St. Dunstan's Catholic Primary School

Newsletter



Headteacher: Mrs G. Morganti - head@stdunstans.surrey.sch.uk

April 2024

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Dear Parents,

Welcome back! I hope that you have all had a very peaceful Easter break with your families.

We ended the spring term as a school family saying farewell to Mrs Birch, Mrs R Turner and Mrs Murray. The



retirement Mass and end of term Mass were very special in the way we were united as a community in sharing our thanks and love. I do feel very blessed to be taking on the role of Headteacher to such a wonderful school and school family.

I think Fr Rob's hashtag on the St Dunstan's Church's X account following the Mass was just perfect! #loveattheveryheartofeverythingwedo

Last month we had a 'Focus Visit' from the Primary Adviser at the Diocese. This was to support the school in identifying our strengths and any areas for improvement with our Catholic life and mission, quality of RE teaching and learning and the quality of prayer and liturgy. The visit was very thorough and hugely positive, in fact there were no areas for development! I thought it would be nice to share a summary of the feedback with you:

Pupils' knowledge in RE is extremely high and the standard of teaching and learning in RE is a key strength of the school. Pupil-led liturgies were well planned and allowed for deep, prayerful responses from pupils and there is an excellent chaplaincy provision. As a result, prayer and Catholic mission is truly central to the life of the school.

Over the holiday, there have been some upgrades and repairs to the premises to ensure the school is its very best for the children. The pool has had some repairs and has been cleaned and readied for the swimming lessons for children in Years 1 to 6 starting in the first week of May. We are hugely appreciative to the FOSD who have funded most of the pool's current repairs and those scheduled for the summer holiday.

The children have returned to school all looking very smart in their school uniform- thank you! On 1st May, children can wear summer uniform if parents wish. It is not compulsory, children can continue to wear their current uniform as it is often still quite chilly in May. As you know girls have the option of a summer dress or the alternative white, cotton, revere collared, fitted, short sleeved blouse worn with a school skirt and white socks. Mrs Hammond is kindly working with another clothing provider to source school summer dresses which we hope to sell via the school office. More details will follow.

Finally, please do take time to read the newsletter as there are updates to staffing and information regarding who to contact if you have a query.

The term ahead will be busy with learning, exciting trips, sports days and events. We look forward to sharing all of this school news with you on X and in the newsletters.

Georgina Morganti

Activities and Events

Reception - Miss K Bingle: Head of EYFS

At the end of March, we were delighted to welcome Miller's Ark Farm to our school field. Farmer Dougie and Farmer Greg taught us lots of interesting information about the animals including what the animals eat and why they have tags on their ears. We were able to touch donkeys, sheep, goats and Kunekune piglets. Since their visit, we have been writing facts about our favourite farm animal. Our new focus text is "Rosie's Walk" by Pat Hutchins. We have already begun exploring the story and will be practising to retell and sequence the events of the book. The children particularly love acting out the story in the roles of Rosie the hen and the sly fox!





Year 1 - Mrs G. Corsini: Head of Year 1

Our topic in the Spring Term was 'God's and My Wonderful World'. As part of this topic, the children have been learning all about animals and the different groups they belong to. As a hook for this topic, we had an Animal workshop at school. The children were able to hold a selection of animals such as an African land snail, a giant stick insect and even a snake! We also met an adorable gerbil named peanut. She was so cute!





We felt incredibly lucky to have this opportunity in school; many of the children described it as "the best day ever". It has been lovely to hear Year 1 use some of the facts and vocabulary they learnt that morning to deepen their understanding of animals.





Year 2 - Miss L. Butler: Head of Year 2

The month of March was a huge success in Year 2! The children thought deeply about their impact on the environment through the text 'The Secret Sky Garden'. We were inspired to write excellent persuasive letters to our school Eco Council about renovating the Year 1 gardens.



One of our highlights within this theme was going on a traffic survey at Woking Retail Park. The children had to count all the vehicles that passed in a ten minute period. We were astonished at the large amount of transport we saw! On return to school the children totalled up their tally charts and thought about the affect transport has on God's wonderful world.



The children were so enthusiastic and represented our school superbly! We were very proud teachers.

Recorder Concert: Please note there is a change of date for the Year 2 recorder concert. The concert will take place on Tuesday 14th May, 9.10am-9.40am instead of Wednesday 22nd May. Parents will receive a Schoolcomms closer to the time.

Year 3 - Miss N. Maloney: Head of Year 3 and Senior Teacher

Year 3 were very busy during the last half term. As part of maths week we were visited by the children from Year 1. The younger children were buying 2D shapes to make their crafts for the Maths Market. The children in our year group managed to help the younger children to spend their money. There were many wonderful costumes for world book day. Everyone brought in their favourite books and created their own book profiles.

We are looking forward to another equally busy half term for Summer 1.





