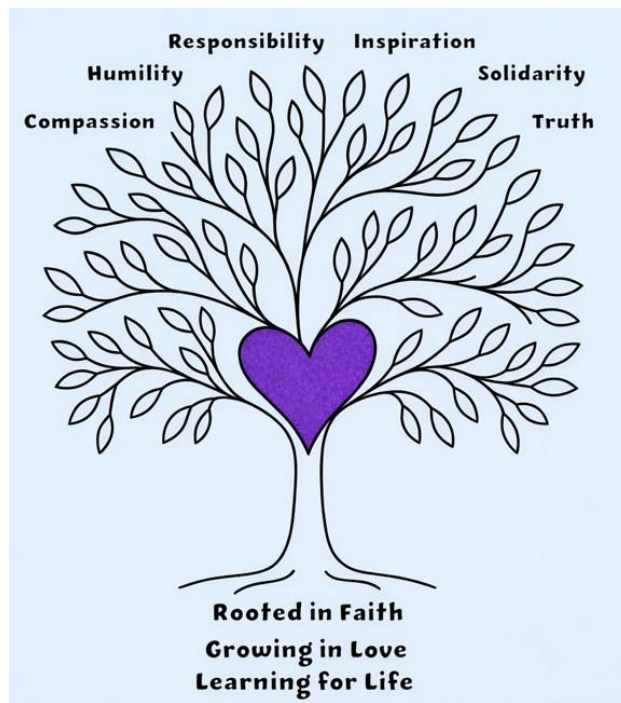


St Francis Newsletter

2nd October 2026



Compassion ~ We love and care

Humility ~ We put others first

Responsibility ~ We do what is right

Inspiration ~ We think big and shine bright

Solidarity ~ We stand together

YOU ARE INVITED!

ST FRANCIS of ASSISI

FEAST DAY MASS

Monday 5th October at 9:00am

Join us for the **MOST IMPORTANT** and **SPECIAL DAY** in our school year!

The whole school community is warmly invited to celebrate our patron saint, St Francis of Assisi, as we begin a joyful day of worship, learning, fun and celebration together.

FEAST DAY MASS

MONDAY 5TH OCTOBER

9:00AM

SCHOOL HALL

"Start by doing what is necessary, then what is possible, and suddenly you are doing the impossible."
- St Francis of Assisi

A DAY OF CELEBRATION

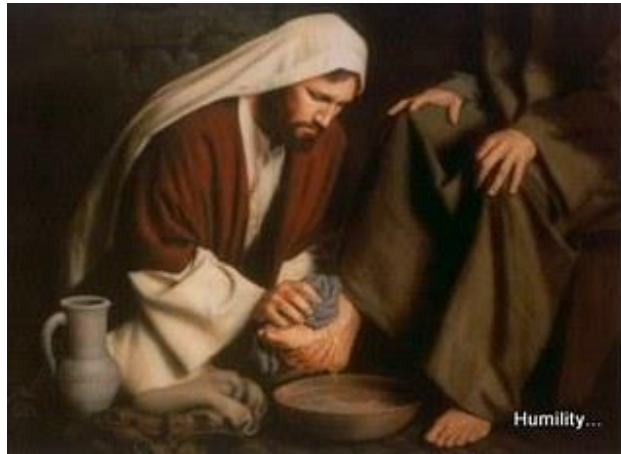
- CELEBRATE our school family
- REFLECT ON God's wonderful creation
- LIVE OUT OUR VALUES of compassion and service
- ENJOY A DAY filled with fun, faith and friendship

ALL PARENTS, CARERS, GOVERNORS, PARISHIONERS AND FRIENDS OF THE SCHOOL ARE WARMLY WELCOME!

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.
St Francis of Assisi

COME AND HELP US BEGIN THIS VERY SPECIAL DAY TOGETHER!

Gospel Assembly Focus: Humility



Putting Others First

In this week's assembly, the children explored the virtue of **humility** and what it means to put others before ourselves. Using the example of Jesus and his disciples, the children reflected on how true greatness is not about being the best or most important, but about serving and supporting others.

The scripture shared was:

"Anyone who wants to be first must be the very last, and the servant of all."

The assembly reminded us that true greatness comes from kindness, service and treating others with respect, just as Jesus taught. We encourage families to talk together about simple ways we can all put others first at home, school and in our community

Catholic Social Teaching in Action: Our Houses

St Andrew (Blue)

House Leaders: Miss Chester & Mr Johnson

Year 6 House Captains: Roman, Robin & Ayansh

St Andrew's house will support **St. Catherine's Hospice** again this year. We have chosen to support St Catherine's Hospice because their work reflects the values of St Andrew: humble, devoted and selfless. The hospice provides compassionate care and support to people and families during difficult times, putting the needs of others first. By supporting this local charity, we hope to show kindness, service and love to our community.

