

# St. Francis' School Newsletter

11<sup>th</sup> December 2020



## Value of the month – Patience

### Dear Parents and Carers

#### Nativity Visit from Wintershall: see photos below

The Nativity Workshops this week from the Wintershall team was simply wonderful! It was cold and foggy out on the field, but it didn't dampen the children's enthusiasm and it added to the whole spirituality of the experience. The children were filled with awe and wonder. The Wintershall team spoke about how good the children's knowledge, comments, questioning and focus was in all the year groups.

#### PTA – Thank You

Thank you to Lisa, Jo and the PTA team members who are all working hard in the background to support the school with organizing a Christmas Fayre in such difficult times. The link for the Virtual Fayre can be found here: [www.stfrancisvirtualfair.co.uk](http://www.stfrancisvirtualfair.co.uk)

#### Road Safety Week: Can you walk, cycle, scoot or 'park and stride' to school?

Teachers will be covering Road Safety in PSHE lessons next week. For those children who walk, cycle, scoot or 'park and stride' (from the Salmons Lane Green) to school, there will be a badge to collect at the school gate.

**Car key found on the Infant Playground:** If it is yours, please contact the School Office.

#### Next Week

We are really looking forward to seeing our Year 6s return to school. Well done to all of them and to their teachers!

**Thursday: Christmas Jumper and Party Day.** Although we cannot all be in the hall together this year for our traditional lunch, we will still ensure the children will have fun in their year groups. After making crowns/party hats - the children will all have a party style lunch together in their classes with crackers provided by the PTA. Father Christmas will be sending the children a special message...! This will be followed by party games and Christmas activities in the afternoon.

**Friday:** Children may wear their Christmas Jumpers (with uniform) on the last day, too. We break up at 1pm.

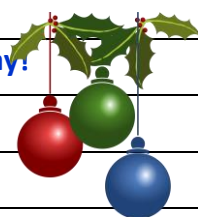
#### Positive Covid Tests in the Final Week: Isolation Notifications

Please be aware that if a child or staff member develops Covid symptoms and tests positive in the final week, we will still need to contact you, even after we have broken up, to ensure you know and to tell you that your family will need to isolate. Depending on the date of the positive test, it means there may be a need to isolate in the lead up to Christmas, or even over Christmas. Mrs Brown and I will be monitoring the Office email for notifications of positive tests, via parents, the Local Authority or Test & Trace, so do keep a look-out for messages from us. The key to when to begin isolating is the two days prior to a positive test. Obviously, we have no control over this, or over how quickly tests are returned. If we are contacted in the lead up to Christmas, we will email you as quickly as we possibly can. We are all desperate to celebrate Christmas with our families and I am praying that I do not have to send an isolation message to anyone!

Best wishes,  
Mrs Wheeler and Staff



2020- 2021 Dates	
17 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Lunches, Party Games and Christmas Jumper Day!
18 <sup>th</sup> December	School Closes @ 1pm
2021	
4 <sup>th</sup> January	School re-opens 9am
15 <sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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



## 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:

- A reflection of our topic actions, like 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.

## 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](mailto:office@stfrancis.surrey.sch.uk).



## Links for Wellbeing for all

<https://sabp.orchestra.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>



 **PTA FUNDRAISING EVENTS**

**RAFFLE**  
Prizes - Hampers, Tickets for family days out, Vouchers, Toys and lots more!  
Tickets £1 - online link coming soon!

**CHRISTMAS GROTTTO**  
Father Christmas will be visiting all classes and leaving a gift!  
£3 Donation - via Tucas!

**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 Tucas!

**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](http://www.caterhamrotary.org.uk)**

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The Caterham and District  
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**for their support**



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like to make a donation to our  
Christmas Collection or go to our  
website above and donate online.

**Rotary**  
Club of Caterham