Year 4 - Miss H. Fail: Head of Year 4 and Senior Teacher

We celebrated two themed days during the month of March and both days were a great success for our children in Year 4. On World Book Day, it was wonderful to see the children's



passion about their inspirational heroes and heroines, as they shared their notable achievements and character traits. As part of World Maths Day, the children learnt about money and had the opportunity to buy and sell items to different year groups. It would be wonderful if the children could continue practising using money at home, as real-life practice is invaluable for their understanding of this mathematical topic.

Finally, we would like to thank the parents who attended our recent Partners in Learning where the children proudly shared their work from a range of curriculum subjects.



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

At the end of the term, the children showcased their writing abilities by producing outstanding descriptions inspired by the text 'Who Let the Gods Out,' comparing the transformation of feeble Prisoner 42 to the mighty Thanatos.

We were very proud of the Year 5 children and how they led Key Stage 2 in a beautiful reflection of the Stations of the Cross at the church. This experience guided us on a spiritual pilgrimage through each station, prompting contemplation on Jesus' love and sacrifice.

As we progress into this half term, we eagerly anticipate further explorations into the world of explorers, with a particular focus on the remarkable achievements of Ernest Shackleton.



Year 6 - Mrs S. Turner: Head of Year 6 and Senior Teacher

March was a fantastic month, filled with sensational work by our children. We delved into the deeper meaning of Jesus' words and actions during Holy Week in John's Gospel, reflecting on Lenten themes. The Year 6 children led a beautiful reconciliation service for Key Stage Two, showcasing their maturity and understanding.

One of the highlights was our trip to Henley Fort. The children and teachers fully embraced their roles, dressing up as ARP (Air Raid Precaution) and Home Guard volunteers. They returned with enthusiastic writing about the challenges faced by these volunteers. To wrap up our World War 2 learning, we savoured a delightful VE Day picnic. Thanks to all for making it a truly lovely morning.







Looking forward, our Year 6 pupils will be taking the National Curriculum tests (SATs) during the week commencing 13th May. Rest assured, they have worked exceptionally hard to prepare. Slides from last month's parent talk can be found on our website under Information Talks for Parents.

We cannot wait to see what the upcoming month brings.

Dunstan Bear - Mrs A. O'Donovan

Our lovely school mascot, Dunstan Bear, spent the Easter holidays in Madeira! He had a lovely time with one of our Year 5 families – seeing the sights of the beautiful Portuguese island with the best tour quides.



If you would like to take Dunstan with you on your May half term or summer holiday, you need to write a letter to Mrs O'Donovan, explaining why you would like to take Dunstan away with you and what he will do during his time with you. In return, we do ask that you take some photos with Dunstan and write something about your time together for his journal.

World Book Day - Miss H. Fail: English Leader

World Book Day was a huge success and a true celebration of the joy of reading. It was remarkable how many children dressed up as real-life heroes and heroines from non-fiction books, even including some of our youngest children! This theme gave us the opportunity to explore personality traits of heroes and heroines and consider how they inspire us through their actions and achievements. It was wonderful to see how many of their attributes aligned with our school values, as children were clearly motivated to follow in their footsteps and make a difference to the world. Let's hope the legacy of this day lives on for our children through their desire to serve others.









World Maths Day - Miss E Roe: Maths Leader

World Maths Day 2024 was an exciting and enriching experience! Throughout the day, our children delved into the world of money, exploring its significance and application in various contexts. With the support of our dedicated Maths Ambassadors, students engaged in interactive activities, including visiting different year groups and going to shops in our classrooms! Year 5 and Year 6 worked collaboratively to devise innovative project plans, with the standout entries earning the chance to present in the St. Dunstan's Dragons Den.

At the end of the week, our first Mathematical Market became a bustling hub of mathematical activity where generous donations amounted to over £450 for our Lenten charity, Mission Together.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who attended and supported this event. The enthusiasm and participation of everyone involved, truly made World Maths Day a special event. It was inspiring to see the excitement and passion for mathematics spread throughout our school community.

Thank you for your continued support and encouragement in fostering a love for mathematics.

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Charity and Justice

Charity and Justice -Miss H. King

Lenten Fundraising

Throughout this term, children have been focusing on the Lenten act of giving. Mrs Thomas (Mission Together) came in at the start of Lent to talk to the children about the charity and inspired the children into thinking about how to give to others. The children thoroughly enjoyed discovering the impact we can have if we can raise money together as a school. Mrs Thomas also made it clear that prayers are just as important as fundraising.



Please return the red Missio box to school by this Friday, 19th April.



As part of our Lenten fundraising, children thoroughly enjoyed watching and taking part in our charity Talent Show. It was fantastic to see the wide variety of talent that our children have, and it was excellent to see children supporting one another. Thank you very much for your support with all our fundraising over the last half term.

Talent Show - Miss C. Jones

The St. Dunstan's Got Talent final was a huge success! Thank you again to our amazing acts and hosts, who worked so hard to put on such a fantastic show for Key Stage 2 and parents. It was a wonderful opportunity to celebrate our many gifts and inspire others, all while raising money for our Lenten charities.





