



St. Paul's Dorking

Church of England (Aided) Primary School

Newsletter | Friday 26th January 2024 | No. 9

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have had another couple of weeks of exciting learning here at St Paul's and I hope you are able to capture a glimpse of this from the reports that have been put together from staff.

It was a real privilege to join the Year 5 trip to the O2 last week. It was an awe-inspiring opportunity for the children to sing in such an iconic venue and to be part of a 9000+ children's choir!! They all sang beautifully. I am sure this will be something the children will remember for a very long time to come. Thank you to the staff team—Mr Hurrell and Mr Tinsley's organisation and attention to detail ensured all children travelled on the underground feeling relaxed and excited for the day ahead. The pick-up was also very smooth and thank you so much to all of the parents who helped this to be possible.

Thank you to anyone who has contributed in any way regarding the Admissions Consultation which has now ended. All comments have been very carefully considered by the Governors and they have been most grateful for the time, effort and attention that you as parents and carers, as well as all other stakeholders, have given to this. We have now put key themes along with our responses on the school website, which we hope you will find helpful. The Governors will be making their decision by 28th February 2024 at the latest. Our Chair of Governors will write to you to let you know the decision which will also be posted on our website. [St Paul's C of E Primary School - Consultation \(stpaulsschool-dorking.co.uk\)](http://stpaulsschool-dorking.co.uk)

We had the first of our class assemblies of the term this week. Thank you very much to Willow Class. They took the theme of perseverance and courage (tying in with our Collective Worship theme for this half term). They reminded us of strategies we should adopt as well as singing and signing a great song called "Fight Song". The children read and acted beautifully and it tied in so well with our theme this week of 'facing challenge'. Next week we have both Maple's (Wed @9.00) and Beech's (Thur @ 9.00) assemblies.

Thank you for your very generous donations for Stripey Stork. All of the coats, cosy toes and pyjamas were picked up this morning. Please see overleaf for further details.

Thank you for your parent survey contributions. We had 135 responses to our parent questionnaire that we opened to you at the end of last term. Please see attached.

It was lovely to see so many of you at the SEND parents evening this week. Thank you for the very affirming words that you offered regarding your child's class teacher and the provision they are receiving. I have passed that thanks on to the staff. Thank you to Mrs Edwards for her tireless work in ensuring the best possible provision is in place so that all our children can thrive. We have parents' evenings coming up for everyone else next week and the week immediately before half term. If you are yet to sign up, please do that as soon as possible. We are delighted that we usually get every parent engaging in these meetings and it is so helpful for you and the staff to have this essential opportunity to talk. Teachers will be reminding you of the homework expectations in line with the homework policy, when they meet with you.

Thank you for the effort that many have put in to coming to school on time. Being in the lane as the gates are open, makes for a calm, smooth and successful start to the day. Phonics and other key learning starts before 9am, so if your child is a few minutes late they are already at a disadvantage. We do have a few places in Breakfast Club if this would ease the start of your day.

Wishing you a restful weekend, Mrs Alden

Uniform

We apologise if there has been any confusion, but we would ask that your children only wear a base layer with PE uniform unless it is exceptionally cold. A few children are choosing to wear a base layer rather than a sweatshirt/cardigan. If they are wearing a base layer with regular school uniform it should not be visible. Thank you

Mole Valley Family Centre

Have several courses that might be useful for local parents. Please see attached flyers for more details



Children's Mental Health Week 2024

Children's Mental Health Week 2024 will take place from 5-11 February. [Place2Be](#) launched the mental health awareness week in 2015 to empower, equip and give a voice to every child in the UK.

This year the theme is "My Voice Matters", which we will be launching with an own clothes day on the Monday where children and staff are going to be encouraged to "Express themselves" and wear something that makes them happy ☺. It could be sports wear, casual, smart, dress up, all one colour, lots of colours - as long as it expresses something about them and you!

In school we are going to highlight the different opportunities that the children have to have their voice heard in school - School Council - Anti-bullying Ambassadors - Faith Team - Eco Team - Talk Time - Sharing Box. As well as an assembly on the Monday, the children will be participating in different activities through the week.

