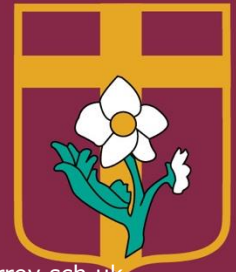


# St. Dunstan's Catholic Primary School

# Newsletter



Executive Headteacher: Mrs J. Birch - [head@stdunstans.surrey.sch.uk](mailto:head@stdunstans.surrey.sch.uk)  
Head of School: Mrs G. Morganti - [headofschool@stdunstans.surrey.sch.uk](mailto:headofschool@stdunstans.surrey.sch.uk)

March 2024

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## Dear Parents,

The photo above shows some of our Year 4 children on their residential visit at Sayers Croft last week. I was fortunate enough to spend the day with them there and they really were having a wonderful time, albeit rather muddy! Such special memories are made on these trips.

We ended February with a focus visit from one of the primary advisers from the Diocese, looking at the Catholic life of the school and the quality of the religious education we provide. The adviser spent the day in school joining collective worship, observing lessons, talking to pupils and discussions with senior staff. The visit was overwhelmingly positive, with the adviser informing us that what she had experienced at St. Dunstan's was 'exceptional' and very special. She commented especially on the strength of the Catholic life and mission of the school, the high quality of the teaching and learning, the high levels of religious literacy across the school (from Reception to Year 6) and the exemplary behaviour throughout. She said that no opportunity for learning was missed, the school's attention to detail was significant, the school environment was well maintained and that most importantly it was clear that the children were loved and well cared for.

We were all extremely proud.

The next few weeks in school are very busy and I know they will go by very quickly. I very much hope that I will see as many of you as possible before the end of term and I will of course write to you again before then.

With my very best wishes,

*Julianne Birch*



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Catholic Primary School

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# Activities and Events

## EYFS – Mrs H. Robbins: Head of EYFS

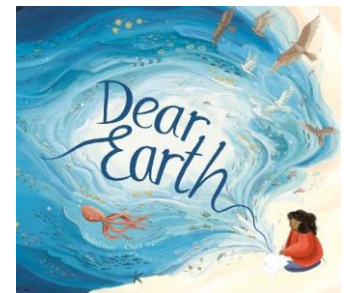
Our half term began with the arrival of some new visitors! Our “Living Eggs” were already 19 days old when they arrived in their incubators and soon began to hatch. It is always a delight to witness the awe and wonder from the children as they experience the miracle of God’s creation first hand. We have been thinking about how to take care of the newly hatched chicks and have even made several posters and signs to remind each other how to keep the chicks safe. We will continue to post lots of photos and updates on Twitter. In our RE lessons, we have begun our Lenten journey together by changing the prayer cloths to purple and thinking about how we prepare ourselves for Easter during Lent through praying, fasting and alms giving.



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

This half term the children in Year 1 received a very special letter. It was from a little girl called Tessa, who told us about the beauty and wonder of our planet. But the Earth is fragile; people are not taking care of it, and Tessa needs our help. Through the text ‘Dear Earth’, by Isabel Otter, the children will continue to follow Tessa over the next few weeks as she blows bubbles with whales, soars with birds and joins in with the noisy rainforest hullabaloo! Tessa wants everyone to know how special our planet is, and we can’t wait to write our own love letters to the Earth just like her.



In Geography, the children have been exploring the United Kingdom. We learnt that the U.K. is made up of four countries; England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. We found the capital cities of these countries using an atlas and plotted them on our own maps using stickers. We had to concentrate to make sure our stickers were placed accurately. We are very excited to learn more about each country in greater detail!



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## Year 2– Miss L. Butler: Head of Year



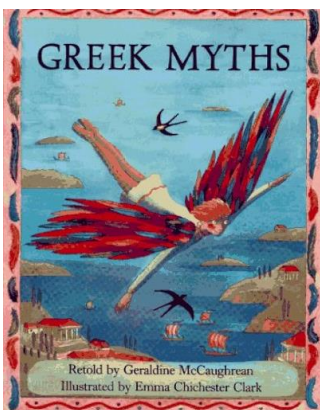
We have a very exciting half term ahead of us! Linking to our prior knowledge of upcycling, the children in Year 2 will be reflecting on an area in our school that can become a new environment project. Through the text 'The Secret Sky Garden' the children have started to think about how we can take care of God's wonderful world and they will be writing persuasive letters to our school Eco-Council.

Linking to our geography topic this half term, the whole of Year 2 will be undertaking some field work in the local area. The purpose of our trip is to complete a traffic survey based on all the vehicles that passed by in a ten minute period. The children will be learning about tally charts and pictograms and have the chance to predict what would be the most popular form of transport before the field trip. This links further to our environmental project and will allow the children to think deeply about the impact transport has on our environment.



