

St. Francis' School Newsletter

20th November 2020



Value of the month – Respect

Dear Parents and Carers

****Admissions for 2021-22****

Please be reminded, **especially if you have siblings needing places**, that the Surrey Admissions Portal is open and that you need to be making your applications now via the Portal and also by completing the SIF and, for this year, bringing it to school so we can take it to the Priests for signature. If you are unsure of the process and need help with this, please see me on the School gate or contact Mrs Brown in the Office. Please scroll down to see the Admissions flyer and full details of the system for this year.

Advent Charities

Further to our letter that went out to parents yesterday about the charities we would like to support during Advent, please note that your small, loose change donation for the Westway Community Centre will only be collected on Monday 7th December/Tuesday 8th December, the day your child has the Wintershall Workshop.

On that day, it would be lovely if the children came to school with a purple accessory/item of clothing (if they possess one) as purple is, of course, the Advent colour in our Liturgical Year. Thank you.

CAFOD Sunday Children's Liturgy

Cafod have produced a Sunday Liturgy for Children that Parents may find useful while we cannot attend Mass. Do have a look:

https://www.bigmarker.com/series/cafod-children-s-liturgy/series_summit

Red Wednesday

On **Wednesday 25th November 2020**, ALL pupils (and staff) are asked to come to school dressed in their uniform with an item of clothing or accessory that is red for world-wide Red Wednesday. Red Wednesday is a day to gather together to draw attention to the plight of those who are persecuted and oppressed for their religious beliefs.

We shall be saying prayers in class and each key stage will have an assembly on the topic of, 'Freedom to Believe'. No donation is requested. If you would like further information on this, please visit this website:

<https://acnuk.org/our-campaigns/redwednesday/>

Wishing everyone a happy and safe weekend.

Mrs Wheeler and Staff

Food Bank and Support for Families in Need

Please can our families be aware that the school has some access to support networks for families in need. This might be particularly important as Christmas can be a difficult time of year for some families and especially in Covid times.

If a family needs support, please do not hesitate to contact me or one of the Senior Leadership Team for details of help available. All enquires will be dealt with in utmost confidence



Following the success of the 2020 **POETRY BY HEART** competition where Nithali (year 5) was the *Surrey Regional* and 3rd place *National Winner*, the 2021 Classic Solo (two poem), Celebration Solo (one poem) and Shared Poetry Competitions are now being launched at St Francis' School.

While only KS2 soloists may be put forward to the national event, KS1 pupils may enter the internal competition, which in 2020 was won by Archie. The *Celebration (Shared Poem) Competition* may include a mix of KS2 and KS1 pupils; the *Celebration Solo* is ideal for all newcomers, from Reception to Year 6.

Please contact Mrs Shannon at faoboshannon@hotmail.co.uk (01883 344373) for a PowerPoint and entry form, allowing 72 hours for a reply. For more information about this exciting competition and to view Nithali's winning performance, see the following links: <https://www.poetrybyheart.org.uk/>
<https://www.poetrybyheart.org.uk/performance-gallery/>

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)

2020- 2021 Dates

25th November	Red Wednesday		
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

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.

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.

Net Aware

More and more children are using video sharing apps to create and share their content with friends online. It is important to make them aware about what they're sharing and how to use these apps safely.

Net Aware, produced by NSPCC and O2, have released [content to help parents and carers](#) who may be worried about their child sharing videos and images online. The content discusses why children use apps like TikTok and Snapchat and provide guidance for parents and carers to help keep their children safe including:

- Setting their account to private
- Reminding them not to post their locations in real time
- Not sharing personal information
- Talking to them about sexting and sharing nudes

<https://www.net-aware.org.uk/news/should-i-be-worried-about-my-child-sharing-videos-and-images-online2/>

Childline Calm Zone

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

Your child will have a new login, which will be stuck into their Home School Contact Book for **Zumos**.

Zumos is a leading online wellbeing system that is CAMHS kitemarked and was developed as part of the HeadStart project.

We at St Francis' are passionate about building strong mental wellbeing and resilience in all our pupils. This is why as a school we have embraced Zumos as a major part of our school's pastoral care.

During this very difficult time where everyone is expected to spend long periods of time stuck at home it is even more vital that we take care of our children's mental wellbeing as well as our own.

As we have this great resource available to us and your child already has a login, we are asking if you would be willing to take your child through some of the features each day and help them to practice the techniques as a fun family activity.

The system has been developed to follow a curriculum, so all you need to do is sit with your child, get them to login and play the recordings outlined below. It is a great thing to work on together or as a family. The messages are very powerful, we know our teachers love to hear them too. If you like you can discuss the recordings and ensure the messages have been understood.

Further details about how to use this site has been sent to you via the Class Email.

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 :
Independent
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