St Dunstan's Bake Off - Mr A Coyle



On **Wednesday 8th May**, we will be holding our annual St. Dunstan's Bake Off. This is an exciting opportunity for the children to test their inner Mary Berry, or Paul Hollywood and enter the competition. On the morning of the Bake Off the children are invited to bring in a cake (that they have made!), which will then be judged by our star baking team.

The competition is split in to Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2, with all the tasty treats being sold at the end of the day. The Key Stage 1 creations will be available after school on the Lower School playground, with the Key Stage 2 treats on the middle school playground. The FOSD will kindly be helping staff sell the cakes, so please come along with a few pounds to enjoy a sweet treat.





We have decided that the theme for this year will be based around the Olympics. With the games being held in Paris, we look forward to welcoming any creations based on an element of the games, such as running, throwing, jumping etc. Let your imaginations run wild and we look forward to seeing all the entries on Wednesday 8th May.



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Children's Learning

Mrs T. Steer Assistant Headteacher- Teaching and Learning

An exciting new term of learning awaits, starting off with First Aid Fortnight, which supports our RHE curriculum provision. For all information about your child's learning please take a look at the relevant year group's summer term rationales, which can be found on the website

http://www.stdunstans.surrey.sch.uk/page/?title=Curriculum&pid=99

Partners in Learning

Thank you for attending the last Partners in Learning session, your feedback was very positive and the children were very pleased to be able to share their learning with parents, siblings and grandparents.

The next session is scheduled for **Thursday 23rd May** from 3.10pm (depending on the dismissal time of the year group) and finishes at 4pm.



During the summer term there are two parent talks:

RSE Talk for Year 5 and 6 Parents on Friday 7th June, 2.30pm

Moving into Year 1, Transition talk for Reception parents on Monday 3rd June 2024, 2.30pm

Any slide presentations used in previous talks can be found on the school website http://www.stdunstans.surrey.sch.uk/Talks for parents.htm

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Governors

Message from Mr B. McKendry (Chair of Governors)

The summer term is somehow always a bit special. The promise of better weather, particularly this year where we've had more than our fair share of rain, change of uniform, more time spent outdoors and for Year 6 their final few weeks at St Dunstan's with preparations for a new school becoming important. For everybody it's a milestone as Mrs Morganti steps into the role of Headteacher. There will be a real sense of continuity as Mrs Morganti has been a member of our Senior Leadership Team for many years but the single constant thing in life is change and in time we'll look back and see how the threads of change imperceptibly blended into the life of the school. The Governors are confident that Mrs Morganti will take the school forward in a very positive fashion, building on the strong foundations of past years.

As a school we owe much to the leadership of Mrs Birch but as she said during her leaving Mass, Easter is a time for renewal and new life, so we move forward now into the summer term full of positive expectation and ready to take on new challenges in the spirit and ethos of St Dunstan's School. May everybody have a really rewarding term.

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Information from Subject Leaders

Safeguarding: Designated Safeguarding Leaders

If you have any safeguarding concerns regarding your own children or children within our community, please do not hesitate to contact a member of the safeguarding team. You may have concerns regarding a child's welfare, have witnessed something that has worried you or have information that needs to be shared in order for us to keep a child safe.



The safeguarding team can be contacted via the school office on 01483 715190 – just ask to speak to the DSL or one of the deputy DSLs. For non-urgent concerns, you can email via dsl@stdunstans.surrey.sch.uk

This term we welcome Mrs Steer and Mrs O'Riordan to the safeguarding team as Deputy DSLs (Designated Safeguarding Leads).

Pupil Voice - Miss S Paling

The children's feedback and insights into key issues can really help to shape our school. Last term, Pupil Voice Reps listened to what their peers had to say about maths, prayer and worship, Art week, PE, sports and clubs.



In their discussion about prayer and worship, the children shared their thoughts on what made St. Dunstan's special, 'The peaceful and prayerful environment supports our faith and enables us to work together as a whole school family – we are always looking for ways to help others'. In response to Art week, they said 'We were able to make deeper connections with God because of the time and delicacy it took to create our portraits. We spent prayerful time with God and were able to spread messages of the Holy Family's love through our artwork'.

This term, they will be working closely with the Eco Reps to explore outdoor learning and the use of St. Francis Woodland. As well as this, they will be working with the Year 6 ambassadors to discuss the impact of retrieval quizzes and knowledge organisers.

By gathering this information and feeding back to leaders and staff, we are able to work together to support the children's learning and growth, as well as plan our next steps.

Library - Miss N. Maloney and Miss M. O'Sullivan

A huge thanks goes to the friends of St Dunstan's for purchasing a wide range of new books for the main library. We have focused on a greater selection of new non-fiction books and a brand new section of graphic novels.

The Year 5 librarians have been very helpful especially on a Tuesday lunchtime when the library is open at lunchtime. We are also grateful to our parent and grandparent volunteers who have given up their time to ensure that all the new titles are ready for the children to choose. Look out for all the new titles when you visit.

