



# St. Paul's Dorking

## Church of England Primary School

Newsletter | Friday 13th December 2024 | No. 7

Inspiring Learning, Nurturing Wholeness

Dear Parents and Carers,

It was so lovely to see so many of you at our array of nativities this week! The children did so well! The acting and singing was beautiful in all three. It was lovely to greet so many of our Reception parents in the school hall for their Nativity Show. The children have really grown in confidence through this term and we were wowed by clear, bold readers and some superb singing and dancing. Years 1 and 2 also delighted us with "It's a party!" and their beautiful singing filled the church. Thank you too to KS 2 for a thoughtful and entertaining Christmas service that included a delightful wind ensemble and polished choir contributions as well as readings around the Christmas narrative and a super nativity production "The Inn Crowd" from Years 3 and 4. Overleaf there are more details about these and some lovely pictures. Thank you for coming!

I would also like to thank Chris Bailey and his FOSPA team for their amazing work towards the Christmas fair. They have now calculated takings, along with match funding, the day raised a staggering £9,243! Some costs need to be taken from this total, but it certainly has raised about £8,500 for the school. Thank you so much for coming and supporting this event. When school budgets are so tight, this money will make a huge difference to the additional provision that we can provide for your children.

We are continuing with our copper coin pledge for Advent, so it is not too late to send in your spare coins and each class has a collection pot. Then at the end of term we will count the monies and the funds will be used for the purchasing of some SEND resources. Thank you for your donations!

Please can I remind you about the need for punctuality each morning. A number of children are regularly late and this not only impacts their learning, but also that of their peers. The gates open at 8.45am, so please can you be in the lane by **8.40am**, so your child is ready to come into school calm and ready for the day. If you are only planning to park at 8.45am, then by the time you have walked to your child's gate they may already be late. Please give yourself plenty of time in the mornings for a calm start. Perhaps this could be a whole family new year's resolution?

Please can I remind you that over the Christmas holidays this is a good time to check uniform. Every child should be wearing black school shoes (not ankle boots please), blue tights or socks, a pale blue school polo shirt, a navy school sweatshirt and blue school tailored trousers, a pinafore or a skirt. We want the children to take pride in their appearance and sadly there appears to be some variance in school uniform. Hoodies and plain navy joggers/leggings should only be worn on PE days please. If you are unsure, we have reattached the uniform policy to this newsletter.

One of the school's priorities this year, within the School Improvement Plan, relates to children's maths fluency and in particular their times tables. All children by the end of Year 4 should know all of their tables and have instant recall of these facts. Learning these from Year 2 helps the children significantly and the work done throughout Year 3 makes a huge difference. Next week, all children in KS 2 will bring home a letter and a heat map showing which times tables are secure and which need further work. We are also attaching details of how to utilise TTSR or Numberbots. Please can you ensure your child is working on number bonds or tables each night to increase fluency. This is part of their homework requirement and is not an optional extra. Next week we will draw the raffle ticket winners. Thank you to FOSPA for funding this initiative.

This is the last newsletter of the term, so I would like to wish you all a very happy and restful Christmas,

Mrs Alden

### Stripey Stork Santa Stork

Thank you to everyone who donated to Stripey Stork. Maxine collected everything on Monday and wanted to pass on her thanks for your generosity.

### Advent Copper coin collection

Please keep them coming!



### Dorking Nursery

Are you looking for or know of someone looking for a fully funded nursery place for your 2 or 3 year old from September 2025\*? Applications for Dorking Nursery School close on January 15<sup>th</sup> 2025. Applications can be made directly to the school using their online form through the website [Dorking Nursery School - Admissions](#)

Dorking Nursery School is the only Maintained Nursery School in the area and takes all funded early years entitlements and does not charge any top of on fully funded places.

\*Children born between 1.9.2021 and 31.8.2023



**Reception**



Reception performed their Nativity show to parents/carers on Wednesday 11th December – what a delight!

The children read their lines with such confidence. They used loud, clear voices. They sang beautifully and added wonderful actions to each song. We were really impressed with how brave the children were to stand up in front of so many grown-ups and perform. The children had so much fun and we hope you did too!

Thank you for all your hard work this term.

We hope you have a restful Christmas and look forward to seeing you in the new year.



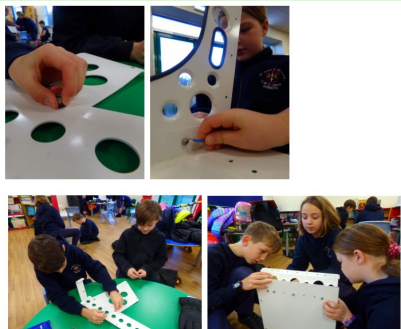
**Green Power**

It has been a very exciting few weeks as we have started our Green Power sessions. 8 children from Year 6 have embarked on their Green Power journey, looking into conservation, being green and spreading the word of sustainable energy. All of this is taught through our STEM project of building a kit car (learning to use a variety of tools), which the children learn to drive. Not only that, they are responsible for spreading the word of green energy through assemblies, sponsorship and creating car bodywork which mirrors their vision.

In the past couple of weeks, the children have started getting their final designs for their logo, chosen their strap line 'One Team, One Dream' and started on the build.

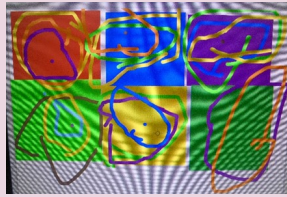
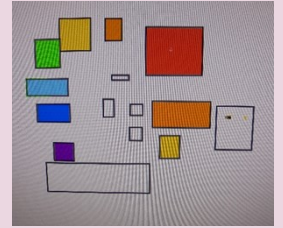
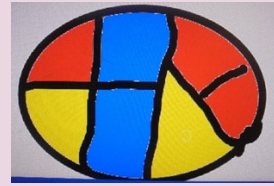
You can follow our journey on our website with weekly updates.

<https://www.stpaulsschool-dorking.co.uk/page/?title=THE+BUILD+2024%2E25&pid=1083>



**Year 1**

This half term in Computing the children have been artists! We have continued to develop our mouse skills to do this have explored all the different tools the Paint app has to offer! Whilst doing this have replicated artwork from artists such as: Mondrian, Matisse and Kandinsky. Have a look at our artwork, see how hard we have worked and what famous paintings you can see!



**Year 4**

This week, Year 4 pupils have been sharpening their mathematical skills by exploring coordinates on a grid to create festive-themed pictures. Using the x-axis and y-axis, they plotted points with precision, carefully marking each coordinate on the grid. Step by step, they connected the dots to reveal cheerful Santas and red-nosed reindeer.



The activity was both a test of patience and an opportunity for creativity. A single misplaced point on the axes could lead to a Santa with a lopsided hat or a Christmas tree missing its branches! Pupils worked hard to follow the coordinate instructions closely, double-checking their positions and learning the importance of accuracy.

With focus and determination, the pupils completed their grids, showcasing their mathematical skills and artistic flair. Some even created their own unique festive designs, blending technical know-how with holiday cheer!

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

- 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

Don't forget Christmas Jumper day on **Wednesday 18th December**

