



St Francis of Assisi Catholic Primary School



Newsletter—No. 1

Friday 8th September 2017

At St Francis of Assisi we believe God is at the heart of our school. As a school community, we work together to provide a caring, stimulating nurturing environment, where every child can discover their true potential and grow closer to Christ. As pupils and staff we encourage in each other a love of learning. This is a place where we can all belong and where diversity and difference is celebrated. We rejoice in each other's uniqueness and respect the dignity and beauty of each individual. Using our gifts and talents we will actively seek to make a real difference - by caring for one another and caring for our world.

A very warm welcome back to all at St. Francis and an equally warm welcome to those who are new to the School. I hope you have had a lovely summer break and feel suitably refreshed; the children have made an excellent start to the term and to the academic year. I have been pleased and impressed on my visits to all classrooms during the last few days to note the focus and hard work.

We welcome Mrs Dahl in Year 1 and Miss Barnes in Year 5. I was delighted to welcome three new children to our school: Giulia De Vitti – St Pio Class, Joanna Peiris – St Bernadette Class and Abishan Elil Amalan – St Therese of Lisieux Class. I know that we will all support them and make them feel very much part of our community.

I should like to thank Noel Digan and his team for working tirelessly over the summer. The astro-turf pathway leading to the outside classroom and pond was completed over the holidays providing all-year round access to the outside classroom.

In addition to the usual deep-clean and maintenance to the school building(s) and grounds, all the fascias and soffits from the front door to the boiler house have been redecorated. The Rainbow Room has also been being completely redecorated providing a much more conducive space for small group tuition. I am enormously grateful for their efforts.

I'm sure you may have noticed the new playground markings (see pictures). Work was carried out over the summer and these exciting designs have encouraged fun for all; it has been wonderful to observe the children initiating imaginative play and enjoyment beyond the classroom. I should like to thank the Parents Association for their generosity and for funding this project.



Homework

Today, you will have received a letter from Miss Date (KS2 Leader) and Mrs Ternouth (KS1) regarding amendments to our homework policy. Please may I ask for your continued efforts to support your son/daughter with their homework. Naturally, work set as homework prepares for, builds upon and reinforces classroom learning and is crucial, therefore, to their on-going progress. Homework also encourages responsibility and accountability and strengthens home-school communication about your son/daughter's learning. I would be most grateful if you could ensure children hand in their homework on the day specified. This will be discussed in more detail during the Curriculum Meetings which take place in the next few weeks. (Information is also published on the school website). Thank you for your continued help and cooperation.

School Uniform

Please may I remind children that no jewellery is allowed in school and that earrings should be plain studs. Friendship bracelets, bangles and similar accessories are not allowed. Hair should be tied back neatly with discreet blue bands.

Nut-free School

We are a "nut free" school because we have children in the School who are allergic to nuts, which can be a life threatening condition. Please can you help us to protect these children by being vigilant when bringing any foods into school.

Finally, thank you to Fr. Simon and all parents who joined us for Mass on Wednesday at the Friary to celebrate the start of our new school year. All parents/children are invited to attend Mass on Sunday at 9.00am St. Bernadette's, Tilgate to represent St. Francis for Education Sunday.

Have a lovely weekend!

A Note from Miss Chester: Houses

This year we are planning to relaunch the house system at St Francis School. There will be a number of events throughout the year where houses compete to earn points for their team and the chance to win termly rewards and ultimately to be crowned 'House of the Year' in the Summer term.

Over the next two weeks, Year 6 children will be completing and presenting applications in order to crown our House Captains and Vice Captains. These children will help to plan and run competitions throughout the year.

Alongside this letter you will also receive the first of our house competitions for families to complete at home.

Note from Father Simon

When I was at school we would begin every piece of work by writing the letters A.M.D.G. at the top of the page. This stands for 'Ad maiorem Dei gloriam', which translates 'for the greater glory of God'. This week we have celebrated Holy Mass asking that the Lord bless our work for this year. Everything we do is oriented to the service of God, His Church and His Holy People. On this Feast Day of Our Lady's Birthday let us consecrate our year to Mary who gives us the pattern of saying 'yes' to God. Having said all that I'll be off on my summer holiday for the next two weeks – it's my turn to refresh myself for the Crawley Mission!

The Parish are now accepting applications for those in Year 3 and above who would like to make their First Holy Communion in May / June 2018. The link to the application form is printed in the parish newsletter which you can obtain when you go to Sunday Mass.

Bishop Richard will visit the Parish on Thursday 14th September at 7pm. In the Friary Hall he will speak to us about the ways in which our Parish Community will be called upon to continue our Mission into the future and how this forms part of the Diocese's restructuring and renewal as we look towards 2030. We expect Bishop Richard will challenge us, inviting us all to new ways of ministry, including decisions as to where Mass will be celebrated in the Parish of Crawley from October 2017. This is an open invitation to all parishioners from all our worshipping communities.

Curriculum Meetings for Parents and Carers

We would like to invite you all to year group curriculum meetings in order to share information about what your child will learn this year, what will be different and how we can work in partnership to support your child. The meetings will generally take place in the small hall and Years 1,2,3 and 4 meetings will begin at 2.45pm and take place next week as the diary dates show.

There is a change of start time for Years 5 and 6 and these will begin at 2.30pm with Year 5 on Tuesday 19th and Year 6 on Wednesday 20th. Meetings are for parents and your children will remain in class. We look forward to seeing you.



Attendance of the Week

Congratulations to
St Francis & St Peter for
achieving 100%

Parentpay

Please note that our preferred method of payment for swimming and extended clubs is by Parentpay. However, we are still able to take payments by cash or cheque in the office.

Chartwells Hot Lunches

Please remember that if your child has gone into Year 3 which is KS 2 this September they will no longer be eligible for Free School Meals.

Parents will need to order and pay for meals directly from Chartwells a week in advance or ensure their child brings in a packed lunch.

Diary Dates

Sept

- 12 Class Assembly at 9.05am led by St John Paul— Parents Welcome
- 13 Curriculum meeting for Year 1 at 2.45pm
- 14 Curriculum meeting for Year 2 at 2.45pm
- 15 Curriculum meeting for Year 3 at 2.45pm
- 15 Curriculum meeting for Year 4 at 2.45pm