



St. Paul's Dorking

Church of England Primary School

Newsletter | Friday 28th March 2025 | No.13

Inspiring Learning, Nurturing Wholeness

Dear Parents and Carers,

Well term is fast galloping towards the end! And the children have worked so hard this term and certainly seem to be ready for a rest! As do the staff!

Thank you to FOSPA as they have started our Easter festivities off well this afternoon as we have had our annual Easter egg hunt! The children thoroughly enjoyed hunting for and finding their 5 eggs. Thank you too to FOSPA for catering for children with allergies and it was lovely that everyone felt included.

Next week we have Easter Pause Day, where the children look at the Easter story from the perspective of 'witnesses'. This is a really lovely day where the children have time to really consider the events of Holy Week and the Christian story of the death and resurrection of Jesus. This will also lead into their contribution at the Easter service at the church on Friday. We are looking forward to the children sharing about their learning as well as exploring the story together. The choir will also sing one of their newly learnt songs about Spring time. If you would like to join us you are very welcome and the service will start at 9.15am on Friday at the church and will last about 45 minutes. If you do join us, please can you sit in the back two rows in each section as the rest of the seating is needed for the children and staff.

Thank you too to Miss George, Mr Hill, Sports Crew and everyone who made Red Nose Day so enjoyable last week! We were able to raise nearly £300, donations can still be made. Thank you for your generosity. It is lovely that the children can feel that they can make a difference.

Year 6 have had a super experience this week, as they have had a 2 day residential trip away at Henley Fort, in Guildford. They have experienced some of the challenges faced by people during the second world war and have enjoyed a wide range of tasks and activities ranging from putting out a blitz fire to making wartime shortbread! The children were beautifully behaved and though a few missed home they all seemed to have a really fantastic time. Thank you so much to the Year 6 staff team who gave up their night (!) to take the children away.

Mrs Alden

Bikeability

The Year 4 children have certainly been busy this week, with many children gaining their level 1 Bikeability certificates and badges. The children learnt about how to control their bike, setting, off, cruising, slowing down and very importantly how to break and stop safely. They also learnt about how and when to change gears. They were able to practise their riding skills in a safe space, so that they are aware of other road users and are more confident in their cycling skills. They were also taught about important safety rules such as wearing helmets and wearing bright colours, so that they can be seen more easily and how to make sure their cycle is maintained to ride safely. We hope to see many of the children cycling to school in the summer term, using their newly learned skills.



Red Nose Day



During our lunch time, we had many activities being held by Sports Crew., such as penalty shoot out, basketball shots, dancing and relay fun. For the penalty shoot out, you would hurdle over 3 hurdles, run towards the ball and attempt to shoot the football into the goal. The music area was very popular, especially with Key stage 1! There were many different socks, which loads of us loved to dance to. It was really fun having lots of different activities to do and it was even better knowing we were doing this in aid of Comic Relief.

Here are some of the thoughts from children in different year groups:

Reception: 'It was good and we loved everything. The Sports Crew were helpful and the dancing was really fun.'

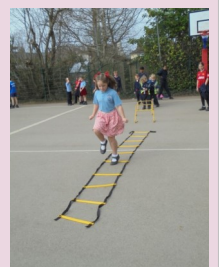
Sycamore Yr 1: WE loved the basketball and football shooting. It was so fun trying to shoot a goal.



Rowan - Yr2: 'We enjoyed doing the basketball and the football and it was really fun to get the goals.'

Beech - Yr 1: It was so fun doing all the sports. We love being active.

Overall, the lunchtime Comic Relief Festival was a great success and it was great to see so many children being active and dressed in red!



Greenpeace Talk – Our Changing Climate: Taking Action For Our Future.



The Eco committee and friends joined together at lunch time to listen to Elen Griffiths from **Greenpeace**.

Elen started by explaining who she was and why she was in school. The children then thought about Climate Change and why it was happening. Elen explained about the CO₂ blanket effect and how when we burn fossil fuels for energy, we add more and more carbon dioxide into the atmosphere. This buildup acts like a blanket that traps heat around the world, which disrupts the climate. This then causes climate change. We thought about ways we can help.



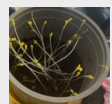
After working hard to think of ways to help change we started writing and drawing posters which will be sent to our local MP Chris Coghlan showing how and why we want to help with 'Climate Change'.



