



St. Paul's Dorking

Church of England Primary School

Newsletter | Friday 9th May 2025 | No.15

Inspiring Learning, Nurturing Wholeness

Dear Parents and Carers,

I don't know about you but it feels like the weeks are galloping away and we are already well into May! We have a busy fortnight ahead of us here in school as we have our Year 5s away on their residential next week and our Year 6 have SATs. We have three year groups out on trips next Friday!

We have had time to stop and pause this week and to think about some 'ows' and 'wows' as we marked the 80th anniversary of VE day. Thank you to Miss Trease for leading our whole school assembly yesterday and to all of the staff for taking some time with their class to ponder the significance of this momentous event in history.

Now that we are part of The Good Shepherd Trust, we have been asked to slightly amend the way our teachers do their teacher assessments at the end of each term. As a consequence, we no longer will give end of year gradings that articulate that a child is working slightly above the expected standard on end of year reports. We will only state that they are working 'within the expected standard' or are working at 'Greater Depth'. This certainly does not mean that your child has regressed in any way, it is just that the Trust feels that as this is not a statutory grading from the DfE so it is not a grading that the school should continue to use.

I also have some exciting yet sad news to share with you. After being part of the St Paul's staff for ten years, Mrs Edwards has secured a university place to start a Doctorate in September to become an Educational Psychologist! We are delighted for Liz that through the opportunities here at St Paul's as our SENCo, she has acquired the skills and knowledge to secure this place. She will sadly be leaving us in July as it is a full time course up in London. We will shortly start the recruitment process for a new SENCo. Liz has done an amazing job and we will miss her wisdom and incredible knowledge. She wants to reassure everyone that she will be working very hard on a smooth and detailed handover to our new SENCo, in order to ensure that children and families experience continuity of support, and a seamless transition.

As you know, we changed our uniform policy about two years ago to make it more inclusive and affordable, which meant we changed so all trousers/skirts/shorts are now navy blue. To ease into this transition we said that grey could be worn until the end of this academic year. I just wanted to remind you of this as you make plans for uniform for September and please do not send in any grey items to the second hand uniform store. I would like to take this opportunity to also say a huge thank you to Anna Musgrave for her work regarding uniform. You do an amazing job to make uniform affordable and accessible for everyone and we are so grateful for the time and effort that you put into this, through the organisation of the FOSPA second hand uniform sales. Thank you!

Please can we remind you that in Key Stage 2, children are expected to have the stationery resources they need to participate in learning. This means they need to always have a pencil, a handwriting pen (once they have their licence), a white board pen and a glue stick. Please can you regularly check your child has what they need and these items can be bought at cost price in the stationery shop, paid for via scopay. Thank you.

Wishing you a restful weekend, Mrs Alden

Important message from FOSPA: Help FOSPA raise even more money!

We wanted to raise awareness of a way in which FOSPA currently boosts its fundraising as we know we could raise more! Many companies offer a program called match funding, where they match the donations made or funds raised by their employees to charitable causes, effectively doubling the contribution.



What is Match Funding? Match funding is a corporate giving program where companies match the amount an employee donates or fund raises for eligible charities. For example, if you choose to donate £50 to the school, your employer might also donate £50, making the total contribution £100. Or if you volunteer on the bottle tombola at the school fair and it raises £500, your employer might match the money raised, making the total profit £1,000. Some even double match! This can greatly enhance our ability to support various school projects.

How can you help? We kindly ask that you check with your employer to see if they offer match funding. Many well-known companies offer these programs.

If your employer participates, please consider using this program when donating to the school and/or when you sign up to volunteer at a school fundraising event. And of course please let FOSPA know. This simple step can make a big difference in our fundraising efforts. This year alone we have raised an additional £2,187 in match funding from just two events - what's not to love about that?

Thank you for your continued support and involvement in our school community.

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Last week, Year 5 went on a trip to Dorking Mosque. We visited the local Mosque that the Dorking Muslim Community attend to pray. We met the Imam, who is the leader of prayer at a mosque, and other members of the community.