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## Year 3– Miss N. Maloney: Head of Year & Senior Teacher



In Year 3 we are enjoying the chance to work across two different subjects. Our History topic is all about the Ancient Greeks. One of the legacies of that civilisation is that we are able to read the Greek Myths. At the moment we are focusing on the story of 'Theseus and the Minotaur', we have predicted a different ending and thought about how to describe the different characters. The children were surprised that something as humble as a ball of string might be a very useful tool for a hero. The talent show auditions were very inspiring as the children not only demonstrated courage for entering but had

really thought about and worked on their acts. Congratulations are in order for everyone who took part and we wish the chosen two acts who are representing our year group, the best of luck.

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## Year 4– Miss H. Fail: Head of Year & Senior Teacher

We would like to celebrate our residential visit to Sayers Croft and say a huge thank you to our parents for your support in preparing children for this trip. It was wonderful to see how the children overcame physical challenges with determination and resilience, such as the woodland ropes course and shelter building. We were also delighted by their teamwork skills, especially during activities such as climbing where they worked in groups to control the ropes and support their peers with words of encouragement.

It was a truly memorable experience for all and we know the children will treasure memories of their first residential trip for many years to come.



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## Year 5 - Miss E. Roe: Head of Year

Year 5 are embarking on a scientific journey with our new topic: Forces! Through hands-on experiments, demonstrations, and interactive lessons, we aim to deepen our understanding of the physical world around us. Through our RE topic this half term, Year 5 will engage in thoughtful reflections on the significance of Jesus' sacrifice and contemplate the importance of the Last Supper. On March 22nd, our school community will come together for a solemn and meaningful event: the Stations of the Cross Liturgy.

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## Year 6 - Mrs T. Steer: Assistant Headteacher, Teaching and Learning

The spring half term is flying by, and Year 6 are keeping busy. Following an amazing Art Week, we launched into our topic on World War 2 with a fantastic enrichment day. The children's costumes were fabulous and really helped set the scene. We travelled back in time to 1939 and listened to Neville Chamberlain's Declaration of War broadcast. Teachers also got fully into the role helping prepare the children's gas masks and filling out the registration documents as well as a few 40s' style lessons on arithmetic and handwriting.

There is still more to come. We travel to Henley Fort in Guildford during the week commencing 11<sup>th</sup> March for another day in role – this time as home guards and ARP wardens and we finish everything off with a VE day celebration. Your child will be coming home with some home learning linked to rationing to support this.

Amidst all this fabulous learning, we have also been busy preparing for the week of the SATs (May 13<sup>th</sup> – May 16<sup>th</sup>), with a mock run through and revision books handed out. There is also a Year 6 parents' talk about SATs this Friday 8<sup>th</sup> March at 2.30pm in the school hall.

As we don't get to see many parents at pick-up please remember our doors are always open if you want a catch up.

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## Maths Day – Miss E. Roe, Head of Year 5 and Maths Leader

On Monday 18<sup>th</sup> March, we will be celebrating World Maths Day and this year our focus will be on Money! With help from our Maths Ambassadors, the children will be involved in a number of activities throughout the day. We invite you to attend our Mathematical Market on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> March, 3:15 – 3:45, where you can see some of the things we have created and make a donation to our Lenten charity, Mission Together.

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## Attendance and Absence

### Why is school attendance so important?

School lays the vital foundations for a child's future life. There is strong research that shows that irregular attendance can adversely affect academic and social development. As a child's level of overall absence increases, the likelihood of achieving key attainment outcomes decreases. Whilst the school's level of attendance is returning to good levels compared to other schools nationally, it is yet to return to the very high levels pre-Covid. The school has an ethos of the highest expectations of self and others and we strive for the best we can be in everything we do. Family holidays and 'get

togethers' are of course extremely important, but these need to be planned for the 13 weeks each year that the children are on holiday...that's 25% of the year!

Every message we give our children must reinforce the importance of education. When children are absent from school, they miss out on consistent teaching that is needed to develop basic skills. This can have a snowball effect that impacts future learning. Not only do children miss the academic side of their learning, but the children are also disadvantaged socially as the other children move on with their friendships and relationships while the other children are absent. Absence from school not only disadvantages the absent child but also the rest of the children in the class as the teacher has to spend time with the child who has been absent, helping them to catch up on their return. Other than for exceptional reasons such as illness, this is simply not fair.

### Authorisation of absence during term time

A pupil's absence during term time can seriously disrupt their continuity of learning. Not only do they miss the teaching provided on the days they are away, they are also less prepared for the lessons on their return. There is consequently a risk of underachievement. Parents should not take any unauthorised leave of absence during term time.

### Penalty Notices and Fines

Parents do not have the right to take their child out of school for any period of time. All parents seeking leave of absence must complete an 'Application for leave of absence/exceptional circumstances' form. It is for the Head Teacher to decide whether or not there are exceptional circumstances. All requests for leave of absence are treated sympathetically, but the policy of Surrey County Council, to which this school has agreed, is that other than in exceptional circumstances, absences during term time will not be authorised. This is explained to parents before they accept a place for their child at St. Dunstan's and is stated in the welcome booklet issued to parents. Parents sign the home school agreement agreeing to adhere to the school's policy on absence in term time.

