



St. Paul's Dorking

Church of England Primary School

Newsletter | Friday 14th March 2025 | No.12

Inspiring Learning, Nurturing Wholeness

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been lovely to see all of you over the last fortnight for parents' evenings. I trust that staff were able to share with you how your child is doing, against their end of year expectations and the next steps they need to make. If you were unable to make the evening, please do contact your child's class teacher to rearrange a time. Class teachers have also been asked to contact you to have a 10 minute conversation so that every child's parent has had an opportunity to talk about their child's learning.

We are currently in the midst of some ground works in school. The old hut has been removed and we are having some new sheds erected. We are also having a very small garden room erected to be used for small group work and individual music lessons. The contractors have been very considerate and the children are enjoying watching them work during their playtimes!

I am delighted to share with you that FOSPA have raised sufficient funds to purchase a range of pieces of equipment for school. The incredibly successful Christmas Fair, has meant that there is enough money to buy two laptops for each classroom, to enable technology to be used across the curriculum. These are all currently on order and should be in school in the coming weeks. They have also funded the carpet and new display boards in Juniper—this was the last classroom to be refurbished and it now looks very smart! School is so grateful for the amazing job FOSPA do through the year to support us. Thank you to Chris and the team for a really fun film night for the children last Thursday.

We are launching our annual parent survey today. Please click on the link to complete the 25 questions. The large majority are multiple choice and it certainly should take no more than 10 minutes to complete. Please do take this opportunity to share your views with us. <https://forms.office.com/e/bTV0V0qt2b>

It was lovely this week to see a number of you at Year 1 Sycamore's assembly. The children sang beautifully and told us all about their learning this term. They did a super job and thank you to Miss Trease and the Sycamore team for helping them in their preparation. Thank you too to Mr Prentice and Mr Fernandes for taking Year 3 to Butser Farm this week. It is a great immersive experience and the children gain so much from the day. Year 6 also had a trip out this week—learning about what they need to consider as young citizens—how they can keep themselves and others safe. Thank you to the staff for organising this. Thank you too to Miss George and the staff team for regularly taking children to sports tournaments—we had netball last week. We compete in **22** tournaments through the year, spanning **16** different sports—that is an amazing effort from all of our staff!

Next Friday is Red Nose Day, and Mr Hill and Miss George have kindly arranged some activities for the children to take part in. Your child is welcome to wear **one red** item (red leggings, a red sock, a red jumper...) and if you feel able to make a donation, please do this through Scopay or send your child with a cash donation., in an envelope labelled 'Red Nose Day'. Please can we ask for No red hair! Thanks.

Wishing you a relaxing and enjoyable weekend.

Mrs Alden

Magnetic fidget toys



We have become aware that magnetic fidget toys and pens have made their way into school again.

These toys should **under no circumstances** be in school. If you look at the NHS website, doctors have been calling for them to be banned.

[NHS England » Dangers of children swallowing magnets prompts NHS call for ban](#)

If they are found in school they will be confiscated immediately and returned to parents via the office at the end of the day. These are so dangerous, we are aware of one child who had to be hospitalised having inhaled one of the magnets.

Red Nose Day

Next Friday is Red Nose day.



We are asking children to make a donation (you can do this on Scopay or send in a cash donation) to wear **one** item that is red! There will be some activities at lunch time, including Open Mic and activities run by Sports Crew.

Come ready to share a joke!!

Knock, knock!
Who's there?
Spell.
Spell who?
Sure, W-H-O.



Year 3's Exciting Stone Age Adventure at Butser Farm!

Year 3 had an incredible time stepping back in time on their trip to Butser Ancient Farm, where they explored the wonders of the Stone Age through hands-on activities. The day was packed with excitement as students took part in an **archaeological excavation**, carefully uncovering hidden artifacts just like real archaeologists. They also tried their hand at **jewellery making**, crafting their own prehistoric-style accessories, and experimented with **chalk carving**, shaping intricate designs from soft stone. One of the highlights was **wattling**, where they wove hazel branches together to create sturdy fencing, just as early settlers did thousands of years ago. It was a fantastic, immersive experience that brought history to life and deepened our understanding of how our ancestors lived!

World Book Day

Everyone had great fun dressing up for World Book Day. All of the costumes looked amazing!



Attendance and Punctuality

Well done!

Attendance Punctuality

1st	Year 3	Rowan, Hazel, Beech
2nd	Year 6	Oak Willow Ash Elm
3rd	Year 4	Lime Juniper

Year 1

In year 1 we are now learning about numbers to 50. We have been learning to order them, count in 10s to work out how many objects there are and make numbers using 10s and ones! The children have played lots of games to support their understanding. We went on a number hunt in the playground and had to make a human numberline! They played a game in pairs where they had to describe how many 10s and 1s their number had and their partner had to draw it and work the number out. You could challenge your child to make a number to 50 using 10s and 1s at home using sticks as 10s and stones as 1s.



Secondary School Places

If you have a child in year 6 you should have received notification of their secondary place last week. Please remember that that place needs to be accepted or declined by 17th March 2025.

If you have any questions regarding secondary school places, they can call the Surrey Schools and Childcare Service on a dedicated line: 0300 200 1004.

80.6% (9,896) of Surrey applicants have been offered a place at their first preference school.

93.1% (11,435) of Surrey applicants have been offered a place at one of their top three preference schools.

95.3% (11,695) of Surrey applicants have been offered a place at one of their six preference schools.

Reception

Reception loved dressing up for World Book Day! We have had some lovely Mystery Readers come in to share stories with the class. Thank you so much to everyone for promoting a love of reading.



Home/School Link Worker (HSLW)

As many families know, we are lucky enough to have Vicki Kelsall as our Home/School Link worker. She provides support for a number of families within school for a variety of reasons - such as helping with forms, directing to different services within the local area, support in parenting advice and many other reasons. If you would like to get in touch with her, her email is: kelsall.vicki@ashcombe.surrey.sch.uk or you can speak to the school office.

Netball Tournament

This Monday and Tuesday the Year 6 and 5 girls participated in a Netball competition. The girls worked spectacularly as a team and did the school proud. They put into place all of their footwork, shooting, defending and teamwork skills. They had to compete against 5 other teams and didn't give up even when the temperatures dropped! Well done girls!



Year 6 Visit Epsom Downs Grandstand for the Junior Citizen Event 2025

On Tuesday this week (11th), Year 6 attended the Junior Citizen Event at Epsom Downs. It was a super day and we took part in a whole raft of 'mini-workshops' aimed at helping us as we transition from Primary to Secondary School and the greater independence that comes with starting Year 7. We talked to experts from many different organisations including The British Transport Policy, Mybnk.org, Network Rail, The RNLI, Network Rail and the South East Ambulance Service. We took part in lots of different activities and explored how to stay safe both online and in the real world. The children were amazing and enthusiastically took part in all of the sessions. They particularly enjoyed singing Baby Shark as they took part in a very energetic session on CPR! It was a great visit and the organisers were so impressed with the engagement and maturity of the children. Well done Year Six!



Dates for the Spring Term (new info in RED)

- 17th—21st March—Y4 Cycling
- 19th March - Rowan Class Assembly 9am
- 19th March—Y1 Trip to British Wildlife Centre
- 20th March—Hawthorn Class Assembly 9am
- 20th March—Y4 Fishbourne Palace
- 21st March—Red Nose Day
- 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
- **16th May—Y6 to Woking Superbowl**