Eco-Schools- Mrs T. Martlew and Mrs J. Knowles

World Earth Day is on Monday 22nd April this year. On this day we will be thinking all about our wonderful world and learning more about how we can protect it. This year's theme is 'Planet vs. Plastics'.



In school the children will be learning about the plastic problem and reflecting on ways that we can help prevent further damage to our planet. We would like you to do the same at home, too.

This is an informative video all about Earth day, should you like to watch and talk about it at home: Primary School Earth Day - BBC
Teach

If you are interested in finding other ways that you can help the environment, some ideas and activities can be found here: <u>Earth Day: Green Planet - CBBC - BBC</u>

Wishing you all a lovely Earth Day!

The Eco team

SEND - Mrs A. O'Donovan, Assistant Headteacher and SENDCo

School Website

We have recently updated some of the SEND materials on our school website. The SEND information can be accessed via the Inclusion page within the Children's Learning section. Information includes our SEND policy and procedures, our SEND information report (this explains a lot about our SEND provision at St. Dunstan's, the provision that we have available and finally, a flowchart to explain the SEND process.)

Surrey's local offer

The Surrey SEND site is being continually updated and has a wealth of knowledge, please do check out what is being offered: https://www.surreylocaloffer.org.uk/parents-and-carers



RE topics this term - Mrs S. Turner

"What I say is this: let the Spirit direct your lives, your selfish self is the opposite of what the Holy Spirit wants. The Spirit produces love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, humility, and self-control."

(Based on Galatians 5: 16-17, 22-23)



Year groups 2 to 5 will study 'Pentecost' (Serving), with each year group exploring the theme through different topics. They will delve into the significance of Pentecost and how it empowers Christians to share the Good News of Jesus' love. By receiving and celebrating the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, we gain strength to participate in the Church's mission. Children will learn about the Good News of Easter Sunday that Jesus is alive and loves us. They will also delve into the meaning of the Ascension, where Jesus promises the Holy Spirit and ascends to Heaven,

leaving us with a promise too. Lastly, they will understand that Pentecost represents the bestowal of the Holy Spirit, empowering us to live as Christians and demonstrate God's love through our actions.

PENTECOST-SERVING

Year 2 SPREAD THE WORD - Pentecost: a time to spread the Good News

Year 3 ENERGY -Gifts of the Holy Spirit

Year 4 NEW LIFE – To hear and live the Easter message

Year 5 TRANSFORMATION - Celebration of the Spirit's transforming power

SUGGESTIONS FOR HOME ACTIVITIES

Talk about good news in your family and how you shared it.

Ask your child to tell you the story of Pentecost and the work of the Holy Spirit.



This half term EYFS, Year 1 and 6 learning unit is called: To the Ends of the Earth. In this branch, the children will be delving into the events that unfolded after the Resurrection and Ascension, exploring the incredible impact of the Holy Spirit, and studying the remarkable work of the apostles and early Church. Additionally, they will gain an understanding of the Catholic Church in today's world, recognizing it as the apostolic Church and exploring how its liturgy and structures can be traced back to its early beginnings.

EYFS

In EYFS, we will learn about Jesus returning to his Father and sending the Holy Spirit to be with us always. The Holy Spirit, our special friend, takes care of us just like Jesus did. Acts 2:42-47 illustrates how the early Christian community lived out the good news of Jesus, aided by the Holy Spirit. We can depend on the Holy Spirit's constant presence in our lives.

Year 1

In Year 1, we'll hear about the Road to Emmaus, Ascension and Pentecost. We'll explore Jesus' life, death and Resurrection, and learn how the Holy Spirit influenced the Apostles and early Church. Through these stories, we will connect the Good News of Jesus with the apostles' mission and witness the power of the Holy Spirit.

Year 6

In Year 6, we'll carry on with our exploration of John's Gospel. We've already looked at how the Fall affected our relationship with God, and now we'll dive into St John's account of the Resurrection. It connects back to that earlier story and shows us that through Jesus, our bond with God is restored. John draws parallels that will help the children relate to the sequence of salvation history. The role of the Holy Spirit is vital on this journey.

SUGGESTIONS FOR HOME ACTIVITIES

Although we can no longer see Jesus, we can still experience his presence in our everyday life.

Join the parish on Pentecost Sunday and talk about how, when we make the sign of the cross, we are remembering that God is the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. We are saying we believe. You could make a Holy Spirit spinner.

https://missiontogether.org.uk/calendar/resource
s-for-pentecost/

Although we can no longer see Jesus, we can encounter him in different ways in our daily lives: In prayer - we can speak and listen to Jesus through praying; In reading scripture - we can read about the words and actions of Jesus through the Bible.

Remember to ask if you can take home your class prayer bag for the weekend!

