



Designated Safeguarding Leaders for the school are Mr Holt and Mrs Flower [dsl@stcharlesb.surrey.sch.uk](mailto:dsl@stcharlesb.surrey.sch.uk).

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

### A new school year begins

The children have made a very good start to the school year and it has been great to see lots of smiling faces. We welcome our new pupils and families to St Charles. I know that our existing parents will make our new families very welcome. In addition to our nursery and reception children, we welcome: Cian, Freddie and Hosanna. All of our new children have made a very positive start to term. We also welcome Mrs Riat to Year 1 as she commences her final stages of teacher training building on her previous teaching experiences elsewhere. To our new parents in particular if anything is not clear, please do not hesitate to ask, email or call the office or catch me at the school gates. Finally, on a personal note, I would like to thank you for the kind gifts, letters and cards that I received at the end of the summer term; it is good as always to feel valued.

Everything that has taken place over recent times was put in perspective recently, with the sad passing of one of our parents, Angela Hernon, mother of former pupils Daniel and Cara. Please keep the Troy family in your prayers.

I know that my current situation may have caused some of you some concern but St Charles and Xavier have been committed to following the government guidance since the start of the pandemic and we still have a tight focus on the recommended DfE control measures and public health advice on testing, self-isolation and managing confirmed cases of COVID-19. I hope that this will be an isolated case.

As we start the new term we will continue to follow updated Covid-19 guidance for schools. This will involve ensuring classrooms are ventilated and hand sanitising solution is available. During break times, the children will have more space but will still play with their own equipment/games and on certain days. The children will continue to eat at the dining table as a class and will be served by the staff.

Please can you ensure we have the most up to date mobile and work numbers for at least 2 emergency contacts on our records. This is a safeguarding requirement.

Please remember the kitchen require at least 1 week's notice if you wish to change your child's lunch preferences.

Along with most, if not all schools, St Charles has taken the opportunity to join the Operation Encompass scheme which will run jointly between local schools, Surrey Police and Surrey County Council.

Operation Encompass has been designed to provide early reporting on any domestic incidents that occur outside of school and might have an impact on a child in school.

Operation Encompass will ensure that a member of the school teaching staff, named 'Key Adult' or "Deputy Key Adult", is informed the next morning that there has been a domestic incident or if a child has been reported as missing. These school colleagues will be those who already have safeguarding responsibilities and are fully aware of the sensitive and confidential issues regarding such information.

Through sharing this information with the Key Adult or Deputy Key Adult, the school can ensure that the child is supported in the most appropriate way during the school day.

We are keen to offer the best support possible for our pupils and we believe this is going to be extremely beneficial for all those involved.

For more information see [www.operationencompass.org](http://www.operationencompass.org)

### Year 6 Leavers' Mass and presentations

Sadly, just before the isolation rules changed, our Year 6 pupils had to isolate on their last week of term due to a positive case. This meant that many of the end of term arrangements had to take place online. However, the maturity and understanding shown by Year 6 was outstanding and the teachers ensured that a fitting end of term took place.

A number of special awards were made, so congratulations in particular to Nathan and Molly B for winning the Nicholas Connor Friendship cups, Thomas and Petula the Sports Awards, and Lauren The Endeavour Cup. As a form of closure, Year 6 returned on the 4<sup>th</sup> September for a leavers' mass and celebration on the school field. Thank you to the parish and staff for making it a very special day for the children and we wish them every success in Year 7.



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

### **Returning of school library books from home**

Please can we ask that any school library books you may still have at home be returned. Unfortunately, it is impossible to see how many books have/haven't been returned from the various lockdowns over the past 18 months, but we want to 'reset' the Librarian system to ensure all of the children can start checking books in/out again. Many thanks.

### **First Holy Communion 2021**

God bless and good luck to all of our First Holy Communion children who will be receiving the Blessed Sacrament for the first time on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> September. The Mass will be live streamed for family and members of the community who are unable to attend.

There will be a whole school Mass for our new First Holy Communicants on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> September at 2pm.

### **Trim Trail and playground banked area before and after school**

A reminder that for the safety of all concerned, especially toddlers, the trim trail and banked area should not be used before or after school.

### **Secondary School Applications**

The closing date for state secondary school applications for September 2022 is October 31st but the expectation is that applications will be made online. If applying to a Catholic school such as Salesian, a supplementary form will be required to indicate that you are a Catholic family. Applications can be made via <https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/schools/admissions/secondary/apply>

If any family is experiencing hardship as a result of loss of work or income, we may be able to provide some support with uniform or food vouchers. Please contact Mr Holt, Mrs Flower or the school office in confidence.

