

June 2023

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Dear Parents,

What beautiful weather we had during half-term! We do hope that you all had a wonderful week with your families and that the children are able to return refreshed and ready for the last half-term of the school year and to experience all the wonderful opportunities that this will include.

I am delighted to start this newsletter by being able to share with you the very good news that we have a new Chair of our FoSD for September. On behalf of our school community, I would like to thank Dr Geraint Parry who has very kindly volunteered to take on this role when Carys Keane stands down at the end of term - after having done an absolutely fantastic job for us. If another parent would be willing to co-Chair with Dr Parry, then this would help enormously in terms of forming a team, sharing the role and everything this entails. Please do think about it and contact a member of FoSD, or Mrs R. Turner in the school office, if you feel you could volunteer. As school budgets creak and groan under the strain of rises in costs, the money raised by our FoSD becomes even more important in being able to now fund basic needs such as library books, classroom equipment and upgrading computers. I have no doubt that you will all get behind the FoSD and support them in co-ordinating the fund raising and community events for our school. Thank you. We look forward to welcoming you in to school in the coming weeks.

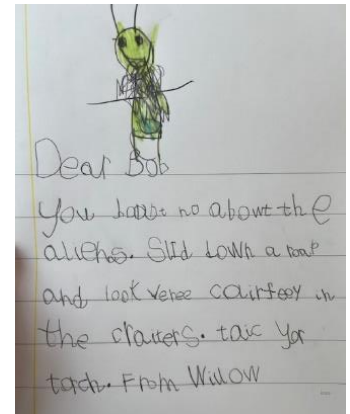
Julianne Birch

Activities and Events

EYFS – Mrs H. Robbins: Head of EYFS

All of the children have been busy writing letters to Bob, the Man on the Moon, trying to warn him about the very sneaky aliens who are hiding in the craters and even invading his rocket while he was busy hoovering.

We hope you have enjoyed sharing our class collective worships with the children. St Teresa's class began by sharing the story of Pentecost, showing us how we too can all be a disciple of Jesus and share His good news through our words and actions. Then it was St. Bernadette's class turn, who told us about special people in their lives and the life of Jesus. They helped us to think about how we can be a good friend to others by helping and looking after each other. St. Catherine's class are looking forward to sharing their class collective worship with you soon.



In our RE lessons this half term, we will be learning about two very special people- St. Peter and St. Paul. Our new theme for learning is "Being Healthy and Strong", which links beautifully to 'Feeling Good Week'. We are especially looking forward to our performance of "The Tortoise and the Hare" by Aesop's Theatre, so that we can think about how we feel when we do not win something and how we can be

pleased for other people.

Year 1 – Miss G. Hearn: Head of Year 1

What a busy half term Year 1 have had! We had a fabulous time celebrating the King's Coronation. As the children arrived to school dressed in different shades of royal purple, there was great excitement. We spent the morning preparing for our celebration lunch by creating our own crowns. The children thought carefully about the placement of their gems, using the crown jewels for reference. St. Dunstan's Day was an equally wonderful celebration and the children really enjoyed sharing a picnic together with their class family. It was a lovely way to celebrate such a special day.



Finally, the children have really enjoyed reading our class text 'The Bog Baby' in English. The Year 1 teachers found something very exciting by the school pond! We went outside together to have a look. What a strange creature we discovered! We thought about questions we would like to ask the creature and then came up with whole class predictions using the words 'who', 'what', 'where', 'when' and 'why'. The children finished this wonderful topic by writing a setting description of the enchanted pond where Bog Baby was found. The quality of writing was fantastic and really showed how far the children have come this year. We are so proud of them!

Year 2 – Miss N. Maloney: Head of Year 2 & Senior Teacher

Year 2 are really looking forward to their trip to Wisley Gardens. It is part of our topic about 'Fantastic food, healthy lives'. It will also link to World Environment Day that is on the 5th June. The new world garden section will enable the children to see plants and crops from different countries and learn

about how they are grown. They will also have the chance to visit the allotment area and see local produce being grown and hopefully have the chance to question some of the gardeners .

Year 3 – Miss H. Fail: Head of Year 3 & Senior Teacher

There was a noticeable feeling of community in Year 3 and across the school with the recent celebrations of Coronation Day and St. Dunstan’s Day. To celebrate King Charles III’s Coronation, the children created verbal presentations on the qualities of a king. Showing their artistic talents, they also sketched whole class tapestries of symbols relating to King Charles III. For St. Dunstan’s Day, the children wrote acrostic poems about St. Dunstan, which created beautiful pieces of work for display. As always, the whole school picnic was the highlight of the day for many of the children who enjoyed sitting outside and eating their lunch with their friends and teachers.

Year 3 also recently visited the new prayer garden. After they shared their personal intentions, they collectively joined together to pray. Finally, we would like to remind you of our upcoming Year 3 Ukulele Concert on Wednesday 14th June at 2.30pm. The children have been working hard to practise their musical skills ready for their concert performance!



Year 4 – Mrs M. Cannon: Head of Year 4

It has been a busy half term in Year 4! The children have thoroughly enjoyed their learning about rivers - they have been comparing the River Thames to the Amazon River. The children have considered the similarities and differences with a focus on what the rivers are used for.

We also enjoyed our special themed day to celebrate the Coronation and had a wonderful St. Dunstan's Day as well!



Year 5 – Miss E. Roe: Head of Year 5

During May, Year 5 have enjoyed sharing many memorable moments together, including celebrating the Coronation and the picnic for St. Dunstan’s Day. In English, we have enjoyed creating a wanted poster for the ‘Highwayman’ and writing a personal recount at Pentecost.

