



St. Paul's Dorking

Church of England Primary School

Newsletter | Friday 28th February 2025 | No.11

Inspiring Learning, Nurturing Wholeness

Dear Parents and Carers,

We trust that you all had a good half term and were able to enjoy the extended weekend too. As staff we attended a Trust wide inset day, joining with staff from the other 23 schools in the GST. One of the speakers was Charlotte Clarke, Clinical Director from "When the Adults Change" behaviour change programme, with the mantra "Strong on boundaries, Big on heart". It was an excellent day with a strong focus on compassionate management of behaviour. This completely dovetails with our behaviour approach, our compassionate school philosophy and our desire for there to be strong and positive relationships in school. We also had the opportunity for teachers and TAs to attend workshops that relate to their area of expertise, or gave them an opportunity to learn about something new! Thank you to Mrs McLeod and Mrs Bryan who led workshops through the afternoon to many staff not at St Paul's. Mrs Bryan led workshops on "Enhancing compassionate and nurturing environments within Primary Schools" and Mrs McLeod led on "An introduction to using AI to support teaching and reduce teacher workload". Thank you to them both for their willingness to share their expertise beyond St Paul's.

I am guessing you are aware of my news to leave St Paul's in July and I have told the children today. My husband has been unwell and I had a recent health scare (that thankfully is nothing to worry about) but these events have encouraged us to think about the next chapter of our lives. We are looking forward to travelling, some long distance walking and cycling and some charitable work. I will be so sad to leave St Paul's when the time comes but I know you are in safe hands with my fantastic leadership team and amazing staff body. I know The Good Shepherd Trust and the Local Committee (the new name for our governing body) will shortly start the recruitment process for a new headteacher.

I had the privilege of supporting the Year 3 team when the year group joined 7 other local schools to sing at the Surrey School's Music Festival this week at Dorking Halls. The children had learnt a huge array of song in a variety of languages and wowed us with their singing in rounds and in parts! The quality of the singing from the children was superb and it was a very enjoyable and memorable evening! Well done Year 3!

As part of our focus as a Church school, we have developed a working group with Governors, teachers and parents to consider the SIAMS (School Inspection for Anglican and Methodist Schools) framework in our context and to consider our school's Christian character. We are looking for two parents, ideally with their own faith perspective (Christian or another faith) to become part of this working group. The group meets half termly and is chaired by Rev Alex (Vicar at St Paul's Church and one of the governors at St Paul's). Mrs Yeomans (our RE lead) and myself also attend, along with Hannah Dimmock, one of our foundation governors. We meet for about 1.5 hours each half term on a Wednesday morning. Our next meeting is on Wednesday 19th March @ 9.30- 11.00am. If you are available at that time and this would be of interest to you, please can you make an appointment to speak to me for more details about it.

It has been lovely to hear from the children about their achievements outside of school and I would really like to remind you that we celebrate these things when we know about them and put them up on the 'St Paul's Superstar' board. If your child has passed a music exam, or raised money for charity, taken part in a special sporting event... or something similar, please pop the details and a photo over to your child's class teacher so that we can congratulate them too.

Wishing you a relaxing and enjoyable weekend. Mrs Alden

School shoes

We have noticed a lot of children are wearing non uniform shoes. Please can we remind you that they should be in black school shoes (not boots or black trainers), unless you have written to us to explain why they need to medically wear something else. Thank you.

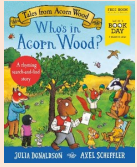


White Eagle Ukraine Appeal

Please remember to bring any cold weather clothing donations (coats, hats, jumpers and blankets etc) to the office on Monday. Thankyou



World Book Day Donation

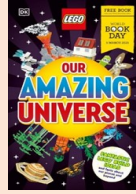


This week the school has been very lucky to have received 50 new reading books and 10 poetry books free of charge from Circular Dorking for World Book Day on the 6th March 2025. These books are all suited for our children and have been given to us because of our work with 'Passion for the Planet' over the last couple of years.

