

St. Francis' School Newsletter

17th April 2026



Virtue of the month – Courage

Dear Parents and Carers



Happy Easter! Welcome back to the summer term, and we hope you had a fun and refreshing Easter holiday. It has been wonderful to see our children return so happily and settle back into school life, greeted by bright smiles, renewed energy and a real readiness to learn — all the more welcome as we begin to enjoy the longer days and warmer sunshine ahead. The summer term is always a busy and exciting time. Thank you for your continued support as we work together to ensure this is a happy, nurturing and successful term for every child. In this Eastertide, let us remember the values that guide our school community: **love, kindness, forgiveness and respect**. These values help our children to care for others and we hope that they will shape the children for all their lives. Living out these values extends beyond the classroom and into our daily interactions as a school family.

With this in mind, we would like to kindly remind all parents and carers to be respectful and considerate. This week, I'd like to draw attention to drop-off and pick-up at the school gates. These are very busy moments in the school day and we're all busy, so treating one another with patience and kindness helps to keep everyone safe and calm. We would also like to remind parents and carers who hold a disabled badge that if the designated bays are already in use, please do not double park; instead, we kindly ask that you find an alternative safe place. In addition, please note that the staff car park is for staff use only and should not be used for drop-off or pick-up at any time. These measures help to ensure the safety of our children and the smooth flow of traffic. We would also like to extend our sincere thanks to our wonderful drop-off helpers, who generously give up their time to support a smooth and welcoming start to each school day. New volunteers always welcome! Your cooperation, respect and kindness towards them, and towards one another is greatly appreciated. Thank you.

Attendance

Congratulations to Hornbeam Class for sharing this week's Attendance Cup! Your excellent attendance shows real dedication to being in school, learning together, and making the most of every day. Well done to everyone in both classes for your fantastic commitment. We're also pleased to share that **attendance across the whole school has been rising**, consistently this term. **Thank you to all families for your continued support.** This is a hard thing to achieve, and we are on a very positive trajectory. Keep up your brilliant effort.

Multiplication Tables Check

Our Year 4 children will be taking the **Multiplication Tables Check (MTC)** in June, and regular practice at home makes a huge difference. Knowing their times tables quickly and confidently helps them in so many areas of maths, from division and fractions to problem-solving and general confidence in lessons. A little bit of practice every day really does help things stick. It doesn't need to be long, short bursts work best and can easily fit into daily routines. Great practice tools for Year 4 include: **Times Table Rock Stars**. **Hit the Button** and the **official MTC practice site**.

Festival of sport at de Stafford

Year 5 had a great day at the Festival of Sport at de Stafford. The children thoroughly enjoyed taking part in a variety of activities and approached the day with enthusiasm and positive attitudes. It was lovely to see them engaging so well, supporting one another and making the most of the experience.



Celebrating Our Children

We are delighted to share some wonderful news about one of our children, Leo in Year 3 has recently contributed to episodes of *Hey Duggee*, with the first batch of episodes now available on BBC iPlayer. His episodes begin from **Episode 15** where you can hear Leo singing, and his name even appears in the end credits — a fantastic achievement! We love celebrating the talents and successes of our children, both in and out of school. Well done, Leo! Link Below

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/m002v2w3/hey-duggee-hey-duggees-squirrel-club-15-say-cheese>

Earth Day Wednesday 22nd April

Join us to honour and celebrate our remarkable planet on this extraordinary day. Earth Day is a reminder of the importance of environmental conservation and sustainability, encouraging us to come together and take action for a healthier planet and brighter future. Let's unite in our efforts to protect the Earth today and for generations to come. Together, we can make a meaningful impact and create a more sustainable world. Should you want to discuss this with them this is a useful website: <https://kids.nationalgeographic.com/celebrations/article/earth-day>

St. Georges Day (Thursday 23rd April)

To celebrate St. George's Day, children who are members of uniformed groups (such as Rainbows, Brownies, Guides, Beavers, Cubs, Scouts or Cadets) may wear their group uniform to school next **Thursday**. **All other children should come to school in their normal school uniform.**

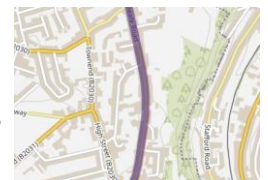
House Point Winners

Congratulations to the termly house point winners **Thomas More** They may wear their house colours on **Friday 24th April**. **All other children should come to school in their normal school uniform.**

Community Information

Please see below upcoming pre patching for pavement slurry works on Whyteleafe Road, Caterham.

Pavement Works, 22 April for 2 days, 9.30am to 4pm, No Parking. When we return to complete full Pavement Slurry, new signs and information will be distributed. Sometimes our plans must change, often due to bad weather or problems on other works in the same programme which can have a knock-on effect. If anything changes with the details of these works, we will let you know. See map of the extents for our works: Burntwood Lane to Church Road.



Wishing everyone a lovely weekend.