Talk about the saints and those who help us grow closer to Jesus. Take a look at their prayers (such as St. Richard of Chichester). Share with your child a saint that you pray to or the saint you chose at your Confirmation.

Has your family experienced Adoration at St. Dunstan's Church? Come and join us for this special time to connect with Jesus in the sacred host. Embrace the silence of Adoration.

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Liturgy and Worship - Mrs S Turner

Beginning of the summer term Mass



On Friday 26th April, we're having our Mass to mark the start of the school summer term. This time, it will be led by our amazing Year 5 children. We are inviting children from Years 2 to 6 to join the Mass, but please note that space is limited due to the children attending.

If you can't make it in person, you can still be part of it by joining us through the church's live stream link at 10am. Find the stream here: http://st-dunstans.org/streaming/.

Pray the Rosary



You're warmly invited to celebrate the traditional month of Mary with us by joining in praying the Rosary. Every Tuesday morning throughout May, at 8.30 am, we will gather in the Marian Garden on the Lower School playground (if the weather allows!) to share one decade of the Rosary.

Parents and children alike are encouraged to participate and experience this beautiful communal prayer. Last year, the children really enjoyed bringing their own Rosaries, and with the help of prayer cards and

picture prompts, they were able to follow along with the prayers.

This is a wonderful opportunity to begin the day with a focus on peaceful prayer or to dedicate time to a particular need or person. We would be delighted to welcome you and have spare Rosaries available if you need one.

Marian Liturgy - Year 3



As part of our month of Mary at school, our Year 3 children will proudly lead the Marian Liturgy at the Church on Friday 3rd May at 11.15am. Lower school will also share a special liturgy at the school.

To honour Mary, we kindly request that every child brings a flower on this day. These flowers will be crafted into beautiful class bouquets, which will be lovingly laid at our Marian Grotto located on the Lower School field. We warmly invite parents to join us for this special occasion, where children from Years 4, 5, and 6 will also come together at the church. Let's all celebrate the month of Mary with joy!

Reconciliation Service - Year 6

On Wednesday 6th March, our wonderful Year 6 children led us in a special Reconciliation liturgy. With their heartfelt songs, prayers, reflections, they guided us in exploring the meaning of forgiveness and how we can emulate Jesus' love for our fellow human beings, no matter the circumstances.

The liturgy emphasised that we all make mistakes and stumble at times, but that God accepts and loves us as we are, overflowing with boundless mercy.

The children shared a truly spiritually uplifting experience for everyone involved. Thank you, Year 6, for your beautiful contribution to our shared spiritual journey.

Prayer and Liturgy - Mrs O'Donovan

During the spring term, we journeyed with Jesus towards the cross. As part of our Lenten preparation, children in Year 5 and 6 received the Sacrament of Reconciliation with Fr Rob, Fr Nick and Fr Paul and Year 6 led a beautiful Reconciliation Service for everyone in Key Stage 2. The Reconciliation service gave everyone a chance to reflect on our own behaviour and choices and to think about the power of saying sorry and asking for forgiveness. The choice of music and the children's singing was particularly moving.

The staff also journeyed with Jesus in a Lenten prayer group that reflected upon the last words of Jesus when he was crucified - we used Jesus' words and artwork to help us to reflect on the themes of his final words.

On Friday 22nd March, Year 5 led a powerful Stations of the Cross for Key Stage 2. The children brought the stations of life with their acting and enabled us all to take our own pilgrimage with Jesus along the way of the cross. Mr F. Ellson supported Year 5 with the music that was a beautiful mix between traditional hymns such as "Were you there when they crucified the Lord?" to "The Blessing" which reminded us of the gift Jesus gave all of us through his death on the cross.

As the final part of our Lenten journey, Year 3 led the end of spring term Mass for the Parish and Key Stage 2 on Wednesday 27th March at the Church.

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Parish Links - Mrs. A. O'Donovan

Parish Links - Parish Festival

On the 19th May, the Parish is celebrating the feast of our patron saint, St. Dunstan with a Parish festival. Please see details below:

You are warmly welcome to our annual parish festival on Sunday, 19 May 2024 where we will be celebrating an International Mass at 11am, followed by a rich Multicultural Social of delicious food and entertainment at St Dunstan's School. So come and proudly represent your native country and make this a joyous celebration <u>especially if your country hasn't been represented in the past!</u> Please volunteer to read in your native language, share a cultural hymn or Eucharistic tradition, wear traditional clothes, make and bring your country flag (<u>List of Countries with Flags and Country Codes (worldatlas.com)</u>, bring traditional food and perform in the cultural show of traditional music and dance.

To Volunteer Please Contact Co-ordinators:

Africa Cathy 07952 367701 c.emerson@usa.net

Asia Lara 07466 763735 or 01483 756278 laraspereira23@gmail.com

East Europe Isabel 07841 141807 home@thomaspfann.com

UK & West Europe Susan 07927 606811 susan.lawson72@gmail.com

Rest of the World Nicole 07756 006104 Nicolepeay1000@hotmail.co.uk

At the social event after the Mass we will have an inflatable obstacle course for the children, and a soft play area for the babies. If you may be able to volunteer to be part of a rota to supervise these activities please let us know in the parish office woking@abdiocese.org.uk. Thank you.

