



St Francis Newsletter

'Recognising Christ in Everyone'

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November 2017

Our Value this Term is



"The Gospel calls Christians to live lives of honesty, integrity and concern for the common good..." Pope Francis

Our school value this half term is Honesty. We have started talking to the children about what an important characteristic this is but also how difficult it can be to be completely honest all of the time. Is honesty always the best policy? A good question for our philosophy sessions!

The nights are drawing in and winter is well on its way and this is a time for us to be especially thankful for the warmth and security of our homes. During Advent we will be thinking about our journey towards Christmas and how many people in the world continue to make journeys. They travel away from war and poverty towards what they hope will be a brighter future just as Mary and Joseph travelled to Bethlehem. Even though they were initially rejected and forced to shelter in a stable they were comforted by the joy of Jesus's birth and the welcome of shepherds, kings and angels. Let us hope and pray that all those without a safe and welcoming home may find peace and security this Advent.

Mrs Johnson

STAFF UPDATE As advised through ParentMail, regretfully Mrs. Barnes, our Year 2 teacher, has handed in her resignation and her last day at St Francis will be 15th December at the end of this term. We will all miss her kind and thoughtful nature and completely support her wish to spend more time with her family. Presently, we are advertising for a Year 2 teacher to start in January and as soon as we have appointed someone, we will let you know.



POPPY APPEAL During this week, Year 6 pupils are selling poppies and other branded items every break time to raise money for the Poppy Appeal. There are standard poppies for which any donation is appreciated and also button badges, snap and button bracelets, reflective tags and charity bands which are available for donations between 50p and £1. Please can you give your child the exact money for anything they would like to put in the Poppy Appeal charity box. There will be a whole school Remembrance collective worship on Friday at 10:50.

YEAR 1 AND 2 TRIP TO WINDSOR CASTLE Please can we remind parents to order Gift Bags if required via ParentMailX (£3) – **Year 1 please order by Wednesday 8th and Year 2 please order by Wednesday 15th.** The school are providing a packed lunch for all children unless you prefer to send one from home, in which case please can you let the office know. The children will be asked in class for their choice of Ham, Cheese or Tuna sandwiches.



FoSF NEWS



Thank you to everyone who came to the Pumpkin Party last week which was a great success and raised £233 towards school funds too.

There have also been two 2nd hand uniform sales run by Mrs Abell in the first half of term which have collectively raised £124

Bags2School – A reminder that the next collection date is **Friday 24th November**.

Bags have been sent home via classes this week and there are some spare bags at Reception if you need more. Alternatively you can use any bin bag - please include all items of clean clothing, shoes, handbags, ties, belts, hats, jewellery and soft toys, Please leave bags by the gate before 9 a.m. If you need to drop the day before, please put in the pavilion. *NB. The following items cannot be collected: school uniform, corporate clothing/work wear, bedding, duvets, pillows, towels, household items, shredded material/off cuts.*



CHRISTMAS FAIR SUNDAY 3rd DECEMBER 11:00-13:30 Please save the date in your diaries and share the attached poster with your family and friends. FoSF needs everyone's help to make this popular event a great success - the second page of this poster details what you can do. The Fair will include the ever popular Santa's Grotto, a Winter Wonderland Craft Room, Christmas Gift Market, Raffle, Silent Auction, Refreshments and the wonderful St Francis Children's Choir!



Can you help with sponsorship or donations for the raffle and silent auction? A letter is attached with you can use to give to any donor or sponsor to support your request. Books of raffle tickets have been sent home via your child's class - please sell or buy these tickets and return money and ticket stubs in the envelope provided to the black FoSF Post Box.

Many corporate companies run match fund schemes. You may work for such a company, or know someone who does. If for instance you raise £300 on Santa's Grotto, your company could match this and contribute an additional £300 to the school. Please see the attached letter for more details and if you need further information to pursue a fund opportunity, please ask the FoSF committee or your Class rep for help.



