



St. Paul's Dorking

Church of England Primary School

Newsletter | Friday 25th April 2025 | No.14

Inspiring Learning, Nurturing Wholeness

Dear Parents and Carers,

I trust that you all had a very lovely (and what felt like a very long) Easter break and that you had some space for some family time together. The children have all returned happily and have settled quickly back into the routines of school.

This week the school had the privilege of hear from James Carleton, an ex pupil of St Paul's School and at St Paul's Panthers, who now plays hockey for England in the Men's under 21 team. He spoke to both key stages about his journey from playing sport at St Paul's to being selected to play for England! His talks were really engaging and inspiring and he talked about the struggles of not winning as well as being successful. He encouraged the children to try as many different sports as possible to find the one that fits. Thank you so much to Miss George for inviting James back to St Paul's to inspire our children! Please read the article overleaf.

Thank you so much for your contribution towards classroom resources. About two thirds of our families have kindly donated the £15 per child to help towards the buying of consumables that the children need to learn. If you decided to do this in instalments, or wish to make a further contributions please do this through Scopay. We are so grateful for this donations when the school budget is so tight!

As you will know we have a new lunch provider, Caterlink, and we have already seen a real improvement in the quality of the dinners. We are delighted too that our super cook and her team are still with us, working under the new management. In Key Stage 2, the children now have a choice of the main, vegetarian or a jacket potato and we are currently working through whether this can also be for KS 1. If your child requires a special diet, the new provider insists on medical evidence for this to be catered for, so please make sure you have spoken to Tara in the office if this is relevant for your children. This is an urgent action. If you would like your child to change to a school dinner, please contact the office. Equally if you wish for your child to move to packed lunches the office will require a week's notice.

We were delighted that we were over subscribed for our rising Reception classes and have offered all of the 60 places! If you haven't yet accepted your place for a younger sibling, please do that as soon as possible.

We have had lots of interest for my job and the closing date is on Monday so we will keep you posted.

Trusting you have an enjoyable weekend, Mrs Alden

Easter Pause Day

All year groups enjoyed taking part in Easter Pause Day during the final week of term. The children explored the theme of Witnesses. Years 1 and 2 thought about Mary and Thomas seeing Jesus alive. The children created Easter gardens in the Copse and sampled hot cross buns. Year 3 and 4 thought about the actions of Peter and Judas and explored the idea of forgiveness. Years 5 and 6 created radio shows where they imagined they were interviewing witnesses to the events that had happened. It was a lovely day spent reflecting on the Easter story and a great way to end a busy term.

Community Fridge Assembly

On Wednesday 2nd April the children had a very interesting assembly presented by Michaela Afford from the Mid Surrey Community Fridge. The children learnt about how and when the Community Fridge began and about the work they continue to do. They also heard about the types of food that they could expect to find at the Community Fridge and how it is open to all.



Please ask your children about the Community Fridge and remember to visit your local one.

Alpha starting soon at St Paul's Church - evening and daytime

Evening - Starting Tues 29th April - 7.30-9.30pm with hot meal
Daytime - Starting Thursday 22nd May - 10-11.30am with refreshments
More info and sign up www.stpaulsdorking.org.uk/alpha

Please see over for INSET days for 2025/26





Yesterday, we were very privileged to have James Carleton, an ex St Paul's student, come in to take our assembly. James spoke about his journey from St Paul's School sport to where he is today. During the 10 years since leaving St Paul's, he has dedicated his life to hockey and has progressed through the ranks from Surrey competitions to now being part of the Under 21s Great British and English Hockey Team. The assemblies were inspirational and we hope the children enjoyed listening to James.

The main thoughts from the assembly:

- Try as many sports as you can
- Do what makes you happy
- Mistakes are a great way to succeed and overall makes you a better person
- Being nervous shows that you care
- Be determined and try your best



We are so proud of James and feel very grateful that he has given his time to us to share his story.

