



# St. Paul's Dorking

## Church of England (Aided) Primary School

Newsletter | Thursday 8th February 2024 | No. 10

Inspiring Learning, Nurturing Wholeness

Dear Parents and Carers,

Well, the half-term break is virtually upon us and we have come to the end of another successful half term. The children have certainly engaged in some very inspiring learning—I have just noticed the Year 5s having their photos taken with their DT project; a cams mechanism that depicts the solar system! They look very impressive and I can assure you that if you donated shoe boxes they have been put to extremely good use!

We gathered today for our half termly service this morning—sadly, it was just too wet to walk to the Church so Rev Alex kindly came to us. The service was centred around Candlemas and the courage that Simeon and Anna showed in their wait to see Jesus. The children read and sang beautifully and it was very special to gather as a whole school community before we have our break. Due to the service, we did not have Star of the Week this week, but we did celebrate the children who have been awarded their bronze, silver or gold book reading awards. If you recall, if children have read 10,000 words (in books that they have quizzed about) they win bronze, 500,000 words awards them a silver badge and 1,000,000 words read awards them a gold badge. Very well done to those children who have won these awards! If you are unsure how your child can complete a quiz following the completion of a book, please do speak to their class teacher. Thank you to FOSPA for funding the badges. They look very smart!

Many of you will have read the letter you received from the Governors at the end of last week, explaining their rationale for why they have decided **not** to reduce PAN at this time. Thank you for your engagement with this process. St Paul's School will remain a two form intake primary.

It has been lovely to see so many of you over the last couple of weeks. All parents should have had a opportunity to meet with their child's class teacher. If you were unable to attend, please do contact your child's class teacher to arrange an alternative time. Teachers are very keen to have this opportunity to share your child's strengths and next steps.

It was lovely to feature on Stripey Stork's FB page last week where they thanked the school community for the generous donations.

Thank you to the parents who completed the annual parent survey a little while ago and for the 47 responses we received regarding our follow up question. We will be using the next few newsletters to help to communicate with you around any of the questions that may need further clarification. Please read overleaf for some further information about how we communicate with you about what your child is learning.

It was lovely to welcome Vashti Hardy into school this afternoon. Vashti is a children's author and she spoke to Yr 2, 3 and 4 and then Yr 5 and 6 about her writing. Lots of the children were delighted to be able to buy a signed copy of one of her books! The buzz at the end of school today was palpable! We trust you have received some information about the up-coming book week. For the dressing up day this year (7/3/24), you have a choice, the children can come as a book character or as a word. Please do not spend lots on outfits, please use what you already have at home. We really don't want parents spending money for this event—just a little imagination! Our kind parent volunteer, Catherine, is planning a costume hire stall, which we hope will be on Tuesday 20th February after school (tbc) if parents wish to use this.

We have an Inset day tomorrow; we are receiving training related to strategies to use to help de-escalated children with distressed or dysregulated behaviour. This is to support our ongoing work to ensure all behaviours are well managed.

We hope that you all have a safe, happy and restful half term and we look forward to seeing everyone on Monday 19th February.

Wishing you a restful weekend, Mrs Alden

In Hawthorn Class, we celebrate being positive.

Children are invited to write down positive actions they see their peers doing and stick them up on our wow board. These are then celebrated in the week as a class and their notes are taken home with them.



The GreenPower team is well underway with their build of their car and they have shown incredible team work already, thinking about their message of being green this year. They have been quick learning with handling and using tools and they have had really creative thinking when thinking about their logo and slogan. It is going to be a great year.



In preparation for a fun Comic Relief Assembly in March, Mrs Suggitt is running a 'Spoken Word' Funny Poems Club. If your

KS2 child would like to participate in this please go to Maple Class on a Thursday Lunchtime at 12.15. We will be working on expression, intonation and clear delivery. The children will need to commit to four Thursdays to be ready for the performance to the school on March 15th March.

Year 3 had a great morning reading their amazing stories to the reception classes. This really gave our year 3 classes a real purpose to writing and using their fluency of reading to inspire and excite the children. Both year groups loved this opportunity.



### Year 6



Some of you will have Bikeability on the Monday we return (dates will be sent out early next week) so will need to have a cycle and helmet in school.



## Parent Survey responses

In the last newsletter we asked about whether you felt that school made you aware of what your child will learn over the year:



Thank you so much to the parents who left comments - we had 39 comments which were a mixture of things we are doing well and ways that we could improve our communication to you. Many of these comments were saying that you felt that the meet the teacher meetings and PowerPoint were helpful, as well as the section on the website that breaks down what each of the year groups will be learning over the year [St Paul's C of E Primary School - Classes \(stpaulsschool-dorking.co.uk\)](https://stpaulsschool-dorking.co.uk). Some of the comments asked if something could go out in the weekly Key Stage Bulletin and if we could hold some of the subject parents meetings outside of the school day.