The reading book titles are

1. Who's in Acorn Wood
2. The Adventures of Paddington
3. Our Amazing Universe
4. The Soccer Diaries

The Wolf Trials
Thank you so much Circular Dorking for this gift.



Year 4 Bring "Fing" to Life!

This week, Year 4 have been learning about the features of a play-script. They explored how to set the scene at the beginning, use character names followed by a colon for dialogue, and include stage directions to show actions.

To put their learning into practice, they adapted a section of Fing by David Walliams. They identified the speech in the book and turned it into dialogue, while describing the characters' actions as stage directions. Once their scripts were complete, they acted them out to see how well they worked in performance. This helped them recognise the strengths of their writing and find ways to improve.

It was a brilliant way to develop their understanding of playscripts while having lots of fun.



Is your child an avid baker?

If so this could be just up their street!

Please do read the attachment for further details of this national competition.



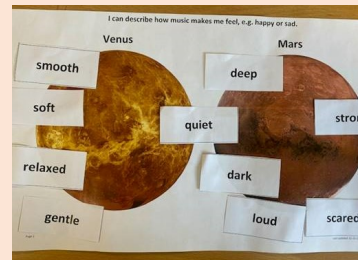
SEND Support Transition to Secondary

Wednesday 2nd April 9 -10.30 @ St Paul's

A coffee morning for parents about SEND Support for Transition to Secondary School. There will be a SEND Support Advisor (with specialism in pre EHCP support) and former Secondary SENCO. More information will be available at the SEND parents evening

Exciting Learning in Year 2

Year 2 are starting to learn about music computer program called chrome music. We listened to 'The Planets' by Gustav Holst. The children had lots of super responses to the music. They thought that 'Mars' sounded like soldiers marching and was similar to Star Wars music. They found 'Venus' much more relaxing and cheerful. They have finished making the clay pumpkins in the style of the Japanese artist Yayoi Kusama and have learned a great deal about her interesting style of painting and sculpture. This week we started our samba dance unit and enjoyed trying the 'shimmy' move!



A Competitors Account of the Gymnastics Competition

On Thursday 13th February the year 3,4,5 and 6 gymnastics team headed down to the Ashcombe to compete against 7 other schools. Excited and nervous at the same time we all sat on the benches waiting our turn. We were called by the judge and walked up to say our name and the level we were doing then performed our routines. As we all finished our last event everyone was really eager to find out where we had come. When the results were announced we were all ecstatic as we came second overall in both year 3 and 4 and year 5 and 6. Anya also came second individually!!! :)



Dates for the Autumn Term (new info in RED)

- 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
- 20th March—Y4 Fishbourne Palace
- 24th March—Yr Farm Visit School Field
- 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
- 25th April—Y3 Cake Sale
- 1st May—Cedar Class Assembly 9am
- 12th May—14th May —Y5 to Windmill Hill



O2

At 7 o'clock I came to breakfast club and I was laughing with all my friends, then Miss McKinley came to pick us up. At 8 o'clock it was register and then we went to the hall and Mr Tinsley explained what was going to happen. After that, we got into pairs of 2 - my partner was Adrian. When we walked out of school, me and Adrian paired up with Max and Sebby - we were like the best group ever. We walked into the train station and then we hopped onto the train. When we walked onto the train we found a group of 4 seats. I was opposite Max and Sebby. When we got off the train we were in Waterloo station. Me and my friends were amazed what was there. Mr Tinsley led us to the escalators and they were so far down. When we arrived at the underground we went on the train - it was so loud. After the train we were at the O2. When we went inside of the O2 it was amazing. Soon we had lunch. I had a sandwich and some crisps. Finally, the practise happened. Me and my friends were hyped and we sang 'Little Blue', 'Lean on me', 'Marley Magic', 'Get Loud', and other stuff like that. An hour later, we had dinner. I had chicken nuggets and smiley face chips. Finally, the concert began. Me, Max, Adrian and Sebby were hyped. Then the doors opened and all the parents came. My personal fave song was 'Brighter Days' by Souparinaka Nair. My least fave was 'Little Blue'. My fave part of the O2 was the raving part. After the concert me and some of my friends took the train back home and we were laughing and talking. When I got home I was absolutely tired. Then I fell asleep. I wish I could relive it all again.

