



St. Paul's Dorking

Church of England Primary School

Newsletter | Friday 29th November 2024 | No. 6

Inspiring Learning, Nurturing Wholeness

Dear Parents and Carers,

It was so lovely to see so many of you this weekend, for the **FOSPA Christmas Fair**. Thank you to many of you who contributed or helped in any way towards this. I know the children were very excited about it and many brought bottles and contributions. We are so grateful to Chris and his team for the planning and organisation that has gone into this event.

As you know at the start of this month, we joined the Good Shepherd Trust. Now we are part of the Trust some of our policies will now be Trust wide and in the weeks running up to the end of this term, we will be amending our policies and ensuring the new ones are on our website. Attendance is one such policy. **Please read the letter attached** regarding the changes to our attendance policy. The key change regards issuing penalty notices (fines) for unauthorised absence. Lateness after the close of registers (taken at 8.55am and closed at 9.10am) warrants an unauthorised absence for that session. So please can all parents recognise that being **at the correct gate at 8.45am** is essential. The gates are closed just after 8.50am.

We do recognise that children will at times need a day off school due to illness, but this gives even more reason why unnecessary absence needs to be avoided. Please can we also remind you that you need to inform the office if your child is absent due to illness **each morning** of that absence. If your child has a tummy bug they should not be in school for 48 hours. We would also urge you to consider school as two half days. If your child is unwell in the morning, but seems much improved by lunchtime, please send them in for the afternoon session (starting at 12.45pm for KS 1 and 1.05pm for KS 2). We can also administer medicine, if necessary, so your child will certainly be able to be in school whilst they are completing a course of antibiotics.

This week has seen every child dancing to the powerful music of the Nutcracker! We want to say a huge thank you to Mrs Cox (one of our TAs and a former ballerina with the Royal Ballet) for planning and running a workshop for each class. The children had a super time and please do see over for a more detailed report! Mrs Cox has certainly helped to start the festive season.



Please can we remind you that **every child** must have a coat in school every day. We go outside in all weathers so a coat is essential. Some children are forgetting if they come to school in a car.

Please can we remind you that we are trying to put all year group reminders onto the Key Stage bulletins that get sent to you weekly on a Monday. We are keen to try to reduce the emails that we send you, and hope that all of the information you need is captured on the newsletter or the bulletins. These are the two essential 'go to' communications from us. If you are not receiving these, please speak to the office in case we don't have your most up to date details.

Thank you to Mr Tinsley and Mrs Watkins for leading the second of our Maths Workshops this week. They explored the teaching of multiplication and division. If you missed these sessions, please do read the presentations on our website.

It was great to celebrate reading this morning in our celebration assembly. 20 number of children were awarded their bronze award, 18 were awarded their silver and 12 were awarded gold—having read over a million words! We are delighted that so many of our children LOVE reading! The child who has read the most has read over 7 million words!

Have a good week, Mrs Alden

Stripey Stork Santa Stork Donations



We are collecting donations for Stripey Stork, a local charity who support local families experiencing hardship. Their Santa Stork campaign provides Christmas presents for children across Surrey and Croydon. We are collecting stocking fillers and chocolate for them to give to the children. Please see attached flyers for more information. They are particularly short of chocolate and notebooks and pens for boys. Please bring any donations to the School Office by the end of the school day on **Friday 6th December** for them to collect.



Ballet workshops



During our ballet session with Mrs Cox (ex Royal Ballerina and current Royal Ballet School Teacher) we investigate The Nutcracker and its different characters, including the rat, the toy soldier and how these different characters used different movements including being in unison (we had to use our peripheral vision to help us stay in unison) and staccato movements. We looked at different ballet positions. We then looked at some other characters, Columbine and Harlequin (the wooden dolls) - stiff movements, Fritz (Clara's younger brother) - menacing, cheeky, faster movements, and the Sugar Plum Fairy - soft, floating, delicate movements.

We explored how we could tell a story using only dance. We listened to Royal Ballet Students and heard they use facial expression, body expression to convey the personality of a character through just movement. We also learnt that emotion can be portrayed through dance eg anger can have more exaggerated movements, mime (using hand movements and facial expression) is also used to help tell the story.