FoSF Meeting Thursday 9th November 7.30 p.m. Friends are meeting at The Swinley Pub South Ascot this Thursday to discuss the Christmas Fair and other fundraising initiatives. They would love to see you there – all welcome to come along to share your ideas, thoughts and how you can help out.

CHILDREN IN NEED We are planning a special fun day on Friday 17th November in support of Children in Need, which will include taking part in the national Duck Race, a 'spot' challenge and a cake sale. If you still have any old round pounds at home, please hang on to them as we are collecting these for the appeal as well. More details to follow next week. Please note this will not be a muffin day though, as we are saving this for 1st December in support of the Christmas Fair Tombola collection.





WHOLE SCHOOL PANTO TRIP We are planning a trip to the pantomime, Beauty and the Beast, at South Hill Park on Wednesday 6th December. This is a matinee performance starting at 2 p.m. and finishing at 4.30 p.m. In order to minimise the cost of this trip, we will transport the children to the theatre by coach, but would like you to arrange to collect your child from South Hill Park at 4.30 p.m. rather than adding the cost of returning to school by coach.

Ideally we would appreciate if you can make shared arrangements with other parents/carers, but if you think this will be a problem please let the school office know as soon as possible so that we can help to make alternative plans. There will be no after school clubs running on this day and we will try and reschedule these sessions the following week to avoid missing a planned session. Get Active will still be running their service so it might be possible for some children to be dropped back to school for this if required. A form with further details will be sent out via ParentMail shortly. The cost of the trip, including transport to the theatre is £13 per child.



SCHOOL UNIFORM/PE KIT Please can you ensure that your child has a warm, waterproof coat in school every day. A number of children are often not adequately dressed for the current weather and we aim for the children to go outside every day at break and lunchtime in all reasonable conditions.

Please also ensure that your child has a full PE kit in school at all times, with suitable trainers, a warm, waterproof top and joggers or tracksuit trousers, in black or brown. Children should wear a proper sports top, e.g. a sweatshirt and not a jumper or cardigan. There is an increasing appearance of general sports wear, which may be suitable for after school club sessions, but not for curriculum activity.



DIARY DATES Please see below key activities over the next few weeks. Changes and additions will be sent out through ParentMail, generally on a weekly basis unless more urgent, so please do look out for these notices.

AUTUMN TERM (2) 2017 – 'HONESTY'

	NOVEMBER		DECEMBER
6	New Parents Tea & Coffee Meeting 09:00-10:00 with Mrs Fraser in the LRC	1	Reception, Yr1-4 Flu Vaccinations
7	Yr 5/6 Football Match vs SAVS AWAY 3.30pm Yr 5/6 Netball at Charters School 3.30pm.	3	FoSF Christmas Fair 11:00 a.m. – 13:30 p.m.
9	Year 1 Trip to Windsor Castle FoSF Meeting at the Swinley Pub 7.30 p.m.	4	Collective Worship – Advent
10	Collective Worship – Remembrance 10:50	6	Whole School Panto Trip to South Hill Park
13-17	Anti-Bullying Week	7	Inter House Rugby KS2 Yr 6 Charters League Netball Match vs HT at the Marist 3.30 p.m. – 4.30 p.m.
13	Yr 5/6 Football League Match HOME vs SAVS		
15	Governor Mtg – FGB	8	St Francis Pre-School Nativity AM KS1 Nativity Dress Rehearsal - <i>Preschool children/siblings invited to watch</i>
16	Year 2 Trip to Windsor Castle	11	KS1 Nativity Performance
17	Collective Worship - Head Boy/Girl CHILDREN IN NEED FUN DAY	12	Christmas Lunch Yr 5/6 Charters Basketball Tournament 3.30 p.m. – 5 p.m.
23	FoSF School Disco	13	KS1 Nativity Performance
24	FoSF Bags 2 School Collection Author Visit – Rec/KS1/Y6	14	Christingle 14:00
27-29	Assessment Week	15	SCHOOL TERM ENDS 13:30
30	KS2 Film Workshop tbc		<i>Christmas Holiday 18 Dec – 2 Jan</i>