The Governors' Attendance Policy (available on the school website:

<http://www.stdunstans.surrey.sch.uk/Policies/Welfare%20and%20Inclusion/Attendance%20and%20Punctuality.pdf> explains that if parents persist in taking their child out of school without the approval of the school, they will be liable to receive a Penalty Notice for failing to ensure their child's regular school attendance. **Each parent will be liable to receive a Penalty Notice for each child who is absent.**

The Penalty Notice is currently £60 if paid within 21 calendar days and £120 if paid after this time but within 28 days. Failure to pay the Penalty Notice will result in you being served with a summons to appear at the Magistrates Court.

If the absence exceeds 20 days, your child's name will be removed from the school roll and you will have to reapply for places upon your return. We have waiting lists for every year group.

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## Charity and Justice

### Charity and Justice –Miss H. King Lenten Fundraising

On Tuesday 20th February, we were very privileged to be able to welcome Mrs Thomas into school for collective worship. The children enjoyed learning about the charity 'Mission Together - children helping children'. Learning about how we can share God's mission of love throughout the world, the

children thought deeply about how to give to others during Lent. Following on from this collective worship, the children will be bringing home a Missio red box. Please encourage your child to put any spare change that they may have in the box and to bring back to school after the Easter break (from Monday 15th April). Thank you in advance for your support.



*May all the children  
In the world  
Share love  
Share friendship  
In the peace Of God's love  
Now and forever  
Amen*

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## Children's Learning

### Partners in Learning- Monday 25<sup>th</sup> March

We look forward to inviting you to visit your child/ren's class for the spring term 'Partners in Learning'.

Please note this is on a **Monday rather than a Friday afternoon.**

The sessions will start approximately 5 mins after the children leave for the day as the class teacher needs to ensure all children are collected and have time to return to the classroom before parents. As year groups leave at different times, please be patient and wait to be called in by the different entrances.

For EYFS and Year 2: the 'little wooden gate' near Reception St Teresa's class.

For Years 1, 5 and 6: the external classroom door

For Years 3 and 4: the door next to the After School Club room on the KS 2 playground

The times will be approximately:

Year R: 3.10pm

Year 1: 3.15pm

Years 2 & 3: 3.20pm

Years 4- 6: 3.25pm

The session ends at 4pm.

Please note: As corridors are busy at this time, and to ensure fire routes are kept unhindered, please do not bring buggies or prams into school. Thank you for your consideration.

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## Governors

### Message from Mr B. McKendry (Chair of Governors)



#### Determined Admission Policy for 2025-2026

In accordance with statutory requirements, a copy of the Determined Admission Policy and the Supplementary Information Form for 2025-2026 are available to view on the school's website: [http://www.stdunstans.surrey.sch.uk/School\\_Policies.htm](http://www.stdunstans.surrey.sch.uk/School_Policies.htm)

Should you wish to be provided with a paper copy, please contact the Clerk to Governors via the school office on 01483 715190 or by email: [amurray@stdunstans.surrey.sch.uk](mailto:amurray@stdunstans.surrey.sch.uk)

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## St Dunstan's Stay and Play After-School Club & Early Birds Breakfast Club Fee Review

### Joe Dunne – Chair of Finance & Buildings Committee

Governors have reviewed the fees at a recent committee meeting and decided that the charges for Stay and Play After-School Club should be increased. Therefore, the fees will be increasing to £15.00 per session for Stay and Play Club as of the 15th April 2024 (after the Easter Holidays). Early Birds will remain at £5.75 per session. The same billing and payment arrangements will continue as now in place.

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## Information from Subject Leaders

### Clubs - Mr A. Coyle – Senior Teacher

#### Summer Term:

All summer term clubs are now available to view on the website. We do hope your child finds a club they enjoy. Please discuss with your child if they wish to attend any of the clubs on offer prior to making a booking, as there are no refunds given due to cancellation.

The booking window will open at **6pm** on **Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> March** and remain open until **Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> of March**. **We will then review teacher led club bookings and re-open Schoolcloud.**

Although, some club spaces will go quickly; please be aware that more spaces will be allocated during our second booking window.

Whilst this term we have managed several late bookings, please note that for the summer term, if you miss both booking windows you should contact the school office. Your request will be noted and a communication sent to you thereafter notifying you of a 'one off/final' booking window. We will not be able to continue to accept late bookings throughout the term.



All external led clubs can be booked directly with the external led club providers, details of which can be found on the school website, please click [here](#).

