

Virtue of the month – Peace

Dear Parents and Carers



A great week was made even better by the sunshine, with children looking happy, engaged, and enjoying their learning across the school. As we begin a new month of May, we are reminded that **May is the Month of Mary**, a time traditionally set aside for reflection, prayer, and gratitude. It was wonderful to gather together as a school community to Crown Mary today, sharing a quiet and reflective moment that brought us together in faith. Mary is a beautiful example to us all: someone who trusted completely in God and had the courage to say “Yes!” to the task God had given her, even when the path ahead was uncertain. Her example encourages us to pause, listen, and place our trust in God in our own daily lives. Over the coming month, we invite families to join together in prayer by saying the Rosary. The website www.teachingcatholickids.com explains clearly the mysteries for each decade and the order of the prayers used, making it a helpful and accessible resource for families. As we approach the long bank holiday weekend, we hope everyone enjoys this precious opportunity to slow down, spend time together, and appreciate the simple joys of family life and we look forward to welcoming everyone back after the break.

We would also like to take the opportunity to say a fond farewell to **Ms Payne** a valued colleague of the St Francis team since 2023. We thank her for her contribution and wish her all the very best in whatever the future holds. **Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Dean** on the safe arrival of their beautiful baby girl yesterday. We are delighted to hear that both mother and baby are doing well. Warmest wishes to the proud parents and to their boys as they welcome their new sister into the family.



Attendance

Congratulations to **Linden Class** on winning this week's Attendance Cup! Your excellent attendance reflects a strong commitment to being in school, learning together, and making the most of every day. Well done to everyone in the class for this fantastic achievement and for your consistent effort.



Online Safety

Early use of digital technology can boost language skills, social development, and creativity in children. But it also carries the risk of exposure to online harm. See how you can help your child stay safe and happy. Parents may find this link useful <https://www.internetmatters.org> The site has a wealth of information to support keeping your children safe online.

Cross Country

Well done to the children who took part in the cross-country event. They represented the school well. Thank you to parents for their support, and to Mr Yarnell for attending and supporting the children.

Celebration Assembly

Well done to all the certificate winners, this week and to **Thomas More** for winning the House points.



Have a lovely long weekend.

Mr Doyle & Staff



RE

In this week's gospel we are blessed with the wonderful words, "I am the way, the truth and the life". What wonderful words resonate with us about our faith. Are our eyes fixed and looking to Jesus as our mentor, guide and father to lead us on life's journey? Imagine going on an exploration and we are not sure where to go. But our guide says that I have the map, I know the route and I have all the supplies you need. We can have faith in that person that they will help and support us with all we need. This is the message which Jesus shares with us here. [Mr Yarnell](#)

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 st June	Whole Class Photographs (Full School Uniform)
1-12 th June	Year 4 MTC
10 th -12 th June	Year 6 PGL Residential
16 th June	KS1 Peter Pan Workshops
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
28 th June	PTA Summer Fayre- 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

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!



Become a Drop Off Parent Volunteer
and help our children get
into school quickly and safely!



No DBS Required

Minimum time commitment - 8.45am - 9.00am
the more volunteers the less shifts to cover!



Wear a Hi-Vis so parents and children can spot you easily.

RESPECT

An opportunity to:

say good morning and thank you
smile on the school run



SAFE

Parents - support each other and keep traffic
moving by driving to the furthest space possible
Kids - bags packed and ready to get out quickly
Kids unbuckle once the car is stopped

Kids exit on pavement side only

Volunteers help them out if needed and ensure
they make it to the pavement and get in the gate



READY

Get in touch with volunteer parent
Hayley, Rota Organiser, on
07789 718 829 to volunteer, or with questions.

Please park and accompany your child inside if they are too young,
or if this service is not appropriate for them.



ST FRANCIS SCHOOL SPEECH AND DRAMA
19th Year of Supporting the Curriculum
"Every child a winner"
Supporters of the National Open Youth Orchestra
Welcome - National Open Youth Orchestra



POETRY BY HEART NATIONAL ADJUDICATION
Poetry By Heart

It is with great pleasure that, against stiff competition with thousands taking part nationally, we can announce that St Francis School has been successful in the *Poetry by Heart Freestyle* competition for Surrey. Much congratulations to **LEON** (Year 5) for wowing the national judging panel with his acted performance of the "Weird Sisters" *Cauldron* speech from Shakespeare's "The Scottish Play". (M.....th) and to be given the opportunity to perform at the famous **The Globe Theatre** at Southwark in July. Congrats also to Astrid, Archie and Taylor for their wonderful contributions. All four will receive a certificate and adjudication report from the judging panel in due course.

REIGATE AND REDHILL FESTIVAL

The children have been working hard since Michaelmas term and many have performed pieces in class or assembly. The Festival opens on **Monday 5 May** with the **Music Section**. The Speech and Drama section opens on **Monday 11th May** with the Reception children at 4.15pm. The Group Chorals take place on Thursday 14th May both at Reigate Park Church. All children take part in the Group Chorals as part of the programme unless formally agreed otherwise in advance.

Just as choir and other school events, please ensure that you have by now informed in writing any extracurricular coaches /teachers that your children may be missing a session as they are representing their school in this Festival. Also, that you have made appropriate arrangements for your children to be collected from school to arrive on time, missing out the Reigate one way system. (Children will not be allowed to leave school early!)

To ensure your child is fully prepared, those parents who have not yet made an appointment with Mrs Shannon with your child/ren, please contact her via bjspeechdrama22@gmail.com or Tel 01883 344373 by this Saturday evening. Final practice sessions at her home are Sunday 3rd Saturday 9th and Sunday 10th. Also please ensure all outstanding entry fees are paid to her by Monday 5th

SPEECH AND DRAMA EXAMS (LAMDA)

Well done to the children who took exams at LAMDA last Sunday. It will be some weeks before the results are received. Now on and upwards.

ST FRANCIS SPEECH AND DRAMA

St Francis speech and drama is the only school run speech and drama club. Parents are reminded that as a member of the *Society of Teachers of Speech and Drama*, who has trained through and at LAMDA and **NEW ERA ACADEMY** as well as university, Mrs Shannon is running a professional holistic (individualised) programme registered with the STSD encompassing all areas of speech and drama and does not give of her time for no outcome. Signing up implies commitment and dedication and intention to progress as per the progression chart.

Whilst Mrs Shannon coaches voluntary and offers her services free (in line with Government rules on charging for "in school" clubs) signing your child up to speech and drama is a commitment to the Festival, Poetry by Heart and CiPPA

The school is registered through the office and Mrs Shannon for the use of the **LAMDA** and **NEW ERA** logos, as well as *Poetry by Heart/CiPPA* and the *International Oratory Festival*. Aside from those children whose parents are also professional speech and drama teachers in their own right, St Francis pupils signed up through the school site and trained by her cannot be entered into exams on the back of her training by any other teacher. Poaching of STSD member and St Francis club coached pupils is considered unethical

As per the Speech and Drama progression chart, **two terms notice in writing to the school office is required**. Exam pupils must see through the exam being worked upon. Last minute withdrawals are charged pro rata per term based on local hourly rates and £2.50 per Festival section withdrawn from. No notice withdrawals from the exam programme will be charged in line with local independent school LAMDA charges. After school club withdrawals from the Festival and exams will be charged at Treetops rate per session to date and time outstanding for work undertaken and not seen through.

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