



# St. Paul's Dorking

## Church of England (Aided) Primary School

Newsletter | Friday 27th September 2024 | No. 2

Inspiring Learning, Nurturing Wholeness

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have had a very busy fortnight since our last newsletter and the children have now really settled back into the routines and structures of school. I am delighted that the Year 3 tune up programme has started (and this year the trumpets/cornets can go home to help the children to practice between lessons) and the children are very excited to have a go at playing a brass instrument for a term. Many of our children have also started or continued to have their individual peripatetic music lessons within the school day, throughout the week. If you would like your child to learn an instrument this is all facilitated through Surrey Arts. If this is something you would be interested in for your child, go onto the Surrey Arts website for further details [Music lessons for children - Surrey County Council \(surreycc.gov.uk\)](https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/musicians)

Thank you to the parents who joined us to meet with Paul Kennedy last week, the CEO of the Good Shepherd Trust (GST), as he shared with us some background of the GST as well as the many benefits that the school will see from joining the trust. St Paul's will continue to maintain it's special uniqueness and excellent provision for your children, and the trust will further enhance this through their excellent school development structure. The presentation that he shared is on the school website for your information. It can be found, under the news and events tab "Joining the Good Shepherd Trust". If you have any further questions, please do contact our Chair of Governors, Mrs Fiona Ruddock, [chair@stpauls-dorking.surrey.sch.uk](mailto:chair@stpauls-dorking.surrey.sch.uk).

It was lovely to meet so many of our Reception parents on Wednesday night for the excellent presentation from Mrs Van Calenberg regarding Early Reading at St Paul's. She shared how we teach phonics and early reading and how parents can support their children in their reading journey. If you were unable to make it, the presentation is on the school website under 'parents' and 'workshops'. If you missed this, please do have a read of the slides and do speak to Mrs Van Calenberg or Mrs Watkins. Please can I also draw your attention to the up-coming Maths Workshops for parents. Mr Tinsley and others, will be sharing how we teach Maths at St Paul's and again tips and tricks for ways to support your child's learning, related to addition and subtraction. This will be a repeat of the very helpful workshop that we ran in summer term. Please contact the office to book your place. This is particularly for parents who couldn't make it last time and parents new to St Paul's.

Following some whole school training regarding de-escalation we have clear guidance for staff concerning handling children. If a child is distressed on arrival at school, we will do our best to shepherd them in gently or take them by the hand but please refrain from asking staff to physically remove your child from you. In these cases, we might need to support separation a little more slowly, move to a quieter space in the school and ask that you stay for a short time so they can have a more settled start. Our training does include 'Positive Handling' whereby staff may carry out a safe hold if there is risk of harm to self or others, but these situations are thankfully incredibly rare.

As you know we use our house teams in class for a wide range of reasons, including dividing the children into equal groups, rewards and sports day. For that reason we sometimes, following a year group shuffle, have to change a few children's house group so we have even groups within each class. Please be aware that some children may have changed houses, and though we try, if you have a number of children they may not all be in the same house.

We have started our collective worship theme for this half term and it is all focussed on 'Thankfulness'. To conclude the theme, we will be having our usual half termly service at St Paul's Church and this will include our Harvest Festival. Again this year we will be supporting the Dorking Area Foodbank and attached to this newsletter is a list of items if you feel able to donate. This will take place on **Friday 25th October @ 9.15am**. Parents are warmly welcome—the service will be led by the children and will include the choir singing. We hope we can see you there.

We have added some more dates to the school calendar, so please do see over for the schedule of up-coming activities.

Wishing you a restful weekend, Mrs Alden

### Year 6 Cake Sale

The Year 6 Cake Sale will be in the lane after school on Friday 4th October.

### Outdoor Trainers in School

Please can we remind you that when your child is wearing PE uniform, they **MUST** be in school shoes and have their trainers in school in their PE bag. They need to change in and back out of these trainers after PE to avoid mud in school, as we are using the field regularly.

### Toys to stay at home please

We have noticed a few toys and precious items are being brought into school. Please can you ensure these stay safely at home. Thank you



**October is International Walk to School Month**, when pupils around the globe celebrate the benefits of walking and wheeling to school. Get active, get moving, get involved - pledge to walk to school in October or scoot, cycle or park and stride. Walking, cycling or scooting to school can make the difference and help children get the exercise they need. When we walk to school, we spend more time with each other and have conversation. While we also conserve fuel and preserve the environment, as well as being healthy and getting exercise. Will you take the pledge?

