

# St. Francis' School Newsletter

9<sup>th</sup> February 2023



## Value of the month – Caring & Friendship

### Dear Parents and Carers

#### Governors Welcome

Welcome to our two new Governors: Mrs Annette Flannery (Vice Chair) and Mrs Laura Harding who join our Governing Body as our Catholic Foundation Governors. We look forward to having you on board as part of the team.

#### RSE Meeting

Many thanks to all of those who joined us on Tuesday for one of the two RSE meetings. We had very positive feedback about the Ten:Ten programme of Life to the Full. An email will be coming out to all parents with the slides from the meeting, for anyone who missed it and an information sheet containing the login details for the parent portal. Please keep a look out for this from the office. If anyone has any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the school and we will be happy to discuss them with you.

#### Head Boy & Girl Speeches

This week some of our Year 6's chose to put themselves forward for the role of Head Boy and Head Girl, which they will carry out for the remainder of this academic year. Firstly, they had to prepare their speeches and practice them. The next stage was to present them to their peers, who then voted for their top 2 boys and top 2 girls from each class. The final 4 boys and 4 girls then had to present their speeches to the whole school! This can be such a daunting task, but they all did a fantastic job and it has certainly made the voting process a difficult one. All classes and teachers are now casting their votes, and the successful candidates will be announced in the first celebration assembly back after half term, so watch this space!

#### Lent

During the first week back after half term, it is Ash Wednesday. The children will be receiving Ashes during a special liturgy in the afternoon of the 22<sup>nd</sup> February. Ash Wednesday is the first day in Lent. We will be encouraging the children to reflect on the impact of their actions and words during this season. Each week during Lent we will be adding a reflection section to the newsletter, please look out for this.

The charity we will be supporting during Lent this year is the Catholic Children Society whose Lent campaign is called "Building Bridges", based on what Pope Francis said: "Build bridges, not walls. Talk to one another, listen to each other, walk together". All money raised goes back into our local community supporting those families who are most in need. We hope that you will join us in supporting this cause. Further information will follow after half term.

#### PTA Drop Off Rota:

Please see the [urgent request from Mr. Wilkinson for new helpers below](#). Our Rota is something we all appreciate as it benefits so many of our children and parents – do please try to volunteer.

#### Thinking Day

Thinking Day is a special day for all in Guiding and Scouting, being the date when we think of others in the Guiding and Scouting movements all over the world. In recognition of this, **Tuesday, 22<sup>nd</sup> February** all Rainbows, Brownies, Guides, Beavers, Cubs and Scouts will be allowed to wear their uniform into school on that day.

## Talent Show

We are certainly blessed to have such wonderfully talented children in our school. It was fantastic seeing their performances. Our thanks go to Mrs Palmer for organizing and managing the event and to Mrs Driscoll, Ms Morris and Mrs Hardy for agreeing to be our judges. Well done to our Winners.



## Whizz Kids Holiday Club

Our Holiday Club Provider Whizz Kids is running in the February half term holiday and during the Easter Holidays. Please scroll down to see the flyer and find the booking details.

Wishing you a lovely half term.  
Mrs Wheeler and Staff

## ST FRANCIS SCHOOL SPEECH AND DRAMA LONDON ACADEMY OF MUSIC AND DRAMATIC ART SUCCESSES

**CONGRATULATIONS** to Astrid, Dominic, Olivia, Amber and Isabella who took either Introductory, Acting or Shakespeare exams at the London Academy of Dramatic Art in December and all passed with **DISTINCTION**.



*Start by doing what's necessary; then do what's possible; and suddenly you are doing the impossible. Francis of Assisi*



## Calendar Dates

13 <sup>th</sup> - 17 <sup>th</sup> February	Half Term Break
20 <sup>th</sup> February	School reopens @ 9am
22 <sup>nd</sup> February	Thinking Day, Guiding and Scouting Groups to wear group uniform
3 <sup>rd</sup> March	World Book Day
20 <sup>th</sup> March	Science Week
21 <sup>st</sup> March	Science Workshop Whole School
28 <sup>th</sup> March	Parents Evening TBC Reception Height & Weight
29 <sup>th</sup> March	Parents Evening TBC Reception Height & Weight
31 <sup>st</sup> March	School Finishes @ 1pm for the Easter Break – <b>Note on this day Treetops will open for the morning session only. It will be closed for the afternoon.</b>
17 <sup>th</sup> April	School Re-opens @ 9am

Dear Parents, Grandparents and Carers,

Hoping you have all had a good half term, and I am sure your children are looking forward to a much needed break.

Some of you may be aware, I took over the reigns of drop-off co-ordinator this year. The drop-off system is run by parents who volunteer to give 15 minutes of their time to help others get their children to school on time so they can get on with their day ahead. The current rota requires three parents to operate each day so traffic is kept to a minimum and children can get to school safely. This means we need a minimum of thirty parents to volunteer for a fortnightly rota. Historically parents were opening car doors every three weeks due to many people kindly volunteering. Unfortunately, numbers have reduced considerably since then, which has then required parents to give up their time every fortnight.

