



# St. Paul's Dorking

## Church of England (Aided) Primary School

Newsletter | Thursday 28th March 2024 | No. 13

Inspiring Learning, Nurturing Wholeness

Dear Parents and Carers,

Well, we have come to the end of a very busy and productive term. As you will know, and have seen through the newsletter articles, all of the classes have been engaged in some very inspiring learning! We have also had some super class assemblies where the children have shone and shared their learning beautifully through songs, readings and acting. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of my staff for their dedication, hard work and investment that they make for your children day by day. We have received so many positive comments from visitors over the last few weeks about how special our school is and that it has such a lovely, inclusive, warm, family feel where everyone is happy, engaged and motivated to learn. One of our governors following a visit popped into my office to say what a pleasure it had been to be in school for the afternoon, seeing all children working well and a lovely warm atmosphere where children were flourishing. Your children are a credit to you and make us feel very proud.

We are saying farewell to Mrs DeCaprio today as she is retiring from her class role, but is kindly continuing with her emotional well-being intervention that she runs on a Friday afternoon. We will really miss her in school, but she will also continue in her Action House role so we will still see her about. Thank you for all she has given to St Paul's. We have recruited to her role this week and I will introduce our new staff at the start of next term. We have also recruited to the two day role in the office—you will recall Tara Laws secured Sally's four day role and we are delighted to have appointed Julie Newman to the two day role on Mondays and Wednesdays. We had an extremely strong field and we are thrilled to appoint Julie. She is probably known to quite a number of you as all of her children have been through St Paul's and I am sure you will all make her very welcome in the weeks ahead.

You will be aware that following government guidance on mobile phones and devices, we have taken the decision to request that no smart watches or fitness devices are worn as a watch substitute. We would request that children only wear a simple analogue or digital watch. We appreciate this may be disappointing, particularly if your child has a 'fitbit' or equivalent, but it is impossible for staff to know which devices can and can't operate as a smart watch so it is safer if we request these are saved for home time. Thank you for your support in helping to articulate this message to the children.

Please can we also remind you that after Easter children can move into summer uniform if they wish (and the weather brightens up!). This should be school navy shorts (or grey this year), a navy skirt or a summer dress.

We have a new round of clubs beginning after Easter (Clubs will not begin until the start of week 2) and we have attached the timetable. Please complete by this [form](#) by Friday 19th April if your child wishes to attend. Some have limited places so we will draw names from a hat if it is oversubscribed. Lots of the clubs only run for a certain number of weeks, and are outside of the school day so please check your child is available to attend all of the sessions. If the club leads to a tournament your child's attendance will influence selection. We are an inclusive school and we feel that loyalty and determination are part of the consideration for selection.

It was lovely to see some of you at our Easter Service this morning where we could dwell on Jesus' last journey leading to his crucifixion and resurrection. The children and the choir read and sang beautifully and it was lovely to hear about their learning from Easter pause day last week. We are so grateful for the support we receive from St Paul's Church.

FOSPA will kindly be doing the Easter egg hunt on the first Friday back.

Emeralds were the winners for this half term so can wear green on the first Friday back.

Thank you for all of your support this term and wishing you all a very restful, peaceful Eastertide.

Mrs Alden

### Allergies



Please can we remind you not to send your children in with any form of nuts, including snack bars as there are both children and staff at school with severe nut allergies. Thank you

### Specsavers Surrey Youth Games

A chance for children aged 7-16 in Surrey to try a new activity for FREE! 6-8 weeks of completely funded training. All sessions are for beginners and fully inclusive. Check out the link below for more details

[Specsavers Surrey Youth Games \(activesurrey.com\)](https://activesurrey.com)



### Travel survey

Our school are assisting Surrey County Council's Safer Travel Team to undertake research with parents on pupils' types of travel to and from school. The objective of the research is to develop a better understanding of the different types of travel used, and to ascertain if this is changing over time. The Safer Travel Team's goal is to assist schools to continue to encourage safer and more active ways of travelling to school.

