



St. Paul's Dorking

Church of England Primary School

Newsletter | Friday 24th January 2025 | No. 9

Inspiring Learning, Nurturing Wholeness

Dear Parents and Carers,

We trust that you and your children are comfortably back into the routine of school and are settled into your routines. Thank you to many of you who have really worked on punctuality and we are seeing a marked improvement in children ready in the lane as the gates open and we are closing those gates as close to 8.52am as possible as class teachers are doing their registers at 8.55am. We had a fire drill last week very soon into the start of the day and it raised a learning point for us. If a child is late and has not been signed in, in the late book (they may have just come through the door with a couple of other children and you may not have signed them in), the office staff are unaware that they are now in the building. The register will have been completed and saved in the classroom so they are not accounted for. It is essential that if your child comes through the front office door in the morning, they **MUST** be signed in as this is the record we use to update registers. If they are an independent walker, please remind them that they too must sign in. As I have said in a previous newsletter, a calm punctual morning sets your child up so well for a good day. Please give yourselves plenty of time, even if that means the alarm is set 10 minutes earlier.

As a school we are having a renewed push regarding homework. Homework is not optional and as part of the home school agreement you have agreed to support your child to do this. We believe that learning goes well beyond the classroom and you are an integral part of developing these opportunities. Homework is set with a keen awareness of the children's developmental needs, ensuring that it complements learning that has already been explored in school to still leave ample time for play, family interactions, and a good night's rest. The amount and frequency increases as your child moves through the school and the routine of completing homework tasks sets your child up ready for secondary education. We strive to offer homework that best suits your child's needs and what works best for you as a family. We therefore offer both an on-line learning tasks or an alternative paper version, being mindful that some parents prefer for screens to not be the vehicle through which their child completes homework. Please could you let your child's class teacher know if you would favour a paper version. Teachers will have some time set aside each week in a break or lunch time to give children an opportunity to catch up on this if they haven't managed it at home.

We are beginning to move into a flurry of class assemblies and are delighted to have Maple's and Lime's next week. In order to help us manage children's emotional regulation and to help us be informed about seating requirements we are trialling a system where we ask you to let us know by then end of the day before the assembly if you are intending on attending. Maple parents have been sent their form to complete. It is so helpful for staff to know if you will not be there as it helps them to support your child as this can cause upset for some.

As part of our focus for attendance and punctuality, we are delighted to share with you the top 3 year groups for each of these for the last fortnight. Please see over for details! Well done to those classes.

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 Rockstars each week.



Action House parents

Please can we remind you that if you are an Action House parent, you can not come into the rest of the school building at pick up. If you need to find lost property, please can you then come back round to the school office and a staff member can help you or ask an AH staff member to pass that message on. Thank you

Minute Maths

Here is the code for Minute Maths for this week - sox-lug-peg
The website link is <https://whiteroseeducation.com/digital-tools>



Year 2



Year 2 enjoyed a wonderful workshop about the Great Fire of London on Wednesday. The hands-on activities included making all sorts of things such as soap, candles, nosegays, leather bookmarks and writing with feather quills and ink. This was interspersed with drama activities such as pulling down houses with fire hooks and blowing up buildings to stop the fire spreading. In the afternoon they were archaeologists digging in soil to find objects and working out what shops they might have been unearthed from. Year 2 comments about the day – ‘Amazing’ and ‘I didn’t want the day to end’. Thank you to the parent helpers for volunteering to help.



Copper Coin Challenge



Thank you to all of those who donated copper coins in December. We raised **£37.41**. This will be used to fund SEND resources. A particular shout out for Year 6 as they raise almost £20 of this between the two classes! Well done Elm and Juniper!

Attendance and Punctuality

Well done!

	Attendance	Punctuality
1st	Year 4	Rowan Sycamore, Maple
2nd	Year 6	Elm, Lime, Hazel, Beech
3rd	Year 3	Willow

Year 4

This week, Year 4 delved into the fascinating world of electricity with an interactive science lesson. Using bulbs, batteries, and wires, the children discovered how to create complete circuits and applied their newfound knowledge to test the conductivity of various materials.



The classroom buzzed with excitement as pupils worked to light up their bulbs. After successfully constructing their circuits, they explored the properties of different objects, such as paperclips, rubbers, pencils, and coins, to determine whether they were conductors or insulators.

This hands-on activity not only brought the science curriculum to life but also fostered critical thinking and problem-solving skills. Pupils engaged in thoughtful discussions about why certain materials allowed electricity to flow while others did not. They also made links to everyday applications of conductors and insulators in the world around them.

The session was a fantastic opportunity for our young scientists to learn through exploration and teamwork. We are incredibly proud of their enthusiasm and curiosity. Well done, Year 4!

Eco Club

On Monday 16th December the Eco Representatives met during their lunch break to listen to a presentation delivered by Mrs Susan Bond from the River Mole River Watch Project.

The children that came to the meeting all listened well and asked many interesting questions which Mrs Bond answered. Mrs Bond had brought examples of the testing kits that are used by the citizen scientists that test the water along the River Mole from south of Gatwick to the Thames.

Mrs Bond has agreed to come back in the Spring to talk to all the children in an assembly which all the Eco Representatives were excited about.

Thank you, Mrs Bond for coming to talk to us about the invaluable work that is being done by volunteers to help protect our beautiful River Mole and the surrounding countryside and animals, fish, insects and plants that make it their home.

For more details about this project please contact. www.rivermoleriverwatch.org.uk



Year 5

Last Thursday, Year 5 embarked on an amazing Viking-themed day, launching us into our new topic. The workshop was not only educational but also fun, packed with a whole day of fantastic activities.

Firstly, we delved into the fascinating reasons behind the Vikings' arrival in Britain. We also had a chance to explore genuine Viking artefacts such as clothing, jewellery, weapons, and even ice skates made of real bone. Back in the classroom, we learnt how to play a Viking board game and deciphered the mysterious Viking symbols called Runes.

The afternoon was spent discovering how to follow commands in a Viking Army and paired battles of spear wrestling – quite the Viking challenge!

To conclude this epic day, our young historians dived into the enchanting world of Viking myths, re-enacting Ragnarok, the end of the world – and there was plenty of time for asking inquisitive questions during a lively Q&A session.

It was an absolutely fantastic and worthwhile experience for all and a great way to start the new term.



Dates for the Autumn Term (new info in RED)

- 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
- 5th February—Y4 Pizza Express
- 6th February—Hazel Class Assembly 9am
- 14th February—YR Teddy Bears Picnic
- 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