St David (Yellow)

House Leaders: Mrs Pitcairn-Hill & Miss Strudwick

Year 6 House Captains: Kimberly & Matilda

This Year St David's house has chosen to support the charity **The Difference**.

The reason we would like to support The Difference is because we are passionate about helping children who do not always fit the traditional education system. The charity's work reflects our values of humility, service and the power of everyday goodness. They show humility by seeing the worth in every child, service by helping those who face barriers to learning, and everyday goodness by encouraging schools to be places of kindness, belonging and opportunity. Their message is simple: every child matters, every child has potential, and every child deserves the chance to succeed.

St George (Red)

House Leaders: Mrs Rankin & Mrs Ternouth

Year 6 House Captains: Vinayak & Lexie

St George's House will support the charity **Caritas**. Caritas is a worldwide organisation that works to help people who are struggling or facing difficult circumstances. Caritas believes that every person is valuable and deserves to be treated with dignity, kindness and respect. Caritas helps people around the world who are experiencing poverty, hunger, homelessness, conflict and other difficulties.

The story of St George tells us about someone who showed courage, faith and honour. He saw someone who needed help and was brave enough to stand up and do what he believed was right. But we don't need to fight dragons to show courage! We can show courage when we speak up when someone is being treated unfairly, include someone who is being left out, and notice when someone needs help and do something about it. Caritas shows this courage, faith and honour in their good works around the world.

St Patrick (Green)

House Leaders: Mr Ferrito & Mr Szymczyk

Year 6 House Captains: Gia & Neriah

This year, St Patrick's house has chosen to support **Crawley Open House**. Crawley Open House are a local, independent charity that has been helping those affected by homelessness and severe disadvantage locally for over 30 years. They support people experiencing food poverty with emergency food parcels and work with them to address some of the issues creating their crisis. They offer temporary accommodation and help people to improve their circumstances through a range of services including employability skills.

As they rely heavily on donated food to provide this service, we have decided to donate a range of cupboard food supplies and personal hygiene products. Crawley Open House supports our house values of respect and resilience by helping others to look after themselves and create a better future, by treating them as a worthy, valued member of society.

To kick start another amazing year of giving back, the house captains and leaders would like to invite children to take part in our 'design a crest' challenge! Every child will have the chance to design a house crest that will be proudly displayed in our school hall for all to see. This crest needs to include the house colours, maybe a design or picture linked to your house saint and possibly a motto. All entries need to be returned to your child's class teacher by Monday 12th October, and winners will be announced during Celebration Assembly on Friday 16th October. The winners will each earn 30 points for their house.

Congratulations to **Ayansh in Year 6** who received a special Catholic Social Teaching award from Mrs Pitcairn-Hill for taking his responsibilities as a play leader so well, supporting younger children in our school community. Well done **Ayansh**!

Walk like an Egyptian!





Year 3 were delighted to welcome an Egyptologist to St Francis. The children shared their knowledge of Ancient Egypt and participated in many exciting activities including building a pyramid and mummifying a pharaoh. The children represented the school beautifully and were an absolute delight !

Diary Dates



Diary Dates

October

Mon 5 - St Francis Feast Day Mass 9.05am - PARENTS WELCOME

Tues 6 - Armadillo Class Assembly at 9.05am - parents/carers/grandparents welcome

Tues 6 - Year 6 Meeting- Mr Clarke (transition to Secondary) at 2.40pm

Wed 7 - Open Morning at 9.15am for 2027/28 intake (please call to make an appointment)

Fri 10- No Year 4 Swimming

Is your child starting school next year?

**St Francis of Assisi
Catholic Primary School**

**Is your child starting
school in September 2027?**

Come and discover what makes
St Francis of Assisi Catholic Primary School
such a special place to learn, grow and thrive!

Join us for a friendly school tour with our Headteacher
and see our happy, welcoming school in action.

School Tour Dates

- 9:15am
- 7th October
- 4th November
- 2nd December

To book your place,
please contact the
School Office on

01293 521009

We can't wait to meet you
and your family and show you
all that our wonderful school
has to offer!

St Francis of Assisi
Catholic Primary School

PTA Financial Summary

FOLLOWING THE AGM

Since registering as a charity in October 2025, we have now completed our first full year of charitable activity and can report our first year's figures to the Charity Commission.

Figures have been rounded for ease of reading.

FUNDRAISING

Since October last year to date, our fundraising events and activities have generated a total profit of

£11,400

In addition, we have received:

-  a **£4,500** grant towards the pond redevelopment
-  **£500** donation from the Nestlé Community Foundation
-  Approximately **£450** through the Easyfundraising app

This brings our total income to
just under £17,000

which is a phenomenal amount for our first year and really shows what an amazing team we make.

