



St. Paul's Dorking

Church of England (Aided) Primary School

Newsletter | Friday 16th March 2018 | No. 14

Dear Parents and Carers,

It's been another busy fortnight and I can't believe that the end of term is so close. It was good to see so many of you at our Online Safety Information Evening on Wednesday. Thank you to Mrs McLeod for organising it and to FOSPA for providing refreshments and sponsoring the cost of the evening.

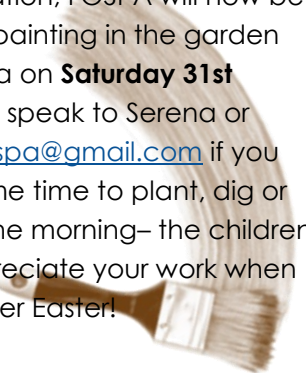
If you were unable to attend, I would like to encourage you to read the **Online Safety Information leaflet** which we will be sending home alongside this newsletter. It highlights the issues children and young people will be facing in the Online World with their increasing use of technology, and ways in which you can support them. The slides from Tim Barette's talk, which include links at the end to some very useful websites, will be uploaded to the Online Safety pages on our own website— have a look for Online Safety under the 'Parents' menu.

I hope you have a good weekend.

Mrs. D. Malia

FOSPA Planting and Painting Party

Following from the garden clearance, and with the help of a very generous parental donation, FOSPA will now be planting and painting in the garden and quiet area on **Saturday 31st March**. Please speak to Serena or email chair.fospa@gmail.com if you can spare some time to plant, dig or paint during the morning— the children will really appreciate your work when they return after Easter!



Let's Dance

As you know, we have been very excited that St Paul's was going to take part in a World Record Attempt on the 23rd of March, in aid of Sports Relief.

Unfortunately, we have just received an email from the organisers of this event to inform us that the World Record Attempt will now not go ahead as other schools have pulled out and they no longer have the required amount of children to take part.

Obviously, this is very disappointing, but out of our control.

We are very pleased, however, to let you know that we will still be taking part in the dance afternoon to raise money for such a good cause and to celebrate sport as a whole school community. **You therefore no longer need to bring the permission slip back, but we would still love for as many children as possible to bring their Sport Relief donation on the day to raise money for the charity.** Thank you.



Making Tracks!

Some of the children have noticed a lot of activity on the field this week— and they will soon find out why! At the time of writing, we have landscapers on site installing a **'Daily Mile'** track— a carefully measured track that will allow the children to jog or walk exactly a mile in a set number of laps, without having to change footwear or get muddy.

This brilliant initiative follows on from our 'Run to Rio' two years ago, and will allow classes to take a learning break, get fit and use all the resulting energy back in class. We are able to fund it thanks to the government's **'Sports Premium'** funding— a yearly, ring-fenced grant that **must only be spent on improvements and additions to sport in school**. Other things we are using it for, or have used it for recently, have included training for staff in rugby and lacrosse, new sporting equipment, and the chance to bring new sports into school.

We hope everyone will benefit from and enjoy this great new facility. A huge thank you to Miss George for the inspiring work she has done on increasing participation and enjoyment in sport right across the school; this work was recognised this week when Miss George was asked to lead a best practice forum for teachers across Surrey as a result of her efforts— well done! **You can find more information about how we are spending our Sports Premium grant on the website in 'Life at St. Pauls.'**



News and Galleries on the website

Over the last two weeks, lots has happened in school that we just don't have room for in the newsletter. Do visit the website—www.stpaulsschool-dorking.co.uk—where you can find news about Year 3's trip to **Butser Ancient Farm**, as well as plenty of pictures from the **cross-country** and the **Musical Celebration** at church. You can also find pictures of some of our most recent assemblies featuring **Sycamore, Oak** and **Birch** Class. Pictures are located in the **galleries** page under the **'Life at St. Paul's'** menu.



Dates to end of term

Tues 20th March	Hawthorn Assembly, 9am
Tues 20th March	Gym Club display to parents—2.50pm in the hall.
Weds 21st March	Chestnut Assembly, 9am
Fri 23rd March	Sport Relief Dance Session
Fri 23rd March	School Discos
Mon 26th March	Y1 trip— Wakehurst Place
Mon 26th March	Y2 Parents' SATs Info Meeting—2.30pm in Rowan
Mon 26th March	Y5 Parents' IoW Info Meeting—after school in the Hall
Tues 27th March	Easter Pause Day
Thurs 29th March	Easter Service in church, 9.30am, all welcome.
Thurs 29th March	End of term, 1.30pm
Mon 16th April	Summer Term starts

We have had three of our five INSETs this year. Whilst one of the remaining two, as previously advised, will be on **Monday 23rd July**, we have held back booking the final one for Mrs Alden to decide on appropriate training as she starts to work with us. We will advise the date of this final INSET as soon as we can.

Safety when walking home

Our older children are often allowed to walk home on their own; however, there is therefore an expectation of them being sensible and continuing to represent the school appropriately whilst in uniform, as well as staying safe themselves.

Unfortunately, we were called this week about a group of children playing a game on the high bank opposite the church which involved pushing each other off the wall. One child rolled into the road, forcing a driver to brake suddenly to avoid them.

Please talk to your children about safety if they are allowed to walk home on their own. Thank you.

Parent Survey

Thank you for completing the parent survey, which was sent home at the beginning of the week by Parentmail. We have had responses from about a quarter of the school so far. There is still time to contribute if you would like to do so; your feedback really does help us to reflect on our practice and plan how we might keep improving St. Paul's for the benefit of all the children. Please see the office if you cannot find the Parentmail, or would like a paper copy.



Sports Report

It has been an amazingly busy half term for St Paul's Sport - we have competed in 5 competitions, played 1 friendly match and we still have the Year 5 Netball sessions at Reigate Grammar School to go!

Throughout this half term, all the children have shown passion, determination, team work, resilience... and the list goes on. Each fixture never fails to make me proud, seeing so many children working so well together to achieve their very best.

We started the half term off with 27 children competing in the Dorking Sports Hall Athletics, where we came fourth. By the end of the week, we were playing rugby at the Brockham Field and managed to win! This is the first time St Paul's have won a Rugby competition in the last 5 years— showing how hard the talented team have worked this year— well done!

Saturday saw six Year 5 and 6 children run a very challenging 2.2km cross country course at The Surrey Schools Cross Country Championships, with all children finishing in the top half of the 100+ field. All our year 5 boys placed in the top 10 and are now invited to a Surrey Cross Country training day. What an achievement!

The next week saw the girls take centre stage, competing in the Year 6 and the Year 5 netball tournaments. Once again, perseverance, determination and team work really shone through. Congratulations to both teams, with Year 5 gaining 3rd place. We are now busy training for our Lacrosse County Finals, where we have at least 2 teams competing at the start of next term.

The Green Power team have also been very busy. Having finished the construction of the car, they are now busy making the body work and test driving ready for the meets in the summer.

At every match, St Paul's has a reporter and photographer, who write a sports report. You can see these reports on display in the school corridor as well as on the school website sports page. Well done to all the children who have attended clubs and been selected to represent St. Paul's this half term. It is great to see you all so passionate about sport and staying active.

Miss George— PE and Sport Co-ordinator

