



# St. Paul's Dorking

## Church of England (Aided) Primary School

Newsletter | Wednesday 13th December 2023 | No. 7

Dear Parents and Carers,

As I write this newsletter the sound of 'Silent Night' is still ringing beautifully in my ears. This morning we had the privilege to hear Matteo (Raffaello's dad) singing to us. Matteo is a professional Opera Singer, and kindly volunteered to come in to sing to Reception and then gave an impromptu performance for KS 2, to start their Collective Worship! It was stunning and the children were blown away by the sound! It was so inspiring for the children to hear someone sing in such a beautiful way.

Throughout last week, the children 'wowed' us with their hard work and dedication to create three special nativity services; Reception, KS 1 and KS 2. Each was unique and helped us to understand the Christmas narrative. The children had learnt their words so diligently and absolutely loved singing and acting. Thank you for the many kind words of thanks we have received "the Nativity was this morning was wonderful. The children were absolutely amazing." "thank you and well done to everyone involved with the Christmas nativity shows for KS1 and KS2. X thoroughly enjoyed taking part and we loved being able to watch them perform in church. It was clear to see all the hard work that had gone into the productions - the children all spoke and sang with great confidence and enthusiasm.". Thank you to my amazing staff for putting these together and we were delighted that so many parents were able to join us in school or at the Church. Thank you too, to Debbie (our woodwind peripatetic music teacher), who taught and supported the recorder ensemble so that they were able to play at the Christmas services and at the Christmas Fair.

As you will be aware, we are currently consulting about our admission arrangements for 2025. Please do read the paperwork that has been sent to you from the Governors and please do take the opportunity to respond. There is a public meeting on Thursday 11th January (7pm—8pm) here in school and the consultation period ends on Friday 19th January @ 9am. Please send correspondence to [consultation@stpauls-dorking.surrey.sch.uk](mailto:consultation@stpauls-dorking.surrey.sch.uk). We would really like to hear your views.

Sadly we are saying goodbye to two teachers at the end of this term. I wanted to take this opportunity to thank Mrs Hilston and Mrs Smith, for all they have given to their respective classes and to the school as a whole and we wish them every success in the future. We welcome Mrs Vanessa Yeomans into Year 2 Rowan and we are interviewing for the role in Hazel this week, and we will keep you posted about these developments. We also offer our congratulations to Mr Fernandes (Juniper Class teacher) who get married on Saturday and we trust he enjoys his honeymoon over the holidays! We also congratulate Mrs McLeod on passing her NPQSL—a qualification for Senior Leaders in school. Well done!

I wanted to take this opportunity to also thank all of my staff for a really productive term. Everyone has worked tirelessly for your children and have supported them with care and compassion. We have made strides with our key priorities in the school improvement plan and are, at the beginning of next term, further developing the way we are teaching writing across the school. Mr Hill (our English Lead) will be leading training related to 'Talk for Writing' and will be guiding staff on how to increase the use of dialogue during the writing process to enhance both the content and structure of what children are writing. This will be on the INSET day on Tuesday 2nd January. Your children will then return on Wednesday 3rd January.

Thank you for the support and care you have shown the staff this term and we do wish you all a very happy, restful and joyous Christmas. With warm regards, Mrs Alden

### Date for the diary

Mr Tinsley (our Maths lead) will be leading a maths workshop for parents on **Wednesday 18th January @ 6.15pm**. He will be explaining Maths at St. Paul's, our use of White Rose and the mastery approach followed by showing parents progression and calculation methods for addition and subtraction, including using equipment to teach these skills.  
Sign up for this at the start of next term!

### Shoe Boxes please

Year 5 are doing a DT project next term, where they will need a shoe box. If you get a shoe box over the Christmas holidays, please can you send it in with your child on the first day of term, as Year 5 would ideally like them in their first week back.  
Thank you!



