



December Newsletter 2020

Designated Safeguarding Leaders for the school are Mr Holt and Mrs Flower dsl@stcharlesb.surrey.sch.uk.

This newsletter can be viewed on our website: www.stcharlesb.surrey.sch.uk Information regarding the Xavier Catholic Education Trust can be viewed at: www.xaviercet.org.uk

This newsletter is sent via email only, so please ensure that we have your correct details. This saves on paper and administration. However, if you would still like to have a paper copy, please let the office know and we will ensure that you receive one. It is important that parents continue to receive and read this newsletter as it is the main communication channel for the school.

Reminder School News App- Don't forget to download the School News app so you can access our website and updates via your phone or tablet.

This month is always a special one as we enter the Advent period. It is at times like this when you are blessed to be working in a school with the sense of optimism and anticipation palpable around the school. We have been acutely aware of how different things have been for the children since March and we are determined to give the children the very best we can over this Christmas period whilst keeping safe too. I am pleased that there will still be a great deal taking place during December, so please read this newsletter and also make note of any specific dates. The PTA will try to keep you up to date with events too. Please be mindful that we will not be able to replicate a 'normal' Christmas experience, nativity plays and Carol service will have to be different, they will not be 'full blown productions' but in many ways this is quite apt. Hopefully, this year our efforts will be a timely reminder of what is important and also a reminder that Christ is at the centre of all we do. I know that whatever we do, the children will bring a sense of hope for the future and that you will appreciate the efforts we have gone to.

Value of the Month

This month's value is Peace: 'Peace is an inner contentment that can touch the lives of others.' In the month of Advent, we pray for peace around the world, as well as bringing peace and love to our local community. At this time we would normally sing to our local residents and support groups but this is sadly not possible. We therefore pray for anyone who may feel lonely or isolated.

Last month's value was Freedom: The value tied in beautifully with our support for the British Legion Poppy Appeal. Thank you for your amazing support, they will be thrilled when they count the pennies! The children produced art work and recounts based on the sacrifice of others and were exemplary with their 2 minute silence.

Please join us by rewarding the children for displaying any of our core values.



Sports News

We have been keeping active but sadly no competitive sport. However, thank you to Mr Craig Smith from Cleves School who organised a virtual district cross country event, with over 30 children taking part. I was very proud of all of the children, running over 1.5km is not easy! Results are due out soon.

Safeguarding: Should you ever have a concern about the welfare of a child or adult, please come and speak in confidence with the school's safeguarding leads. Our Designated Safeguarding Leaders for the school are Mr Holt and Mrs Flower. If you cannot speak to us in person we can be contacted via email at: dsl@stcharlesb.surrey.sch.uk Should you not wish to speak to a member of the school team you can make contact with Surrey Children's Single Point of Access (SPA). The SPA is based at County Hall and acts as the front door to children's services in Surrey.

The SPA provides residents and people who work with children in Surrey with direct information, advice and guidance about where and how to find the appropriate support for children and families.

Availability: 9am to 5pm, Monday to Friday

Phone: 0300 470 9100

Out of hours phone: 01483 517898 to speak to the emergency duty team.

Mrs Maher

At the end of term we will be saying farewell to Mrs Maher as she will be leaving St Charles. She has been offered a teaching position at Newland House School, starting in January.

I know that you will join me in sending your thanks and best wishes to Mrs Maher. Mrs Maher has given many years service to the school, since joining us in 2007 and we are going to miss her. I am pleased to report that Mrs Lawton will temporarily go full time to ensure continuity for the children for the remainder of this academic year.

Children in Need

Thank you to Mrs Flower for organising Children in Need, this year, despite the restrictions, you raised an incredible £880!

Our New Room

The new build is almost finished and is looking amazing! Thank you to the MAT and the Governors for supporting this project. The new room is in use and will be used for a multitude of purposes and when the time allows, food technology will also take place. Fr Con blessed the room for us and we hope to have all outside work completed by the end of term.



The parish have a defibrillator in the narthex of the church.

Feast of St Charles Borromeo

Thank you to the children for their support and for celebrating our Feast Day in prayer at our special Mass. Fr Con made it all the more memorable by asking for a volunteer to do some spontaneous actions for the closing hymn—Mr Clay (pictured) came up trumps and made us all smile! I also received a lovely card from Bishop Richard wishing us a Happy Feast Day. Over £240 was raised for one of our nominated school charities.



Foodbank Donations

A reminder that we are collecting for the Runnymede Foodbank on Thursday 3rd December by donating special Christmas items to bring a bit of extra special cheer to those in need. Thank you in advance for your generosity, you will and have made a difference, thank you!

Christmas Lunch 16th December

Please be advised that we have been told by 12:15 Catering that due to forward purchasing and operational costs incurred for Christmas lunch, the standard annual no refund policy for pre-ordered Christmas lunches will apply.

Xavier Lockdown Art Competition

During lockdown we tried to inspire the children to be as creative and engaged as possible. One event that took place was an art competition. Congratulations to Charlie in Year 3 (who was in KS1 last academic year for the competition) and Elsie (Year 4) for their winning



Talking of being creative, there is no stopping our children—take a look at what some of our Year 4 children created during playtime with the leaves. They even managed to add the school logo!



Nursery Applications—Applications for the nursery are now being accepted for September 2021. If your child will be 3 years old by next September and you would like them to attend the nursery, please complete the 'Nursery Application Form 2021' found on the school website.

Home School Link Worker—A reminder that Weybridge schools have appointed a home school link worker, Debbie Watts. If at any time you would like to speak to her, please let your child's class teacher know in confidence or speak to myself or Mrs Bray. You can leave a message for her via St James School 01932 851762 and she will return your call.