Thank you Elen and Greenpeace for a very informative talk.

Year 2 Science

Science in Year 2 has been exciting over the last few weeks as they have been closely observing their cress experiment. They grew cress in different conditions and discovered that plants need light, warmth, water and soil to grow healthily. The cress in the cupboard grew tall and yellow as it was trying to reach the light. The cress outside hardly grew at all as it was in cold conditions. The cress seeds without water did not even germinate and the cress with no soil grew



Without light!

yellow and collapsed in the pot as there was no soil to support the roots. Why not try growing cress at home and repeating the experiment? Maybe try it with different seeds!



Healthy cress

Little Sherwood Farm

Reception were so excited to have the farm visit them today! (Monday 24th March) The children have been reading 'A Farmer's Life for me' in school to help them learn about the different jobs a farmer might have to do. Farmer Karina brought a lovely variety of animals, including a pig, chickens, rabbits, goats, guinea pigs and a donkey.



We also got to hear the donkey 'bray' which was an interestingly loud sound!

Dinis - 'I learnt not to put my finger in the rabbit's mouth because it will bite me!'

Ivy - 'I stroked the rabbit. It was really fluffy.'

The children really enjoyed brushing the goats, pig and donkey, and stroking the rabbits and guinea pigs.

It was lovely to find out the names of each animal:

Mopsy and Biscuit, the rabbits

Ham and Egg, the guinea pigs

PJ, the donkey

Spirit, the farm dog

And... Ryder and Everest, the goats!



Farmer Karina taught us about how different animals eat and why they have different types of food.

FOSPA Disco Poster Competition

FOSPA have organised a school disco on Friday 20th June and are holding a poster competition to advertise the event (one for KS1; one for KS2). If your child would like to design a poster, please could it be back at the office before the Easter holidays, by Friday 4th April. It will need to include the following:

- Title: School disco
- Date: Friday 20th June
- Time: KS1 5 pm to 6pm or KS2 6.20 pm - 7:30pm depending on if the child is designing a KS1 or KS2 poster

Attendance and Punctuality

	Attendance	Punctuality
1st	Year 2	Beech
2nd	Year 6	Sycamore, Elm
3rd	Year 3	Oak, Ash, Rowan, Hazel, Lime, Juniper

Year 4

Last week, Year 4 set off on an exciting adventure to the historic Fishbourne Palace, where the children had the opportunity to discover the fascinating world of ancient Roman life. As they wandered through the palace's grand halls, they marvelled at the intricate mosaics that adorned the floors, each telling a story of a time long past. The bustling kitchens came alive with vivid demonstrations, allowing the children to imagine the aromas of Roman feasts and the sounds of chefs at work. In the calm gardens, they enjoyed the beauty of the carefully designed landscapes. This remarkable trip not only ignited their curiosity but also etched unforgettable memories in their minds, deepening their appreciation for history.



This term, Year 5 have been immersing themselves in *Kensuke's Kingdom* by Michael



Morpurgo and have had the exciting opportunity to create their own adaptations of the book. We even had a fantastic film afternoon, where the whole year group gathered to watch the movie together, enhancing our understanding of the story's events.

Over the past few weeks, we've been carefully planning our own adventure stories by drawing detailed maps, acting out exciting tours around our imagined islands, and thinking of ways to add suspense into our writing. This week, we've begun writing the first few 'chapters' of our stories, where our protagonists embark on a once-in-a-lifetime voyage across the globe. However, as they sail across the ocean with their families, disaster strikes and our main character is thrown overboard, finding themselves stranded on an island, seemingly inhabited by a mysterious stranger. The children have come up with some incredibly creative ideas for their main characters and have been crafting captivating stories that build tension and keep the reader on the edge of their seat. We can't wait to 'publish' our adventure-packed tales very soon!



Dates for the Spring Term (new info in RED)

- 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
- 15th May—Y5 to Sayers Croft
- 16th May—Y6 to Woking Superbowl
- 16th May—Y3 to Wisley
- 16th May—Y5 to Bough Beech
- 23rd May—Inset Day
- 4th June—Oak Class Assembly 9am
- 3rd & 4th September—Inset Days