

# St. Francis' School Newsletter

27<sup>th</sup> November 2020



## Value of the month – Respect

### Dear Parents and Carers

Well, we have made it to Advent! Our value for December is Patience and we shall endeavor to be like Mary, Mother of God, and look forward to celebrating the birth of Jesus with patience, joy and hope – all important values, especially in these trying times.

### Advent Liturgy (Monday): Silver Coin Collection for Cafod

As part of our Advent preparations we will be beginning on Monday morning with our Advent Reconciliation Liturgy.

We always support Cafod at this time of year and collect for individual class Cafod gifts, however, knowing how difficult it is this year, we made the decision that instead of each class donating their own CAFOD gift, there will be one gift donated from St Francis' School as a whole. So, on **Monday (30<sup>th</sup> November)**, we would ask every pupil, if possible, to **bring in a silver coin**, as we usually do, for the Advent Reflection Liturgy. The silver coins should be put on the Altar in classes. This contribution will be used to purchase the CAFOD World Gift. The gift we give is dependent on how much we collect, but we are hoping to give either a 4-Gift Bundle (a goat, a chicken, some books for children and a kitchen starter kit) or a 6-Gift Bundle (a goat, a chicken, books for children, a mini-library for a school, a kitchen garden starter kit and some toys for children recovering from disaster).

### Annual Christmas 'Lighting of The Cedar Tree'

We are all very sad not to be able to attend and sing carols at the annual Christmas 'Lighting of the Cedar Tree' this year, however we have provided two recorded Carols sung by some of our Year 2 children. The event is taking place 'live' via the Caterham Facebook page on Saturday at 5pm. The link is here:

<https://www.facebook.com/caterhamhillpc>

### Foodbank Support for Families, Admissions for 2021-22 & Eco Children's Competition

Please scroll down to read details.

### PTA Christmas Fundraising and Virtual Fayre

**Please scroll down to see the PTA Flyer for details.**

**Please note:** Payments for the Father Christmas Grotto, Pyjama and Movie day can be made as one payment on Tucasi (£5.50 per child). The Office worked with the PTA to enable this and we have sent an email regarding this today.

Wishing everyone a happy 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

### 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!'

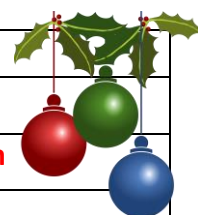
We need a bright poster on A4 (portrait or landscape) and this can be done by hand or using a computer. Here are the criteria to consider if your child is interested in participating;

- 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

|  |  |                     |                      |
|--|--|---------------------|----------------------|
| 30 <sup>th</sup> November                  | 1 <sup>st</sup> day of Advent  |                     |                      |
| 4 <sup>th</sup> December                   | Pyjama and Movie Day- No onesies or nightdresses to be worn              |                     |                      |
| 7 <sup>th</sup> & 8 <sup>th</sup> December | Visit from Wintershall over two days for whole school                    |                     |                      |
|  | Workshop   | Mon 7 <sup>th</sup> | Tues 8 <sup>th</sup> |
|  | 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          |
| 17 <sup>th</sup> December                  | Christmas Class Lunches, Party 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 |                     |                      |



### 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

### 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



### 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).

### Christingle 'Zoom' Service

Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> December, 3pm via Zoom

Families please join us for a warm and joyful Christingle service via Zoom. Bring your orange Christingle or draw a picture. Join in the songs. Enjoy the sweets. And most of all smile and celebrate in this tradition of hope and positivity.

If you are not already registered with the children's liturgy zoom group then please email [children.ow@gmail.com](mailto:children.ow@gmail.com) to be sent an invitation.





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.

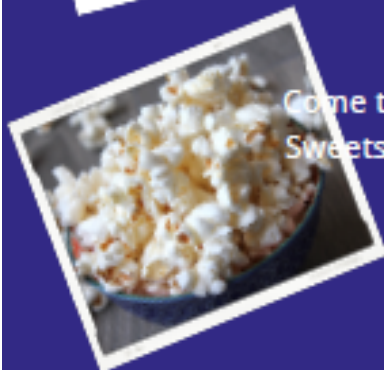
## MEMORY TREE

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

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The Caterham and District  
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

