

St. Francis' School Newsletter

4th December 2020



Value of the month – Patience

Dear Parents and Carers

The children have thoroughly enjoyed their **PJ and Film afternoon** today thank you to the PTA for organising the sweets for them. Our **Year 6 Bubble** have also been participating today, just from home! Mrs Fawcett and I joined the Year 6s at 11am for a quick Celebration Assembly just for them, so they did not miss out. It was lovely to see them all and we are proud of how well they are adjusting to using Microsoft Classroom and zoom sessions. It isn't what any of us want, but keep up the good work – you will soon be back in again.

Cedar Tree

Well done to the children from Year 2 who recorded their carols for the annual Lighting of the Cedar Tree. The recordings can be viewed on our website under Our School, Music or click the link below

<https://www.stfrancis.surrey.sch.uk/news/?pid=22&nid=28>

or go to our Facebook page

<https://www.facebook.com/StFrancis-Catholic-Primary-School-1379355215496054>



Nativity Visit from Wintershall Monday 7th & Tuesday 8th

We are all looking forward to the Nativity performance from Wintershall next week. Please remember we will be outside (socially distanced) whether it is dry or wet. The children need warm waterproof winter coats, hats, gloves and wellies ready for being outdoors.

The **Advent Prayer Tree** for those who have been persecuted and not Allowed to practice their faith looks wonderful. The prayers, written by the children are beautiful.



The **Advent Memory Tree** is fast filling up with stars. This is a lovely addition organised by the PTA as part of our Christmas Fundraising. If your child would like to add a name to the tree in memory of a deceased family member they should bring in a donation to class and they will be given a star to write the name on – the suggested donation is 50p.



School Council name the Teddy Bear fundraiser: Children should write their chosen name for the Bear on a piece of paper and place it in an envelope with their 20p. The child's full name and class should be written on the front of the envelope. They will be put into the Christmas Post Box (to quarantine!) and the winning name will be pulled at the end of term.

Eco Code Competition and Admissions 2021-22 Information – scroll down the Newsletter.

Parking, Parental Behaviour and Local Residents

Parking and driving behaviours have been particularly bad this week and I have had to spend time dealing with various complaints and notifications about dangerous driving and parking. As usual it is by a minority of parents, but sadly the impact is on us all. Please be mindful of the following:

1. More care needs to be taken by drivers when entering and exiting the cul-de-sac, particularly where the zebra crossing is. Our parents are using the Sunnydown side as part of the Covid distancing needs and some drivers are not taking care at or near the Zebra crossing and junction.
2. Parking bays are for one car only. The two drivers (from St Francis') who parked up over the kerb and one behind the other in the diagonal bays this week, and then had to back out, was dangerous. It also affected the person using the disabled bay as it restricted vision for them backing out.
3. Be mindful that we do have pupils and parents cycling and scooting to school.
4. We understand that everyone is tired as the end of term approaches and tempers can get frayed, but aggressive behaviour and the use of offensive language is not acceptable, especially in front of the children.

Additionally, the Headteacher's of all three schools have also received requests recently from residents in local roads (eg Portley and Cedar Park Road) asking us to remind our parents to park legally and show considerate behaviour towards the residents. A number of them are elderly, vulnerable and wheelchair bound and there has been some less than thoughtful behaviour experienced by some of them lately, as well dangerous and illegal parking. Local residents in neighbouring roads are usually very accommodating and it is unusual to have complaints from them, so please adhere to the highway code.

Please do be careful and patient when driving in and out of school and on local roads, we do not want any child or adult to be involved in an accident. If there is an accident (on or off site) and drivers break the law they will be dealt with through legal channels by the Police.

At St Francis' we pride ourselves on our school values, please can we all remember to show consideration to each other and the local residents and their roads.

We still actively encourage you all when possible to walk or scoot to school, or to park down by the Salmon's Lane green and walk in.

I am sorry to end with a parking grumble and I do know it is a minority of people, but we worry about the safety of the children, parents and carers. We all have enough going on with Covid, without having to worry about parking, accidents and disrespectful behaviour too.

On a brighter note - **Elizabeth Court Care Home Decorations Request:** Well done to the children Treetops for lovely decorations and in classes for Smile Notes - 'things that make us smile'. They were delivered to the Care Home yesterday and will be enjoyed by the residents. We hope we have helped make them smile!

Have a lovely weekend,

Mrs Wheeler and Staff.



Coats

The days are now much colder and very changeable. We still have some children arriving in school without coats. Please ensure your child remembers to bring a coat to school.

We are never quite sure what the weather will be like, but it is important for children to get plenty of fresh air, so they will still go out in light rain conditions and will need their coats

New Eco-Code Competition

The children have been invited to design a new Eco-code for the school, to display in all classes. The current slogan is; 'Clean and green is our perfect dream!'

We need a bright poster on A4 (portrait or landscape) and this can be done by hand or using a computer. Here are the criteria to consider if your child is interested in participating;

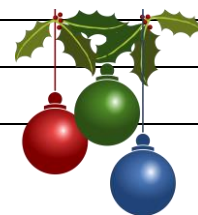
- You may include reflection of our topic actions; Litter picking, crisp bag recycling, promoting pollution free travel, advancing our use of school grounds, healthy living.
Pick one or two of these – no need for all to be included.
- Create a clear, positive statement.
Example 'Sustainability is our responsibility'.
- Accurate spellings and punctuation.
- Be creative and imaginative and have fun!

