

St. Francis' School Newsletter

19th June 2026



Virtue of the month – Thoughtfulness

Dear Parents and Carers

We are delighted to share some wonderful news and highlights from across the school this week.

Our **New Reception Parents' Meeting** was a great success. It was lovely to meet so many families and there was a warm, positive atmosphere throughout. Our Early Years Team are especially excited to welcome the new children in September and begin this important stage of their learning journey. Thank you to all the parents who attended and for the very positive feedback we received.

The **Peter Pan workshops** were thoroughly enjoyed by all who took part. The children engaged brilliantly, showing enthusiasm, creativity, and confidence throughout the experience.

We have also had some fantastic educational trips recently. The visit to **Wintershall** was a reflective and meaningful experience, allowing children to engage thoughtfully with the story in a unique outdoor setting. Meanwhile, the **Tower of London trip** was a great day out for Year 5. Those who attended both trips had an especially busy and exciting week, full of learning beyond the classroom!

In addition, **Mr Yarnell** took some of our children to the **Good Shepherd Celebration at Worth Abbey** alongside all the other schools within the diocese. It was a special occasion to come together and celebrate our shared values. If you've never been to the Worth Abbey church, you should go – it is something special.

Although the weather has been lovely, please remember to send children into school with **hats and sunscreen** to ensure they stay safe in the sun.

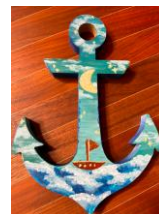
Looking ahead to next week, we warmly invite Year 6 parents to attend the **PGL Assembly on Monday 23rd June at 2:45pm**. We look forward to seeing you there and sharing the children's experiences.

Celebration Assembly

No celebration assembly this week but photos from last week's assembly are below.

Wishing you a wonderful long weekend.

Mr Doyle & Staff



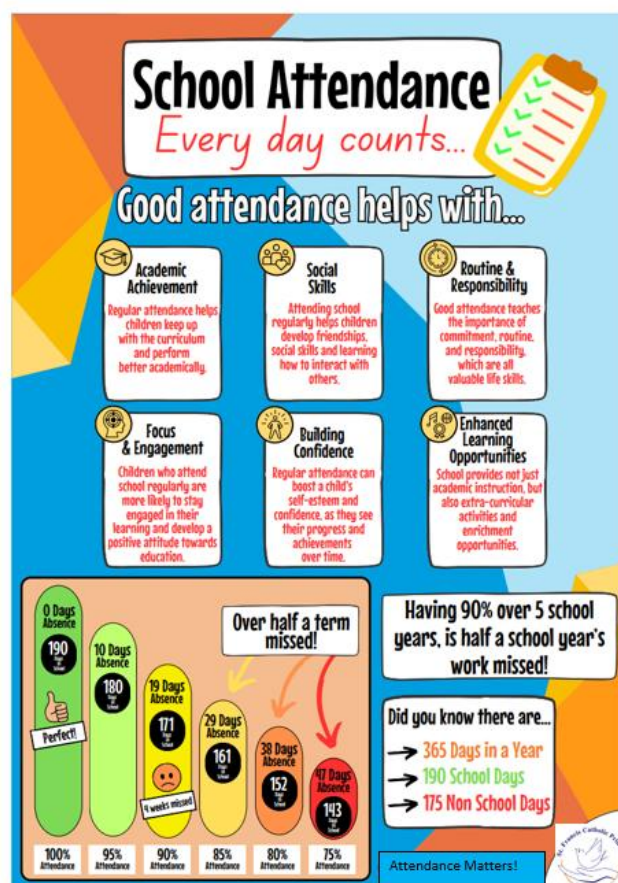
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This week's Gospel message is such a simple one in theory: don't be afraid. We tend to worry about everything, from what is not happening, what could happen, what is about to happen and what won't happen. Many of these worries will never actually come to fruition and yet we are concerned about them. In the Lord's Prayer, we pray for our daily bread, what we need for today, not tomorrow. The Israelites in the desert after leaving Egypt were asked to collect enough manna for the day, not for longer. This helped to build their trust in God. This isn't to say we shouldn't be good stewards of the gifts we have, but it is to say, let's focus on the things which are really important. Where are we truly looking for with our hearts, minds and souls?

