



St. Paul's Dorking

Church of England Primary School

Newsletter | Friday 7th February 2025 | No.10

Inspiring Learning, Nurturing Wholeness

Dear Parents and Carers,

I trust that you are well and that you children are enjoying all that their learning currently has in store for them. This week, I had the privilege to join Year 5 for their singing trip to the O2 arena. The children, as part of their music curriculum, had been learning a wide array of music melodies ready to perform in the largest choir in the world at the O2. Some of the music was new compositions written for the event and others were a cluster of songs by a common composer—this year was songs by Bob Dylan. Having had the excitement of travelling up to London on the train, the children joined 8,500 other children to practice and then perform to a packed O2 arena! What a sensory filled experience! Urban Strides also performed, along with Jacob Mitchell aka MC Grammar, Tommy Blaize (lead singer from Strictly) and Souparnika Nair. An article and photos will be in the next newsletter. This is an annual event for Year 5 as we feel that having the opportunity to make music as part of a large group is an incredibly special and memorable experience. Here at St Paul's we really believe that singing as part of a large group builds confidence and resilience meaning that children of all abilities can flourish as they sing. We have an opportunity each year for children to do this. In Year 2 the children lead the KS 1 Nativity, In Year 3 they sing at Dorking Hall with 400 other children in the Surrey Schools' Music Festival, Year 4 perform within the Christmas KS 2 service, Year 5 sing at the O2 and then Year 6 have their very own production!

We have had other exciting events in the school calendar in the last couple of weeks too, enjoying three class assemblies—Maple, Hazel and Lime. All three classes helped us to explore their current learning and wowed us with super acting, singing and clear, bold reading! These are ways that the children can become more confident to talk to an audience and feel proud that they have perhaps had to be bold and move out of their comfort zone. It was lovely to see so many parents joining us for these occasions.

Thank you to everyone who has made a renewed effort for punctuality. As you know we are closing the gates as close to 8.52am as possible so that teachers can take their registers at 8.55am. This is making for a much calmer and more settled start in classes and children are ready for learning. Please can you remember that if you are unexpectedly late, you MUST sign your child into the late book as they come in through the office. If your child walks independently they too must sign in.

As you know we academised in November, joining a family of schools in the Good Shepherd Trust. This means that some of our systems will be changing to align with theirs. Over half term, we will be moving to using Arbor for our attendance and data system. We may have a few teething problems initially so please bear with us while we learn the new system. As you know, parent's evenings have moved to after half term. Look out for an email next week with booking arrangements.

Over the next few weeks we are having some building work done in school. We are having the large 'Hut' removed from the playground and a series of sheds installed. We are also having a small pod constructed for music lessons, to accommodate our peripatetic staff who taught in the Hut. There shouldn't be too much disruption, but please can you remind your children that they are to stay within the playground space and are not to go into the bounded space. We are also having some concrete laid so that there can be a bike/scooter shelter for those coming through the Reception/KS 1 gates.

Wishing you a relaxing and enjoyable weekend.

Mrs Alden

Creating Emotional Safety for Children Struggling with Anxiety

This workshop offers practical tools to help you support your child through anxious moments.

What You'll Learn:

- **Understanding anxiety from a nervous system perspective:** insight into the biological roots of anxiety and how it affects your child's behaviour.
- **The power of co-regulation:** how your calm and supportive presence can make a difference in helping your child feel safe.
- **3 steps for nurturing emotional safety:** simple steps to creating an emotionally secure environment for your child.
- **Strategies for anxious moments:** techniques to guide your child through difficult situations.

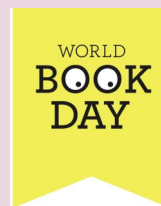
Online workshop for parents at St Paul's CE Primary School
When: 1-1.50 pm on Monday, February 10, 2025
[Follow this link to register for the workshop](#)



Lisa Archer MSc uses a tried and tested attachment-informed framework to help parents feel more confident and navigate the challenges of parenting in a more connected and peaceful way. To find out more, visit www.helpyourchild thrive.co.uk

Costume Library Pop Up

Get ready for World Book Day!
The Costume Library PopUp will be in the lane on Wednesday 12th February after school, weather permitting. All costumes £1 to hire.



BOOST YOUR CHILD'S SWIMMING THIS HOLIDAY AGES 4-16 YEARS

Weekday holiday courses are the perfect powerup for regular swimmers or a great taster to Better Swim School swimming lessons.

Speak to a member of staff or scan the QR code to find out more.

BETTER



Year 1

This half term in Year 1 we have been learning about Traditional Tales. The stories we have learnt are 'The Gingerbread Man', 'The Baobab Tree' and 'The Magic Porridge Pot'. In DT we found out all about mechanisms for moving pictures and the children experimented with sliders and springs. Once they had chosen which mechanism they preferred they then got to make their own moving picture based on 'The Gingerbread Man' story with one twist... they could change the character!