Please could I ask that you take the time to complete the survey using the link below. The deadline for completion of the survey is **7th April 2024** and the survey should be completed for each child that attends our school.

<https://www.surreysays.co.uk/safer-travel/primary-school-travel-2024/>

As a thank you for taking the time to help them, The Safer Travel team will donate £25 for every 100 surveys completed\* to your choice of the following two charities;

Shooting Stars Children's hospices  
<http://www.shootingstar.org.uk/about-us/>

Change of Scene, Farnham  
<http://www.changeofscene.org.uk/about-us>

Thank you for continuing to support our school to improve pupils' journeys to school.

### Eco Community Action

The Eco Representatives have been busy again. Following on from their visit to the 'Community Fridge' based at St. Martin's Church today we have had a visit from Michaela Afford who is a director – HR, Fundraising and Media from the 'Community Fridge'. We invited other children who were interested in taking part in Eco events to come and listen to the extremely interesting talk about why and how the 'Community Fridge' works so well. We learnt so much more about the importance of the 'Community Fridge' and look forward to Michaela coming back to help with our assembly.



### Bikeability

The Year 4 children have certainly been busy this week, with many children gaining their level 1 Bikeability certificates and badges. The children learnt about how to control their bike, setting, off, cruising, slowing down and very importantly how to break and stop safely. They also learnt about how and when to change gears. They were able to practise their riding skills in a safe space, so that they are aware of other road users and are more confident in their cycling skills. They were also taught about important safety rules such as wearing helmets and wearing bright colours, so that they can be seen more easily and how to make sure their cycle is maintained to ride safely. We hope to see many of the children cycling to school in the summer term, using their newly learned skills.



### Year 3

Year 3 had an amazing World Book Day week celebrating all things books. They really enjoyed listening to their mystery readers and coming in dressed in their costumes. They shared some reading time with both Year 6 and Reception which was really enjoyable.



### KS 1 Wildlife Club

The wildlife club is having great fun this term. Tonight, we went into the copse looking for interesting leaves and sticks. We then came back and made natural pictures of wild animals.



### Netball Tournament 5 & 6



First up was the year 6 team. After a raining day, the skies lifted and the air was full of excitement. The girls played incredibly well gaining a total of 28 goals with only 2 conceded. What a team and what a win!! The first time St Paul's have won the year 6 tournament since 2012! What an achievement!!!

It was a tough act to follow but the year 5 team were up for the challenge. The first match was very tough against St Martins but they soon got into their stride and played a fantastic game. Although losing, they continued to build strength in each game, eventually coming away in 3rd position. A fantastic effort year 5!!



### Dates for the Spring Term (new info in RED)

- Thurs 28th March - End of Term KS1 1.15pm  
KS2 1.30pm
- Mon 15th April Start of term
- Thurs 18th April—KS2 Swimming Gala
- Mon 22nd April—2nd hand uniform Sale after school (Lane, weather permitting!)
- Mon 29th April—Y3 Primary Schools Music Festival
- Thurs 2nd May—Cedar Class Assembly 9am
- Wed 8th May—Ash Class Assembly 9am
- Mon 13th May—Fri 17th July—Y5 PGL
- Mon 27th May—Fri 31st May—Half Term
- Tues 25th June—Y4 Tilgate Nature Reserve
- Wed 26th June—Y1 Brooklands
- Wed 3rd July—KS1 Sports Day
- Fri 5th July—Reserve KS1 Rainy Sports Day
- Fri 12th July—KS2 Sports Day
- Wed 17th July—Reserve KS2 Rainy Sports Day
- Thurs 18th July—Open Afternoon & Art Exhibition

### Red Nose Day



To celebrate the day, along with jokes galore, the Sports Crew put on a lunch time festival full of fun and action. All the children from KS1 and KS2 enjoyed team games, personal challenges and relay races. What a fun way to raise awareness of the amazing charity.

Thanks Sports Crew!!!