As we move into June, we continue with our conservation theme building on our learning about how to save the tigers. We have a focus on science this half term, with the Science Expo on Thursday 29th June.



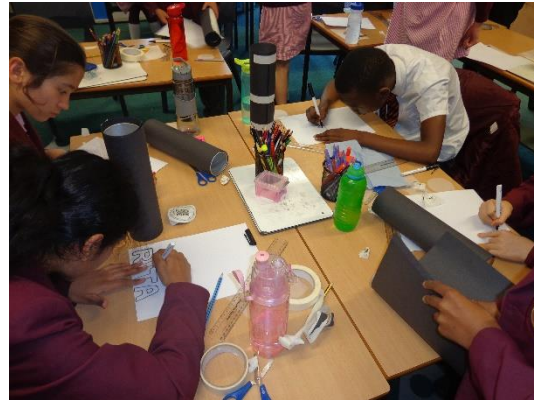
Our learning continues on lifecycles and we look forward to welcoming caterpillars to Year 5 in the first week of June.

Year 6 – Mrs T. Steer: Head of Year 6 & Assistant Headteacher

It has been such a privilege to be with Year 6 this month. They have worked tirelessly but with such enthusiasm. There have been some fun celebrations amongst the hard work: the Coronation Day and St. Dunstan's day produced some beautiful artwork and presentations.

Amongst the preparation for SATs we also took time to investigate light. We had a great afternoon making models of the eye and learning that what we actually see is upside down!

We have finished the month with some Hamlet. Every class enjoyed getting into role with drama and writing their own soliloquys.



King Charles III : Miss L. Butler

What a fantastic day we had to commemorate King Charles III's Coronation on Monday 15th May. It was a delight to see so many children dressed in our purple theme. Pupils in Reception and Year 1 started their morning by making beautiful crowns, whilst across the school, children designed their own Union Jack flags. These were then waved as the children sang 'God Save the King' in our final coming together in the afternoon. Our fantastic kitchen staff prepared a delicious 'picnic style' lunch, consisting of finger sandwiches, crudities, sausage rolls and quiche, the King's signature coronation dish! It was a joy to watch the children's faces light up when they noticed the special crown biscuits for pudding! The celebrations continued into the afternoon, with each year group focusing on a theme related to our King. Children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 focused on the royal family tree. Years 3 and 4 thought about the qualities of a good King. Finally, Years 5 and 6 focused on kings throughout the years and the life of Charles prior to becoming King. To end our half term, we had a fantastic St Dunstan's bake off themed around King Charles' Coronation. It truly was a wonderful celebration that we hope all will



remember in years to come.

Recorder Concert : Mrs G. Armstrong

Wow! What a way to celebrate all of the fantastic learning the Year 2 children have done this year with their recorders. The year group performed their favourite pieces to Year 1 and their family members and blew them away with their talent. Children sang some uplifting songs, including their all-time favourite: 'Good, Better Best'. They also played a range of tunes using the B, A and G note. The grand finale was a song called 'Hot Cross Recorders' which followed the tune of 'Hot Cross Buns' and incorporated all three notes and included a group performance by the recorder club. The children were so proud of their achievements and thoroughly enjoyed performing to their family members who were captivated.



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Charity and Justice

Charity and Justice – Miss N. Johnson and Miss H. King



We are very proud to announce that, as a school, we raised a total amount of £1,360.61 for the charity Mission Together. Thank you so much for your generosity during our Lenten Fundraising. Mission Together are very grateful for all your contributions and donations.

BAKE OFF- Miss A. Lay

The school was filled with the sweet smell of icing on Thursday 25th May and we were amazed by the creative, scrumptious cakes that came into school celebrating King Charles III's coronation. The baking talent of our school is really something to behold! A big well done to all the children who entered – everyone did so well! Judging was particularly difficult, but congratulations are in order for our first place winners Lucie Adams, Henry Lee, Aria O'Donoghue and Lelle Todor, as well as all the runners-up.

The cakes that were sold in our FOSD cake sale at the end of the day raised an incredible £898.40 for the charity Mary's Meals! A BIG thank you and well done for all your hard work in helping us raise this money. Special thanks to the Friends of St. Dunstan's for helping organise the cake sale.



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Children's Learning

Mrs G. Morganti – Head of School

The overviews of learning for the next half term are now available to view on the school website.

<http://www.stdunstans.surrey.sch.uk/Curriculum.html>

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Governors

St Dunstan's Catholic Primary School Open Mornings for applications to start in Reception class September 2024

Please note our Open Mornings for parents to visit the school with regards to applying for a place in **September 2024**, will be on

Friday 20th October and Thursday 16th November 2023.

If you would like to find out about how to apply for a place for your child at our school, then please do attend this presentation.

A prompt arrival for the 9.30am start would be very much appreciated and the session will finish by 11am. Car parking will be available in the Lower School playground from 9am.