We had Hot Dog Man, Carrot Man, Chicken Nugget Man and many more! It has been wonderful to see their engagement and enthusiasm this half term!



Reception

Once Upon a Time...

This half term the children have been learning about traditional tales. This week we have read Goldilocks and the Three Bears. The children have been developing their painting skills and each painted a character from the story. We used masks to act out the story...



Lifesaving Club

It has been great to get our lifesaving club underway. In the space of just two weeks, we have looked at how to stay safe near different bodies of water, practised our treading water technique, a safe entry into the water using a straddle jump and a rope rescue. Of course, it's all on land but the children are learning so many valuable skills and we hope to put them to the test when we compete against 23 other teams in March!

Year 4's Italian Adventure: A Taste of Italy!

This half term, Year 4 pupils have been immersed in the vibrant and exciting culture of Italy, exploring everything from food and art to music and dance. It's been an unforgettable journey, filled with creativity, learning, and fun!



Year 4 had a pizza the action with a hands-on experience: pizza-making at Pizza Express! Pupils rolled up their sleeves and got to work, creating their very own pizzas. From spreading the tomato sauce to adding their favourite toppings, everyone had a great time, and of course, enjoyed the tasty results!

The children also took on a challenging and creative task: making topographical maps. Using salt dough, the pupils carefully molded and shaped their maps, which represented the varied landscapes of Italy. After creating these maps, they painted them with bright, bold colours, bringing the country's beauty to life.

This week Hazel Class performed their assembly, where the pupils truly shone! They gave us a virtual tour of Italy, taking the audience on a cultural journey. The pupils' rendition of "Italiano Mambo" had everyone clapping their hands, and their enthusiasm was contagious!

RSPB Big School Birdwatch 2025

As a school we are taking part in the RSPB School Birdwatch. This will be done as class groups over the next couple of weeks.



The Eco club as also been taking part and this week they had great fun making bird feeders using seeds and lard and pinecones.



Attendance and Punctuality

Well done!

	Attendance	Punctuality
1st	Year 4	Rowan Sycamore
2nd	Year 3	Ash
3rd	Year 5	Willow

Year 3

This week in Year 3, we have been looking at multiplication and division problems. To put our skills into practice, we had the chance to do some leaf multiplication outside. We had to collect leaves and then count the leaflets to create a multiplication sentence. We had lots of fun creating our leaf problems and it put our times tables skills to the test!



Safer Internet Day

TUESDAY 11TH FEBRUARY, 7-8PM eduthing.co.uk

SCREEN SAFE
In conversation with...

eduthing
IT Services for Education

We are excited to be celebrating the upcoming Safer Internet Day by hosting a virtual parent & carer support session with Anna Sarjantson, Liam Buggs, Tim Berette and James Fraser. Join us in conversation as we explore the best ways to support our children and young people navigating the online world covering topics such as:

- Top Tips for Parents & Carers
- Resources to facilitate discussions with children and young people on online safety
- Particular Apps or Features to be aware of
- Intervention Data Sources

ABOUT SCREENSAFE

Screen Safe helps to help more parents, carers, teachers and anyone working with children, have access to support, the information they need now and the tools they need for the future when it comes to keeping our children and young people safe online. As a parent myself I know just how challenging and sometimes overwhelming it can be to navigate the digital world our children are growing up in. The online world can provide incredible opportunities but also some serious risks, especially where children are concerned.

We want there to be able to recognise the risks, be able to call out bad profiles or misinformation and have the confidence to say NO and get away from anything or anyone online that doesn't feel right or safe to them.

ABOUT EDUTHING

eduthing are a leading technology provider to schools across the UK. As well as providing technical support to ensure teaching and learning runs smoothly, eduthing work with teachers, parents, carers and students with Computing, E-Safety and Online Safety support and workshops.

We are passionate about ensuring the safety of children and young people and the relevance of our advice and interactive resources in a safe and monitored way.

SESSION REGISTRATION

Click here to register for this screening session:
<https://eduthing.co.uk/whats-new/register/PY88JL022000000000>
Please note that this is a free session.

Screen Safe Parent and Carer Support for Online Safety to help parents, carers and teachers to have the information and tools they need to keep children safer online. Please register below

[Meeting Registration - Zoom](#)

Dates for the Autumn Term (new info in RED)

- 14th February—YR Teddy Bears Picnic
- 17th—21st February—Half Term
- 24th February—Inset Day
- 25th February— Pupils back to school
- 25th February - Y3 Mole Valley Choirs Concert, Dorking Halls
- 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
- **6th March—FOSPA Cinema Night (5-6.30pm)**
- 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
- **17th—21st March—Y4 Cycling**
- **21st March—Red Nose Day**
- **26th March—27th March—Y6 Trip Henley Fort**
- **28th March—FOSPA egg hunt**
- **28th March—Y1 Cake Sale**
- **4th April—End of term 1.15 KS1 & 1.30 KS2**
- **22nd April—Inset Day**
- **23rd April—First Day of Summer Term**