



St. Paul's Dorking

Church of England (Aided) Primary School

Newsletter | Friday 10th November 2023 | No. 5

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have had a busy couple of weeks and have thoroughly enjoyed welcoming in so many visitors! We have had two very positive Open Mornings, where classes were showcasing the type of learning we facilitate here. Many parents said we were "amazing!" and absolutely loved the atmosphere and the evidence of happy, thriving, positive children who were loving learning. We have one more Open Day on Tuesday, but we are very happy to offer visits at other times too. If you know someone who was unable to make any of the Open Days but would like to, please do ask them to call and we will of course give a tour and make sure staff are available to talk through any questions.

The children have also had some enrichment days over the last couple of weeks; the ballet workshops (led by the wonderful Mrs Cox!), the Pause Space at the Church on Tuesday for each year group, the Planetarium last week for Year 5, the mobile Zoo for Year 6, the start of the Chelsea FC workshops for the girls in Yr 2 and KS 2, the Surrey Cricket training and the virtual British Museum visits for Year 4! Wow what a list! Thank you to the staff for organising all of these opportunities to further develop your children's learning. Have a read, as many of these have been written about in the newsletter.

Thank you to Chestnut Class for the first KS 1 assembly of the year. It was lovely to see so many of you being able to join us and to see the children confidently singing, talking and acting.

It was also a privilege this week to take the choir to Garth House Care Home to share our harvest songs with them. The residents were delighted to hear the children sing so beautifully and to have the opportunity to chat with them afterwards. It is so good that we can reach out and make a difference to our community. The Eco team are also going to make a difference next week, when they will conduct a litter pick in the local area.

We said 'Cheerio' to Mrs Reading yesterday as she is furthering her career by starting a new TA role at The Ashcombe. We will miss her and wish her all the best in her new role.

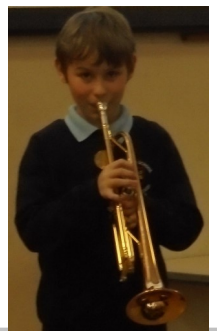
We have introduced a slight change at lunch times. We have become aware of the fact that sometimes the children go and tell an adult about something, but the adult was busy with another group of children and may not have heard. So we are using a small green circle sticker to tell the children they have been heard. We have asked them to wait until they have received one, to ensure their message was relayed. So if your child comes home with a small green sticker, it is an indication that an adult has said "Thank you for coming to tell me". We will still continue to use the accident slips and bumped head sticker for injuries.

We had a visitor in school this week, looking at our provision through the lens of a Church School. Susan Costa was looking at how well we are fulfilling our vision of 'Inspiring Learning, Nurturing Wholeness' in all aspects of school life. She was pleased at the way Collective Worship helps children to think about a wide range of issues and thoughts and how they can relate to this. She was particularly affirming of the lovely piece of work we have done recently about "Is school just a building?". All of the children participated in this through Class Thoughtful Time, and the children wrote some very lovely things about how they feel about school. Trust and trustworthiness resonated strongly and the children's sense of belonging, feeling part of a well supported community and as one child wrote "School is home". I will be sharing this on our website in the coming weeks so watch this space.

Thank you for your generous donations for the British Legion as we lead up to Remembrance Day. We marked this in School and Andrew played the Last Post for us in Collective Worship to mark the start of our 2 minutes of silence.

Have a good weekend,

Mrs Alden



Parking with consideration and kindness

Please can all parents and carers be considerate to our neighbours in The Mews and Beresford Road. Last week we had a very upset neighbour as someone had parked across their driveway. Please **do not** park in either of these places. Please park further away and walk in or buy a permit to park in Sainsburys.

Please note there will be a funeral at St Paul's Church on Tuesday afternoon. It is likely to be very well attended as it is for Rev Paul Bryer (the Vicar before Rev Ruth). Please make alternative plans for parking on that day as St Paul's Road West will be VERY busy.



Ballet Workshops

All the reception children had a lovely time at the ballet workshop. They practiced some ballet warm up exercises to start with which included having 'good toes' and 'naughty toes'. We then thought about the story of 'Alice in Wonderland' and the four main characters from the story. We listened to music describing the four characters Alice, the Red Queen, the Mad Hatter and the Rabbit.