I sent out a poster at the beginning of term to be circulated amongst class reps to appeal for helpers. Unfortunately, this did not yield any volunteers, and in that time, volunteers have continued to dwindle due to work commitments or personal reasons.

Currently, due to low numbers, I am now having to reduce drop-off helpers from three to two each morning from half-term, as I do not think it is fair that parents are asked to open car doors weekly, when for many this is their only day-off in the week. Going down to two helpers will unfortunately increase traffic on-site and on Whyteleafe road, and the time taken to drop your child off will increase. Due to increased traffic, I will appeal for some parents to park off-site and walk in to school with your children to reduce the flow of traffic.

So, what is involved in volunteering for drop-off?

- Opening car doors for parents from 0845-0900 to ensure their children walk through the school gates safely
- Choosing ONE day in the week to help, and this can be every 2, 3 or even 4 weeks!

Some may be thinking, 'well I don't use drop-off so why should I volunteer?' You do not have to! I personally do not use drop off and I co-ordinate it. Ultimately, it is 15 minutes of your time to help others have a smoother morning routine.

If you would like to offer to help in order to save the drop-off service from scaling down, please email me on:

[dropoff.stfrancis@gmail.com](mailto:dropoff.stfrancis@gmail.com)

I thank you for your time in reading this letter, and I would not be reaching out unless it wasn't absolutely necessary.

Kindest regards,

Jon Wilkinson

(Drop-off rota co-ordinator)



# Children's Holiday Activity Club

## 4-12 year olds

Established in 2005 with the view of offering both sports and creative activities throughout the day. Starting with just one venue in Chichester we have built on our reputation and now have six venues around West Sussex.

**Whizz Kids**

**01798 873077**

If you are looking for a treat, or for someone to entertain your child, Whizz Kids is the perfect opportunity for children to really enjoy their school holidays. With fully qualified sports coaches on site teaching new skills providing the finest in sporting activities, together with a whole host of creative activities and much much more.

**email: mail@whizzkidsclub.co.uk**  
**www.whizzkidsclub.co.uk**

For exact dates please visit our website.  
We accept Childcare Choices, Childcare Vouchers, Working Tax Credits & Tax Free Childcare.  
Whizz Kids is registered with Ofsted, see website for details and recent reports.

**only £32 per day**  
\* Bulk booking discounts available

### Venues

- 1 White Meadows Primary Academy, Littlehampton
- 2 St Joseph's CE Junior School, Chichester
- 3 Shoreham College, Shoreham
- 4 Steyning Grammar School, Upper Beeding
- 5 Leechpool Primary School, Horsham
- 6 St Francis Catholic Primary School, Caterham

### Operating Dates

**FEB HALF TERM:** Sites 2, 3, 5, 6  
**EASTER:** Sites 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6  
**MAY HALF TERM:** Sites 2, 3, 5, 6  
**SUMMER:** Sites 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6  
**OCTOBER HALF TERM:** Sites 2, 3, 5, 6  
**CHRISTMAS:** n/a

### Active Fun!

#### SPORTING ACTIVITIES

- Football
- Cricket/Kwick Cricket
- Tennis/Short Tennis
- Basketball
- Rounders
- Mini Sports
- Team Games
- Adventure Playground
- Field Activities
- Mini Olympics
- Dodge Ball
- Tag Rugby

#### CREATIVE ACTIVITIES

- Cooking
- Face Painting
- Painting & Sticky Stuff
- Play Dough Modelling
- Story Telling
- Arts and Crafts
- Dance and Drama
- Treasure Hunts
- Themed Days
- Picnics
- Easter Egg Hunts
- Board Games

#### EXTRAS

**Early Birds**  
8.15am - 9.00am (per day) £4.50

**Late Leavers**  
4.45pm - 5.45pm (per day) £4.50

**Tuck**  
£1.00 (per day)

**Sickness & Flexibility Insurance**  
£2.00 (per day)

### Our Locations

Ample free parking at all sites

**TIMES & PRICES**  
Day Activities  
9am - 4.45pm (per day)  
£32.00\*

We are certified  
Ofsted  
Checked ✓  
Disclosure & Barring Service

Facebook, Twitter, QR code

# JUNIOR BAKE OFF

...IS LOOKING FOR THE UK'S BEST YOUNG BAKERS AGED 9 - 12

**WWW.APPLYFORJUNIORBAKEOFF.CO.UK**

**APPLICATIONS CLOSE SUNDAY 12th MARCH 2023**

Enquiries:  
applyforjuniorbakeoff@loveproductions.co.uk

## Catholic Men's Group at All Saints Oxted

On the first Sunday of every month at 7:30pm a group of Catholic men meet to discuss their faith over a beer and pizza. We also pray lectio divina and the evening is usually hosted by our parish priest Father Stephen.

Each meeting has a different theme and is a chance for us to develop friendships and deepen our faith.

Please join us or contact Robert for more info at  
rnmypiano@gmail.com