The Open Morning is for parents/carers only. Could we please ask you to pre-arrange childcare for young children and babies. To book a place, please complete the form using the link below or call Mrs A. Murray via the school office on 01483 715190 (Option 3):

<https://forms.office.com/e/5eVwxrM8AK>

Governor's Maintenance Fund Contributions 2022-2023

Thank you to all those of you who have already donated via the new CAF online account or are still paying by standing orders set up in previous years for this year. While there is absolutely no obligation on any family to make a contribution, may we respectfully remind those who have not, but are in a position to do so, that there is still time to make a donation before the end of the school year. To assist with contributions we now have our CAF account set up to accept online payments and Collect Gift aid on our behalf. We would be most grateful if you would use the following link to make your contribution <https://cafdonate.cafonline.org/18812>

You will be able to set up regular or one off payments and complete the necessary details for Gift Aid if you are a tax payer. By completing the Gift Aid details you will enable CAF to claim an additional 25% from the Government on each contribution. Using the CAF online system to donate will reduce use of paper and admin time in the school office

Those of you who currently have a standing order set up with your bank and are happy to continue with this method of contribution do not need to make any changes. We are also able to accept payment by cheque, or cash -please contact the school office for the appropriate forms

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Information from Subject Leaders

Safeguarding: Designated Safeguarding Leaders

Our Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSLs)				
 <p>Lead DSL: Mrs A. O'Donovan <i>Assistant Headteacher</i></p>	 <p>Deputy DSL: Mrs J. Birch <i>Executive Headteacher</i></p>	 <p>Deputy DSL: Mrs G. Morganti <i>Head of School</i></p>	 <p>Deputy DSL: Mrs S. Hughes <i>SENDCo</i></p>	 <p>Deputy DSL: Mr A. Coyle <i>Senior Teacher</i></p>

Healthy Schools – Mrs A. O'Donovan: Assistant Headteacher



Preparing your child for starting Primary School

Place 2 Be is a national charity that offers support to children in schools. Their website contains lots of useful information for parents too. If your child is starting school this September, you may find this link useful:

<https://www.place2be.org.uk/our-services/parents-and-carers/getting-ready-to-start-primary-school/>

Transition to Secondary School

Starting secondary or high school can be both exciting and a little bit scary for you and your child. As parents, preparing for this change and making sure that your child feels able to take the step from primary school can feel difficult. However, there are many ways in which you can help your children – and yourselves to feel ready. The website below has lots of useful tips and advice for parents:

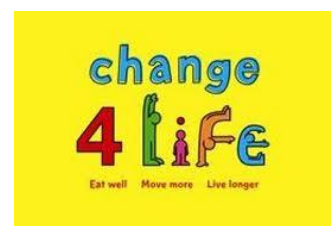
<https://www.place2be.org.uk/our-services/parents-and-carers/getting-ready-to-start-secondary-or-high-school/>

Warm weather - Packed Lunches



Just a reminder for the last few weeks of term, it is important to consider what you are putting in your child's lunch box. There is no fridge space in school for packed lunches and so lunch boxes are kept on racks in the corridors or in the shaded areas of Rosary House when it is cooler than inside the building and in extreme

heat these will be kept inside. We suggest that where possible pupils bring packed lunches in insulated bags with freezer blocks to stop the food going off. Children should bring their lunches into school in a container or lunch bag, not a single use carrier bag. Another good idea is to freeze the



drink that your child has in their lunch box – this will act as a freezer block and be cool for your child to drink at lunch time.

A little reminder that a balanced packed lunch should contain:

- Starchy foods. These are bread, rice, potatoes and pasta, and others.
- Protein foods. These are meat, fish, eggs, beans and others.
- A dairy item. This could be cheese or yoghurt.
- Vegetables or salad, and a portion of fruit.
- A drink



There are lots of packed lunch ideas at <http://www.nhs.uk/Change4Life/Pages/healthy-lunchbox-picnic.aspx>

Sun Safety

Please remember that school hats can be purchased from the school office (at cost price) to protect children from the sun. During the warmer weather, please do try to apply sun cream (at least SPF 15) before school and ensure that your child has a drink of water (in a clear bottle with a sports cap lid) with them – water bottles can be filled up during the day. Children do also have access to shaded areas at break times and lunchtimes to avoid prolonged periods in the sun.



Bucket hat £6.20



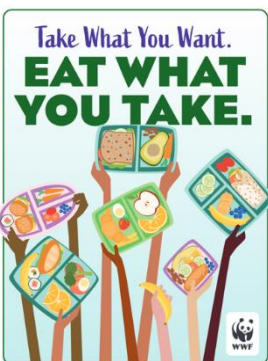
Baseball £4.50



Natural Curly Hair Backless Sun Hat £6.50

Eco Committee – Ms. T. Martlew

We are so proud of our Year 3 Eco Reps and their classmates for taking the initiative and acting to make a real difference in the community. Together with their families, the children organised a litter pick of Woking Park to mark Earth Day. They collected 10 bin bags full of rubbish! It is fantastic to see our pupils so passionate about helping to keep the environment clean and free from litter.



Well done to all those involved.



We will be observing World Environment Day on the 5th June where we will be focusing on food waste, and thinking specifically about reducing the amount of food wasted during school lunches.

SEND - Mrs S. Hughes, SENDCo and Senior Teacher

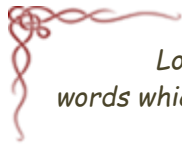
For our parents with older children, there is a new free service.

"For every stressed teenager, we understand there are equally stressed parents and siblings. We do all that we can to help young people, allowing them to use the magic of nature to help them deal with their anxiety, and to explore new coping strategies. But we also want to help parents...
 ... which is why we have now launched Parent Hub - a monthly support group for parents.



The **Parent Hub** sessions are on the third Monday of each month. All parents have to do is to sign up to be part of our list - they will then receive the monthly invite and can book themselves in. **To join the list, parents simply need to visit this page: greenhub.org.uk/parent-hub/**

**RE topics this term:
 Mrs. Turner: RE leader and Senior teacher.**



Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your souls and with all your might. These words which I am commanding you today must remain in your heart.

Deuteronomy 6: 4-9



The focus of this term’s work in Religious Education is the role the Holy Spirit plays in our lives. We will be completing our study of Reconciliation (Inter-relating) and beginning the theme Universal Church (World). The children will also spend one week studying Islam.