Inset Days for 2025/26

Wednesday 3rd September 2025
 Thursday 4th September 2025
 Thursday 23rd October 2025
 Friday 24th October 2025
 Monday 5th January 2026
 Monday 23rd February 2026
 Friday 22nd May 2026

We are just waiting on confirmation of **one further day** and will let you know as soon as we are aware.

Children will not be required in school on these days.

Year 6 WWII Residential – 26/26th March 2025

Elm and Juniper recently went on a mini-residential trip to Henley Fort, Guildford which is a Victorian Fort built during the late 19th Century to protect London from invasion by the French! This was an amazing trip where the children were able to immerse themselves in all things World War II as a roundup of the WWII unit that we had been working on in History and English through the Spring term. The children slept overnight in Yurts (not really WWII, but much better than tents!), which were surprisingly warm and cosy. The food was lovely (and there was a lot of it!) with a two-course dinner and a yummy 'full English' breakfast! We even baked (and ate) our own wartime shortbread. The workshops saw the children becoming Home Guard soldiers and learning to march, handle a rifle and a broom handle (a very important weapon!), man an essential checkpoint, check IDs, guard prisoners and even practise their bayonet charges. They also found out what it was like to be ARP (Air Raid Precautions) Wardens, using stirrup pumps to put out fires and how scary it was during a blackout. They then experienced what it was like to be in an Anderson and a Morrison bomb shelter during a raid. One of the most fascinating facts we learnt was that, in Hitler's invasion plans, Guildford was chosen as the headquarters for the German occupation. We had a really fantastic time, and the children were all extremely well behaved and engaged in all the activities. Great job, Year 6!



Year 3

This week in Year 3, we started our brand new Geography topic all about deserts! We looked at what makes a place a desert and whereabouts in the world they are using our knowledge of the continents. Lots of us were very surprised to learn what different deserts look like around the world and we really enjoyed learning more about these amazing places.

Attendance and Punctuality

	Attendance	Punctuality
1st	Year 4	Rowan
2nd	Year 6	Oak
3rd	Year 5	Cedar, Lime
	Year R	

Swimming Gala

Our first day back of the summer term started with a bang! 21 children from KS2 competed in our annual Dorking Schools Swimming Gala, which took place at The Priory School.

With 5 of the Dorking Schools, competing, it was a busy and exciting event.

Children swam in different events, including free-style, backstroke, breaststroke, butterfly and re-lays!

The children showed incredible skill and determination and their school values shone through, with exceptional behaviour throughout. It was a tight event, leading to joint winners with 109 points - St Paul's and North Downs!

What a way to start the term!



Year 1

This half term our topic is all about dragons! This week we received a letter explaining that something had been in the Copse over the Easter holidays so we set out to investigate. When we arrived, we found a trail of scales and a dragon's egg! The children were full of questions about where this egg had come from and who it be-



longed to! We are going to be describing some weather dragons in English and the children will design their own. In DT we have started to discuss healthy and unhealthy food choices in preparation for our dragon sandwiches we are going to make this half term.

Dates for the Spring Term (new info in RED)

- 1st May—Cedar Class Assembly 9am
- 5th May—Bank Holiday
- 12th May—14th May Y5 to Windmill Hill
- 15th May—Y5 to Bough Beech
- 16th May—Y6 to Woking Superbowl
- 16th May—Y3 to Wisley
- 16th May—Y5 to Sayers Croft
- 21st May—Oak Class Assembly 9am
- 22nd May—Y6 Market Place
- 23rd May—Inset Day
- 26th—30th May—Half Term
- 4th June—Ash Class Assembly 9am
- 11th June—KS1 Sports Day
- 13th June—Reserve KS1 Sports Day
- 17th June—Class Photos
- 18th June—Y6 Leavers Service Guildford Cathedral
- 24th June—Y1 to Brooklands
- 26th June—KS2 Sports Day
- 27th June—New Year R parents' evening
- 1st July—KS2 Reserve Sports Day
- 3rd & 4th September—Inset Days