we are back in school.

Wellbeing, Mental Health and SEND Support

Please remember that we will not be aware of your worries, or those of your children, unless you share them with us and we actively encourage you to contact us for any help. We monitor our emails and will ring you – we are always happy to talk things through and help or signpost if there are worries or concerns. If you require any specific well-being or SEND

support for you and your family please do contact Mrs Dommett via the link on the SEND Information page (under the School Information tab) of our website.

General queries can be made via the office email office@stfrancis.surrey.sch.uk.

This link may be of use for supporting wellbeing at home: <https://eikon.org.uk/for-professionals/eikon-in-schools/head-smart-camhs-partnership/wellbeing-at-home/>

Online Safety & Reporting Problems

ALERT – ZOOM APP: Please check that the security settings and passwords are firmly in place if you or your children are using Zoom. This may be of assistance:

<https://zoom.us/docs/doc/Securing%20Your%20Zoom%20Meetings.pdf>

In light of the new ways we are all finding to communicate and to access online learning it is timely to remind everyone of the following sites that may be supportive for reporting and learning about online safety. Please check that your Parental Controls are in place and that the sites the children are accessing are monitored closely. Also, continue to discuss online safety with the children regularly and keep reminding them to tell you if something worries them.

Primary age Parental Help sheet can be found here:

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/professionals/our-views/parents-helpsheets/>

<https://reportharmfulcontent.com/>

<https://www.childline.org.uk/>

<https://www.ceop.police.uk/safety-centre/>

<https://www.internetmatters.org/>

<https://www.lgfl.net/online-safety>

<https://www.net-aware.org.uk/>

Best wishes,

Mrs Wheeler, the Staff and Governors