RECONCILIATION—INTER-RELATING

Early Years	FRIENDS - Friends of Jesus
Year 1	BEING SORRY - God helps us choose well
Year 2	RULES - Reasons for rules in the Christian family
Year 3	CHOICES - Importance of examination of conscience
Year 4	BUILDING BRIDGES - Admitting wrong, being reconciled with God and each other
Year 5	FREEDOM & RESPONSIBILITY - Commandments enable Christians to be free & responsible
Year 6	HEALING - Sacrament of the Sick

SUGGESTIONS FOR HOME ACTIVITIES

Talk together about times when you have forgiven and been forgiven.
 Discuss the importance of saying sorry. Look for opportunities for forgiveness and reconciliation in the day to day life of the family.

ISLAM

Pupils will study various aspects of Islam for one week. Ask them what they have been learning about.

UNIVERSAL CHURCH—WORLD

Early Years	OUR WORLD - God's wonderful world
Year 1	NEIGHBOURS - Neighbours share God's world
Year 2	TREASURES - God's treasure; the world
Year 3	SPECIAL PLACES - Holy places for Jesus and the Christian community
Year 4	GOD'S PEOPLE - Different saints show people what God is like
Year 5	STEWARDSHIP - The Church is called to the stewardship of Creation
Year 6	COMMON GOOD - Work of the worldwide

SUGGESTIONS FOR HOME ACTIVITIES

Together, look through a family scrapbook or photograph album of a visit to a place that is special for your family.

Look at a globe or an atlas. Find a special place and pray for the people of that country.

Discuss how we can look after our world and support our neighbours, near and far.

IMPORTANT DATES June 2023



THE MOST HOLY BODY AND BLOOD OF THE LORD (11 June)

On this feast we give thanks to God for the gift of Jesus in the form of bread and wine.

THE MOST SACRED HEART OF JESUS (16 June)

On this day we remember how much Jesus loves us all.

SS PETER AND PAUL, APOSTLES (29 June)

We celebrate the lives of these important saints who helped establish the Christian Church.



Multi Faith Week: Islam – Mrs S. Turner

During the week beginning the 5th June, Years 1 to 6 will focus on deepening their understanding of a different faith, Islam. They will learn about the beliefs and customs of Islam and examine cultural aspects of the faith through art, music, video and artefacts. Extending their knowledge about special places of worship, Years 3 and 6 will be visiting Woking mosque, and our children will enjoy listening to a guest speaker who will talk about being Muslim.

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Liturgy and Worship – Pastoral Team

Diocesan Liturgy for Schools, Good Shepherd Mass at Worth Abbey – Thursday 22nd June

On 22nd June, a group of children from KS2 will represent our school at our annual Diocesan celebration, which this year will be at Arundel Cathedral. The theme this year is 'The Good Shepherd'. In school, we will be exploring this important message told to us by Jesus in His powerful parable. Each school has been invited to make a model of a sheep to add to a school Diocese display at the cathedral and these will be presented to Bishop Richard.

It's a lovely opportunity for all the Catholic Primary and Secondary schools to celebrate together and to bring their offerings for their Lenten Charity, Mission Together. Again, many, many thanks for your generosity and for your time that has been used to encourage our children to care for those who need it, just as Jesus asked us to do.



St. Dunstan's Day celebrations – Mrs A. O'Donovan, Assistant Headteacher

We were all very excited to celebrate our patron saint's feast day together on 19th May. The whole school started the day with a liturgy focusing on the life of St. Dunstan and the lessons that we can learn from him.

We were inspired to think about how we could remain dedicated to our learning like St. Dunstan was, as well as how we could make changes to our lives to just have what we need!

Lower School celebrated their liturgy together in school with Mr Coyle and some special Year 6 helpers, whilst KS2 went to Church and were led in worship by children from every year group in our school, including Reception! During Fr Rob's blessing, he shared some facts that he had learnt about St. Dunstan – did you know that Dunstan was sent to King Ethelstan's court when he was a young boy as his parents were concerned by how much he loved music! Also, St. Dunstan wrote the service that is used in coronation ceremonies – including the most recent coronation of King Charles!

At lunchtime, we continued the celebration with a picnic on the field! Everyone was very excited and the sun came out just in time!

"Being at the church, being able to share a picnic and then spending time to make art about St Dunstan's was so nice. It felt like we were coming together as a whole school because we are one school." Year 6 pupil.



During the day, children also created their own icon drawings of St. Dunstan. Every class has handed in their best entries. One (or perhaps 2) winners will be chosen and their design will be made into an icon to display in our school hall. Have a look at some of the impressive pictures by our budding artists.



Holy Day of Obligation: Feast of St. Peter and St. Paul

Children in Years 3 to 6 will join the Parish for Mass to celebrate the feast of St. Peter and St. Paul on Thursday 29th June at 10am.

As it is their feast days, Year 3 St. Peter and Year 3 St. Paul's classes will lead the Mass. Parents are welcome to attend – could we please ask you to sit at the back on the chairs in the overflow room. If there are spare seats in the back pews of the Church, you will be invited to move forward. Thank you for your support to ensure we can seat the children together and seat them safely.

May the month of Mary



During the month of May, we have remembered Mary through praying the Rosary and through our Marian Liturgies. St. Columba and St. Elizabeth's classes in Year 4 led a beautiful liturgy at the Church for Key Stage 2 that helped us to reflect on Mary's very important role.

After the liturgy, all of the children in KS2 received a rosary, donated by the very generous Cantenian's Rosary Group. We hope the children continue to make use of their rosaries throughout the year.