We then put it into practice with creating our own dances.

We played the rock paper scissors game but through character and we had to portray our character through movements. Overall, it was a fantastic experience and we thoroughly enjoyed it.



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News from Year 2

Christmas may still be 26 days away, but rehearsal are hotting up for the year 2 Nativity - despite the cold weather!

We have been in the Church this week and are really pleased with how things are coming together. The children are giving it their all and they are really looking forward to parents and carers watching the performance on December 10th!

Dates for the Autumn Term (new info in RED)

- 6th December—Last day for Stripey Stork donations
- 10th December - KS2 Service, 9.30 am, St Paul's Church
- 10th December - KS1 Service, 2 pm, St Paul's Church
- 11th December - YR Nativity, 9.30 am, School Hall
- 11th December - KS2 Service, 6 pm, St Paul's Church
- 13th December Y3 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 - INSET Day, School Closed to Pupils
- 8th January—First Day of Spring Term for Pupils
- 16th January—Y5 Viking Workshop, School Hall
- 22nd January—Y2 Great Fire of London Workshop, School Hall
- 29th January—Maple Class Assembly 9am
- 29th January—Y4 Pizza Express
- 30th January - Lime Class Assembly

YEAR 5 SPACE

At the start of this half term, year 5 had a special visit from a mobile planetarium. In the special dome, they learnt lots about how the earth and moon move. They also learnt all about the stars and how to spot different constellations. They saw a recreation of the night sky. They all thoroughly enjoyed the visit and it made a great start to our space topic. In the weeks that have followed, they have further developed their knowledge and understanding and have acted out how the moon and earth move. At the start of next term, they will finish the topic by creating a moving planet in design technology.



TT Rockstars.



In school we are having a really big push on times tables and number facts as these are the foundations for maths. Without good knowledge of times-tables and number facts, children find it really hard to make good progress in maths and can become despondent and more negative towards the subject. Please can you support your child at home with their TT Rockstars / Numbots homework. Look at the work they are doing and ask them questions about their learning. In the next few weeks, teachers will be sharing with you, your child's heatmap so you have a better understanding of the facts they still need to know. Please remember, you can always speak to your class teacher or the maths lead (Mr. Tinsley) if you have any questions.

Year 2 Nativity Art for the Cathedral

Well done to Year 2 for producing a lovely piece of art for Guildford Cathedral's Christmas art exhibition. Thank you too to Mrs Irvine for helping them to make this.

Do pop to the Cathedral to see all of the school exhibits.



Year 3 Victorina Day



Year 3 were lucky enough to travel back in time to the Victorian Era last week! They immersed themselves in the life of a Victorian schoolchild and took part in lessons such as drill, literacy, arithmetic and geography to experience life for themselves. The adults were incredibly strict but the children gave it their all and did a phenomenal job learning from this experience.



Thank you for your generous donations to Children in Need—we raised **£248**—for this fantastic cause to support vulnerable children in the UK.

Boys football



Last week, our Year 6 footballers participated in the annual Boys Tournament at Meadowbank Stadium, hosted by Dorking Wanderers. This exciting event brought together teams from all eight Dorking schools, highlighting incredible talent, sportsmanship, and teamwork.

The tournament was expertly organized and officiated by the Dorking Wanderers Football Academy staff and students. We extend our gratitude to them for creating such a positive and competitive environment for everyone involved.

We are delighted to announce that St Paul's delivered an exceptional performance, finishing second place on goal difference after a thrilling competition. The team didn't concede a single goal throughout the tournament and netted an impressive 11 goals! A special mention goes to Majus, who was named our Player of the Tournament, closely followed by the superb performances of Oliver T in goal, whose heroics helped keep our clean sheet intact.

Our Year 5 team also deserves recognition for their efforts in the Year 5 tournament hosted by St Martin's, where they competed with determination and finished in a solid 5th place overall.

Congratulations to all our players for their hard work, teamwork, and sportsmanship—you have made St Paul's incredibly proud!