#### **Important dates:**

- **Teacher Led Clubs will run from:**
- **Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> April, 2024 to Friday 17<sup>th</sup> May, 2024 (Spring 1);**
- **Monday 03<sup>rd</sup> June, 2024 to Friday 28<sup>th</sup> June, 2024(Spring 2)**
  
- **External Led Clubs will run from:**
- **Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> April, 2024 to Friday 17/05/2024(Spring 1);**
- **Monday 03<sup>rd</sup> June, 2024, to Friday 12<sup>th</sup> July, 2024 (Spring 2)**
- **An extra session to make up for the May Bank holiday will be held on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> May.**



**Please note that no clubs will run on the following dates:**

**Monday 06<sup>th</sup> May - Bank Holiday**  
**Monday 24<sup>th</sup> May - Inset Day**  
**Monday 27<sup>th</sup> May, to Friday 31<sup>st</sup> May, 2024- HALF TERM**

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## Snacks

Just a reminder please that snacks brought into school for morning break or before a club, should be a portion of fruit or a vegetable (fresh or dried). Children in Lower School (Reception to Year 2) are provided with a free fruit or vegetable as part of the Government's "Free Fruit for Schools" scheme.



## Table Manners

We encourage the children to develop good table manners, including how to use knives and forks correctly, sitting on their bottom rather than their feet, not speaking with their mouth full of food when eating formally at the table. Please do help your child by encouraging them to practise and use the same skills at home.

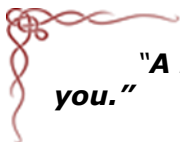


## RE topics this term: Come and See – Mrs S. Turner – Senior Teacher



Year groups 2 to 5 will continue with their study of 'Eucharist' (Relating), with each year group tackling the theme through different topics. Drawing inspiration from the teachings of Jesus, the children will develop a deeper appreciation for the blessings bestowed upon them and discover ways to maximize these gifts through their interactions with others. Matthew (18:20) beautifully reminds us that Jesus' presence is felt when we gather in

His name, urging us to cherish His guidance and seek His support during trying times. Exploring the letters of St Paul, the children will uncover further insights into God's love and gain valuable guidance on nurturing meaningful connections with those around them. By embracing Jesus' teachings and the wisdom found in St Paul's letters, the children will enhance their ability to effectively relate to others and foster a harmonious community based on love and understanding.



**"A new commandment I give unto you: that you love one another, as I have loved you."**

John 13:34-35

Their new learning on the topic of 'Giving' will begin at the end of this half term and be continued in the new term. This includes how we prepare for Easter in church during Holy Week, traditions of Lent and Easter, and scripture in regards to the journey Jesus made through Holy Week to Easter and how his actions teach us how to understand his sacrifice and to know how to live more like him.

The subject of RE is taught through a Catholic Primary Religious Programme called "Come and See" which is recommended and supported by the Diocese.

### LENT/EASTER - GIVING

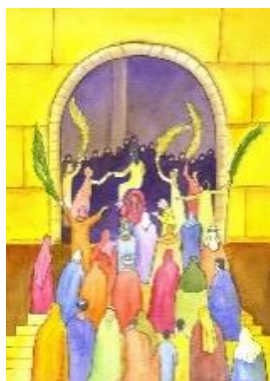
Year 2	OPPORTUNITIES - Lent: an opportunity to start anew
Year 3	GIVING ALL - Lent: remembering Jesus' total giving
Year 4	SELF DISCIPLINE - Celebrating growth to new life
Year 5	SACRIFICE - Lent: a time of aligning with the sacrifice made by Jesus

### SUGGESTIONS FOR HOME ACTIVITIES

As a family talk about how you are going to practise self-control and self-giving for the rest of the season of Lent. You may decide to give up biscuits or cakes and donate the money to a charity.

If you have an older child provide him/her with an opportunity to take part in The Stations of the Cross. Ask your child/ren how the school is focusing on Lent and self-giving.






This half term EYFS, Year 1 and 6 learning unit is called: Desert To Garden. In this branch, children will study the season of Lent and its culmination in the events of Holy Week. They will learn about the Paschal Triduum at the heart of the Catholic Church's Liturgy and life. This includes exploring the significance of Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Sunday.