Our Marian grotto was decorated with all of the beautiful class bouquets that were made from the flowers the children brought in.

We have been very grateful for dry mornings on Tuesdays during the



month of May when we have prayed a decade of the rosary together by the Marian Grotto on the Lower School field. This has been led by Father Peter and Mrs. Smith, our School Chaplains. It has been a beautiful way to start the day and the numbers of people joining in grew each week. One parent asked, "Could we do this every morning as it is a motivating way to start the day?"

We will be looking at how we can continue the opportunities for prayer throughout the year – so watch this space!

First Holy Communions

During the month of June, many of our Year 3 children, as well as a number of children in other year groups, will be making their First Holy Communion. This is a very special time for these children and their families, please remember them in your prayers this month.



Messages from the Parish

6pm Saturday Mass volunteers needed

If you regularly attend the 6pm Saturday Mass and are able to help out once or twice a month, we are in great need of volunteers to join the rota of people who animate our worship through the ministries of welcomer, reader and special minister of communion.

Our welcomers really set the tone for our celebration, not simply by handing out any printed materials needed but also by being friendly faces and a point of reference for newcomers and visitors. Just having more Welcomers would be a great help, as it would mean that Readers & Special Ministers wouldn't have to double up as Welcomers, but we shall also be training more readers and ministers of communion shortly. And we'd love to have a music ministry at the Saturday 6pm mass, even occasionally. If you can help in any way, please e-mail Peter Jabbar on thejabbars@yahoo.com or call or text 07776-200585. Thank you.

St. Dunstan's parish 'retreat' to Lourdes

Monday 25th – Friday 29th September

If you would like to go to Lourdes for 5 days of prayer, quiet and reflection, then please get in touch with the Parish Office. Brochures for the trip are available from the Parish Office.



Travel will be by air and coach. Accommodation will be in a hotel within easy walking distance of the Domain where the Grotto and the Basilicas are situated. There will be many opportunities for individuals to spend time in prayer, but also the possibility, if you wish, to join with others for some of the big events taking place regularly in Lourdes: the International Mass, the

Torchlight Procession and the Blessed Sacrament Procession. There will also be the option of joining a half-day trip to view the outstanding scenery of Gavarnie in the heart of the Pyrenees National Park.

Grandparents Pilgrimage to West Grinstead

Wednesday 14th June 2023 11am - 3pm

Bishop Richard looks forward to meeting all those of a more senior generation at our annual pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Consolation at West Grinstead. Please bring your friends and a picnic for what is always a wonderful day of faith, friendship and recollection. For further information and to book, please go to the Diocesan website event calendar

Refugee Crisis Coffee Morning

Saturday 17th June 11.30 am - 1.00 pm, St Gabriel's Church Hall, Billingshurst, RH14 9QH

People across the diocese are invited to join Bishop Richard for an informal coffee morning to discuss our response to the Refugee Crisis. It will include a short talk on the 'Homes for Ukraine'.

Refreshments available from 11.00 am. Free parking in the church car park. To book please go the Diocesan website event calendar or email formation@abdiocese.org.uk.

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Online Safety – Mrs A. O’Donovan, Assistant Headteacher

XBox Gaming Safety Toolkit



Many children and young people will be using Xbox gaming stations at home and as such Microsoft have put together quite a comprehensive toolkit (a PDF document) for parents, children and young people that goes into quite a lot of depth, including parental controls, guidance for all ages, common safety risks, bullying, unwanted contact and more. There is also age-specific guidance (from 5 years upwards) and case studies.

The toolkit has been produced for gamers in Australia and New Zealand, but having read through I can see no reason at all why this can't be used by any person in any country, the information is all the same regardless.

The link to the toolkit is a free PDF download: [HERE](#).

Supporting Young Girls' Wellbeing



The social media world of fast-scrolling, instant connections and perfection can have a detrimental effect on wellbeing. It is important that parents have the knowledge and confidence to talk to their children about this and as such Internet Matters have put together a guide for parents. Although the guide is titled to support young girls aged 9-10, I would say there is good advice for boys and girls of any age. You can find the guide [HERE](#).

Online Enticement - 82% Increase

US-based CyberTipline (part of NCMEC - National Center for Missing and Exploited Children) have released their annual report which shows an alarming rise in reports of online enticement. The CyberTipline is important for all of us, regardless of which country we reside in. This is the organisation which receives automated reports of suspected Child Sexual Exploitation /Abuse (CSE/A) from companies (e.g. Roblox, Facebook, Snapchat, TikTok etc.) and sends these to the local police force for investigation/safeguarding. Within these reports were just under 50 million images, just under 38 million videos and just over 1 million other files (e.g. chat logs).

The report goes into a lot of detail, e.g. the Tipline received over 32 million reports of CSE in 2022, a rise of over 2 million reports from the previous year. Online enticement saw an increase of 82%, which included a significant spike of financial sextortion, where children are targeted to share photos and are then blackmailed.

These new stats are hugely concerning and it is important that we step-up the talks we have with children and young people about this.

You can read further details about the report [HERE](#) and if you would like to see which providers are reporting and their numbers you can see [THIS](#) report.

Is Social Media Ruining Childhood?



Not a day goes by where the mainstream media are coming out with new headlines about how social media is all bad, that it is the 'cause' of many issues, that it is like 'digital heroin' and much more. None of this does anything to help schools or parents, but simply feeds the alarmists. The only real fact we do know is the fact we don't know very much at all. People's perceptions of social media, good or bad, will vary depending on their own experience, but if you would like to read a good, balanced article about social media and the known/unknown effects on childhood you can read [THIS](#) article from Professor Etchells.