Appeal for help in arranging flowers

If you are able to spare a few hours, once every 5-6 weeks to help with flower arranging for the church please contact Paula Davies via the parish office. No experience required!

Grandparents Pilgrimage to West Grinstead - Wednesday 26 June

A day of sharing and prayer with other Grandparents led by Bishop Richard to include Mass, Benediction, Rosary, tours of the secret chapel and lots of chat. Please bring a packed lunch and a travel mug if possible. Arrival from 10.30am for refreshments. As always please car share if possible as parking is limited. Please dress appropriately for the weather.

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Mobile Phones on school grounds: safeguarding children and school site



A reminder please that, to safeguard children, mobile phones may not be used on school grounds, especially if adults are supervising children or waiting for children to come out of school. Please keep your phone in your bag or pocket; take calls off the school site.

Please ensure you tell anyone else who collects your child about this school policy. It is embarrassing for staff and the person concerned if we have to ask them to put their phone away.

Thank you.

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Online Safety - Mrs A. O'Donovan

Online Safety - National Online Safety Certified School

We were very pleased to receive a plaque from National Online Safety for the training the school community have taken part in through their platform – this has meant that we have received certified status. Well done everyone – this is so important to keep our children safe online!



Digital Resilience



Resilience is a vital life skill, our children need to have resilience to face the challenges that will come their way in life and this includes online challenges!

Internet Matters have produced a great digital resilience toolkit with videos with input from a psychologist and resources to support you as parents with developing the skills children need to navigate the online

world according to the age of your child. You can access the toolkit HERE.

YouTube and Artificial Intelligence



AI generated content is finding its way onto all the platforms that are popular with our children- that includes YouTube.

We want to keep you up to date with all changes in the online world, so you are informed and know how you can support and manage your child/ren's use of the internet. YouTube have just updated their policy 'whereby any person uploading

content onto YouTube where synthetic media is used (e.g. generative AI); the user must disclose this when uploading.'

However, YouTube has excluded children's animations from this disclosure process! We know that our children enjoy using YouTube so want to make you aware that this may well lead to a rise in AI generated content on YouTube which may well lead to a rise in clickbait, scams and more.

You can see a full write-up about this in Wired magazine **HERE**.

Disney+ Parental Controls Guide

We regularly hear many children talking about Disney plus in school. Internet Matters have a good guide for parents about the settings that are available to keep content at a level suitable to the age of their children. The full guide can be found HERE.



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Parking and being considerate neighbours

As you know, Onslow Crescent gets very busy at peak times. Not everyone can park here! And some do not park considerately for others or safely for our children.

Thank you for your continued support over the spring term to park considerately and to park one minute further away and walk to school.

As we start the summer term with hopes for dry, warm days, please do continue to park farther away and walk to school, enjoying the sunshine and fresh air!

You are aware that 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 of selfish parking so you can help us keep our children safe by reporting incidents to Woking Borough Council 01483 755855 or on their website www.woking.gov.uk.

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School Office

Lunch money for Summer Term 2024 - Mrs M. O'Riordan

School dinner costs for summer term are as follows: 1^{st} half term £75.60, 2^{nd} Half Term, £94.50, full term £170.10. 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.

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.

Free School Meal Eligibility & Pupil Premium- Mrs C Turner - Bursar

We are aware, in the current climate that some families are struggling financially. If your circumstances have changed or if you earn less than £16,190 your child/children may be entitled to free school meals. By completing a form we can check this for you and usually we receive a response within 48 hours. Once eligibility is confirmed your child /children are the entitled to free schools meals for the duration of their education at primary school. Currently Surrey County Council are also funding food vouchers for the holiday periods. If you would like to like to discuss this in confidence, please contact me via the school office or alternatively email me directly on admin@stdunstans.surrey.sch.uk

School Photographer



Fraser Portraits will be in school on Tuesday 4th June and Wednesday 5th June, to take class photos. Year 6 'fun' photos will also be taken on those days.

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). Girls in Reception - Year 5 should wear summer dresses or, the alternative to a summer dress is a white, cotton, revere collared, fitted, short sleeved blouse that can be worn with a school skirt and white socks. Both girls and boys should wear their blazers as always.

Thank you for your support to ensure the children are really smart for their end of year group photos.

Swimming Hats

Plain coloured swimming hats are available to purchase at the school office at a cost of £3.00.

Please ensure swimming hats are clearly marked with your child's name on the outside in black/dark blue waterproof marker. Thank you.



Please note sundry items are no longer available to purchase via your Scopay account. Items including reading wallets, water bottles, summer hats and swim hats are now available to purchase at the school office by card payment only. We no longer accept cash payment.