Thinking and Learning Differently

During the lockdown period we have needed to think of different ways of engaging with outside learning providers and thankfully we have had some success! Thank you to Elmbridge Museum who have worked with us to deliver some remote history workshops. These have proved successful and the children enjoyed the experience. Prior to lockdown we were able to access an outdoor visit to Wisley with our Year 1 pupils. They really enjoyed being outdoors and learning about nature.



Well done and thank you to the children and families in Year 3. Due to the need to self-isolate the Year 3 bubble, they spent a period of time learning from home. Well done and thank you to Miss Ryan and Miss McFadden for providing the remote learning and also the additional staff working behind the scenes to support the children.

Thank you Fr Con

We are blessed to have such a supportive and proactive Parish Priest. Many thanks to Fr Con who has helped with our RE lessons, in particular the teaching of the sacraments. He always tries to engage the children in their learning, bringing our faith to life. Thank you Fr Con.



School Attendance

Thank you for your very measured and sensible approach to your child's school attendance this term. I am delighted to report that every child returned to school as planned and that parents have been very sensible in applying the rules regarding suspected COVID symptoms and the need to test. General attendance, other than for self-isolating purposes, is up this year. Surrey's school inclusion officer was very impressed with our school attendance rates. Hopefully, this will continue throughout the course of the academic year.

Local Foodbank Vouchers—If any family is in need of assistance, I hold local foodbank vouchers which I am authorised to distribute. Please come and speak to me in confidence should you require any.

Primary School Applications

The closing date for state primary school applications for September 2021 is January 15th 2021 but the expectation is that applications will be made online and well in advance of the deadline. If applying to a Catholic school, a supplementary form will be required to indicate that you are a Catholic family.

Christmas Arrangements—Further to my email last month, please be reminded of the following:

Christmas cards: Christmas cards for your child's class **only** can be brought to school but only on a Monday please. Cards will then be quarantined before distributing at the end of the week. Some of you may wish to make a donation to charity instead of issuing cards this year.

Christmas lunch: this will be available for children who currently have school lunches and will take place on Wednesday 16th December. We will though make the lunchtime special for everyone.

Christmas craft days: these will take place but as class bubbles only; we will use Microsoft Teams in school for teachers to share ideas with other classes so that it feels a bit different. Unfortunately, no extra helpers this year, we do miss you! The day will take place on Tuesday 15th December and the children can wear Christmas MUFTI/outfits, Christmas jumpers, festive accessories etc. As a parent volunteer if you are able to help prepare resources at home, please contact your class teacher.

Christmas Nativity plays and service: this has and will be a challenge! We will ensure that any singing that takes place will be in bubbles and the children will be distanced. The areas will be ventilated where singing takes place. The intention is that we will record something and share it securely with you. We are determined to mark the Advent period in an appropriate way but please remember that we will not be able to replicate previous experiences.

Travelling Cribs: this will not be possible this year. However, we will be asking the children to create a crib either through a template, a LEGO creation or existing crib. We will ask the children to share a special moment with their family and to say a prayer. I aim to share as many photos of our 'virtual travelling cribs' in my Friday assemblies.

PTA Support: thank you to the PTA for a number of initiatives taking place over the coming weeks, please look out for PTA updates.

Finally, please be patient and understanding with us. We are doing our very best for the children under challenging circumstances, but we know that they will appreciate the opportunities presented to them. All of the above activities may and can change at any time, so all is dependent on everything going to plan!

As we entered our Advent season on Sunday, we remember the true meaning of this festive period and I ask you for your ongoing prayers and support.

End of term Mass, 18th December 10am (it is not clear yet what restrictions will be in place).



XAVIER SCHOOLS' TERM DATES 2020-2021

AUTUMN TERM 2020

Term starts	Tuesday 1st September 2020
Half term	Monday 26th to Friday 30th October 2020
Term ends	Friday 18th December 2020
Schools closed	Monday 30th November 2020

SPRING TERM 2021

Term starts	Wednesday 6 January 2021
Half term	Monday 15th to Friday 19th February 2021
Term ends	Thursday 1st April 2021

SUMMER TERM 2021

Term starts	Monday 19th April 2021
Half term	Monday 31st May to Friday 4th June 2021
Term ends	Friday 23rd July 2021
Bank Holidays	Monday 3rd May, Monday 31st May 2021

INSET DAYS

1 September
2 October
30 November
15 March
7 June
9 July

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY—UPDATED

3rd Dec Advent Reconciliation
3rd Dec Foodbank collection
18th Dec Break up for Autumn Term
(No afternoon nursery) 1:30
18th Dec End of Term mass 10:00 Year 6
6th Jan Spring Term starts
18th Jan Start of term mass 2pm
2nd Feb Year 4 to Juniper Hall
12th Feb School closes for Half Term
8th—10th Mar Year 5 Bikeability
15th Mar INSET DAY
18th Mar Textile recycling
25th—26th Mar Year 4 Residential to Juniper Hall

1st Apr Break up for Spring Term (No afternoon nursery) 1:30
19th Apr Summer Term starts
29th Apr Reception to British Wildlife Centre
28th—30th Apr Year 4 Bikeability
3rd May Bank Holiday
6th—7th May Year 5 Residential to Henley Fort
28th May School closes for Half Term
7th Jun INSET DAY
11th—13th Jun Year 6 Residential to Bowles
8th Jun Textile recycling
9th Jul INSET DAY
14th Jul KS2 Sports Day
23rd Jul Break up for Summer Term (No afternoon nursery) 1:30