Online Identity



Who we are in the real world is not always who we are online, but our online identity is important for a multitude of different reasons, e.g. risk management, employment. Internet Matters and Dr. Linda Papadopoulos have a series of 6 short videos plus some guides which discuss the pressures that children face online and developing their online identity. You can find the resources [HERE](#).

ChatGPT



ChatGPT has been in the news a lot recently, maybe you've dabbled in it? Some of you may not be aware of it. Childnet have put together an informative blog for parents/carers to explain AI and ChatGPT, what it can/can't do and importantly, the safety considerations. You can find the blog [HERE](#).

For Parents - Virtual Reality



Children using virtual reality (VR) headsets is very much in a minority, which I suspect, in part, is due to the cost. As with anything there are risks, so Childnet have put a great blog together for parents to understand what VR is, age restrictions and considerations. You can find the blog [HERE](#).

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Parent Survey: Mrs J. Birch, Executive Headteacher

As this academic year reaches its final half-term, we would like to seek your views as parents by asking you to complete and return a brief survey. Your views will form part of our annual school evaluation and review process when we are formulating our school development plan for the forthcoming year. It will be very helpful if **every** family could return a survey so that we can ensure the views are representative of the **whole school**. It should only take ten minutes to complete but could of course take longer if you wish to add more detail.

The questionnaire will shortly be sent to you electronically via Schoolcomms. If English is not your first language, and you would like support to complete the questionnaire, please contact Mrs O'Donovan our Inclusion Leader via the school office and she will be happy to assist you.

We have a very supportive community of parents who are extremely committed to, and interested in, their children's education. Your views are important to us; please do take the time to submit the questionnaire.

If you would prefer a paper copy of the survey, please do contact the school office and they can print one off for you.

Please look out for the survey which will be coming home to parents via Schoolcomms this week. There are separate surveys for each year group so that we can gain a better insight into different views that may depend on which year group a child is in. Please complete one survey per child per family.

Thank you!

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Parking and being considerate to our neighbours

We once again have to ask you all to be aware of where you park please.

Please always park considerately so that we keep disruption for our neighbours to a minimum. It is obviously never acceptable to park across a neighbour's drive or to park so close to their drive that residents can't see clearly to pull out onto the road to leave their house. This includes not parking over dropped curbs and driveways, even partially over as it has the same affect for the homeowners.

We have been notified of a recent incident where builders carrying out work on a house in Onslow Crescent were unable to get to their next job due to being parked in the driveway. They also had to endure the rudeness of the parent who had blocked them in! Please be aware that our neighbours will be reporting any further incidents to the local police.

Onslow Crescent gets very busy at peak times. Not everyone can park here!

We ask parents please to endeavour to park one minute further away and walk if they are able. This is also healthier for your children too to get this daily exercise.

Please note **it is always illegal to park on yellow zig-zag lines anywhere at certain times.**

Rule 243 of the Highway Code indicates a range of places where motorists must not park, including on a bend, a dropped kerb or the brow of a hill. It also states that drivers must not park near a school entrance or anywhere that would prevent access for emergency.

Surrey County Council and Surrey Police are working in partnership to crack down on people who drive and park in a selfish manner. It is our children who are most at risk if people stop, drop or park selfishly.

You can also report incidents to Woking Borough Council 01483 755855 or on their website www.woking.gov.uk.

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Regrouping Classes: Mrs J. Birch

As we begin to plan for the next school year, we wanted to remind parents that we routinely regroup the children across the year group at the end of Years 2 and 4. We also routinely look at all the year groups across the school each year and may regroup other year groups between these times to rebalance the classes if we feel it would be of benefit to the children.

This year, we will be regrouping the current years 2, 4 and 3 for September 2023.

Please be assured that significant time and thought is spent considering which children will be in which class. All parents will be informed which class their child will be in before the whole school open evening on Thursday 6th July so that you are able to say hello to your child's new teacher and see your child's new classroom on that evening.

We believe that there are a number of very good reasons for regrouping the year group. By regrouping the children we believe they benefit socially, emotionally and educationally. Children's

needs change as they grow, mature and develop through the school. We need to help the children to become independent people and resilient learners. If children can only perform to their best in the company of one close friend, or get upset if they are parted from them, or if they are absent, then this is a well-being concern. We know that emotional intelligence is highly important and we need to ensure that our children become well-rounded, resilient individuals who are able to work well and communicate effectively with a wide range of people. Additionally, regrouping the year group classes:

- Allows us to consider the individual needs of each and every child as they grow and develop by ensuring there is a range of types of learners in each class from the least confident to the most confident.
- It allows us to rebalance the classes in a year group so that the whole range of learners can be effectively managed and catered for. As children grow and mature, needs can change, increase or decrease.
- Enables us to ensure that there is an even distribution of personality types within each class. For example, it allows leadership skills to be nurtured over a greater number of children and children with potential, who do not demonstrate their skills due to always being in a class with dominant others, will be better served.
- In order that all children can learn happily, and without disruption, we split groups or pairings of children that have not worked well in the same class base, especially where behaviour could be improved.

We do of course provide support for those children who we know find change difficult and by knowing that this change is approaching well ahead of time, children and staff have plenty of time to prepare. Mrs Hughes, our SENDCo, will be fully involved in the regrouping of children.

All of the children will continue to mix freely at all social times: playtimes and lunchtimes etc. and come together for year group events and activities. Friends will be able to play together and socialise together. Regrouping is for lesson time only.

