



St. Paul's Dorking

Church of England (Aided) Primary School

Newsletter | Friday 20th October 2017 | No. 5

I can't believe that we've come to the end of the first half term. I've enjoyed my first seven weeks as Acting Headteacher and feel proud to be in this role, especially when I do Learning Walks around the school. It has been particularly good to see the creative and collaborative approaches adopted by our teachers and the great outcomes of the children as a result.

Only this week I have seen **Year R** children making lovely autumn leaf collage pictures of woodland animals. Each picture has been different, celebrating the uniqueness of each child.

In **Year 1** the children looked carefully at a painting by Lowry and then drew sections of it. Their pictures are amazing, including detail and movement.

In **Year 2** the children have produced impressive autumn tree paintings using a range of techniques, including printing and blowing the paint.

In Literacy in **Year 3** the children have been thinking about how to trap a troll and have written instructions about this. I am happy to say that I am now safe from trolls as one child kindly gave me his set of written instructions to put up in my office!

Year 4 children brought in their Egyptian topic homework this week. I was truly impressed by their models and what they could tell me about them. I was even more impressed when I was given a piece of one of the models (a cake in the shape of Tutankhamun's death mask) to eat. It was delicious!

Year 5's Science topic is 'Keeping Healthy'. As part of this topic, they made 'fake blood' by blending (in the correct proportions) raspberries to represent the red blood cells, mini white marshmallows for the white blood cells, sprinkles for the platelets and pineapple juice for the yellow plasma. When I popped into the class, the children had clearly loved doing this and were able to tell me all about the composition of blood and the functions of the different components.

Year 6 teachers turned the cellar into a WWII air raid shelter, complete with sound effects and blackouts, so that the children could experience what it might have been like for children during the Blitz. This resulted in some terrific diary writing afterwards.

So, as you can see, it's been a busy couple of weeks!

I hope you all enjoy the half term break and we look forward to continuing to work in partnership with you when we come back.

Mrs. D. Malia

Visitor Passes

A number of our visitor passes have gone missing. If you are a parent helper, please could you check at home to see if you have one.

Security

If you have not left the building before the main double doors at the Star of the Week board (the 'pupil entrance') have been locked in the morning (usually 9.00am), **please can you leave via the office entrance** and not let yourselves out of the double doors, as they won't lock behind you. We need to ensure the building is secure at all times. Thank you.

Missed Parents Evenings

It was good to see so many parents at our Parents Evenings this week. It was a good opportunity for you to find out how your child has settled into their new class, about their successes and areas in which they might need extra support. If you were unable to attend, please speak to your child's class teacher to arrange an appointment after half term so that we can continue to work together to support your child.

Poppies

Poppies will be on sale during and after school from Wednesday 1st of November to raise money for the Royal British Legion.

Poppies bought in school have a suggested donation of 20p. You can of course choose to donate more, but please explain this to your child so they understand; sometimes younger children expect to receive lots of poppies for bigger coins!



Terrific Table Tennis!

We had an exciting delivery this week. It weighs 426kg and took 10 staff taking turns to lift it from the gates to its new position, but the end result is worth it!

Our new table tennis table has been funded by the money raised through Darius Knight's visit to the school last term. A table tennis table was chosen from the PE equipment available to us- not just because of the obvious link to Darius, but also due to the huge popularity of the old table and a number of requests from the children to have more chances to play.

The new one is made of concrete and steel and is very solid- as our back muscles can testify! It seems to be very popular already as you can see from the picture. We hope everyone enjoys using it for a long time to come!



Stationery Shop

Thank you to parents, carers and all of the children from Y1-Y6- who have responded to our request to bring in a simply stocked pencil case this year, including things like a whiteboard and handwriting pen. This small step has really helped with our budgetary challenges, allowing us to channel these funds into more vital areas.

We are aware that we are able to bulk purchase writing equipment from educational suppliers at a (sometimes much) cheaper price than the high street stationers.

We will therefore be starting an after-school stationery shop after half-term, running twice a week.

There will be suggested donations for each item. We will aim to keep these **a)** close to cost price to benefit you and **b)** at round numbers to make payment easier. We will initially be stocking essentials such as whiteboard pens, handwriting pens, cartridge pens for our older students, rulers, erasers etc.

Year Six have been recruited to help run the shop- so there will be the added bonus of some extra-curricular maths too!

We hope you will find this new idea useful and cost-effective, as well as allowing your children to replace items quicker when they need to.



On your bike!

Surrey County Council are looking for cycling instructors. If you are interested, you can find out more by visiting the Surrey CC jobs site and searching for 'cycling instructor.'

<https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/jobs>

"Surrey County Council cycle training service helps over 16,000 people a year across the County to ride more safely and confidently. Our clients range from complete beginners to people who want to cycle on busy roads. The majority of our training is school-based but we also train adults and undertake training in the school holidays."



Food waste

We are being encouraged by our waste disposal provider to separate our food waste, in addition to the good work we already do in recycling other materials.

Separating food waste makes the other waste easier to recycle and less likely to be sent to landfill, therefore better for the environment. It also cuts our waste disposal bill, so is better for the school!

We encourage children not to put plastic bags in the food waste bins in the playground – please help us by reminding your children that food should be thrown away separately, or by sending fruit in a reusable tub.



Harvest in church



Thank you to everyone for your generous contributions to our Harvest Service this morning, which was enjoyed by lots of parents as well as all the children. The artwork on show was brilliant, the children spoke confidently right the way through the school, and the donation tables were packed to collapsing.

They are being packed up today to be collected by the Dorking Food Bank, and will be distributed as part of food parcels to many families in need over the next few months. Thank you also to St. Paul's Church for packing up the hundreds of tins and packets for us.



News from



Hello from FOSPA!

We'd like to say a huge THANK YOU to the parents who have been putting themselves to the test to raise money for the school, through FOSPA. You can read about their achievements– and our latest fundraising efforts– below. Lots more to come next half-term, including the unmissable Christmas Fair! Thank you all for your continued support.

Boat-loads of fundraising

Following hot on the heels of our lycra-clad heroes, in September, a team of dads formed the 'Doarking Coxes' and tackled the 21.6 mile Great River Race from the Docklands in London to Ham in Surrey.

They raised a fantastic **£3,681** to be split between the school and local charity Kids for Kids.

Congratulations- and huge thanks- to Tom Kelly, Joe Griffin, Stuart Dodds, Tom Roberts, Jez Willy, Neil Houldey, James Davidson & Gareth Sadler.



If you would like to get on your bike and tackle next year's Ride100 London-Surrey to raise money for the school via FOSPA, then please get in touch! Email: annamartin21@hotmail.com.

Pedal-tastic Parent Power

In July, four intrepid parents – Vicki Ellwood, Ruth & Ron Bushyager, and Stephan Erasmus – completed the Prudential Ride100 London-Surrey ride: a leg-testing 100 mile circuit, climbing Newlands Corner, Leith Hill and Box Hill.

Not only did they all complete the ride, but they raised an enormous **£4,413** for the school, which will enable the school to buy playground markings and vital classroom supplies. The much-needed re-marking of the netball courts will include three mini courts to mark our lunchtime 'sports zones.' The school also hope to mark some smaller areas on the main playground to encourage the children's active play and imagination.



Save the date!

Saturday 25th November
Christmas Fair: 12pm-3pm



Quiz Success

A massive thank you to all that came out to Cafe Rialtos on Tuesday night for the FOSPA Quiz!

We raised almost £1100 and had a great night; the event was so popular tables over-spilled into the soft play room!

A special thank you to Nicola Johnston for organising the night and her fab husband Neil for being quizmaster!

