



# St. Paul's Dorking

## Church of England (Aided) Primary School

Newsletter | Friday 11th June 2021 | No. 18

Inspiring Learning, Nurturing Wholeness

Dear Parents and Carers,

The weeks appear to be flying by! We have had another busy and full fortnight in school with more super learning going on. Year 2 extended their learning on Wednesday at Godstone Farm and went minibeast hunting and pond dipping. It was lovely to hear the excited chatter as they walked past my window. They behaved beautifully and were a credit to the school. It is always lovely to hear this as it shows what a wonderful group of children we have here and that they show our school values so well when they are out and about.

Last time I wrote, I shared with you about the outside canopies we have had built in the copse, and I am delighted to tell you that they are already in frequent use. Year 5 last week used it for a drama session and today to do some maths problem solving, Year 1 did their art outside, looking at texture and pattern and Year 4 have shared their end of day story together, to mention just a few. We even had our teachers' meeting out there on Tuesday.

Since returning from lockdown, we have become aware that some children have an increased media presence through such apps as Whatsapp, Tiktok and Instragram. Please can we remind you that Tiktok requires the user to be over 13 years of age, Instagram states over 13 in their terms of service but there is no age verification and Whatsapp has a minimum age of 16 years. We are regularly discussing online safety with the children in school, but also know that you as parents wish to have regular conversations with your children with regard to staying safe online. There are a number of links on the school website and the information from CEOP, Thinkuknow (<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk>) and the NSPCC (<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety>) can be very helpful when you are framing conversations with your children. There are also links on our website to parental control pages for major internet providers. If you would like any help or advice, please do not hesitate contact us.

Next week we are saying a very sad and fond farewell to Mrs Flint in the office. She has been a hugely valued member of the office staff and will be very missed. Mrs Flint has organised countless groups of parents to help us with sporting events and school trips and has ensured everyone gets allocated their school lunch each day, to mention just a couple of the numerous jobs she willingly does each day. We wish her well in her new adventures as she moves away to the West Country.

Over the last couple of years we have developed and shaped our marking and feedback policy to help the children to understand what they have learnt and how they have met the success criteria. Through this they can see what they have achieved and if necessary how to make adjustments and changes to their learning. We are using peer dialogue and self evaluation far more regularly to help the children to recognise what has worked well as well as what could be further improved. This has involved the introduction and use of the 'purple pen'. This is the colour that the children use to self correct and make changes. The teachers will use both verbal and written feedback to also help the children understand their successes. If we are able to have the open afternoon towards the end of term when you child can share their learning with you, do look out for these changes.

Though restrictions are lifting, I am concerned that the final stage of the Roadmap may not be instigated on 21st June. We have plans in the diary for such things as Sports Days and performances that we are hoping will be able to go ahead, but you will appreciate that these are dependent on the decisions that the government makes on 21st June. As soon as we know the changes we are able to make, we will let you know how these will work in practice.

Wishing you a restful and sunny weekend,

Mrs Alden



### Year 6 to High Ashurst

Just before half term, year 6 spent three days at High Ashurst. Despite the weather not being amazing, the whole year group had a brilliant time developing important learning skills such as resilience and team work and also having fun! During the three days they completed a range of activities developing their skills of climbing, shelter building in the woods and life skills such as how to light a fire for cooking. Everyone challenged themselves and many of the children climbed really high and were really brave, abseiling and jumping from really high heights. On the Wednesday evening, year 6 enjoyed dinner and then a camp fire. At the camp fire they sang lots of songs and ended their trip having a really lovely evening. It was a great trip and it was really good finally being able to do something a bit different.



### **GOLDEN BOOT CHALLENGE** Next week, we

start off the Golden Boot challenge, which takes place from 14th June to 18th June. The Golden Boot challenges families to try out green travel to promote healthy and sustainable travel, and classes compete to win the coveted Golden Boot trophy. Classes record each child who has walked, scooted, cycled or travelled by public transport. We also count 'Park and Stride' – this means parking further away from the school and not in St Paul's Road and walking or scooting to school from there. Teachers will gather the data each morning and we will see which class is the winner! We hope to see many families enjoying the walk to school in this beautiful weather.

#### **Dates for Summer Term (new dates in red)**

- 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
- **9th July - Muffi Day (FOSPA Bottle Collection)**
- 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
- **14 July - Y5 Music Celebration, 7pm**
- 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)



### **CLASS PHOTOS DEADLINE**

**FRIDAY 18TH JUNE**

You should have received your child's class photo proof with instructions of how to order online. Please make any orders by Fri 18th June. Thank you.

### **PARKING ISSUES**

**Breakfast Club users should not be driving right up to the school to drop their children in the morning as staff are finding that cars are in the allocated staff spaces when they arrive. Also, please do not park in St Paul's Rd East.**



### **TUNE UP!**

In Year 4, Beech Class began learning a brass instrument today as part of the 'Tune Up!' project run by our resident brass tutor, Ian Stott (Hazel Class will be next). The children are already making a lot of noise and having fun. Hopefully, a performance for parents is in the pipeline as well! It is truly wonderful to have live music in the building again.