EYFS	SUGGESTIONS FOR HOME ACTIVITIES
<p>In EYFS, we will understand that this is a time to reflect on the story of Lent and Easter. Lent is a special time when we learn to care for others, just like Jesus did. They discover why Jesus' dying on the cross is sad, but also how He rose again, making everyone rejoice! It's all about loving God and each other, just like Jesus taught us.</p>	<p>As we prepare for Holy Week:</p> <p>Celebrate Palm Sunday by engaging the children in making palm leaves or displaying real palms, allowing them to experience and reflect on the sensations and sounds of the procession.</p>
<p><b>Year 1</b></p> <p>In Year 1 we explore the significance of Lent as a special time for praying, fasting, and helping others, following Jesus' teachings. Children also comprehend the importance of Jesus' death and resurrection. By the end of this branch, they will grasp simple words, actions, and symbols from the Ash Wednesday and Palm Sunday liturgies. They will understand that Lent is a period of preparation for Easter, involving prayer, fasting, and charitable acts. Additionally, they will experience music or art reflecting how Christian communities worldwide celebrate Lent and Jesus' final week.</p>	<p>Visit the CAFOD and Mission Together website for prayers and liturgies, introducing the significance of Lent through prayer, fasting, and charity.</p> <p>Share the story of The last supper. The younger children are looking at the Gospel of Luke. Next time you are at church, invite the children to make the link between Jesus' Last Supper and Mass. Are there any words or phrases that they recognise?</p> <p>Create hot cross buns with modelling clay or natural materials or perhaps make your own for a Good Friday snack.</p>
<p><b>Year 6</b></p> <p>In Year 6, the children will explore the significant event of the Last Supper. They'll discover that at this moment, Jesus exhibited his love by humbly washing the feet of his disciples. Furthermore, they'll learn that Jesus's ultimate act of love was sacrificing himself on the cross, taking on the suffering of the entire world to reunite us with God's perfect love. The children will also comprehend that Mary holds the revered position of the mother of all Christians. By the end of this branch, the children will be familiar with the significance of the Mass on Holy Thursday, as it commemorates Jesus' actions at the Last Supper and the devout reflection offered by the Stations of the Cross on Christ's journey to the cross.</p>	<p>To help us to remember the Easter story, we can make an Easter Garden in a tray, with symbols in it to help us to remember the story – adding greenery for new life, the three crosses for the crucifixion, a cave for the empty tomb – maybe made with stones or a card tube. You might consider some other Easter symbols – palms, donkey, eggs etc. Invite the children to play with the garden and to label the different parts themselves.</p> <p>You could decorate your own eggs to celebrate Jesus' new life at Easter. Use emptied real egg shells to paint or decorate or card or clay eggs. They could have choices of different colours, collage, buttons, paper etc. to choose from for their designs.</p>

## Safeguarding: Mrs A. O'Donovan – Assistant Headteacher

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

## Online Safety



Thank you to everyone who attended the Online Safety talk before half term. The slides will be available on the school website and you should have received a SchoolComms already with some useful links from the talk.

For your children's safety, it is so important that you take the time to keep up to date with online safety and related issues. Current issues we are seeing in school in relation to online safety are:

- the amount of time children are spending on devices – health recommendations are that children should have no more than 2 hours of screen time a day – this includes television.
- the impact of gaming on behaviour e.g. frustration when they lose a game, addictive behaviour.
- online etiquette – how children talk to one another online via chats within games or using WhatsApp.

## Safeguarding



The Surrey Safeguarding Children's Partnership has a really useful page for parents that give information relating to various aspects of safeguarding, including a range of free to access parenting courses. Click [here](#) to find out more.

## SEND - Mrs S. Hughes

I would just like to sign post you to further support for SEND:



<https://www.sendadvice.surrey.org.uk/>



<https://www.surreylocaloffer.org.uk/parents-and-carers>

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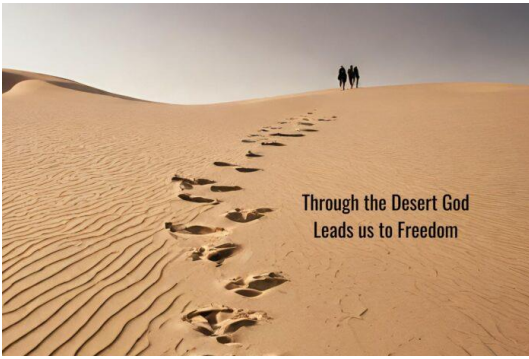
## Liturgy and Worship

### Catholic Life: Prayer and Liturgy



We are now well into our Lenten journey and there are various liturgies and services taking place in the lead up to Holy Week which we will celebrate during the last week of term. Lent should be a season to live simply and focus on the three aspects of prayer, fasting and almsgiving. During the INSET day on the 19<sup>th</sup> February, Raymond Friel led a reflection for staff on the three aspects of Lent and how they ensure we lead fulfilling lives as Catholics. He reminded us that prayer

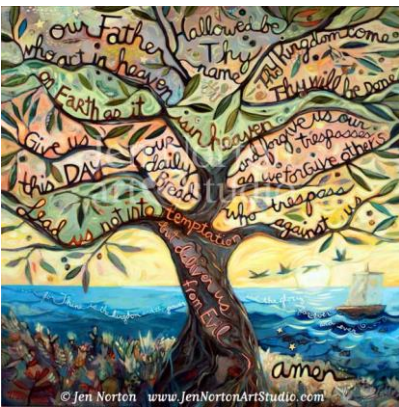
is our opportunity to strengthen our relationship with God, fasting is our opportunity to look after creation by taking less of the world's resources and almsgiving is our way of developing our relationship with others by helping them.



The Pope's message for us this Lent, takes its inspiration from the book of Exodus "I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery" (Exodus 20:2). Pope Francis' messages reflects on the freedom God wants to bring every one of us. Pope Francis says "It is time to act, and in Lent, to act also means to pause. To pause in prayer, in order to receive the word of God, to pause like the Samaritan in the presence of a wounded brother or sister. Love of God and love of neighbour are one love.... For this reason, prayer, almsgiving and

fasting are not three unrelated acts, but a single movement of openness and self-emptying, in which we cast out the idols that weigh us down, the attachments that imprison us."