Ash were lucky to have an official photographer, Alfie who took over one hundred pictures for us.



Choir Visit to Garth House



Over 30 of the choir members had the enjoyable experience of entertaining the residents of Garth House this week. After a very wet walk along the Horsham Road, we received a very warm welcome from the staff and residents. We sang 4 of our Harvest songs and then enjoyed time talking to the residents. We are looking forward to our next visit just before Christmas.



Pedestrian Training

Year 3 were lucky enough to have the opportunity to have pedestrian training thanks to Feet First. We had learned about different types of crossing, how to stay visible and the green cross code in the classroom. Then, we got the chance to put these skills into practice by going out and practising crossing roads safely (using our green cross code). We had lots of fun and really enjoyed showing what we had learnt.



Planetarium Year 5

Year 5 had a visit from a Planetarium. The students looked in awe as the night sky came alive above them! They learnt about how the stars and planets move across the sky and the features of many planets in our Solar System. Students also enjoyed the opportunity to hold meteorites and look at an extensive space-themed stamp collection, documenting some of the key events in the history of human space exploration.

THE ZOO COMES TO ST PAUL'S!

Spirit of the Wild, conservationists who, as part of their work, visit schools to support Science learning, came in last Friday to visit Year 6. They brought with them an amazing selection of the wonderful animals they have rescued over the years. These included, tree spiders (who look just like you would imagine a tarantula looks!), stunning Barn and Tawny owls, various amphibians and mammals and a python. There was even a wonderful, year old husky puppy called Ice. We learnt so much about adaptation and classification and how animals interact with their environments. It was a wonderful visit and thoroughly enjoyed by all of year 6!



Stripey Stork

Stripey Stork is a local charity based in Reigate that collects new and pre-loved items for babies and children up to the age of sixteen. One of their Winter campaigns that we would like to support this year is **Santa Stork 2023** - they believe that every child should have the excitement of opening a brand-new gift on Christmas morning, knowing that Santa hasn't forgotten them. If you are in a position to buy a gift for Stripey Stork to pass on, please choose a gift from their online [Santa Shop](#).



FOSPA Christmas Fair Poster Competition

Congratulations to Harriet in Hazel Class who has designed the winning poster

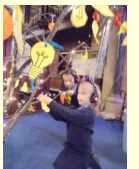


Dates for the Autumn Term (new info in RED)

- **Monday 13th Nov—Odd Sock Day**
- 14th Nov - Open Mornings for R 24
- Thursday 16th Nov - Hawthorn Class Assembly 9 am (School Hall)
- **Thursday 16th Nov—Y3 Girls Chelsea FC coaching**
- Friday 17th Nov- Children in Need Day
- **Thursday 23rd Nov—Y2 Girls Chelsea FC coaching**
- **Friday 24th Nov—Muffi Day for Bottle Tombola Collection**
- Saturday 2nd Dec - Christmas Fair
- Tuesday 5th Dec - KS2 Christmas Service, 9.30 am (St Paul's Church)
- Tuesday 5th Dec - KS1 Christmas Service, 2 pm (St Paul's Church)
- Wednesday 6th Dec - KS2 Christmas Service, 7 pm (St Paul's Church)
- Thursday 7th Dec - Year R Nativity, 9.30 am (School Hall)
- Monday 11th Dec - YR & KS1 Panto in School
- Friday 15 Dec - End of Term (1.15 pm/1.30 pm)
- Tuesday 2nd Jan - INSET (No Pupils in School)
- Wed 3rd Jan - First Day of Spring Term

Pause Day

Year 2 had a super time at the church on Tuesday for Pause Day. The children wore headphones to listen to peaceful music as they calmly moved around the church trying the different activities. These included writing prayers and putting them on the bubble lava lamps, writing a note on a leaf tree about who they feel grateful for, and making poppies. Other activities included making images out of playdough, colouring and speeding time in the sensory room. We are already looking forward to the Easter Pause Day!



Football with Chelsea FC

This half-term we have been very lucky to have been offered some girls' football coaching sessions from Chelsea Football Club. This week was the turn of Year 4 girls who really enjoyed learning some dribbling



techniques and working within a team. The session started off bright and sunny and ended up with heavy rain, but the girls kept on playing showing great perseverance.