Mr Yarnell

Calendar Dates

19 th June	Inset Day -School Closed
23 rd June	PGL Assembly 2.45pm
25 th June	Year 1 Trip to Godstone Farm
26 th June	Sports Day -Details to Follow
28 th June	PTA Summer Fayre- Details to Follow
30 th June	Changeover Day
3 rd July	PTA Mufti Day – Bring a £1
6 th July	Reception to Bocketts Farm- Details to follow
7 th & 8 th July	Year 6 Production
9 th July	New reception Children -Play & Stay @ 2,15pm
10 th July	Year 6 Leavers Disco
13 th July	Year 6 Mass @ Sacred Heart
17 th July	Year 6 Leavers Mass @9.10am
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





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



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

LONDON ACADEMY OF MUSIC AND DRAMATIC ART EXAMINATIONS – APRIL 2026

Congratulations to the following children who took exams at LAMDA at the end of April:

Orla (Yr 5) – Entry Acting and Ivy (Yr 5) Grade 2 Reading for Performance both with Distinction.



Well done to the girls for all their hard work and the parents/guardians who have supported you in this process. Thank you once again to David Lawson-Lean, Head of Prep school drama at Notre Dame, Cobham for overseeing the mock exams and for his continued invaluable input and support.

TEACHER-PARENT CONFIDENTIALITY - DATA AND CHILD PROTECTION

St Francis Speech and Drama is a traditional year on year developmental speech and drama (elocution) programme focusing on communication, performance and life skills through a combination of **Festival, Poetry by Heart and LAMDA/New Era** examinations but adapted to the needs of each child as if they were having private tuition. It is the only St Francis school-led speech and drama club. Poetry is part of the national curriculum and so for some 17 years all KS1 pupils have participated in class reciting, including LAMDA syllabi pieces, led by Mrs Shannon, learning exactly the same pieces as those attending at lunchtimes who help to lead class sessions. Pupils are coached by Mrs Beverley Shannon BA (Perf Arts), LTCC GMLAM MSTSD, with the support of Miss Francesca Shannon, BMus, GMLAM SSTSD and most importantly parents/guardians, with mocks overseen by David Lawson-Lean a professional coach, actor, playwright and teacher, all of whom have trained since childhood through and have a long connection with LAMDA Examinations as well as other performance/exam bodies.

Exams are taken from Introductory (the foundation of everything) up and across all key communication and performance areas in strict sequential order when it is deemed each child is ready, in full consultation with parents/guardians. Another teacher cannot enter children being trained by Mrs or Miss Shannon into exams on the back of her festival and exam training (for which they have trained). It is also not advisable to take more than one exam a year or be catapulted into graded exams without commencing with the basics first as each stage informs the next stage. Exams should be seen as a culmination of TRAINING and not as training in themselves. All children are coached to a Grade 2 to 3 Communication and Performance Level /Shakespeare Level 1, whether or not they take exams; however the exams provide the "evidence" and can be a useful to support bursary /scholarship applications to onward education.

At their first exam entrants are allocated a PIN (personal identification number) by LAMDA which is then published on exam entry/ report marking slips and certificates. As St Francis speech and drama is an "in-school" led club (membership of which is booked through the school website) information regarding PINs, exam results and comments are confidential to the coaches, mock examiner, parents/family, child and Head Teacher. This also applies to *Reigate and Redhill Festival, Poetry by Heart and International Oratory Festival* reports.

Exam reports/PIN numbers and Festival reports should not be copied, shared or supplied to anyone else, whilst that pupil is being coached by Mrs and Miss Shannon and if anyone is approached for financial gain to supply such information, they should inform Mrs Shannon or the school office immediately. Neither Miss or Mrs Shannon will ever ask for sight of copies of any documents/results pertaining to any other teacher unless they relate to their own pupils who have been entered for exams with LAMDA or NEW ERA without their knowledge or consultation and for which financial redress will be sought.

Under **Society of Teachers of Speech and Drama Guidelines**, poaching of pupils for financial gain is deemed unethical and requesting of such information, whether from the parent or child, is against laws of data protection. Due to the advance planning/costs involved, **two terms' notice in writing** is required through the school office to discontinue speech and drama. Should a parent then approach another teacher for coaching, under STSD guidelines it is expected that a new teacher will approach the former to check if there is any reason not to take a pupil on board (eg failure to pay exam fees, festival entry, to give proper notice, etc). Charges will apply for work undertaken but then not seen through to its natural conclusion based on local rates pro rata

'Communication is key to a successful society'

Catherine West MP at English Speaking Union "Discover your Voice" workshop