### **Birthday Treats**

In the past some of our children have enjoyed bringing in a small treat to give to their classmates on their birthday. In light of the current situation I am happy for this to continue under the following circumstances. The item must be individually wrapped, ideally within a bag itself (for example multipacks of sweets). This should then be given to the class teacher who will ensure that the treat is distributed with the minimum contact following hand washing etc.

### **Important information regarding informing the school of certain illnesses**

Last term we sent out a letter informing you that one of our pupils, Freddie, is currently receiving medical treatment for leukaemia and this puts him at serious risk if exposed to infectious diseases; specifically, measles, chicken pox or shingles. Therefore, this is a reminder to please let us know immediately if you suspect that your child or someone else in your household has measles, chicken pox or shingles and also follow the current guidelines for Coronavirus notification. If your child has not already been vaccinated, you should also consider vaccinating your child against measles as this is the best way to protect all children from this disease. Please discuss measles vaccination with your GP if appropriate. We have also been informed that, in order to help Freddie build up his immune system, we should not shield him from everyday coughs, colds etc. so please continue to send your children into school if they are well enough to attend. Your own child is not at risk from this situation, however as Freddie is vulnerable and his health and well-being is at serious risk, we depend on the cooperation of our families in this matter and Freddie's family appreciate this too.

### **Jewellery and hair**

Our usual reminder that we recommend that if children are to have their ears pierced, that this is done at the beginning of the summer holidays. No jewellery should be worn other than earrings which should be a single stud in each ear and must not be of the hooped variety. Hair for boys and girls if below collar level should be tied back.

### **Information Evening**

Information evening will take place via Microsoft Teams for the following classes on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> September: Years 1-2 6.45pm and Years 3-6 7.30 pm.

### **First Holy Communion 2022**

If you have a child in year 3 or above and would like them to receive their First Holy Communion in 2022, please attend our parent's information evening on *Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> September at 7:30 pm via Live Stream only.*

Application forms are available on the parish website. Please note that one parent will need to complete the CPP Encounter for Parents Course before the child will be accepted onto the programme.

### **Bikes and Scooters**

Bicycles and scooters should not be used in the playground. Bicycles and scooters are left at your own risk and can be left in the racks inside the Nursery and Carlo room green fencing or if space, in the racks by the office. Please do not use the racks opposite the church by the parish hall walkway as these are reserved for parishioners. Dogs, other than guide or 'assistance' dogs should not be on the school premises.

### **Residentials**

These will hopefully be taking place this year and details will follow in the weeks to come.

### **Parent Afternoons**

Parent afternoons will take place this term and will be via our online system. Further details will be provided next month.

### **Year 6 Bikeability**

Year 6 will have their cycling proficiency sessions this year. More details to follow, but it will take place week commencing 20<sup>th</sup> September.

## Sports Day Results July 2021

Congratulations to all of the children for some excellent performances at the July Sports days. Well done to St Francis in KS1 and to St Bernadette in KS2. A special mention for a very resilient and brave young lad, Ivo, who suffered a fractured wrist during his first track race. Thankfully,

he has made a full recovery and is back running.



## Absence during Term Time - IMPORTANT

The school's attendance policy can be found on the school website.

We have always known that every day at school is important and regular attendance is the key to a confident and successful child. This is even more important with the events of the past 18 months. With travel opportunities increasing, it is appropriate to remind you that headteachers may not grant any leave of absence during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances. In light of this parents should not request absence for holidays during term time, including taking the last day of term to avoid costs/charges. Any requests such as these will not be authorised and may lead to a fine being issued by the local authority.

However, there may be times when there is a genuine need to take time off during term time and we would wish to continue to help families with a proven need. Our attendance figures will be scrutinised and if families can adhere to our request not to take leave unless there are exceptional circumstances, then we may not have to adopt a zero tolerance approach.

In light of the above, I need to stress that I have always tried to give plenty of notice regarding term dates, so that parents have sufficient time to make their holiday arrangements. I must also stress that the above stipulations do not include general illness, funerals or family crises which are unavoidable and will always be treated sympathetically.

I trust that you will support me with this matter and would like to reiterate that any requests for term time absence must be avoided and in the unlikely event that absence is required, an exceptional leave form must be completed and may be discussed with you.

