



St. Paul's Dorking

Church of England Primary School

Newsletter | Friday 10th January 2025 | No. 8

Inspiring Learning, Nurturing Wholeness

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back! We trust that you all had a good break and time for some rest and fun together as family and friends. It has been lovely to have all of the children back full of exciting stories of what they have been up to over the break.

As you know we had two Inset days this week. Over both days 24 of our staff were trained in paediatric first aid covering all of the basics including CPR, wounds and cuts, choking and seizures. Debs Taylor (one of our parents and a qualified first aid trainer) led the training and we all thoroughly enjoyed the experience and feel even more prepared if there is a need.



We also had training related to attendance as this is a national agenda. The new guidance is clear that attendance should be everyone's priority and there is a clear correlation between good attendance and good life outcomes. The expectation is that children should on average have no more than 7 days off school in a year—this gives them the desired attendance of 96%. The aim should be that the children are in every day and treats and holidays are certainly kept for the weekends and holidays. From this term any absence for a holiday or 'treat' day within school time will be unauthorised and if a child has 5 unauthorised absences (10 half days) in a rolling 10 week period, this will lead to a fixed penalty fine from the Local Authority. If parents have already been fined twice in a three year period, the third incident will lead to court action and a criminal record. The government are very clear that absence for holiday can not happen. We do have a long summer break where longer trips can happen.

As a school we are also seeing punctuality as a priority. Thank you to the large majority of families that arrive at school before the gates open and are ready in the lane to come straight in. Please can we remind you that school starts at **8.45am** and gates will be open for about **8 mins**, in order for all children to be in their classrooms settled and ready for the register to be taken at **8.55am**. If your child arrives in their **classroom** after that time they are marked as late. We will be celebrating punctuality and attendance each fortnight and we will have a leader board in the corridor, showing the top 3 classes each fortnight, with the top classes having a little extra play. I know that you would like to help your child to be on time for school each day, so do talk to them about how this can be possible as you are all part of the solution.

If you have a rising reception child for September 2025, please remember that applications for a school place are closing shortly. We are delighted that we have lots of families wishing to come to St Paul's for September.

We have set the dates for Parents' evening this term and following feedback from you, these are later than usual and in the second half of the term so please make a note of these dates and look out for the booking arrangements when they are released later this term.

The weather is currently really cold, so please ensure your child has a warm coat for play and lunchtime.

Wishing you a relaxing and enjoyable weekend

Mrs Alden

Our mission to encourage children to use **Numbots** and **TT Rockstars** at home continues this term. Please encourage your child to use these two programmes. As last term, all children who complete 30 minutes or more each week will receive a raffle ticket. At the end of the Spring term, there will be a special assembly and two tickets from each year group will be drawn. The first winning ticket will receive a £10 voucher and the second winning ticket a £5

voucher. We are very grateful to FOSPA for funding this incentive. Please remember there is a homework expectation for all children to complete Numbots/TT



Online Safety

The National College have a website called "WakeUp Wednesday" where they send a weekly update about an issue that is relevant to children and young people and their access to being online. When the advice is particularly relevant to pupils in our school we will send out their information sheet, but some families may want to have a look at some of the other helpful articles they have online. The link is : [#WakeUpWednesday | National College](https://nationalcollege.com/channels/wakeupwednesday)
<https://nationalcollege.com/channels/wakeupwednesday>



Wellbeing



For any children who may be finding returning back to school challenging, and may need a bit of extra support settling in or have things on their mind that they would like to share, Talk Time is available every lunchtime. A member of staff, who is a mental health first-aider, is available to talk to children about any concerns or worries that they may have. They can come on their own or bring a friend if they prefer.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<u>Mrs Bryan</u>	<u>Mrs Edwards</u> <u>Mrs Duke</u>	<u>Mrs Bryan</u>	<u>Mrs Wan</u>	<u>Mrs Moore</u>

Choir sing at Nower House Care Home

On 16th December, all dressed in our Christmas jumpers, the choir excitedly made their way to Nower House to sing to the residents. We had seven songs to share and did an amazing job singing everything unaccompanied (as the ipod and speaker wouldn't work!). The residents joined in for three of the well-known carols. It was lovely to share time with the residents and to have refreshments with them afterwards. They would love to have us back soon.

Gold, Silver and Bronze Reading Awards

Before Christmas we were delighted to award 50 reading bookworm badges across the school to children who are on Accelerated Reader. 20 children received a bronze award for reading over 100,000 words, 18 children a silver award for reading over 500,000 words and 12 children a gold award for reading over 1 million words. Well done to all of these children who have reached these milestones.

We also say a huge well done to these children who have read the most words across the school.

Hudson K- nearly 7 million words

Benji - 5,660,000 words

Logan - 4,300,000 words

Edmund - 3,270,000 words

Attached to the newsletter is a short overview of how to quiz on Accelerated Reader and make sure the words your children read are counted!

An Elf visit...



Before Christmas we had an elf visit us...

Snowbell the Elf visited the children in KS1 and asked for their help. The children used their imagination to build a sleigh for Father Christmas so he could deliver presents on Christmas Day.

The children all worked together and enjoyed decorating the sleigh with lots of sparkle and tinsel!

Thank you to Father Christmas for kindly giving each child a golden chocolate coin to thank them for their help.

Here are the Numbbot and TT Rockstars winners from last term



Year 6



This afternoon, Year 6 started off their dance topic with a party atmosphere. We learnt how to follow the beat of the music. We identified that the music was in phrases of 32, broken down into sections of 8. We used this knowledge to learn samba moves but dance in time.

During the session, we learnt to shimmy, sam-

ba roll, carnival clap and carnival clap.

We then put our knowledge to the test by choreographing dance routines to the music.

One of our pupils stated, 'It was so upbeat. It's amazing how much we can learn whilst having so much fun!'



Year 2 Flamenco dancing!

Year 2 have had a busy few days back at school. We have been learning to flamenco dance in PE lessons. In computing we were learning to give and listen to instructions ready to work with the

Programmable robots. We practiced giving our partner instructions to move around the room.

Some of us need to learn our left and right! This is something you can help with at home.



Dates for the Autumn Term (new info in RED)

- 16th January—Y5 Viking Workshop, School Hall
- 22nd January—Y2 Great Fire of London Workshop, School Hall
- 23rd January—Phonics Screening Check Meeting for Parents
- 29th January—Maple Class Assembly 9am
- 29th January—Y4 Pizza Express
- 30th January - Lime Class Assembly
- 4th February—SEND Parents Evening
- 5th February—Young Voices O2
- 6th February—Hazel Class Assembly 9am
- 17th—21st February—Half Term
- 24th February—Inset Day
- 25th February— Pupils back to school
- 28th February—Y2 Cake Sale
- 4th March— Parents Evening (15.40—18.00)
- 5th March—SEND Parents Evening (15.40—18.00)
- 6th March—World Book Day
- 7th March—Inset Day
- 11th March—Y6 Junior Citizen Event
- 12th March—Sycamore Class Assembly 9am
- 12th March—Parents Evening (16.00—19.00)
- 13th March—Y3 Butser Farm