

# St. Francis' School Newsletter

6<sup>th</sup> February 2026



## Virtue of the month – Forgiveness

### Dear Parents and Carers

With just one week of term remaining before half term, we would like to ask you to keep up your excellent support to the very end of Friday. This means that we would like every child to be in every day, dressed as smartly as ever, and ready to work hard so we can really feel like we have earned our half term break. We are also grateful for the example you show your children in being kind and generous to others, in particular those who may be different. We have spoken a lot recently in assemblies and class about good behaviour, and we have been clear that we want the very best from each person connected with our school. While it may be a truism to say that a child's values are caught, not taught, we at school are often moved by the everyday goodness and warmth so many of you show at the school drop-off/pickup every day, especially when things at home are tough. This bodes very well for your children. Please could we ask you to keep reinforcing this message at home? If you could talk up hard work and learning at school (which implies respect for oneself and good behaviour towards others), that would really help.

**Arbor Contact Details** Just a reminder for parents and carers to please check that your details on **Arbor** are up to date. This includes email addresses, telephone numbers for both parents/carers, and any medical information we may not already be aware of. Keeping this information current helps us to contact you easily and ensures your child's needs are fully supported in school. Thank you for taking the time to check and update your details.

### Attendance

Congratulations to **Rowan Class** on winning the **Attendance Cup** this week! Your excellent attendance shows real dedication to being in school and learning together. To all other classes, keep up the effort, next week could be yours.



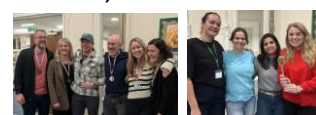
### RE

This term in RE, children have been completing their learning journey *From Galilee to Jerusalem*, exploring the life and ministry of Jesus and reflecting on his message of love, service, and sacrifice. The children have engaged thoughtfully with the themes and it has been wonderful to see their understanding deepen as they reach the end of this unit. We are delighted to welcome **Fr Sean**, who visited **Year 3 this week** and visiting **Year 4 next week**, to support the children's learning and help bring their RE understanding to life through discussion and reflection. Please note that **Ash Wednesday falls during the half term break** this year. After half term, **Missio boxes will be sent home** so that families can support fundraising efforts throughout Lent, helping children to think about generosity and caring for others. We are also looking forward to **reintroducing year-group Masses**. Each year group will attend Mass during their allocated term, and we would be very grateful for **parent volunteers to help walk the children to church** when it is their year group's turn. Thank you for your continued support in nurturing our children's spiritual journey.



### PTA Quiz

The recent PTA Quiz Night was a great evening, enjoyed by everyone who attended, and we are delighted to report that it raised approximately £900 for the school. Congratulations go to the Custard Team, who continued their impressive winning streak and took first place once again. The St Francis staff table were close behind in second place, while the PTA team good-naturedly accepted the wooden spoon! A huge thank you to the PTA for organising such a fun and successful event, and to everyone who came along to support it. We look forward to more events like this in the future.



## Train to Teach

We are always happy to hear from anyone who may be thinking about a career in teaching or who would like to find out more about the different routes into the profession. Teaching is a hugely rewarding job, and we love being able to support and inspire young people as they grow and learn. Our school is proud to be a partner school of Xavier Teach SouthEast, an outstanding School Centred Initial Teacher Training (SCITT) provider working across our local area. If you, or someone you know, are interested in finding out more about training to teach, please do get in touch or follow the link below for more information:

<https://www.teachsoutheast.co.uk/>

## 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. 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!



## Safety Online

Gaming can be a wonderful source of enjoyment, creativity, and skills development for children and young people. It can also offer families valuable opportunities to share positive experiences together. While there are some risks associated with gaming, these can be managed effectively by using parental controls and privacy settings, alongside regular conversations about online safety and responsible use.

We encourage families to help children find a healthy balance by prioritising offline activities such as learning, family time, physical activity, and getting enough sleep. Regular breaks from screens are important to support wellbeing and maintain a healthy routine. Parents and carers who game themselves can also help by modelling positive and balanced gaming habits. [Gaming Online -Help and Advice](#)

## Concert at Woldingham School

**Woldingham Young Musician of the Year 2026** will take place on **Wednesday 11 February at Woldingham School**. Parents and children from St Francis have been invited to go and watch this enjoyable evening for free of varied performances. For more information, please contact the school. [adamsond@woldinghamschool.co.uk](mailto:adamsond@woldinghamschool.co.uk)

## Celebration Assembly

Well done to all the certificate winners, performers this week and to **Margaret Clitherow** for winning the House points.

Best wishes,  
Mr Doyle and Staff



## RE

This week's Gospel reading talks about having a lamp and where we should keep it. Do we place a lamp in a cupboard or on a table? If it is in the cupboard then it will not shine out in the world. If it is on the table, then it can shine for all to see. This is a link for our own lives. Do we shine? Do we radiate friendship and kindness in the world? Do we share God's love with others? I often say to different classes that I want to see their bright smiles. Kindness is contagious and when we smile at others, it can bring joy not just to one another, but to the whole collective. In addition to this, where there is light, there cannot be darkness, it is banished and driven away. As we think towards Lent which will be coming soon, how are we preparing ourselves to fill others and share our light. **Mr Yarnell**