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### Photos

The photographer will be here on Thursday 10th October to take the individual photos. If you would like your child to have a photo with a pre school sibling please come to the Atrium entrance at 8.15am.

### Year 5 Science

Year 5 have been busy learning all about forces. Last week we explored how to use a newton metre and started to weigh different objects to find out how much force they exerted. This week we did our first science experiment of the year. In the experiment we explored how much objects weighed in air and then how much they weighed in water. We discovered that objects weigh less in water because of upthrust. We enjoyed our experiment and we are looking forward to further experiments on air resistance and friction.



### Reception

Reception have been learning about birthdays as part of our "All About Me" topic. The children enjoyed telling us the month their birthday is in and were inspired by Maisy, in the "Happy Birthday Maisy" book, to make birthday cards. They've enjoyed playing with party hats, balloons and cake to help them learn about birthday celebrations.

In Maths, Reception have been learning about matching pairs and played a game of "Snap!" We talked about what was the same and different between two objects.



### Year 3

In Year 3, we have been learning all about miracles in RE and how Jesus changed lives. We learned about some different miracles



that Jesus performed and then got the chance to act them out in small groups thinking about the impact this would have had on God's followers.



### FOSPA bike ride



Thank you to everyone who took part and thank you for your kind sponsorship. Despite an awful weather forecast, all the riders took part, including Mrs Alden, and we have already raised over £900 in sponsorship for the school.

Due to the combination of bad weather and train problems, the route was changed at the last minute, to avoid soggy riders struggling to get home from Brighton after riding the 50 miles! We all completed the cycle (Southwater to Brighton and back), including Sam (in Yr 5) and Ben (in Yr 2 on the tandem) - a tremendous effort from them!. You are very welcome to sponsor us retrospectively and we would be most grateful. Please use the link below (we are all using the same fundraising page):



[Rachel Martin is fundraising for FOSPA Friends of St. Paul's Association \(justgiving.com\)](https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/Rachel-Martin-is-fundraising-for-FOSPA-Friends-of-St-Pauls-Association)

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

- 4th October—Y6 Cake Sale
- 8th October - Maths Workshop, 6.15 pm
- 10th October - School Photos
- 11th October - Y4 Egyptian Workshop
- 16th October—SEND Parents Evening
- 17th October—Parents Evening (4pm-7pm)
- 17th & 18th October - Y3 Pedestrian Training
- 22nd October—Parents Evening (3.40pm—6pm)
- 24th October—Beech Class Assembly 9am
- 25th October - Harvest Service, St Paul's Church, 9.15 am
- 25th October—Yr 5 Cake Sale
- 28th Oct to 1st Nov - Half Term
- 5th November - YR Play Workshop, 9.15 am
- 14th November - Flu Vaccines
- 27th November - Maths Worksop 2, 6.15 pm
- 29th November—Y4 Cake Sale
- 30th November - FOSPA Christmas Fair
- 10th December - KS2 Service, 9.30 am
- 10th December - KS1 Service, 2 pm
- 11th December - YR Nativity, 9.30 am
- 11th December - KS2 Service, 6 pm
- 13th December—Yr 3 Cake Sale
- 16th December - YR & KS1 Panto (in school)
- 18th December - Christmas Jumper and Lunch Day
- 20th December - End of Term (1.15 pm/1.30 pm)
- 6th January - INSET Day, School Closed to Pupils
- 7th January - First Day of Spring Term for Pupils

### LOST PROPERTY!

We have so many new school jumpers and hoodies that are nameless and therefore in lost property. Over the weekend, please can you ensure all school jumpers are named (a sharpie does this very well!) and if you are missing a nameless jumper please ask your child to check the lost property box.

Please see the attached leaflet for items to donate to the Foodbank for our harvest festival on Friday 25th October. Thank you in anticipation.

### FOSPA Christmas Fair Poster Competition

FOSPA is excited to announce the return of our 'Design the Christmas Fair Poster' competition! The winning design will be featured on all posters and programmes for this year's event. The winner will also receive a special prize. All entries will be displayed within the school, so everyone can admire the children's artistic and creative work.

#### Details to include on the poster:

- St Paul's Primary School Christmas Fair
- Saturday, 30th November, 12-3pm

Please return all entries to the office. Thank you

**Closing date:** Friday, 11th October