FUNDRAISING SUCCESSES

Our strongest fundraising events included:



October & February Discos

£2,300

combined profit, with the introduction of the tuck shop contributing to the success of both discos.



Christmas Fair

£3,300

profit, including around £1,200 from the raffle, £250 from external stall commissions and £350 from Dominika and Magda's cakes.



Summer Fair

£3,900

profit, including around £1,200 from the inflatables, £1,000 from the raffle, and a combined £1,000 from the bar, toy shop and cake stall.

These figures show that raffles, discos and larger events can be very financially successful fundraisers for the PTA.

GIVING BACK TO THE CHILDREN

Not everything we do is about making a profit. Santa's Grotto and Santa's visit, for example, were organised so that every child could have a Santa experience at school without having to pay.



£140

for chocolate lollies for all 420 children.



£70

for Christmas lunch bags for all 420 children, including a hat, candy cane, jokes and stickers.

We also spent approximately **£1,300** directly supporting the school and children, including Forest School woodchip, Eco Team prizes, Year 6 leavers' books, Reception book bags, Sports Day and ice pops during the heatwave.

LESS FINANCIALLY SUCCESSFUL EVENTS

Some events are less financially successful when you consider the amount of volunteer time and manpower required to organise and run them.



Mother's Day

£400 profit.



Little Givers Grotto

£680 profit.

Although the financial return from these events is lower, they are valued by the community and provide enjoyable experiences for the children and families. We therefore need to consider not only the profit generated, but also whether the time and manpower required are proportionate to the return.

PERSONAL NOTE

I will be stepping back from the Treasurer role for around six months due to family commitments, but I would very much like to continue supporting the PTA wherever possible.

A FINAL THOUGHT

It's important to remember that every pound raised represents somebody's time. So, although we are talking about money, it represents so much more than that.

We have a responsibility to spend the money we raise very wisely, ensuring we get the best value for our children and our school, and, out of respect for those who have given up their time to help raise that money, to make sure their efforts are put to good use.

A huge thank you



I hope we can continue to build on this success and make an even bigger difference to the school and the children in the years to come.

I look forward to seeing you soon.

Take care, Rachel x

to everyone who has helped, supported and been part of the PTA's success over the last year. Nearly **£17,000** in our first full year of charitable activity is a staggering achievement and something we should all be very proud of.

Attendance



This week's attendance winners are:

KS1 Penguin Class Consistency - For demonstrating exceptional attendance and commitment to being in school every day.

KS2 Zebra Class – Improvement - For making excellent progress in attendance and developing positive attendance habits.

Star of the Week



Koala: Pennie Bishop

Wallaby: Medina Yianni

Penguin: Ashlyn Dias

Seal: Melody Fernandes

Meerkat: Mya Rasaratnam

Zebra: Amelia Michalska

Armadillo: Holly Bailey

Raccoon: Nova-Maie Maloney

Leopard: Angel Omohegbe

Panda: Aiden Leonce

Toucan: Frank Dawson

Alpaca: Harry Butler

Reader and Writer of the Week



Koala: Lily Niblock

Wallaby: Monika Jaskiewicz

Penguin: Walter Adamasi

Seal: Zacharias Innes

Meerkat: Nevin Joseph

Zebra: Sana Thomas

Armadillo: Luke Dias

Raccoon: Prescianna Aglae

Leopard: Gavin Cheung

Panda: Edward Johnston

Toucan: Ben Bogus

Alpaca: Robin Alexa

Final thoughts



Thank you to everyone who has already donated items for our Harvest Collection. We are still gratefully receiving donations of non-perishable food items, including packets and tins, as well as toiletries such as shower gel, shampoo and toothpaste. These contributions will help support those in our local community who are experiencing hardship.

A big thank you to the NSPCC who has delivered workshops to the children on how to stay safe. They will be in school again next week supporting more year groups with safeguarding workshops.

Finally, next week promises to be a wonderful celebration as we honour our namesake, St Francis of Assisi. Families are warmly invited to join us for Mass at **9.00am on Monday**, as we come together to celebrate his life, faith and example of service to others. We look forward to sharing this special occasion with our school community.

Warmest wishes, Mrs Winton



SUMMIT TENNIS

CRAWLEY PARKS



Walking to 6 yrs



5.5 yrs to 9 yrs



8.5 yrs to 13.5 yrs



Tennis for all



Free trial sessions!
Beginners welcome
WWW.SUMMIT-TENNIS.COM





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.

If you have concerns about a child you can also call Integrated Front Door (IFD) on 01403 229900 or out of hours on 0330 222 6664.