



St. Paul's Dorking

Church of England (Aided) Primary School

Newsletter | Friday 16th October 2020 | No. 4

Inspiring Learning, Nurturing Wholeness

Dear Parents and Carers,

It was lovely to 'see' so many of you at Parents' Evening last night. It seemed to go very smoothly for the large majority of parents and I am glad that you have had this opportunity to find out how your child is getting on and to know what are the next steps in their learning journey. The second Parents' Evening is on Tuesday and will follow the same format. If the connection appears to be fragile I have recommended to my staff that they turn off their camera (and you are welcome to do the same) so that the conversations can continue to flow effectively. Thank you to the staff for their hard work in preparation for these meetings.

Thank you for working so well with us to make the start and end of the school day run so smoothly. We fully appreciate the challenges that are raised for parents with regard to staggered starts and the need for social distancing in the lane. Please can everyone take particular care when arriving and leaving the site—there is a no drive zone beyond the church—this is to keep everyone safe. Please consider using the Sainsbury's car park and then walking up the alleyway. As the weather becomes less pleasant, please do not be tempted to come into the safe zone with your car.

With the continuing restrictions of Covid we are aware that the children are using mobile devices more frequently to speak to their friends. Please can I urge you, as parents, to be having a regular look at your child's phone/tablet and ensure you are happy with the activities and groups that they are engaged in. WhatsApp actually has a restriction that it should not be used by people below the age of 16 and many of the other communication apps are 13. We have had a couple of instances that have had to be dealt with in school, with regard to on line safety and phone use, regarding phone activity during out of school hours. In school we regularly visit this topic and are helping your child to understand the challenges of on line safety and I would just draw you to the pages on our website that can help and guide you with this minefield as parents.

Thank you so much for your incredibly generous donations for Harvest. The church were overwhelmed by your generosity and the food bank has swollen its provisions as a consequence. Thank you. We are having our harvest service in school this week. We are meeting together as a whole school through Teams with each class 'attending' and we shall reflect on where our abundant choice of food comes from and acknowledge our thanks that we have more than enough; it is our thankfulness that prompts our desire to share with others.

We have an INSET day next Friday so we hope you can enjoy a slightly extended half term,

Best wishes,

Mrs Alden

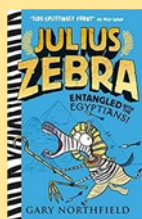
HAPPY SHOES DAY, 20TH OCTOBER

In celebration of International Walk to School month, the children are invited to wear the shoes that make them happiest. The brighter, the better. Children can 'bling' their shoes with coloured laces and accessories, if they wish. Please keep them practical. Voluntary donation £1 to Living Streets. But please ensure they can still walk easily in them!



Remote Offer and Home Learning

The school is required to have a contingency plan that lays out our offer in regard to what home learning will look like if individuals, groups, whole year groups or if there is a full school closure. You received details of this a couple of weeks ago and these details are on our website. We will shortly be writing to you about issuing your child with an individual log in so please look out for those details in the coming weeks. This will enable you to access the learning more easily.



All homework is now being set through the website on the class page and we are using weekly reading records. Well done to those children that are showing very regular reading.

OPEN EVENTS FOR PROSPECTIVE PARENTS

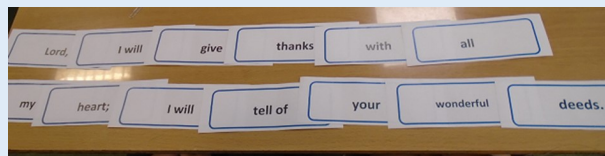
Mrs Alden will be speaking to prospective parents live via a webinar on Wednesday 4th November at 9.30 am and again on Thursday 11th November at 7 pm. Virtual tours of the school will be on our website in advance of these events.



