



St. Paul's Dorking

Church of England (Aided) Primary School

Newsletter | Friday 21st May 2021 | No. 17

Inspiring Learning, Nurturing Wholeness

Dear Parents and Carers,

Since I wrote last, we have certainly had plenty of opportunities to celebrate our school's vision of 'inspiring learning, nurturing wholeness'. We have had visitors into school and a number of year groups have been out and about to enhance their learning experience.

It has been fantastic that we have been able to have an activities week with both Year 5s and year 6s. Even though restrictions were still in place, we managed to organise a 5-day non-residential trip for Year 5 and a 3-day one for Year 6 (this was all the availability we could secure). The children had an amazing time at both High Ashurst and also Thames Young Mariners for the Year 5s and were able to challenge themselves. They abseiled from a huge height, learnt to stand up and paddle on a paddle board, learnt how to canoe and worked collaboratively to solve some very challenging tasks...to mention just a few. As well as really enjoying themselves, they developed resilience, overcame personal fears and worked with one another as a team. Thank you to the staff who gave their time to make this happen. Thank you too for your kind words, one parent told us "I am writing to tell you what a fantastic time my child had last week. She came home buzzing every night, full of funny and daring stories. Her confidence seems sky high right now. Thank you so much for organising it all in such challenging circumstances. You've done brilliantly!" This was certainly what we witnessed too— we were delighted we could make these trips happen.

A number of other year groups have also had inspirational experiences this week. Year 3 have had a day out at Wisley and it was super that they were able to develop their science learning beyond school. Year 4 had a Roman day with a theatre group leading some of the day. Miss Masters also initiated 'National Bee Day' and all classes on Thursday learnt about why bees are so important for our eco system. Some classes have also done some gardening and planting. Our quiet area has had a real make-over and the flower beds look beautifully tended—thank you Year 4! We also had a visitor in on Wednesday and Thursday to run skipping workshops for all year groups. We have some very accomplished skippers now and I am sure your children came home bursting with what they can now do with a jump rope! Thank you to Mrs Watkins for organising this.

We have been developing our copse area over the last week and it looks amazing! We have had a company in to develop some of the space to create canopies where classes can sit and learn outside in a sheltered environment. We are really excited about how we can use this space to develop our outdoor learning experiences. We will keep you posted about this initiative as we develop it over the next year.



Thank you for your continued support with regard to social distancing and other preventative measures to help keep everyone safe. Though lockdown measures are easing, we have been advised to ensure mask wearing for staff and distancing continue in schools. We really value the measures you take in the lane too to keep each other safe as it is a fairly small space.

Trusting you can enjoy half term when it comes,

Best wishes for a restful weekend, Mrs Alden

Please note:
INSET days for
2021/2022

Wednesday 1st
September
2021

Friday 17th
September
2021

Tuesday 4th
January 2022

Friday 11th
February 2022

Tuesday 19th
April 2022



Year 4 Roman Day

Year 4 took a trip back in time for their Roman Day this week. They were thrilled and excited by a visit from the Hobgoblin Theatre company, putting on an interactive production named 'The Wall.' Following the show, the children took part in a theatre workshop, developing their knowledge about the Romans and the characters in the play. All the children and adults dressed up for the day as Romans and joined in with great enthusiasm. The rest of the day was spent completing Roman themed art and history activities. The children had a really fabulous day. Thank you to all of the parents who helped with clothing so they all looked the part!

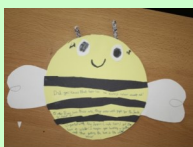


Year 3 to Wisley

On Tuesday 18th May 2021, a very excitable bunch of Year 3s got on the coach to travel to Wisley. They learnt about how seeds were dispersed and how insects pollinated flowers. They also looked at plant adaptation and how different plants had adapted to their environment. They formed a circle to show the circumference of the trunk of a fully grown red-wood tree (see photo) - it is HUGE!!



On Thursday, we celebrated World Bee Day where the children learnt all about bees and the important role they play for our ecosystem. We spoke about why bees are in decline and what we can do to help. Everyone had great fun dressing up, taking part in fun activities and even doing some gardening, in some year groups. We would like to say a huge thankyou to everyone at home who donated seeds and seedlings!