It is in the children's best interest if they see change as a positive and exciting opportunity rather than something to worry about. Most of the children and parents will not be concerned at all, but we understand that some parents may worry. Please remember that every child is very precious to us and we will only make decisions that are in their best interests. Please support the children by encouraging your child to approach this opportunity with excitement and enthusiasm.

Parents will be able to meet their child's new class teacher at the whole school Open Evening on Thursday 6th July. We are not able to issue class lists of names to parents, but the children will be visiting their new classes, new classrooms and getting to know their new teacher before the end of term.

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Reports: End of Year Reports

Your child's end of year report will be coming home on Friday 7th July.

The report envelope will include a letter explaining the content of your child's end of year report and how you can speak to your child's class teacher if you have an outstanding query or concern about the report. There will also be a form that you can complete to make your own comments about your child's report and return it to the class teacher.

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School Office

Whole school photograph

Fraser Portraits will be in school on Thursday 6th July, to take a whole school photo.

We would like boys to wear their shirt and tie for these photos please (shorts may be worn if the weather is hot, but not polo shirts) and girls should wear summer dresses *if possible*. (We appreciate that not all girls wear summer dresses and do not want parents to buy one especially for this.) Both girls and boys should wear their blazer as always. Please ensure that your child's blazer has buttons on that can be done up.

If you do not wish your child to be included in the whole school photo, please email the school office by Friday 30th June. You will always receive an acknowledgement for any email sent to the school office.

Thank you for your support to ensure the children are really smart for the whole school photo.

Lunch money for Summer Term 2023– Mrs M. O’Riordan

School dinner costs for the last half of the Summer Term is £94.50. Please remember that should you wish to change your child's meal choice from hot to cold or vice versa, one week's notice is required in writing as orders are made in advance.

We have had a number of occasions when parents have changed without notification to the school office. Not only does this cause an administrative difficulty when numbers do not tally but also means that the school is liable for the cost of the food order.

Therefore, if you change your child from school dinners to packed lunches without notification you will be liable for outstanding monies due to Surrey County Council. Lunch monies will be due until the date change is confirmed by the school office.

Attendance – Mrs A. O’Donovan, Assistant Headteacher (Pastoral)

The law entitles every child of compulsory school age to an efficient, full-time education suitable to their age, aptitude, and any special educational need they may have. It is the legal responsibility of every parent to make sure their child receives that education either by attendance at a school or by education otherwise than at a school. Where parents decide to have their child registered at school, they have an additional legal duty to ensure their child attends that school regularly. This means their child must attend every day that the school is open, except in a small number of allowable circumstances such as being too ill to attend or being given permission for an absence in advance from the Headteacher.

The local authority have now designated a new Inclusion Officer to us. He will be attending the school on a termly basis to monitor the school's attendance levels and to discuss the attendance of children whose attendance has been lower than the expected level. **We are required to send a letter to any parent where a child has been discussed as having cause for concern related to attendance.**

We cannot stress highly enough the importance of good school attendance, not just on the children's learning, but also their relationships with their peers and their emotional well-being. Not only does poor attendance affect the child who is absent, but it also affects the other children in the class as time has to be spent with the child who has been absent, catching them up when they return. This is simply not fair unless there is an exceptional health or other circumstance for the absence.

I can be contacted via the school office and am always willing to support any family in need of help to improve their child's attendance.

Reporting your child's absence – Mrs M. O'Riordan

By law, the school must record children's absences and the reason for these absences. These absences may be discussed when the Inclusion Officer visits if the amount of absence is cause for concern. If your child is not in school for any reason, please fill out the absence form on our school website, before 9.30am on each day of the absence as we need to know that your child is safe. Click [here](#) to access the absence form. If a call is not received, the school office will telephone you to understand the reason for your child's absence.

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Sports & PE

Sporting updates: Mr A. Coyle, PE Leader and Senior Teacher

Competition Update

Year 4 cricket festival



On Thursday 4th May, our Year 4 boys travelled to New Haw School for a friendly quick cricket competition against New Haw and Greenfield schools. Batting in pairs and taking it in turns to bowl six balls each, the boys performed really well. They scored plenty of runs and bowled with precision and accuracy in two closely fought games. Well done boys, a really good experience.



Year 6 boys' football vs West Byfleet

We took two teams to West Byfleet on Wednesday 17th May, to take part in a small aspire round robin tournament. Both teams played superbly well and were rewarded with 1-0 wins in their first games. With the West Byfleet teams switching pitches for a second game, each team saw a reverse of the results and lost 1-0. It was fantastic to see so many of our year 6 boys get the opportunity to represent the school.



Boys' cricket competition

Surrey Cricket club hosted their annual Woking competition on 18th May. We took a mixed Year 4 – 6 team to compete against local schools. In a closely fought affair, we finished 2nd in our group winning twice and losing once. Taking on a strong West Byfleet team in the semi-final, we were desperately unlucky to fall short by just a few runs. Not downhearted though, we responded in the 3rd place playoff, winning comfortably and taking the bronze medal home. A fantastic afternoon of cricket was on display and our highest place in many years. Well done to Mr Wise and the boys!

Year 5 girls' football tournament

Our girls took part in the Daryl Brooker football competition, at Woking Leisure centre on Friday 19th May. Every game the girls played was very close and there was not much to choose between each team. We ended with a record of one win, one draw and three defeats, which does not reflect truly how close the girls were to winning each match. It was a



It was a

fantastic learning opportunity and experience for the girls and it was incredibly pleasing and encouraging to see them gel and develop as a cohesive group. A bright future lies ahead.