## Calendar Dates

9 <sup>th</sup> -13 <sup>th</sup> February	Mental Health
10 <sup>th</sup> February	Safer Internet Day
11 <sup>th</sup> February	<b>Year 5 Trumpet &amp; Ukelele Concert 9.15am</b> Year 5 Parents invited
13 <sup>th</sup> February	<b>Break up For Half Term</b>
23 <sup>rd</sup> February	<b>School Reopens @9am</b>
25 <sup>th</sup> February	Dorking Hall Festival
27 <sup>th</sup> February	Random Acts of Kindness
27 <sup>th</sup> February	PTA Reception Disco 5.30-6.30pm
5 <sup>th</sup> March	World Book Day (Dressing Up) Details to Follow
6 <sup>th</sup> -12 <sup>th</sup> March	Book Fayre Details to Follow
9 <sup>th</sup> -12 <sup>th</sup> March	Science Week
16 <sup>th</sup> -20 <sup>th</sup> March	PTA Easter Bonnet Competition Details to follow
13 <sup>th</sup> March	<b>INSET – School Closed</b>
17 <sup>th</sup> March	Royal Albert Hall – Details to Follow
18 <sup>th</sup> -19 <sup>th</sup> March	Parents Evening Details to Follow
25 <sup>th</sup> March	Easter Reflections - <b>Reception &amp; KS1 @ 9.10am</b> Parents Invited <b>KS2 @ 2.30pm</b> -Parents Invited
27 <sup>th</sup> March	<b>Break Up From School @1pm</b>
13 <sup>th</sup> April	School Reopens @9am
4 <sup>th</sup> May	<b>Bank Holiday -School Closed</b>
5 <sup>th</sup> May	Year 3 Trip Frylands Wood
5 <sup>th</sup> May	Year 4 Trip to High Ashurst
11 <sup>th</sup> – 14 <sup>th</sup> May	Sats Week for Year 6
21 <sup>st</sup> May	Talent Show -Details to Follow
22 <sup>nd</sup> May	Outdoor learning Day <b>Break Up For Half Term</b>
1 <sup>st</sup> June	School Reopens @9am
1-12 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 4 MTC
10 <sup>th</sup> -12 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 6 PGL Residential
19 <sup>th</sup> June	<b>Inset Day -School Closed</b>
26 <sup>th</sup> June	Sports Day -Details to Follow
17 <sup>th</sup> July	<b>Break up From School @1pm</b>



# Reminder

Please remember to log in and place your child's school lunch order ahead of time. If you have any questions, feel free to reachout to our support team.

- Email:primary@impactfood.co.uk
- Phone: 02045427211
- Hours: Monday-Friday, 8.30am- 5pm

## School Attendance

Every day counts...

Good attendance helps with...

**Academic Achievement**

Regular attendance helps children keep up with the curriculum and perform better academically.

**Social Skills**

Attending school regularly helps children develop friendships, social skills and learning how to interact with others.

**Routine & Responsibility**

Good attendance teaches the importance of commitment, routine, and responsibility, which are all valuable life skills.

**Focus & Engagement**

Children who attend school regularly are more likely to stay engaged in their learning and develop a positive attitude towards education.

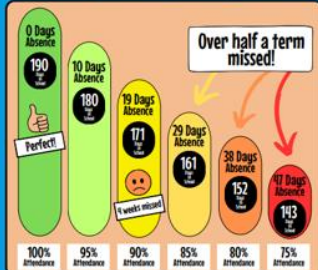
**Building Confidence**

Regular attendance can boost a child's self-esteem and confidence, as they see their progress and achievements over time.

**Enhanced Learning Opportunities**

School provides not just academic instruction, but also extra-curricular activities and enrichment opportunities.

Over half a term missed!



Having 90% over 5 school years, is half a school year's work missed!

Did you know there are...

- 365 Days in a Year
- 190 School Days
- 175 Non School Days

Attendance Matters!

# YOUNG MUSICIAN OF THE YEAR 2026

**Closing date for video entries**  
**Monday 26 January**

Please email these to Mr Hammond-Hall. Videos should be no longer than two minutes (extracts of longer pieces, please). All styles, genres, instruments and voices are welcome.

**Category winners & finalists announced**  
**Monday 2 February**

**Live Finals**  
**Wednesday 11 February**  
**6.45pm · Auditorium**



Adjudicated by pianist  
**Isata Kanneh Mason**  
*'One of today's most in-demand  
classical musicians'*

SURREY  
ARTS



## MUSIC LESSONS FOR "TUNING UP" CONTINUERS

**10% DISCOUNT**

For first term of lessons and instrument hire.

Small group, pair and individual lessons available!

To apply for 10% discount use promo code 'JOURNEY' on application

T: 01483 519303

E: [surreyartsmusic@surreycc.gov.uk](mailto:surreyartsmusic@surreycc.gov.uk)



For more information and to apply online visit:  
[surreycc.gov.uk/music](http://surreycc.gov.uk/music)

## CONCESSIONS

We may offer (subject to availability) a discount per term towards individual or group lessons, free instrument hire and free ensemble membership to families who are in receipt of:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided they are not entitled to Working Tax Credit or if their annual income, as assessed by the Inland Revenue exceeds £16,190 in the current tax year)
- Working Tax Credit run on – paid for 4 weeks after Working Tax credit entitlement finishes
- Universal Credit – if applied for on or after 1 April 2018 household income must be less than £7,400 (after tax and not including any benefits you get)
- Registered Surrey Young Carers
- Looked After Children can receive a discount of £153 per term towards individual or group lessons, free instrument hire and free ensemble membership.

When we are arranging lessons let us know that you would like to claim a concession, and we will ask you to send proof of your entitlement to any of these benefits.

T: 01483 519303

E: [surreyartsmusic@surreycc.gov.uk](mailto:surreyartsmusic@surreycc.gov.uk)



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For more information and to apply online visit:  
[surreycc.gov.uk/music](http://surreycc.gov.uk/music)