Entries must be handed into class teachers with your child's name & class written on the back before the Christmas holidays please. The winner will receive a small prize. Many thanks, Mrs J McCutcheon.

2020- 2021 Dates

7th & 8th December

Visit from Wintershall over two days for whole school



Workshop

Mon 7th

Tues 8th

9.00 – 10.00

Yr1 Bubble

Y2 Bubble

10.10 – 11.10

Y4 Hazel

Reception Bubble

11.30 – 12.30

Y4 Pine

Y6 Willow

1.00- 2.00

Y6 Linden

Y5 Maple

2.10 – 3.10

Y3Bubble

Y5 Hornbeam

17th December

Christmas Class Lunches, Party and Christmas Jumper Day!

18th December

School Closes @ 1pm

2021

4th January

School re-opens 9am

15th January

Deadline for Reception place applications – see Admissions section below

Treetops Wrap Around Care

Please note that if you need occasional childcare time after school, for example for a bit of peace while shopping or doing extra work in these difficult times, you can book a one-off short stay 3:30-4:30 on an occasional basis. Costs are: 3.30-4.30 = £5.50 (longer sessions are available)

Communicating with School

Please remember that the best contact for the school is office@stfrancis.surrey.sch.uk This email address is monitored throughout the school day and your query will be passed on to the relevant person. Please note that the class emails that were established during lockdown are now used solely for teachers passing on messages and academic work to parents. If you have a concern or query only relevant for your child's class teacher, please put a note in your child's planner, or speak to your child's teacher at the end of the day. Ways we communicate with you:

Email- Via your personal email or your Tucasi email if it is different



For the Parishes of Caterham, Whyteleafe, Oxted and Warlingham

2021-22 Catholic applications – for Reception places for St Francis' Catholic Primary School

For those needing a [Reception place in 2021-22](#), there is a [Virtual Tour of the School](#) on the Admissions page of the website. Please do remember to read and follow the Admissions instructions below. If you need any help or advice on Admissions, do contact the school Office.

Extraordinarily for this year, due to the COVID situation and to best protect Fr Seán and Fr Stephen, they will not be meeting parents in person to sign the SIF forms.

The general process for applications remains the same. Before the closing date for applications:

- Parent/Carers complete their Local Authority Common Application Form online.
- Parent/Carers must also complete the **SIF** and return it **to the school minus the section usually completed by the priest**.
- The school will formally log receipt of each SIF form from each Catholic applicant.
- The school will then take all the Catholic applicants' SIFs to the priest in one go for the priests to complete the relevant section for each applicant and return to the school.
- If you wish to receive a copy of the final signed SIF, please email the school office on office@stfrancis.surrey.sch.uk.

Links for Wellbeing for all

<https://sabp.orchs.co.uk/>

<https://www.childline.org.uk/toolbox/calm-zone/>

<https://youngminds.org.uk/find-help/for-parents/parents-survival-guide/>

<https://www.camhs-resources.co.uk/downloads>





St Francis' School
Association

PTA FUNDRAISING EVENTS

RAFFLE

Prizes - Hampers, Tickets for family days out, Vouchers, Toys and lots more!

Tickets £1 - online link coming soon!

CHRISTMAS GROTTO

Father Christmas will be visiting all classes and leaving a gift!
£3 Donation - via Tucast

PYJAMA & MOVIE DAY

Friday 4th December

Come to school in your PJ's (No onesies please!)
Sweets will be provided for your in class movie!

£2.50 donation via Tucast

LOOSE CHANGE JARS

Fill a jar with all your spare change & bring to school.
Half money raised will go to The Westway Community Cafe & Wellbeing Centre.

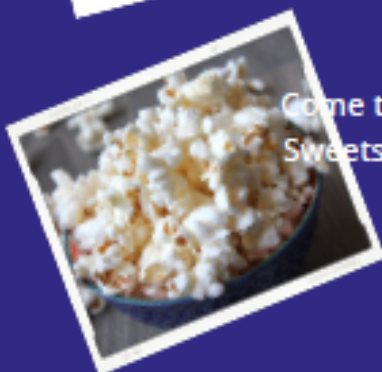
MEMORY TREE

To decorate the tree in the School Hall - children can write a prayer, a memory of lost loved one, something they are grateful for or a picture.

A winner will be chosen at random.

Please bring 50p to school and collect your tag from the teacher)

(All children will be involved in the Grotto and Movie Day but donations are encouraged to ensure it can go ahead)



And introducing our Virtual Fair!

**TUES 1ST -
SUN 13TH DEC**

**ONLINE VIA OUR PTA
WEBPAGE LINK**

(Details to follow)

Raffle & competition
winners will be announced
live via our Facebook Page
from Sunday Eve (13th)



COMPETITIONS!

**PURCHASE
GIFTS FROM
PARENT
BUSINESSES!**

GAMES!

**FAMILY FUN FOR
ALL!**



**ROTARY'S SANTA CHRISTMAS TOUR
OF CATERHAM, WARLINGHAM
AND WHYTELEAFE.**



COMING SOON

**Monday 7th December to
Friday 18th December.**
(Excluding Saturday and Sundays)

**Santa will be there in
convoy with his sleigh,
waving to you all.**

**For full details including dates, times,
roads to be covered go to:**

www.caterhamrotary.org.uk



Thank you to :
The Caterham and District
Independent
Your Community. Your News. Your Paper.
for their support



Scan the QR code if you would
like to make a donation to our
Christmas Collection or go to our
website above and donate online.

Rotary
Club of Caterham

