

# St Francis Newsletter 20th March 2026



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*Issue No. 10*

*20th March 2026*

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*Compassion ~ We love and care*

*Humility ~ We put others first*

*Responsibility ~ We do what is right*

*Inspiration ~ We love to learn and achieve*

*Solidarity ~ We stand together*

*Truth ~ We live by God's Word*

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Dear Parents and Carers,

The school was alive with celebration on Tuesday as we marked St Patrick's Day together. A huge thank-you to the Year 6 children in St Patrick's House for delivering an excellent assembly on the life and legacy of St Patrick—beautifully written, confidently performed, and truly inspiring. We were also treated to a wonderful display of Irish dancing by Elizabeth in Year 5, whose talent and enthusiasm had the whole hall smiling. Throughout the day, children and staff alike joined in the spirit by wearing green, bringing a joyful splash of colour to the school. We ended with one of St Patrick's own reflections, reminding us of the faith and courage he carried throughout his life: *"Christ beside me, Christ before me, Christ behind me."*



## Easter Production

Our Easter Production was a truly moving retelling of the Story of Jesus, beautifully brought to life by our talented pupils. The children performed with heartfelt commitment—the music was uplifting, the singing was full of warmth and confidence, and the acting captured the emotion and meaning of the Easter story. We are incredibly grateful to all the adults involved—including Mrs Flack, Miss Ruprai, Mrs Finch, Mrs Bailey and Mr Szymczyk.

**“He is not here: for he is risen” (Matthew 28:6)**













## Exceptional circumstances for school absence

Good attendance is essential for every child's progress, wellbeing, and sense of belonging in school. Thank you to all families who continue to support strong attendance routines—your efforts make a real difference.

As a reminder, **leave of absence during term time can only be authorised in exceptional circumstances**. Please note that requests for leave **immediately before or after a school holiday** are *highly unlikely to be authorised*, even when exceptional circumstances are cited.

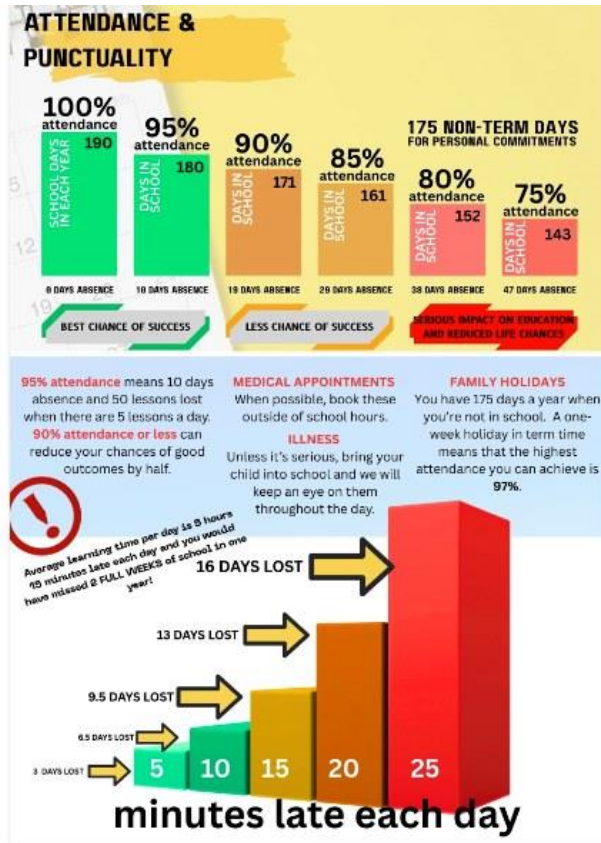
Where the request relates to an **immediate family member's wedding or funeral**, the **day of the event itself** may be authorised. Additional days for travel or extended family visits will normally be unauthorised unless there are compelling reasons.

When considering any request for exceptional leave, the school will also take into account your child's **current attendance level** and the impact that further absence may have on their learning.

A request for absence in exceptional circumstances can be made through the school office by completing a leave of absence form and returning to the school office.

<https://stfranciscrawley.ovw9.devwebsite.co.uk/attachments/download.asp?file=642>

We appreciate your support in ensuring all children attend school regularly and on time. If you have any questions or need advice about attendance, please contact the school office.



## Wilderness Foundation: One of our four school charities

As part of our Catholic Social Teaching, St Francis is fundraising for The Wilderness Foundation UK, an incredible charity that transforms lives through the healing power of nature. Every year they support 8,000+ young people and adults, including some of the most disadvantaged in our communities, through nature-based therapy, mentoring, and immersive outdoor programmes. These experiences help people rebuild confidence, improve mental wellbeing, and reconnect with the world around them. Their wilderness therapy, trails, and conservation programmes inspire resilience, environmental responsibility, and long-term positive change. Your support helps fund these life-changing opportunities and protects the wild spaces that make them possible. Join us and help change lives through nature! Don't forget to dress up for Wilderness Day on Monday.



## The Stations of the Cross

Following on from Reconciliation last week and the children's Lent Loyalty activities, Leopard Class led a reverent and prayerful Stations of the Cross.





## Friends of St Francis

A heartfelt thank-you to all the parents and carers from The Friends of St Francis for organising such a lovely Mothers and Others Afternoon Tea. It was wonderfully well attended, with an amazing selection of cakes that everyone thoroughly enjoyed. It was especially lovely to see so many grandparents, mummies, and other special people join us for the occasion. In the spirit of kindness and community, all leftover cakes were thoughtfully delivered to a local care home, where they were gratefully received. The total raised from the event and the gift bags was **£423!**

# ROOF FUNDRAISER









## CLUBS

Just a reminder, that all clubs are now finished for the term and will start again week beginning 20th April.

## Note from West Sussex Music: Free Holiday Music Activities for Pupils (Ages 8–16)

We are pleased to share details of upcoming holiday music activities available for young people aged 8–16. Sessions will take place on the **30 March – 1 April** in the following locations:

- **Bognor Regis** – Rap & Songwriting
- **Crawley** – DJ & Music Production / Interactive Cinema Workshops
- **Worthing** – Play in a Band / Interactive Cinema Workshops
- **Horsham** - Interactive Cinema Workshops



**Please note that the school will close for Easter at 1pm on Friday 27th March.**

**Please make sure you collect your child promptly.**

**Thank you.**

## Diary Dates



### Diary Dates

#### March

**Mon 23** - Meerkat Class visiting Crawley Library 9.30am

**Mon 23** - Pre-Loved Uniform Sale (3pm)

**Tues 24** - Pre-Loved Uniform Sale (8.40am)

**Thurs 26** - Lost Property 3pm outside front school office

**Fri 27**- Last day of term **1pm finish**

#### April

**Mon 13**- Pupils return to School

## Attendance and Punctuality



Congratulations to Koala Class for achieving 98% and Armadillo Class for achieving 99% this week.

Perfect Punctuality Pizza slice awarded this week to Ladybird, Bumblebee, Koala, Wallaby, Penguin, Armadillo, Raccoon, Panda and Leopard Classes.

Remember we are a nut-free school



### Child Protection and Safeguarding

**At St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Primary School, we are committed to promoting the welfare of all our pupils, ensuring they feel safe and can place their trust and confidence in any adult that is working in, volunteering for or visiting the school.**

**The designated Safeguarding Leaders at St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Primary School are Mrs Winton, Miss Strudwick, Miss Date and Mrs Jones**



Don't forget that next week is the last week of the Spring Term and we finish at 1pm on Friday.  
Have a wonderful weekend and see you on Monday for Wilderness Day!

Warmest wishes,

Mrs Winton