Office staff roles and responsibilities

Please see below contact information for office staff and details of responsibilities:

Mrs E Chamberlain echamberlain@stdunstans.surrey.sch.uk Tel 01483 715190 (option 3)	PA to HeadteacherSchool AdmissionsClerk to Governors
Mrs M O'Riordan office@stdunstans.surrey.sch.uk Tel 01483 715190 (option 1)	 Absence and change to end of day collection School Lunches Clubs – external and teacher led
Miss A Madden Office3@stdunstans.surrey.sch.uk Tel 01483 715190 (option 1)	MedicalSporting FixturesSwimming (summer term)

Mrs N Hammond <u>Trips@stdunstans.surrey.sch.uk</u> <u>wraparound@stdunstans.surrey.sch.uk</u> Tel 01483 715190 (option 2)	 School Trips Feet First and Bikeability Extended Schools (Early Birds and Stay and Play)
Mrs C Hughes Office2@stdunstans.surrey.sch.uk Tel 01483 715190 (option 1)	 Medical Parent Teacher Meetings Surrey Arts Admin Class Reps FOSD liaison

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Scooting and Cycling on School Grounds

Please do not allow your child to scoot or cycle on school grounds as this is dangerous for those who are walking or standing. Please teach your child to get off their scooter/cycle and walk at the school gate. The school grounds are busy at drop off and pick up times. There may be an accident if this continues. Thank you.

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Sports & PE

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

Sportshall Athletics

Avie

After our fantastic achievement of winning the Woking Sportshall Athletics competition, we were invited to participate in the county finals. On Tuesday 5th March, we travelled to

Guildford Spectrum to compete against all the other district champions.

The children once again took part in track and field events, a maximum of

two track and two field were permitted, for each athlete. The children did fantastically well and as the results were announced at the end we had secured 4^{th} place. An agonisingly close competition, where we could have finished second, had we won 1 more race.

None the less, a superb achievement from the girls and boys and they should all be extremely proud of their efforts.



Active Surrey Girls Rugby festival



On Friday 8th March, our Year 6 girls took part in a fun and friendly rugby festival at Chobham RFC. Led by Active Surrey and coaches from the England national team set up, the girls played in a series of touch rugby matches against other girls from Ravenscote and Pirbright. With the focus on participation and learning new skills, no results were recorded and the girls enjoyed playing in low pressured games. It was a fantastic afternoon, filled with sunshine and smiles. Our thanks to Active Surrey and Chobham RFC for hosting us at the event.

Years 5 and 6 football

New Haw hosted football matches on Tuesday 12th March, for our Year 5 and Year 6 footballers. Taking part in matches against New Haw and The Marist, both teams played each school team.

The Year 6 games were friendly matches and despite suffering narrow defeats in both their games, they played extremely well and it was fantastic to see the boys organise themselves and support each other throughout the afternoon.





Our Year 5 boys were taking part in their WASPs cluster league games, so they had the opportunity to win the league and progress to the finals day. The boys played really well in the first game and came away with a 2-0 victory against The Marist. In their second game, although the boys were unaware a 1-0 loss would actually have put us through. However, in the dying seconds we conceded a second goal and lost the match against New Haw 2-0. This meant, that the boys will unfortunately not be at the finals day with our girls' team.

ESSA swimming gala

We took part in the Surrey Primary Swimming Championships on Saturday 16th March, at the Guildford Spectrum. Taking part in two relay races each, our boys' and girls' teams swam with all their hearts in the hope of securing places at the next regional round of the competition. Schools at the event were from all over Surrey, with The Marist being the only other Woking school taking part. The girls' team finished their races with very respectable times and we are currently in a qualifying place for the freestyle relay. The boys' team also swam amazingly and currently hold

qualifying places in both of their relays, the medley and freestyle. The boys' missed out on a medal in the mixed stroke relay by a mere 0.5 second!

Whilst we are not guaranteed a regional place yet, it is highly likely we will have secured one, waiting now for the Buckinghamshire results to come in. To be in the running as one of the strongest south east schools is incredible and our thanks again to Mrs Rose-Freeland for her tireless work.



Chobham Rugby Festival



Some of our Year 4 children went to Chobham RFC on Wednesday 13th March, to compete in a touch rugby festival. Learning new skills, gaining experience and playing in a more competitive environment, many of the children were introduced to the game against other schools for the first time. Each team played 4 matches and there were wins, draws and losses, which were not the focus of the event. The smiles at the end as the children ate their chips and drank hot chocolate, told the story of the fun that had been had.



We visited Chobham rugby club for the second time in a week for another festival on Wednesday 20th April. Taking two teams again, the children rotated around, playing four matches each. Both teams had success in many of their matches and played superbly well as a unit,

holding the line, dodging the touches and scoring tries. As with the previous festival there was no scoring recorded, with the emphasis on fun and learning the sport. The children played superbly well and should be proud of the manner in which they conducted themselves.