Mr Doyle & Staff

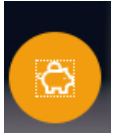
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This week saw Jesus appearing to the disciples without Thomas present, and then a week later with him there. Doubting Thomas, as we now famously remember him as, is a personal witness for the resurrection, placing his hands in Jesus' wounds and sharing food with him. The role he plays here is to answer that this is not a mirage or an image, but actually the true resurrection and that what Jesus has shared was the truly. How blessed are we, the ones who can believe without seeing. Mr Yarnell

St Francis School Development Fund

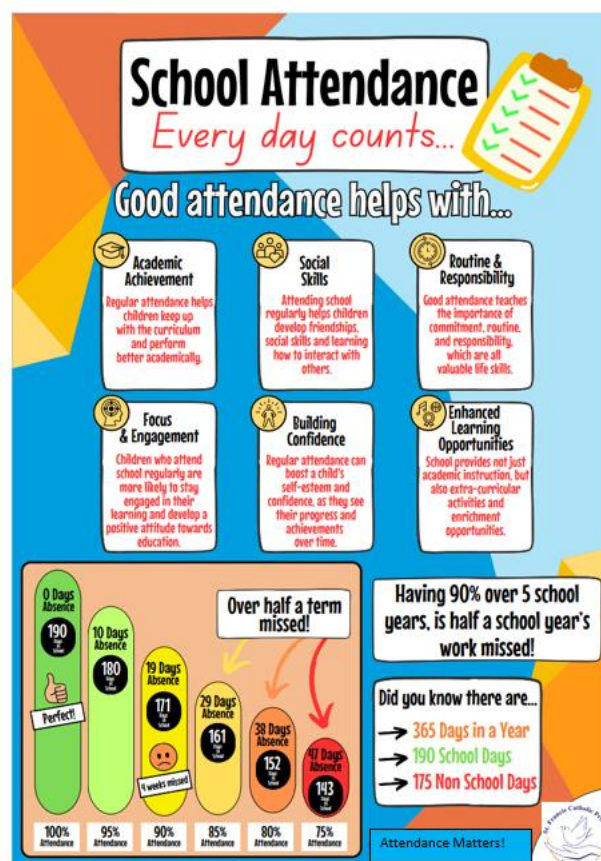
As you are aware, our former Governors'/School Fund is now the St Francis' School Development Fund, and **we need your support** to help it make a real difference. We recognise the current financial pressures on families, but continued contributions are vital in enabling us to invest in improving the school environment and upgrade equipment. This is common practice in schools and every penny goes towards enhancing your child's experience. We are inviting families to contribute just £5 per month per child (£60 per year).

Payments can be made as a single amount or monthly by direct debit. UK taxpayers will be asked to complete a Gift Aid declaration, which adds 25p to every pound you donate. [Click Here](#) to make your contribution. Or visit our website and click on this icon **Thank you to all families who are able to support us.**



Calendar Dates

4 th May	Bank Holiday -School Closed
5 th May	Year 3 Trip Frylands Wood
5 th May	Year 4 Trip to High Ashurst
11 th – 14 th May	Sats Week for Year 6
21 st May	Talent Show -Details to Follow
22 nd May	Outdoor learning Day Break Up For Half Term
1 st June	School Reopens @9am
1-12 th June	Year 4 MTC
10 th -12 th June	Year 6 PGL Residential
17 th June	Year 5 Trip to Tower of London Details to follow
18 th June	Year 5 Wintershall Trip
19 th June	Inset Day -School Closed
26 th June	Sports Day -Details to Follow
6 th July	Reception to Bocketts Farm- Details to follow
17 th July	Break up From School @1pm
1 st September	Inset Day -School Closed
2 nd September	Inset Day -School Closed
3 rd September	School Reopens @9am





Let's **Move Together**

AS ACTIVE SURREY &

family voice surrey

SEND Movement & Wellbeing event

Sunday 26 April 2026

12pm – 3pm

Guildford Spectrum Leisure Centre

Creating Connection

We're excited to welcome **Paralympian Lizzi Jordan MBE**, who will be joining us to inspire children and young people with stories of resilience, possibility and the joy of movement.

This **free**, family-focused event is exclusively for Surrey children and young people with **Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)** and their families.

Explore a range of inclusive activities, including:

- Sports & movement sessions
- Games and Scalextric
- Crafts & creative zones
- Quiet breakout spaces
- Small animals for calm engagement

A space to feel included | A space to play, explore and connect |
A space to discover what movement can mean for your family

While **booking isn't required**, register for your free tickets in advance to receive an event pack by email before the day, including everything you need to know and details on how to claim your free goody bag. Simply **scan the QR code**.



SOUTH EAST SURREY DYSLEXIA ASSOCIATION

Affiliated to the British Dyslexia Association

SESDA Reg. Charity no.291076

Support Evening for Parents and Carers

Monday 20th April 2026

8pm to 10pm

A chance for parents and carers to meet Committee members, who are themselves parents of dyslexic youngsters, and specialist dyslexia tutors, to talk about any concerns they have about dyslexia at home or in school.

Session will include a talk about

'Encouraging Reluctant Readers and the Importance of Developing Vocabulary'

There will be resources and information for parents about the best way to help at home and how to keep in touch with teachers and SENDCos. Some ideas about how best to support teenagers sitting GCSEs and other exams.

This meeting is free and informal and open to all parents and carers who have an interest in dyslexia.

It would be helpful to know numbers beforehand but not essential.

**Canada Hall, All Saints Church,
Battlebridge Lane, Merstham. RH1 3HA**