

St. Francis' School Newsletter

23rd October 2020



Value of the month – Responsibility

Dear Parents and Carers

Well it has been a very long half term, but we all did it! It has all been very different with Zoom Assemblies and sitting in rows and lunches in classrooms, but the children have worked so hard and been just wonderful. We can see how tired they all are, but they have been amazing and all deserve a treat when they get home! There has been a great, cheerful vibe around the school. **Thank you** to you all for your support this half term, especially with all the Covid arrangements.

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 in the box below (scroll down). If you need any help or advice on Admissions, do contact the school Office.

Support for Parents: [Young Minds](#) have created a [Parents Survival Guide](#), full of help and resources for parents.

CAMHS have compiled a fabulous collection of downloadable [self-help guides](#), many of which are especially useful for parents looking for ways to help their children through difficult times.

Any Carpenter's out there?

We are looking into costings for benches for our Prayer Garden. Do we have any Parents, family members or friends who might be able to make wooden benches? We have had an offer of a discount on wood, so are just investigating the differences in prices, between wooden benches and the heavy duty plastic ones. Please do speak to me if you have any contacts.

Reminder for PE days for after Half term

Pupils are to wear the PE uniform on PE days, blue PE top and shorts along with their PE navy blue tracksuit. They must still wear school shoes on that day (trainers are ONLY for outside) There should be NO sports tops or leggings. Thank you.

Sending best wishes for a lovely half term break with your families. Let us all hope the sun shines for us!

Mrs Wheeler and Staff

Thank you!

Our appreciation and thanks go to Mr Mussell, a parent of a child at our school for volunteering his expertise, and creating a wonderful virtual tour of our school. Unfortunately we are currently unable to offer open mornings to our perspective parents due to the current restrictions. We are very grateful to him and his team.



For the Parishes of Caterham, Whyteleafe, Oxted and Warlingham

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

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.

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

Parents Evening Dates TBC after the half term.

Individual School Photographs

Despite current restrictions, JamPics managed to pull off a very successful photo shoot.

QR codes have been sent home via your child already. Please make sure you register, ideally by email so you can order your photos online. Please do let JamPics know if you have any questions by contacting them at : Team@jampics.co.uk or phone the office: 01883 334620

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.

'SUPPORT THE PTA AND THE PTA CAN SUPPORT YOU AND YOUR CHILDREN'

Dear Parents, Carers and Grandparents,

With the first term now under our belt and the novelty of returning to the school routine wearing off, we would like to redirect your attention to the Parents and Teachers Association for St Francis, the PTA.

We are all very aware that school events cannot go ahead as usual just yet and you may be thinking that this years PTA have won themselves an easy year, however, now more than ever is a time for us to really expand and support the needs of our children.

For all parents and carers new or old to the school, we have attached some information about the important role the PTA plays and would encourage you to read it. We have the very rewarding role of raising additional funds for the school to ensure our children experience and gain a richer journey through their school life at St Francis. Annual events such as fairs or discos are also a key part of the school experience and all with the focus on fun for all the family.

The current situation is not going to stop us creating these experiences and memories though and the new PTA Committee are now in full swing of making alternative plans to ensure some fun can still be had whilst raising crucial funds for the school.

Here's where you come in..... We are looking for some additional parents to be the voice of the parent body and join our team. More heads make better plans and better plans have better outcomes!

Throughout the year we will be asking everyone to support and do their bit for the PTA, be that through attending alternative events or sending in donations but its as important that we have the right people planning and utilising their strengths at the top of the team too.

If you have volunteered to be a Class Rep this year (Thank you!), we will be in touch soon. You play a crucial part in communication between the PTA Team and the parents within each class. We are really looking forward to working with you!

So with Half Term here, give some thought to what your involvement with the PTA could be this year and simply reply and fill out the following slip.....

With thanks in advance and a welcome from your new PTA Team, we look forward to hearing from all of you.

(Now copy and paste the section below and reply to our direct email address)

stfrancischoolassociation@googlemail.com

Dear PTA,

I would really love to do my bit for St Francis PTA....
Here's what I'm willing to do....

(Please mark with an X where appropriate)

Join the team and become a helpful voice for the PTA.	
Offer to help out with one event or activity.	
Offer to help out with more than one event or activity.	
I am a Class Rep and looking forward to my role this year.	
I am looking forward to participating in activities this year.	
I am happy just donating where I can.	