We will be sending out some resources that you could possibly use at home as well as some resources that tie in with Safer Internet Day on 6th Feb. If you do have any questions at all, please come and speak to Mrs Bryan.

Save the Date

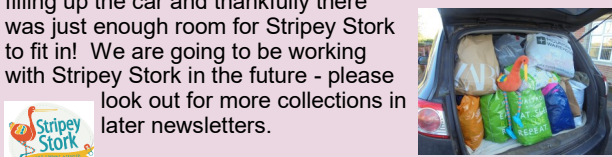
FOSPA Cinema Club

Friday 8th March 16.30—18.30 showing Trolls

Stripey Stork Collection

Stripey Stork came to visit us today to collect all of the donations of coats, pram suits and pyjamas that you have kindly donated over the last couple of weeks. We needed some help from some KS2 children in

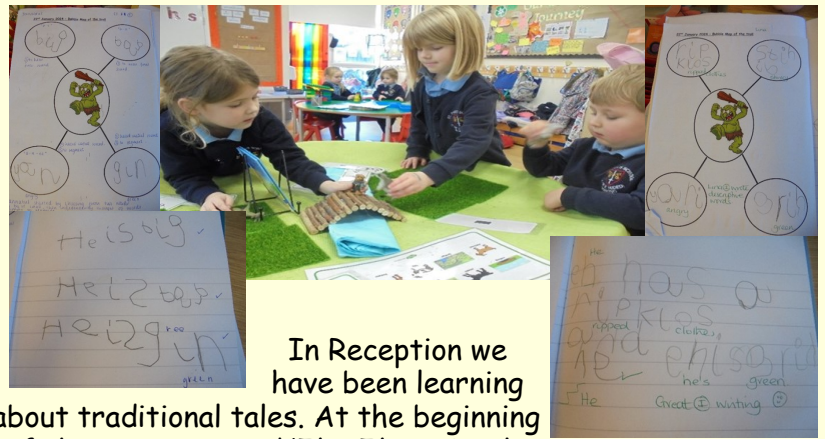
filling up the car and thankfully there was just enough room for Stripey Stork to fit in! We are going to be working with Stripey Stork in the future - please look out for more collections in later newsletters.



Dates for the Autumn Term (new info in RED)

- Tuesday 30th January (3.40—6.00pm) Parents Evening
- Wednesday 31st Jan—Maple Class Assembly
- Thursday 1st February Beech Class Assembly
- Thursday 8th February (4.10—7.00pm) Parents Evening
- Friday 9th February—Inset (no pupils in school)
- Monday 13th-Friday 16th February—Half term

Reception—The Three Billy Goats Gruff



In Reception we have been learning about traditional tales. At the beginning of the term we read 'The Three Little Pigs'. This week we have been focusing on 'The Three Billy Goats Gruff'. We have been using props and puppets to retell the story in groups. We have looked closely at the different characters and used adjectives to describe the troll. Look at our amazing 'bubble maps' and sentences about the mean, ugly troll; we have been working hard to use our segmenting fingers to help us hear the sounds in words!

Year 2 Fire of London Workshop

Year 2 had a fantastic Great Fire of London workshop on Wednesday. Everyone looked super in their outfits and enjoyed making candles, bread, writing with quills dipped in ink, and pulling up water from the well. They role played putting the fire out and creating fire breaks between the houses. In the afternoon they worked as archaeologists digging out artefacts from the rubble and using clues to work out what shop had been burnt down.



Year 4 Pizza Making

This week Year 4 gave their taste buds a tingle, making pizzas as part of their topic about Italy. The children have enjoyed using their DT skills, including planning their pizzas, following a recipe and combining ingredients. However, the most enjoyable part of the process was eating and evaluating the final product! Packed with delicious flavours and topped with mouth-watering mozzarella, the children agreed it was the best pizza ever! After cooking, they designed perfect pizza packaging and posters to persuade and promote their pizzas, using awesome adjectives and alliteration!



A big thank you to all the adult helpers who gave up their time for a 'PIZZA the action' too!



Year 4 Cake Sale—Thursday 8th February