Year 6 boys' County Cup Final

On Thursday May 25th, our boys played in the hugely anticipated county cup final at the home of Dorking Wanderers FC, Meadowbank stadium. Taking a travelling support with us really gave the occasion a special cup final atmosphere the boys deserved. The competition began in September, with a trip to Croydon to play the Royal Russell School. Having travelled also to Sutton, Epsom and Oxted on the journey, the road had been long, but the boys have showed their class in reaching the final. The final saw the boys take on the sport specialist independent Witgift School. The boys knew they would be in for a really hard fought match. Never shying away from a tackle, or backing down the boys took the game to the opposition for the whole match. After conceding two early goals, we hit back with a goal before half time to give us hope. Pushing at the start of the second half, knowing we needed the next goal, we were hit by a fantastic strike from the Witgift central midfielder to make it 3-1. The boys refused to let their heads drop and were unlucky to not be rewarded with some goals. A late goal from Witgift made the score 4-1, and meant the boys suffered cup final heartbreak.

I would like to go on record to say, how I am personally so proud of these boys for the county cup run, they are a credit to themselves and the school. They have been so fantastic, organising themselves, playing as a solid unit and supporting each other the whole way through. Unlucky boys, well done for the fantastic achievement on reaching the final and I look forward to seeing how your futures pan out at SJB.



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Whole School Open Evening: Thursday 6th July from 6pm (start) – 7.15pm (finish)

This is an opportunity for pupils to proudly show their parents, grandparents, families and carers around the whole school on Thursday 6th July.

All the classes in both main school and Rosary House will be open for parents/carers to visit with their children. Teachers will be in their classrooms and you will be able to meet your child's new teacher too. (This is not an evening to discuss individual pupils or to look at children's books, but an opportunity for families to see the inside of the school, meet staff and to look at displays of work.)

Pupils should return to school proudly in their school uniform, including school shoes, as they will be your tour guides and will need to show themselves as ambassadors for all our visitors!

The Lower School playground will be open for parking. We are expecting a good turn out as this is our first open school for some time. The school corridors will therefore be very busy and we will therefore be unable to facilitate prams or buggies on this occasion.

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Dates for your Diary – noted changes to the Annual Calendar



For your information: - Please note there are no changes to the dates as published in the Annual Calendar for this newsletter.

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Friends of St. Dunstan's (FoSD) Section of the School Newsletter



The FoSD Committee

Carys, Kamila, Elizabeth and Dhina.

Dear Parents, Carers, and friends of St. Dunstan's.

We hope you all had a lovely half-term; the final and busiest few weeks before the summer are upon us – and we are very excited for our Summer Fair, Dad's Football Tournament, and look forward to seeing as many involved as possible in the coming weeks.

A few updates from FoSD:

Thank you

A big thank you to **Sharon Saliba** and her team, for a fun-filled and exciting quiz night, the team raised a fantastic **£2,800**. Thank you too, to all the parents, carers and friends of St. Dunstan's who attended, and supported the event.

A big thank you too, to **Charlotte Reynolds** and her team, for a very successful summer disco. This event raised an amazing **£3,900**. Thank you to all the volunteers and teachers who helped on the day, and to all the parents and children who supported the event.

Happy Bags

The Happy Bags was a big success, and we raised **£475** from 951 kilos of preloved clothes and shoes.

Thank you to all those that brought in their bags, and to the ladies who helped organise and run the pick up 😊

Welcome

Welcome to **Dr. Geraint Parry**, who has kindly agreed to take on the role of Chair of FoSD, he will take up this position from September 2023.

Swimming Donations

Swimming lessons for children from Year 1 upwards are underway, and we would like to remind parents that where possible, a voluntary contribution of £15 for the first sibling and £5 per additional sibling up to the suggested maximum donation of £25 is donated to help fund the swimming lessons. A very big thank you to all those that have contributed to date. Please visit <https://www.pta-events.co.uk/fosd> to make donations online. Please ensure the *PTA Events User* is in the name of the Tax payer and that gift aid is clicked.

If would like to pay via PayPal, via bank transfer, or by cash, please email Kamila on treasurerfosd@gmail.com for further details.

Summer term Cake Sales

This term FoSD will aim to host its final cake sale the last week of term; details will follow via email regarding this.

The Summer Fair

Plans are well under way for the Summer Fair, a separate communication will be circulated in the next couple of days. Just a reminder please that this Friday 9th June, is the first of the 3 donation days; and this week, we are asking for toys, small books, sweets and uniform.

We would still like to invite sponsorship please, if anyone is interested in sponsoring an event or stall at the summer fair, please do get in contact with Carys on 07976235857 or friendsofstdunstanschairperson@gmail.com. The **deadline** for this is Friday **16th June 2023**.

We would also like to invite any parents, carers or friends of St. Dunstan's who would like to either advertise services, or businesses within the summer fair programme, or to host their own stall at the summer fair, to please get in touch with Carys or Sarah Genco too, to discuss this. Sarah can be contacted on 07837189446 or sarah.genco@yahoo.co.uk. The **deadline** for this is Friday **9th June 2023**.

Please be reminded raffle tickets have gone out to each family. Please could we ask that every effort is made to sell your tickets to family, neighbours and friends. There are some lovely prizes to be won. Stubs and money can be returned to the school office in the envelopes provided, up until Friday **23rd June**. Thank you.

The Parents' Football Tournament

A separate schoolcomms will be circulated shortly regarding the football tournament, in the meantime, if you would like to find out how you can get involved, and support this event, please contact Johnny Fox on 07766555087.

Dates for the Diary

Summer Fair: Sunday 25th June

Year 4 cake sale: last week of the term

Parents Football Tournament: Saturday 15th July

Thank you for everything you all do to support FoSD and our school.

Thank you.

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