## A reminder that children are to come to school in their PE kit on their PE days as listed below -

Reception—Wednesday	Year 1—Wednesday & Thursday	Year 2—Tuesday & Wednesday
Year 3—Wednesday & Thursday	Year 4—Thursday	Year 5—Monday & Thursday
		Year 6—Monday & Thursday

Isolation rules changed significantly over the summer and Test and Trace duties are now being carried out by the NHS and not by the school. The following guidance is in place for those that are deemed to be close contacts and highlights that you do not need to self-isolate if:

- You're fully vaccinated – this means 14 days have passed since your final dose of a COVID-19 vaccine given by the NHS
- You're under 18 years and 6 months old
- You're taking part or have taken part in a COVID-19 vaccine trial
- You're not able to get vaccinated for medical reasons

If the above applies, you should still get a PCR test but you do not have to isolate whilst waiting for the results unless you have symptoms.

In practice this means—If your child displays COVID symptoms - please seek a PCR test as soon as possible, keeping them home until the results are known. If the test comes back positive, they will be expected to isolate for 10 days from the day symptoms started and work will be provided by school. If the result is negative, they return to school as soon as possible.

If your child is identified as a close contact through NHS Test and Trace please book a PCR test as soon as possible. Please note, if your child has no symptoms they should continue to attend school until they receive their test results. If the result returns positive they will need to isolate for 10 days from the date of the result.

If a member of your household tests positive, please book a PCR test for your child as soon as possible. Please note, if your child has no symptoms they should continue to attend school until they receive their test results. If the result returns positive they will need to isolate for 10 days from the date of the result.



## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

16th Sept	-	Swimming begins Year 4
20th—24th Sept	-	Y6 Bikeability
23rd Sept	-	Information Evening KS1 6:45 KS2 7:30
25th Sept	-	First Holy Communion Mass
28th Sept	-	Y4 Holy Communion Mass 2pm
29th Sept	-	School Photos
8th Oct	-	INSET DAY
22nd Oct	-	INSET DAY—Golden Jubilee
1st Nov	-	Return to school
1st Nov	-	Feast of All Saints Mass 10am
4th Nov	-	St Charles Feast Day Mass
29th Nov	-	INSET DAY
2nd Dec	-	Last Swimming for Year 4
3rd Dec	-	Advent Reconciliation 9:30am
12th Dec	-	Christmas Market
16th Dec	-	End of Term Mass Yr 5 10am
17th Dec	-	End of Term (No PM nursery)

4th Jan	-	Spring Term starts
13th Jan	-	Start of Term Mass Yr2 10am
13th Jan	-	Swimming begins Year 5
2nd Mar	-	Ash Wednesday Mass 10am
16th Mar	-	INSET DAY
24th Mar	-	Lent Reconciliation 9:30am Yr4
25th Mar	-	Mothers Day Mass Yr2 9:30am
31st Mar	-	Last Swimming for Year 5
31st Mar	-	End of Term Mass 10am
1st April	-	End of Term (No PM nursery)
19th April	-	Summer Term starts
21st April	-	Swimming begins Year 3
2nd May	-	Bank Holiday
3rd May	-	Start of Term Mass Yr1 10am
26th May	-	Feast of the Ascension 10am
10th—12th Jun	-	Year 6 Residential to Bowles



### XAVIER SCHOOLS' TERM DATES 2021-2022

#### AUTUMN TERM 2021

Term starts	Monday 6th September 2021
Half term	Monday 25th to Friday 29th October 2021
Term ends	Friday 17th December 2021

#### SPRING TERM 2022

Term starts	Tuesday 4th January 2022
Half term	Monday 14th to Friday 18th February 2022
Term ends	Thursday 1st April 2022

#### SUMMER TERM 2022

Term starts	Monday 19th April 2022
Half term	Monday 30th May to Friday 3rd June 2022
Term ends	Friday 22nd July 2022
Bank Holidays	Monday 2nd May 2022

#### INSET DAYS

6 September  
8 October  
22 October  
29 November  
16 March  
8 July

I try to give you as much notice of key events over the year and these are highlighted at the end of the newsletter but more importantly via the school website and app. These dates tend to remain fixed but at times may be subject to change. I hope the advanced notice will help working parents in particular.

### Queen's Platinum Jubilee

The government have announced an additional bank holiday to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. As this falls within the June half term holiday, Surrey schools have been awarded an additional day of holiday on Friday 22nd October 2021. All schools in the Xavier Catholic Education Trust, including St Charles will be closed on this day.

### Parish News

Welcome back, some events happening in our parish, all welcome.

Talent Show, Saturday 18th September, two shows, 2.30 pm or 7.30pm.

Parish Variety Show, Songs from the West End Shows. If you wish to book a ticket to attend please email [cppdbashalayam@gmail.com](mailto:cppdbashalayam@gmail.com) all proceeds go to our Charity in India, helping street children.

Date for the diary next year, a Flower Festival in our church weekend of 21st /22nd May 2022, it would be great to have St.Charles school represented.

God Bless, Mary Lee