### Pope Francis' Year of Prayer



In preparation for the 2025 Jubilee Year 'Pilgrims of Hope', 2024 has been designated a Year of Prayer by Pope Francis. There is a particular focus on the Our Father, and this presents us with a great opportunity to go back to the basics of prayer.

The Pope asks us all to join in a great "symphony" of prayer, "to renew our desire to be in the presence of the Lord, to listen to him and to adore him."

You can find out more information about the Year of Prayer and resources on the following links:

<https://cafod.org.uk/pray/year-of-prayer>

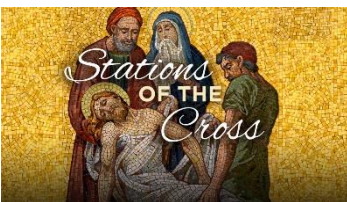
<https://www.abdiocese.org.uk/news/pope-francis-year-of-prayer-2025-jubilee>

### Family Prayer Bags

It has been so lovely to see how you have been using the class prayer bags at home. Thank you to those of you who have given really positive feedback about them. It has been wonderful to see how excited the children are to be chosen to take the prayer bags home and then share how they used them with their class. Thank you for embracing their use.



### Stations of the Cross



We are very much looking forward to Year 5 leading the Stations of the Cross for Key Stage 2 and parents. This is a beautiful way to journey with Jesus through his path to the Cross. You are very welcome to join us at the Church on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> March at 11.15 am. This will not be live streamed.

## Reconciliation

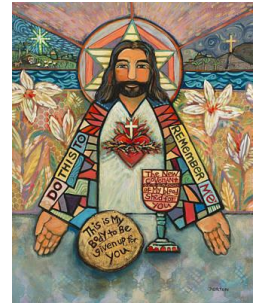


On Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> February, Fr Rob, Fr Nick and Fr Paul Turner (from Bagshot and Camberley Parish) provided the children in Year 5 and 6 with the opportunity to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation as part of their Lenten journey. We were very grateful to the priests for the time they gave to support of children in this sacrament.

On Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> March, Year 6 will lead the rest of Key Stage 2 in a Reconciliation Service with Fr Rob's support. Year 6 will lead us in a time of reflection and prayer through the use of music and drama to contemplate what it means to forgive and be forgiven.

## End of term Mass

Year 3 will lead the Mass to celebrate the end of term along with the Parish and Years 4 to 6. Parents are very welcome to join the school and parish at Mass on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> March at 10am. Mass will be live streamed for those who are unable to attend on the link on the Parish website: <https://st-dunstans.org/streaming/>



## Important Dates:

Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> March -	St David's Feast Day and The World Day of Prayer
Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> March -	Year 2 St. Mary Magdalene's Class Collective Worship (Parents welcome) and Year 4 join Parish Mass
Sunday 17 <sup>th</sup> March -	St. Patrick's Feast Day
Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> March -	St. Joseph's Feast Day and Year 1 St. Bede's Class Collective Worship
Sunday 24 <sup>th</sup> March -	Palm Sunday
Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup> March -	Maundy Thursday
Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> March -	Good Friday
Saturday 30 <sup>th</sup> March -	Holy Saturday
Sunday 31 <sup>st</sup> March -	Easter Sunday

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## Parish Links

### Services during Lent



The weekday Mass on Thursdays will be at 7:30 am during Lent. There will be Stations of the Cross after morning Mass on Tuesdays (except Tuesday February 27<sup>th</sup>) and at 7:30pm on Fridays at St Hugh of Lincoln. There will be Stations of the Cross in Italian at 7 pm each Wednesday evening. The Parish Reconciliation Service will be on Friday March 22<sup>nd</sup> at 7.30 pm.

## St. Dunstan's Social Media

Our confirmation candidates have produced a list of 40 words with definitions for the forty days of Lent. Find them at <https://www.instagram.com/stdunstanscatholicwoking/>



## Lent courses

During Lent we are offering you two opportunities to receive regular emails which may help you on your spiritual journey to Holy Week and Easter. The first, **Lenten Companion: Walking with Jesus to Jerusalem** by *Ascension*, features weekly videos to help you enter more deeply into the beautiful

and penitential Lent Season, find peace and let God heal the parts of your heart that need it most. Please visit [StDunstansRomanCatholicC.flocknote.com/LentenCompanion](http://StDunstansRomanCatholicC.flocknote.com/LentenCompanion)  
The second, **Lenten Challenge**, can help those who strive to 'give up' something during Lent, in the categories of almsgiving, prayer and fasting. Each email will contain a challenge to help you to grow closer to Christ this Lent. Please visit [StDunstansRomanCatholicC.flocknote.com/LentenChallenge](http://StDunstansRomanCatholicC.flocknote.com/LentenChallenge)

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### Help needed on Good Friday

Volunteers are very much needed to help set up equipment and props in the town centre (Jubilee Square) early on Good Friday morning (from 7.00 am onwards) and pack up afterwards at 12 noon. We also need stewards to help during the event in the town from 1030-1200 (10.30 a.m. briefing on the day). If you can help please contact Mark Potter on 07981 374117 or email [potwok@aol.com](mailto:potwok@aol.com)

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## Parent Information

Ms C Whitmore is a registered childminder and has spaces available should you be interested.

