



St. Paul's Dorking

Church of England (Aided) Primary School

Newsletter | Friday 23rd February 2024 | No. 11

Inspiring Learning, Nurturing Wholeness

Dear Parents and Carers,

I trust that all had a restful half term and that you managed some family time together as well as just having a week that felt less pressured in the morning! It has been lovely to see everyone back and engaged in learning. It was lovely to see lots of parents at the Reception 'Learning through play' workshop on Wednesday. Do look on the school website for the slides for this workshop (as well as the earlier Maths and Phonics Workshops). Thank you to Mrs Watkins and Mrs Van Calenberg for leading this.

We have a couple of farewells to say at the end of next week. Mrs Howey is moving away so we wish her well in her future endeavours. We thank her for all she has given to St Paul's as well as co-leading of RE. Mrs Read will be teaching Hawthorn on Mondays and Miss George will increase her days to teach Hawthorn for the rest of the week. We are also saying goodbye to Mrs Tillett who has secured a new office role in a school nearer her home. We are very sad to see her go as she has become an integral part of St Paul's and a face and person you all know well. We wish her well. Mrs Laws has secured her role and we are currently recruiting for someone to work alongside Tara/Jane on a Monday/Wednesday. If you have office skills and experience and enjoy working with children and adults, do look out for the advert on our website.

We have started a new theme for Collective worship for this half term. We are looking at forgiveness and how this fits within our values of compassion, trust and wisdom. We will also have our usual Easter Pause Day in the lead up to Easter incorporating a reflection space at St Paul's. We are so grateful to St Paul's Church for facilitating this space. The children really enjoy taking time out to pause, reflect and think about themselves and those they are connected with.

All of the staff had a very useful inset day on the Friday before half term. We had some excellent Positive Touch behaviour management training related to de-escalation strategies and how to support children when they are feeling 'fizzy'. This dovetails well into our behaviour policy and other related policies.

Before half term we also presented more of our Bronze, Silver and Gold reading badges. It is fantastic that we now have some readers who have read over a million words! As parents you can really help your child to achieve these awards by helping them to complete their Accelerated Reader quiz once they have finished their reading book (All children in years 3 - 6 are on Accelerated Reader; some children in year 2 are also - if they are, login details can be found in their reading record). To complete a quiz, please use the login details that are in your child's reading record and then click on this link: <https://global-zone61.renaissance-go.com/welcomeportal/6712704>. We are also recognising children that are putting in the greatest time on Numberbots/Timestables Rockstars and Spelling Shed so again please help your child to access these online Apps as this is part of their regular homework to build upon skills taught in school.

I hope you all have a lovely weekend

Mrs Alden

Parent Survey

This week we would like to ask you your opinion on whether you feel that the school supports your child's wider development. Please complete the form, where there are 2 questions for you to answer. The Survey will be open until Wednesday 6th March

<https://forms.office.com/e/zzLq9D0RDT>

Surrey Parent/carers entitlements survey

Surrey are asking parents/carers to take part in a survey in order to gather their views regarding early education and childcare for 0-4 year olds and also for out of school childcare provision for 5-11 year olds during school term time. This will help them to ensure they have sufficient high-quality education and childcare and wraparound places for everyone that needs them.

Please complete this survey to share your views

<https://www.surreysays.co.uk/csf/early-years-expansion-entitlements-parent-survey>



Reception

This half term Reception are learning about 'All Creatures Great and Small'. In Maths, the children have been learning to add two groups together and find the total amount. They began by using manipulatives (plastic animals in a pen), then represented this pictorially and finally wrote these as calculations.

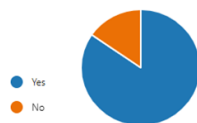
On Wednesday 21st February we delivered a 'Learning Through Play in the Early Years' workshop. Thank you to those that were able to attend. We realise it is tricky for working parents so we have uploaded the slides to Reception's class page on the school website. It was lovely to see the children confidently sharing how they learn through play in our classrooms!



Parent Survey—a range of subjects

Thank you to the parents who took part in the survey regarding whether you felt that the school provided a good range of subjects for the children. 85% of those who responded felt that there were a good range of subjects on offer. It was helpful to read the comments that you shared with us about what subject you would like to see more of for your children and some of these are subjects that we are already teaching. In the next newsletter we will be sharing what a typical week in each Key Stage would look like with the range of subjects that are on offer, as well as how different subjects are taught across the school.

1. There is a good range of subjects available to my child at this school?

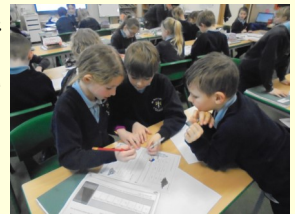


Dates for the Spring Term (new info in RED)

- 26 Feb-1 Mar—Y6 Bikeability
- Tues 27th Feb- Parent Course - Early Signs of ADHD in girls, 9-10am**
- 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
- Fri 15th March- Red Nose Day**
- Wed 20th March- Y1 to British Wildlife Centre**
- Wed 20th March - Y6 to Henley Fort**
- Thurs 21st March- Y6 return from Henley Fort**

Year 3 Escape Room Science

Just before half term in year 3, the children have been consolidating their learning of their science topic, Rocks and Soils. They were challenged to an Escape Room. The children were in teams of 3 and given 40 minutes to escape their room! It was a very exciting and fun way to consolidate our learning! One team escaped in 29 minutes and 50 seconds!



Year 4

On Thursday 1st February, Year Four were invited to a fantastic gym and dance show at The Priory School. The theme was 'Be proud of who you are!' The show reflected individual uniqueness as well as diversity within Priory and the wider community.



Valentine said, "I think they moved swiftly, the footwork was incredible and they danced in time with the music." Amelie noticed courage and cartwheels and trust and teamwork!

Aki commented, "They put lots of effort into the back bends and the floorwork routines!" Sophia said, "I saw forward rolls, backflips, handsprings and cartwheels. It was amazing!" Thank you to The Priory for inviting us!

Costume Library

Thank you to Catherine Haynes for organising the costume library. There are still some costumes left and Catherine will be holding another costume hire session in the lane after school on Tuesday, weather permitting!



A Slice of Learning at Pizza Express!



On Wednesday 7th February, Year 4 Hazel embarked on a delicious adventure as they stepped into the world of pizza making at Pizza Express! The budding pizza chefs spent the morning getting their hands doughy and creating their very own Margherita masterpieces. They learned the art of kneading and tossing the perfect pizza dough. Aside from the delicious pizzas,



the trip provided lessons in teamwork, following instructions, and discovering the joy of creating something from scratch. A massive thank you to the Pizza Express team for hosting us and turning our pupils into pizza maestros for the day! And of course, the best bit was enjoying eating the pizzas afterwards. Yum! Year 4 Beech have this to look forward to on Wednesday 6th March.