We appreciate that there is no time where we are going to be able to get all parents participating, due to parents working or not being able to get child care if it is after school. As a school we are going to be looking at the best way we can address this further.

## There is a good range of subjects available to my child at this school

All children in Key Stage 1 and 2 have daily English and Maths lessons, as well as this they have Science, RE, PSHE, PE (both indoor and outdoor), Computing and Music throughout the week. They also have either History or Geography, Art or DT through the week – depending on the focus for that half term. Sometimes there may be a whole day of DT depending on the project that they are involved in.

This week we would like to ask you about the range of subjects that your child has on offer. Again, there are only 2 questions and we would appreciate it if you could answer the question and comment if you wish to – we will be sharing the responses to this in the next newsletter. The closing date is Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> February. <https://forms.office.com/e/ZnGcm1SpRr>

This week a team of 21 children from year 5 and 6 took part in a Sports Hall Athletics competition against 7 other teams. The children showed fantastic values, being determined but respectful. It was a hard fought competition, resulting in us coming 4th overall. Well done team!



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

- Monday 19th February - First Day Back at School
- 19-23 Feb or 26 Feb-1 Mar—Y6 Bikeability (dates to be shared during half term)
- Tues 5th March - Y6 Young Citizens Event
- Wed 6th March - Rowan Class Assembly
- Wed 6th March - Beech Class to Pizza Express
- Thurs 7th March - World Book Day
- Thurs 7th March - Lime Class Assembly
- Friday 8th March - FOSPA Cinema Club, 4.30 pm to 6.30 pm
- Tues 12th March - Y4 Roman Workshop
- Wed 13th March - Sycamore Class Assembly
- Thurs 14th March - Y3 to Butser Farm

## O2 Recount—Year 5

On Tuesday 16th of January 2024 I went to school thinking about nothing but the big event. When I got to school Mr Tinsley told us all about the event and what to do if we got lost. Then we left for the station on foot thinking about the day ahead.

As we boarded the train, we settled into our seats nicely and then everybody started chatting to their partners. Later on in the train journey, we had our lunch, which was tasty. When the train stopped, we got off, wandered around a bit, went up and down a few escalators and got on a busy underground, which made us fall over every time it stopped. Finally, we arrived at North Greenwich and went out of the station and into London itself.

We all took part in a photo outside the arena and when we went in we were blown away. It was MASSIVE! We rehearsed with the conductor David Lawrence. However, the rehearsal was nowhere near as good as the show, as I was about to find out. St Pauls were seated right at the top (Not everybody was seated top row, but I was). Then we ate our dinner which I really enjoyed. Suddenly, the lights went out and the host introduced the Young Voices choir (us). The first song was amazing but my favourite one was, 'Crazy what love can do.' (it was in the Pop Medley).

The guest artists were MCGrammar and Natalie Williams. The Urban Strides dance group were AWESOME!

## Exploring the Wonders of Light in Year 6: A Periscope Adventure!

Over the past few weeks, our Year 6 classes have been delving into the captivating world of light. Through engaging discussions and hands-on experiments, students have unravelled the mysteries of how light enables us to see the world around us. Our students have embraced the challenge of building their very own periscopes. These clever devices, crafted from simple materials like mirrors and cardboard tubes, demonstrate the principles of light reflection. The excitement in the room has been palpable as each student carefully constructed their periscope, eagerly anticipating the moment when they could put their creation to the test. It was very enjoyable for students to use their periscopes to peer around a corner and wonder at the properties of reflection!



On Monday 5th February the Eco Representatives from St Paul's school gave up their lunch play to visit the local 'Community Fridge' based at St Martin's Church in the centre of Dorking.

'The Community Fridge is stocked from food surplus from supermarkets - it has a range of food from bread and pastries to ripe fruit & vegetables. The idea is to reduce the amount of food going to landfill. Anyone can come and take what they need.'

The children the previous week had watched a really informative video about the importance of the community fridge and how it helps with food wastage.

<https://youtu.be/0eqxgvZNn0I?feature=shared>

The children all found the visit interesting and learnt more about the importance of the community fridge which they will share with the rest of the school after half term.



## Tidying up the local community

During a football match on Saturday 3rd February Betty-Mae and Zadie took it upon themselves to do some impromptu litter-picking. This is amazing and shows great commitment to the ECO cause. Thank you both girls.