Please contact her direct:

Carolyn Whitmore

Mobile 07914730279

Email [carolyn.whitmore@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:carolyn.whitmore@hotmail.co.uk)

Based in GU218UU

Registration no. is EY256253

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## School Office

### Extended Schools

#### After School Club and Breakfast Club – Mrs N. Hammond

We have contacted Year 2 parents directly regarding places at Breakfast and After School Clubs from September 2024 and have sent out electronic application forms to those who have registered an interest.

May we remind you please, that a half-term's notice is required should you wish to cancel a regular booking. If you already know however, that you will definitely not need a space in September 2024, it would be very helpful if you could make us aware as soon as possible to allow us to allocate places to those families on the waiting list. *Thank you.*

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### Lunch money for remaining spring term 2024 – Mrs M. O’Riordan

The amount for the remainder of this term will be £72.90, covering the period 20<sup>th</sup> February until Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> March, 2024.

We would very much appreciate payments to be made online or by cash or cheque (payable to Surrey County Council). Please remember to write your child's name and class on the reverse of any cheques sent into school.



**Should you wish to change your child's meal choice from hot to cold or vice versa, one week's notice (starting on a Monday), is required in writing. Thank you.**

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# Sporting update

## Mr A. Coyle - PE Teacher Sports Hall Athletics

Our final event in January came on Wednesday 31st, when we travelled to Guildford Spectrum to participate on the Woking Borough Sports Hall Athletics. The event is always fast paced and frenetic, and this year proved no different. Taking part in track and field events, the children all had their own part to play. When the results were announced at the end, we were amazed to learn we had finished as winners of the event. We are now the WASPs district champions for 2024! This is the first time our school has won the event, and we look forward to the county finals in March, where we will compete against all the other Surrey district winners! A superb effort by all the boys and girls, a truly remarkable achievement.



## Orienteering

On Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> February, we travelled to Hoe Bridge School to compete in an Aspire orienteering festival. On their lovely grounds, the children were split into team of three or four and used the map to orientate around 21 stamp points. One of our teams were the only group to finish all stamp points, with two other teams needing just one more stamp.

It was a glorious day that summed up the feel of the event, giving the children an opportunity to show their ability to plot their own routes, work out logistics and read a map. Well done to everyone who came along and had a go.



## County cup Quarter final

Also, on 7<sup>th</sup> February, our Year 6 boys played in their County Cup quarter final against a strong Warren Mead side. Knowing that the opposition has recently won a Surrey six a side competition the boys were not intimidated or overawed and played superbly well. After conceding twice in a tight first half, the boys pressed for a route back in to the game and were unlucky not to be rewarded. Warren Mead scored another goal towards the end of the game to make the result 3-0. Although we bow out, the boys should be very proud of their run in the competition.



## Judo

Our final event of a busy month saw five Year 5 boys travel to Egham to take part in a Judo festival. Learning new skills, placing trust in others and communication were all key themes of the day. The children were a credit to the school throughout, making sure they listened carefully, responding to challenge and throwing (literally) themselves in to everything. It was a wonderful event and a fantastic to see the boys come out of themselves as the day progressed. Well done boys.



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## Staffing

### Retirement: Mrs Rita Turner and Mrs Alma Murray

Whilst we are extremely sad to say good-bye to Mrs Rita Turner and Mrs Alma Murray, we are delighted for them both as they retire from their positions at St. Dunstan's School after many years of dedicated service to our school and to start some well-deserved relaxation and free time!

Mrs Turner has worked at our school for over thirty years and her last day at St. Dunstan's School will be 27<sup>th</sup> March. Mrs Murray will have worked at our school for twenty-five years; her last day at St. Dunstan's will be 18<sup>th</sup> April.

We know you will join us in giving thanks for everything Mrs Turner and Mrs Murray have done for our school, the care of the children (and the staff!) and their commitment to everything we do here. They will be greatly missed on our school staff but they leave with our love and prayers for a very happy retirement. We will be saying a very special farewell to Mrs Turner and Mrs Murray at the end of term Mass on 27<sup>th</sup> March.

From after Easter, Mrs Eileen Chamberlain has been appointed to the roles of PA to the Headteacher, Admissions Manager and Clerk to Governors. These are roles currently held by Mrs Murray. Mrs Chamberlain can be contacted by email on: [echamberlain@stdunstans.surrey.sch.uk](mailto:echamberlain@stdunstans.surrey.sch.uk)

### Mrs Sarah Hughes

We will all be very sad to say good-bye to Mrs Sarah Hughes who is leaving us at Easter as she has moved to Dorset and the journey is simply too long to get to and from St. Dunstan's every day. She will be greatly missed but we wish her every happiness in her new home. Mrs O'Donovan and Mrs Cannon will cover for the role of SEND co-ordinator until a new appointment is made for September. Please continue to use: [sendco@stdunstans.surrey.sch.uk](mailto:sendco@stdunstans.surrey.sch.uk) for all emails related to SEND.

