



# St. Paul's Dorking

## Church of England (Aided) Primary School

Newsletter | Friday 12th January 2024 | No. 8

Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy New Year! I trust you all had a restful (!) and enjoyable Christmas and that 2024 has started well for you. It certainly has here! We welcome Mrs Yeomans to Year 2 Rowan. If you are a Rowan Class parent you will meet Mrs Yeomans properly at the Parents' Evenings that are coming up shortly, and I am sure she has started to get to know you at the afternoon gate. Mrs Yeomans is an experienced Year 2 class teacher and it is lovely to see how quickly she and your children have adjusted to this change.

Thank you to the parents and staff that were able to join us for the Public meeting last night as part of the Consultation regarding changes to our PAN for 2025. Thank you for the helpful questions raised and the fruitful discussion. Please do read the paperwork that has been sent to you from the Governors and please do take the opportunity to respond. 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.

We have started a new theme for Collective Worship this term and are looking at **Courage** and how this resonates with our school values. This week we looked at 'Stepping out of your comfort zone'. As part of this reflection, the children thought about a goal they may have set for themselves (and possibly a new year's resolution) and what small courageous steps can they make to begin to work towards meeting their goal. It has been lovely to read and share these. Some will be on the front entrance Collective Worship board, please do have a read when you are next in our Reception Area.

As a school we are keen to support our local charity 'Stripey Stork', please see over about how you can potentially help. Thank you to Mrs Bryan and Mrs Suggitt who are organising this initiative.

It is lovely to see that the children are well equipped (thank you Santa!) with resources. Please can we remind you that whiteboard pens (as well as pens and pencils!) are used in most lessons, so if your child is in KS 2 it is **essential** they have a working pen everyday. These are for sale in our school shop at a significantly lower price than the High Street. Stationery items can be ordered on Scopay. Children will then get a slip and they then pick it up from the school stationery shop.

Thank you to the very large majority of parents who are ensuring that their children are coming in promptly at 8.45am. Please can I remind you that we no longer have a staggered start and the gates are locked at 8.50am. It is so important that your child is in on time as all year groups start learning immediately. If your child arrives after the register has been taken (even if they managed to whizz through the gate as it was being locked) they will be marked as late.

FOSPA held their first meeting of 2024 this week and are already diarising events for the full year. Please do read the attached FOSPA newsletter and please save the date of the circus. If you would like to get more involved with FOSPA, please do contact Chris Bailey (Mollie's Dad) on [chair@fospa-dorking.co.uk](mailto:chair@fospa-dorking.co.uk)

Wishing you a restful weekend,  
Mrs Alden

### Date correction and change of time

Mr Tinsley (our Maths lead) will be leading a maths workshop for parents on **Thursday 18th January @ 7.00pm**. The time has been altered to be 45 mins later to help parents availability.

Please book your place using this link:

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?>

[id=RpX1aBb78Eu4\\_RxOF1Aly\\_RiTOlrN9BHIKysrLjk\\_b6NURFJTWE5BVUxEWkFURVVPQ1U4TEpJT1hWVTS4u](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=RpX1aBb78Eu4_RxOF1Aly_RiTOlrN9BHIKysrLjk_b6NURFJTWE5BVUxEWkFURVVPQ1U4TEpJT1hWVTS4u)

### Home School Link Worker

Our Home School Link Worker is here to provide assistance and support to families and with your child in their continued development and wellbeing. If you think this is something you may find helpful please contact the School Office for more details.

### Chelsea Girls Foundation Trials

Following the training sessions that Chelsea Football Club came in and conducted at the School last term.

Some of the Year 5 & 6 girls had the opportunity to attend the Chelsea Girls Foundation Trials last night. They said "It was nerve-wracking to begin with but we had an amazing experience and the coaches were really nice"



### Inspiring Learning in Year 1!

We have had a busy first few weeks back at school and it has been lovely to see the children following the Christmas break! In Maths we have been learning about the numbers from 11-20.



We have been looking at how many tens and ones are in each number. The children have explored making them with lots of different resources such as numicon, bead strings, tens frames and dienes.



In Science we have started new learning all about materials. We

have looked at the difference between an object and the material it is made from. We have started to introduce some of the properties of these materials and the children have been busy hunting around the room searching for materials!



As we mentioned in a newsletter before Christmas, we are currently supporting **Stripey Stork**, which is a charity that is based in Reigate that helps lots of local families.

They are currently collecting Winter Coats, cozy toes and winter PJs ranging from newborn to 16 years. All they ask are that they are **clean** and that they are not broken or damaged in any way. If you do find any items that are currently taking up space in your home that your children have grown out of, please could you send them into school next **Friday (19th)** with your child and we will pass them on to Stripey Stork. Mrs Bryan will be in the lane with a table (weather permitting) to collect at **drop off**. Thank you for your generosity.



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

- Tuesday 16th Jan—Y5 Young Voices (O2)
- Thursday 18th Jan—Y3 & Y4 Dorking Wanderers Football (In School)
- **Thursday 18th January—Parents Maths Workshop @ 7pm**
- 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) Parents Evening**
- **Thursday 8th February (4.10—7.00pm) Parents Evening**
- Friday 9th February—Inset (no pupils in school)
- Monday 13th-Friday 16th February—Half term

Year 5 say a big thank you for the Shoe Boxes!

### Year 5 Vikings!



Last Friday, Year 5 embarked on an amazing Viking-themed day, launching us into our new topic. The workshop was not only educational but also fun, packed with a whole day of fantastic activities.

Firstly, we delved into the fascinating reasons behind the Vikings' arrival in Britain. We also had a chance to explore genuine Viking artefacts such as clothing, jewellery, weapons, and even ice skates made of real bone. Back in the classroom, we learnt how to play a Viking board game and deciphered the mysterious Viking symbols called Runes.

The afternoon was spent discovering how to follow commands in a Viking Army and in thrilling paired battles of spear wrestling – quite the Viking challenge!



To conclude this epic day, our young historians dived into the enchanting world of Viking myths, reenacting Ragnarok, the end of the world – and there was plenty of time for asking inquisitive questions during a lively Q&A session.



It was an absolutely fantastic and worthwhile experience for all and a great way to start the term.

### Rocks and Soils in Year 3

Year 3 started their new science topic for the term this week which is all about rocks and soils. To start, we looked at the 3 different types of rocks then we had to work as a group to find out the names and types of each rock. We had a great time becoming rock investigators!



### Dorking Minds

Dorking Minds is an organisation dedicated to promoting mental health awareness and well-being in our community.

They have a talk titled "Why Do Children Self-Harm and What Can We Do About It," will be presented by the esteemed mental health expert, Leslie Lund. Date: Monday 15<sup>th</sup> January  
Doors open at 7pm, prompt start 7.30pm  
Quaker Meeting House, Dorking

Leslie Lund, with her extensive experience in mental health advocacy, will provide valuable insights into the factors contributing to children's self-harm and offer practical strategies for support and intervention.

We believe that this talk benefits anyone who might be working with young people even if they do not need the tools now, they have them if the situation arises.

To book your space please visit – <http://bit.ly/DMselfharm>

### **Save the Date!**

Happy's Circus

Sunday 7th July 2024 12-4pm

St Paul's School