The O2 Adventure

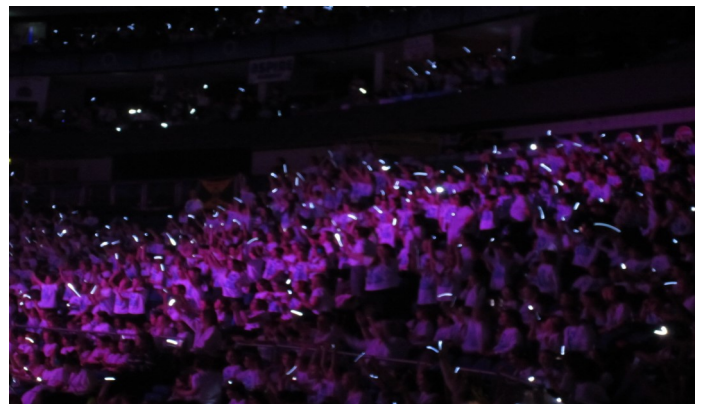
On Wednesday 5th February, Year 5 went to the O2 arena, in London, for Young Voices. There were 8000 children attending and the day was amazing.

In the morning, we arrived and I was super excited. Then we went outside for an early break. When we came back inside, Cedar class came to our classroom and we were told what groups we would be in. I was in group 5 with my friend Maddie. After that, we had a talk in the hall about the journey and safety rules. After, we started the walk to Dorking station. On the way, Maddie, Lydia and myself played a game where we said hello to people and they either waved, smiled or said hello back. After that - when I had given up on walking - we arrived at the train station.

On the train, me and Maddie played Harry Potter top trumps and I won. Additionally, I consumed a load of apricots and some biscuits. For a while, I looked out the window but then I got myself occupied. Eventually, we arrived at Waterloo and I was annoyed to find out we had more walking. A bit later, we arrived at the underground. As fast as a cheetah, I dashed onto the train and sat on a free seat. Luckily, I could kind of go to sleep on the train, so I did. Soon, we reached North Greenwich and the O2. We took a photo outside. 5 minutes after that, we sat down by the side of the arena. A long while later, the concert started.

There were amazing dancers called Urban Strides. Also there were 3 special guests: Mc Grammar was one of them; he did a rap about books. Surprisingly, it was Bob Marley's 80th birthday so we sang a song called Marley Magic. Along with that song, we sang loads of other songs including Birdhouse in your Soul, Pop Medley and Hairspray. There were amazing lights that made us pink, yellow and green. After the concert finished, my dad took me home.

Overall, it was a really fun day. I really enjoyed it and the memories will stay forever with me. I still can't believe that that we sang alongside 8000 other children; at least I now know how Taylor Swift feels! The highlight for me was probably the train ride and the lights - they were amazing. I would love to go again.



O2

It was the morning of Wednesday 5th February 2025, Cedar and Lime class (of St Paul's Primary School, Dorking) left St Paul's to the train station to go to the O2.

As we walked to the train station, everyone was excited to get on the train. The air was filled with excitement as we arrived at the station. We got on the train - which we stayed on for an hour - and ate a snack on the train. When we got off the train, we were at Waterloo, where we went underground. The underground tunnels felt like an infinite maze of hallways stretching off into the distance. We got on the underground train (which made me feel sick) and it was really, really loud. After we got off, we went up a huge escalator and saw a big sign that said O2 so I knew we were close. When we went outside, we saw the O2 for the first time. It was like a big tent with huge yellow tentacles that towered above us. As we went inside, we were greeted by a huge interior buzzing with excitement as we registered in. Then we went to the arena to start rehearsal.

Conductor David stood on a large stage on an even bigger stage and we started rehearsing. It was very loud and we got to see all sorts of famous singers. After that, we had dinner and the parents started coming.

Afterwards, we started the show. Everyone had little lights which distracted me from the songs. It was incredibly loud and I would recommend bringing some ear defenders.

Overall, the O2 was an incredible experience and I was completely shattered the next day.