Year 3

As part of our learning for RE in Year 3, we have been looking at some of the Psalms. We looked at what the psalms in the Bible said about God and how they praised him. We were given a psalm (psalms 9:1) which was all jumbled up and we had to reorganise it. We talked about the meaning behind it and then we wrote our own class psalm. We were very proud of our class psalm and wanted to share it with you:

Our Class Psalm



Lord, you are kind, great and a loving father.
You are like a superhero to me.
You are a shepherd taking care of us all.
You are like the heart of the world loving us.
And your love is a big as the universe.
You are a spark of light leading the way.
You mean everything to me.
By Year 3 Hawthorn

Don't forget to fill in the nasal flu vaccine consent form (letter attached).



Don't forget to order your child's school photo this weekend (deadline extended to Monday morning). This should be done directly with Fraser Portraits (details on the proof which was sent home).

Dates for Autumn Term (new dates in red)

- 16th Oct– Deadline for School Photos
- W/B 19th Oct - KS2 Virtual X Country
- 20th Oct - Happy Shoes Day
- 20th Oct - 3.40pm to 6pm - Parents Eve
- 23rd Oct - INSET (School closed to pupils)
- 26th-30th Oct - Half Term
- 2nd Nov - Back to School
- 4th Nov - 9.30 am - Virtual Open Day for Reception 2021
- 11th Nov - 7 pm - Virtual Open Eve (R21)
- 12th & 13th Nov - Nasal Flu Immunisations
- W/B 16th Nov - Y1&2 Virtual Multi-Skills
- W/B 23rd Nov - KS2 Virtual X Country
- W/B 23rd Nov - Y6 Bikeability (Grp 1)
- W/B 30th Nov - Y6 Bikeability (Grp 2)
- 18th December - 1.30 pm - End of Term
- 4th January 2021 - INSET Day
- 5th January 2021 - First Day of Term

Virtual Cross Country Competition

Reported by Harry and Tommy, Cedar Class

Everybody felt excited and nervous about the race as we knew that, even though we were only racing against our class, we were actually competing against all the Dorking schools.

In year 3/4 the children had to 1000m, that's a whole kilometre! And, in year 5/6 we had to run 1500m, 1.5km. We are all used to running on the track most days so we knew that we were able to run a good amount but it's different when we are in a race.

The boys started first and the first hill was exhausting but we soon got into our stride and settled into our running. It really helped having the girls cheering us on. We had to run 6 laps around the field (year 3/4 had to run 4 laps). Each lap was 250m and even though there were hills everyone showed perseverance and never gave up. I, for one, used hope to believe that God was there by our side helping us to finish.

Next, it was the girl's turn. Although we were tired, we were still able to cheer them on. This was a really good example of one of our school values: compassion as we gave positive comments to those who were racing and reminding them that they could do it. We also showed respect by cheering everyone on, not just our friends and congratulating everyone when they finished.

All our results were sent off and last week we found out who were in the top ten for each age group.

Well done to everyone from year 3,4,5,6 who ran. The results for the Dorking Schools top 10 are:

Boys Year 3/4

Ethan H came 7th Overall
Huxley CB came 8th Overall
Freddie H came 9th Overall

Year 3/4 Girls

Martha came 2nd overall
Ivy came 3rd overall

Year 5/6 Boys

Joel came 3rd overall
Rory came 4th overall

Year 5/6 girls

Tilly came 1st overall
Grace came 3rd overall
Caitlin came 10th overall

Whilst KS2 were busy competing in the cross country competition, KS1 were also busy competing in their own virtual multi-skills festival.

All the children in year 1 and 2 worked really hard completing as many shuttle runs as they could in 5 minutes. The children had great fun. Well done everyone!



**Flyers attached for:
Tennis Camp for Half Term
Football Camp for Half Term**



Change of Lunch Menu Next Week

Due to the INSET day the menu will slightly change next week. The children will be eating Fish on Thursday and Sausage & Mash on Wednesday.

Parents of children in Year 3—6

Don't forget...if you want to order a Julius Zebra book by Gary Northfield, please send your request back to the office.