Dates for Summer Term (new dates in red)

- 27 May, Class photos
- 31 May - 4 June, Half term
- 9 June - Y2 to Godstone Farm
- 18 June - Olympic athlete in school
- 23 June - Y1 to Brooklands Museum
- 24 June - New YR Induction Evening
- 30 June - KS1 Sports Day (9.30 am)
- 8 & 9 July - Y6 Production, 7 pm
- 12 July - Y6 Cathedral Service (pupils only)
- 13 July - Y4 to British Wildlife Centre
- 14 July - KS2 Sports Day (9.15 am)
- 14 July - Reports go home
- 15 July - Y6 Party on field (6-8 pm)
- 16 July - Parents' open afternoon
- 17 July - FOSPA Summer Fair
- 20 July - Year R to Bocketts Farm
- 21 July - Y6 Leavers' Service, 9.30 am
- 21 July - End of Term (1.30 pm)

Please find attached details of the following half term camps/sports camps:

Half Term Football Camp at Meadowbank

St John's Primary School Half Term Holiday Sports Camp

Mini Netters - Dorking Netball Club

Do any of you use the BMX track near St Martin's school/Ranmore allotments? A commercial company are proposing to take over the site from Mole Valley district council and will be charging for access - eg £10 for a day pass and £5 for after-school access.

Having previously embarked on the changes without seeking public opinion, the council is now running a (short) consultation until 24th May (Monday). If you'd like to participate please follow this the link (which includes more details on the proposals): <https://www.molevalley.gov.uk/bmxranmore>

Absences

Please can we remind you of our attendance policy— children need to be in school everyday. The Department for Education has stated that schools can not authorise leave of absence for family holidays. 'Headteachers may only authorise leave of absence for students during term time if there are exceptional circumstances.'. Though we fully appreciate that lockdown has kept us all apart from family for a very long time, this does not constitute 'exceptional circumstances'.

<https://thegvoffice.com/public/sls-stpaulsdorking/0>



Year 5 Visits to High Ashurst and Thames Young Mariners

Last week, Year 5 had the most amazing time in two outdoor learning centres. All children pushed themselves to achieve what many never thought possible. From climbing 30 foot towers to abseiling down the South East's highest climbing wall, the experiences at High Ashurst will stay with all of us forever! This was topped off with a classic campfire, where marshmallows were consumed and songs were sung. At Thames Young Mariners children experienced a range of water sports activities including kayaking, raft building, and paddle boarding. However, the highlight had to be the dock jump; there are not many places where it is safe to jump directly into the Thames from a height of over 5 metres! Thank you to each and every pupil and parent for making the week superb fun and enjoyable for everyone involved.



Look out on the next newsletter for a report about the Y6 trip to High Ashurst

Doodle Maths

This was a very successful tool during lockdown, but since our return we have seen a significant drop in use, with most year groups having less than 20% of children using it at all. This is due for renewal and we don't feel it is good value for money, given the high annual cost. However, families can subscribe individually if you felt your child particularly enjoyed using this app. We will be purchasing a more cost effective alternative which will be used for aspects of maths homework. We will continue to subscribe to Times Tables Rockstar (which includes Numberbots to practise number bonds) and we really hope your children will continue to be regular users of the app.



SAVE THE DATE

**FOSPA BIG TOP CIRCUS IS COMING TO ST PAUL'S!
SATURDAY 3RD SEPTEMBER, MORE DETAILS TO FOLLOW.**

Introduction to being a Teaching Assistant

This free course is for anyone considering a career as a TA, the course aims to help identify the skills needed for the role. Accredited courses are available to progress onto. Monday May 24th 10am- noon (via zoom)
<https://enrolonline.wea.org.uk/Online/2020/CourseInfo.aspx?r=C3746884>

If you think this might be the right role for you, do check out our advert on e-teach for bank Teaching Assistants at St Paul's (apologies it wasn't showing last week)