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## Twitter – please do follow us

The school Twitter page is:  
[@st\\_dunstans\\_](https://twitter.com/st_dunstans_)

We also currently have the following Twitter pages-

EYFS: @ReceptionStD

Years 1 & 2: @Yr2Dunstans

Key Stage 2: @Yr4StDunstans

PE: @st\_dunstans\_pe

*Please do follow us on twitter as we put lots of news on these pages about what the children are learning about and activities they are taking part in. (We will need to recognise who you are before we let you in to the year group pages.)*

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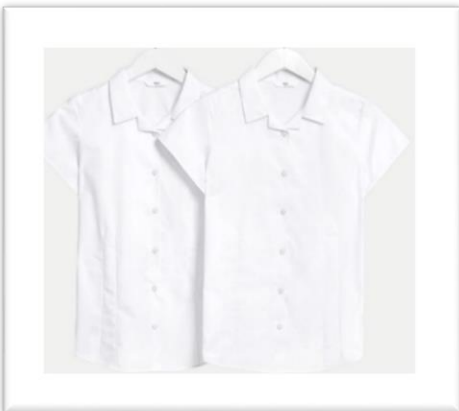
## Uniform – Mrs J. Birch

### Summer dresses or revere collar, fitted, short sleeved blouses

As promised, we have undertaken much research to source our pink and white striped, cotton, summer dresses from an alternative supplier, but have still been unable to find anything suitable at this point in time. We are nearing the point where parents will want to start preparing for summer uniform and have therefore made the following decision for an alternative, girls' summer uniform. The alternative will be a white, cotton, **revere collared**, fitted, short sleeved blouse that can be worn with a school skirt and white socks. We have looked in to the availability of these blouses and they are available from a wide range of uniform suppliers such as M&S, TU, Valentinos, Very.

The link to the M&S blouses is here: <https://www.marksandspencer.com/2-pack-girls-regular-fit-easy-to-iron-blouses/p/clp22225033>

A photo of the school blouses is shown here and we have placed some examples in the main reception for any parent who would like to check what they are like. (I have copied a blue version of the same blouse on this page because the white blouse is difficult to see in the photo.)



Valentinos will be stocking our summer dresses as usual, and there will be some stock available in our pre-loved nearer the time.

Thank you for your support to ensure the children always look smart for school.



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## Dates for your Diary – noted changes/additions to the Annual Calendar for March 2024



### For your information please: -

There are no changes to the dates as set in the Annual Calendar to bring to your attention.

Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> March, 3:15pm – 3:45pm –Mathematical Market

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



*The FoSD Committee*

*Dear Parents, Carers, and Friends of St. Dunstan's,*

Dear Parents and Carers,

After the post-Christmas-lull FOSD activities are picking up again as the weather improves!

Thanks to everyone who attended the Comedy and Curry night on Saturday February 3rd. The humour was venue-appropriate and the food was great so the evening was very entertaining. Best of all FOSD made £950 for school funds.

Thanks to everyone who make the **\*tough\*** decision to buy cakes in the Year 3-4 Cake Sale on February 1<sup>st</sup>. This event along earned £380 for school funds.

**Friday March 1<sup>st</sup>** was the FOSD Sponsored Walk. The child who collects the most sponsorship will win a prize, so please submit the sponsorship money to the School Office asap. All donations are welcomed whenever they make it to school.



We have set **Saturday April 27<sup>th</sup>** for the '**Family Photo Session**'. Regular School photographers 'Smiles at School' will be taking family pictures within 15-minute sessions through the day. We will soon launch the ability to sign-up for a session, which will cost £10/family. The booking fee will be removed from the cost of any photos that you decide to purchase. The booking fee all goes to FOSD. Once we fill the available places we will circulate a schedule in which you will be choose a time. This is an inexpensive and easy way to arrange some up-to-date portraits for the family album!

Into the summer terms we have the both the **School Disco** and **Happy Bag Day** on **Friday May 3rd** and the **Film and Camp Night** on **May 11th**.

Charlotte Reynolds needs to do a small step back from organisation of the Disco and so would like help to share the load. If you are able to help out please contact myself (07411967414) or Charlotte and we can discuss details after that.

Please let us know if you'd like to sign up for the monthly Jackpot at [stdunstansschooljackpot@gmail.com](mailto:stdunstansschooljackpot@gmail.com). It has a minimum £12 annual contribution for the chance to win a monthly prize of £50!

Recent jackpot winners are:  
January 2024: Michael D'Souza

**We are still recruiting people to help with FOSD Secretary and Treasurer roles.** If you have interest in these positions please contact Geraint Parry (07411967414, [geraintparry75@gmail.com](mailto:geraintparry75@gmail.com)) and we can discuss the details about these roles.

Yours,  
The FOSD committee

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