While we were there, the children were able to see lots of things that are found in many mosques, including prayer beads, the mihrab (to show the direction of prayer) and Islamic art. There was a shoe rack to put our shoes on before we entered the mosque.

One of the volunteers showed us the washing area and taught the children about the importance of washing before a prayer. Inside the mosque, another volunteer explained the different prayers in Islam and their timetable. The children learnt about who goes to the mosque and why. We also learnt about the Quran, which is the holy book in Islam, and about its history. The children were also engaged in other activities like drawing their own mosque and finding out facts about the 5 pillars of Islam using posters around the mosque.



We'd also like to thank the kind volunteers for not only helping year 5 with their learning on Islam but also for providing fruit and water on such a hot day! The children were very respectful and curious, asking lots of thoughtful questions throughout. Year 5 clearly learnt lots about Islam on their trip and will continue their learning journey throughout this half term.



Reception

Reception have been lucky enough to have some visitors to teach us about the different jobs they do! We have learnt about the role of an architect, and how they design buildings, playgrounds and bridges. We saw some of the tools they may need, such as rulers, pens, paper, toys and even 3D printers!

We have learnt about the role of a pilot, and got to see photos of inside the cockpit, where the pilot sits to drive the plane!

We have learnt about the role of a vet, and got to see the different equipment they might use to help animals when they're poorly. We also learnt that vets help keep animals healthy by giving regular injections.



DORKING LAWN TENNIS & SQUASH CLUB
MAY HALF TERM TENNIS CAMPS 2025
TUESDAY 27th - FRIDAY 30th MAY
CHOOSE ANY DAYS

KIDS 4-11 Yrs Old
TUESDAY - FRIDAY
 9.30 - 12PM

TEENAGERS 12-18 Yrs Old
WEDNESDAY
 2 - 4PM

COST:
MEMBERS £20
NON MEMBERS £23

PROVIDED: RACKET, BALLS, COURT SHOES
BOOK: ONLINE
AGE: 12/18/21/25

TO BOOK PLEASE CONTACT HEAD COACH BRIAN
 DORKINGTENNIS@GMAIL.COM
 QUOTE: NAME, AGE, CONTACT NUMBER, MEDICAL INFO

Attendance and Punctuality

	Attendance	Punctuality
1st	YR	Oak Sycamore
2nd	Y4	Ash Hazel
3rd	Y1	Maple

Year 4

Year 4 had a lot of fun exploring the digestive system with this week's messy and smelly experiment.

Experiment Breakdown:

- We mashed up bananas & crackers into a plastic bag (the 'stomach').
 - Added orange juice (stomach acid) for that extra fizz!
 - Transferred the mix into tights (intestines) for the full digestive experience.
 - Squeezed out the liquid as it would happen in our bodies. Deposited the remains into a paper cup (rectum) and simulated the exit process (yes, the 'anus').
- The result? There was so much laughter and learning about our digestive system and how it works.



VE Day

On Thursday 8th of May the whole school celebrated the 80th anniversary of VE Day. We had an informative assembly to start the day and found out what VE day means and why it is celebrated. During the day in our classes we had more time to learn about the day and even took part in some activities. Everyone had an opportunity to have a snack and reflect on the information we had learnt and were surprised to find some decorations out on the field!



Dates for the Spring Term (new info in RED)

- 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 9.30am
- 13th June—Reserve KS1 Sports Day
- 17th June—Class Photos
- 18th June—Y6 Leavers Service Guildford Cathedral
- 20th June—School Disco KS1: 5-6pm
- KS2: 6.15-7.30pm
- 24th June—Y1 to Brooklands
- 25th June—Y4 to Tilgate Nature Centre
- 26th June—KS2 Sports Day 9.15am
- 27th June—New Year R parents' evening
- 1st July—KS2 Reserve Sports Day
- 5th July—FOSPA Summer Fair (12-3pm)
- 3rd & 4th September—Inset Days