Very well done to everyone for their efforts towards Team Points this term—each point was recognition of good learning or positive behaviours! Congratulations to Emeralds for being the winners this half term. They can come into school on **Friday 15th December in green!**



## Year 2

### KS1 Christmas Production

Last week Year 2 did a fantastic job with their acting, dancing and singing in their Nativity Production of 'Busy, Busy Bethlehem'. They showed an abundance of enthusiasm on stage as well as perseverance throughout many rehearsals. Well done to both classes! We also thank year 1 for supporting with singing the songs – they did amazingly as well.

### Year 2 Design and Technology – Making a Fruit Salad.

Last week, Year 2 made a fruit salad as part of our D.T. curriculum. Before this, they tasted the fruit and wrote a plan for which fruit they wanted to use. On the day, the children learnt how to cut, slice and peel safely and successfully. I'm sure the children, and parents, enjoyed their fruit salad when they got home. Thank you to all the parents who sent such a lovely array of fruit in.



### Festive Fun at Garth House

The choir had the privilege of singing to the residents at Garth House this morning. 34 choir members accompanied by some helpful parents walked down to Garth House to sing a medley of Christmas songs and carols. We took song words with us so that we could all sing together. The most popular carol was 'Away in a Manger'. Once we had sung, we had time for a little mingling before we sang our way back to school!



### Dates for the Autumn Term (new info in RED)

- Friday 15 Dec - End of Term (YR & KS1: 1.15 pm, KS2: 1.30 pm)
- Tuesday 2nd Jan - INSET (No Pupils in School)
- Wednesday 3rd Jan - First Day of Spring Term
- Friday 5th January—Yr5 Viking workshop
- Tuesday 16th Jan—Y5 Young Voices (O2)
- Thursday 18th Jan—Y3 & Y4 Dorking Wanderers Football (In School)
- Thursday 18th January—Parents Maths workshop @ 6.15pm
- Wednesday 24th Jan—Y2 Great Fire of London Workshop
- Thursday 25th Jan—Willow Class Assembly
- Wednesday 31st Jan—Maple Class Assembly
- Thursday 1st February Beech Class Assembly
- Wednesday 24th January —SEND parents' evening (from 3.40pm)
- Tuesday 30th January (3.40—6.00pm) and Thursday 8th February (4.10—7.00pm)
- Friday 9th February—Inset (no pupils in school)
- Monday 13th—Friday 16th February—Half term

## YEAR 6 BUSILY BAUBLE MAKING FOR DT

Last week, Year 6 spent a day and a half working through our textiles DT project. It was, to the untrained eye, organised chaos! However, the children worked really hard to plan and design their baubles, learn the essential sewing stitches they would need and then create their masterpieces!



All of the revised designs, missing

pins, needle

threading and unpicking and re-stitching was worth it in the end as their finished products were amazing!

We then reviewed and evaluated both our own creations, but also peer evaluated one of our class-mate's designs and reflected on what went well and what we would do differently if we tried again.

We are sure you will agree that the results were incredible – they look wonderful on the trees in Elm and Juniper and, if your child is in Year 6, the baubles will be coming home to find pride of place on your

Christmas tree at the end of the week!



### Y3 and Y4 Nativity

A huge well done to all the children in Years 3 and 4 who performed in the nativity plays this week. The children have worked so incredibly hard, learning all the songs and actions, learning their lines and delivering them with superb expression. The costumes were just amazing – thank you so much to all

Our wonderful year 4 parents for

providing these, we really do appreciate it. In both performances the children sang so beautifully and really showed off their incredible acting skills. We are so incredibly proud of them all.



### Reception Nativity



Reception performed their Nativity show to parents/carers on Thursday 7th December – what a delight!

The children read their lines with such confidence. They used loud, clear voices. They sang beautifully and added wonderful actions to each song.

We were really impressed with how brave the children were to stand up in front of so many grown-ups and perform. The children had so much fun and hope you did too!

Thank you for all your hard work this term.

We hope you have a restful Christmas and look forward to seeing you in the new year.