Greenfield football friendlies



On Friday 22nd April, we rounded off our sporting fixtures for the month with some of our budding Year 2 boys travelling the short distance to Greenfield school for some football friendlies. It was lovely to see the boys represent the school for the first time in a relaxed, noncompetitive environment. Playing as two teams, each team took on both of the Greenfield teams and won both of their matches. It was a lovely chance for us to get a first look at the children and with all the blossoming Lionel Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo skills on display, the boys look to having a bright future. Well done to the boys who took part, we look forward to more opportunities for our Year 2 children going forward.

Swimming - Mr A. Coyle - Senior Teacher

As we all rested over the Easter holidays, the school was still busy. We have fired up the boiler in our pool and dusted down the noodles ready for the Summer Term! Swimming will soon be upon us again, bring on the sun (fingers crossed)! Swimming lessons for children in Years 1-6 will commence on Monday 29th April, (these lessons are kindly funded by the Friends of St. Dunstan's, which we are extremely grateful for). On the day of your child's lesson, they will need to remember to bring their swimming bag with named swimming costume or trunks (not bikinis/ tankinis or Bermuda shorts please) and a towel or towelling robe that is big enough to wrap around your child when they get out of the water. All children will require a swimming hat. These can be purchased from any sports shop, leisure centre or from the school office. Please write your child's name in waterproof black pen on the outside of your child's swimming hat so our swimming teachers can identify children easily in the water.

If your child is well enough to be in school but is suffering from a cold/cough, we do encourage you to send in their swimming bag, as swimming is a statutory part of the National Curriculum. If you strongly feel they should not swim for health reasons, please ensure you send in a letter to the class teacher. This should be a one off exceptional circumstance not a weekly occurrence. Please encourage your child to be resilient and independent. Independent children are independent learners who thrive and grow and can deal with the challenges that life brings. Our aim is to provide as many opportunities for each child as we can physically fit in, but please be aware that at times for unfortunate reasons a lesson may have to be cancelled or moved. We endeavour to inform you at the earliest possible instance in this case. Please see attached the day in which you child's class will be swimming.

We are still really looking forward to the start of swimming at school. It is always one of the highlights of the year for the children, with the sun shining and learning with friends. Our children are lucky to have these opportunities and we are blessed to have our own pool, it means we do not have

to spend lots of money on hiring other pools and transport. Swimming, is an essential life skill that all children need to feel confident doing, it can save lives.

Please remind yourself when your child will be swimming from the timetable below. If there are any changes, we will endeavour to inform you, as soon as possible.

Monday	3C	3P	63	2TM
Tuesday	4E	4A	6M	1F
Wednesday	5F	5P	1JB	2C
Thursday	4C	3A	6B	1B
Friday	5M	2MM		

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Staffing

We are delighted to share that Mrs L. Mason has been appointed full-time as Assistant Bursar, working alongside Mrs C. Turner and that Mrs C. Hughes has joined the wonderful Office Team as an Office Assistant.

We also warmly welcome Mrs R-L. Griffiths and Mrs L. Genco as teaching assistants and Mrs C. Barrett as class teacher in both Year 3 and Year 6.

We did share news during the end of term Mass, but just in case you missed it: Mrs. Robbins is the very proud mummy to beautiful Florence Rose who joins the very happy Robbins family. In Mrs Robbins absence, Miss K. Bingle is acting EYFS lead.

As there have been a few changes for the summer term, please do find the updated staffing list and Senior Leadership contact details on the website- *About us- Staff* https://www.stdunstans.surrey.sch.uk/page/?title=Staff&pid=47

The Senior Leadership Team is detailed below with a summary of roles and ways to make contact. All senior leaders will be available most days at the gates or on the playgrounds, so please do make use of this time to speak with us about any thoughts or concerns that you may have.

Senior Leadership Team				
Member of Staff	Responsibility	Contact details		
Mrs G. Morganti	Headteacher	head@stdunstans.surrey.sch.uk or by telephone via Mrs. Morganti's PA, Mrs E. Chamberlain 01483 715190 (option 4) echamberlain@stdunstans.surrey.sch.uk		
Mrs A. O'Donovan	Assistant Headteacher Pastoral Designated Safeguarding Officer Lead Prayer life Children with medical needs Children with disabilities Children who speak English as a second language	inclusion@stdunstans.surrey.sch.uk or by telephone via the school office 01483 715190		

	Children with specific pastoral needs or emotional difficulties	
Mrs T. Steer	Assistant Headteacher Teaching, Learning and Assessment Curriculum Home learning	Via the school office by letter, email info@stdunstans.surrey.sch.uk or by telephone 01483 715190
Miss N. Maloney	Assistant Headteacher Learning and Pastoral support	Via the school office by letter, email info@stdunstans.surrey.sch.uk or by telephone 01483 715190
Mr A. Coyle	 Senior Leader Wider School Life PE and Sports Extra-curricular Clubs 	Via the school office by letter, email info@stdunstans.surrey.sch.uk or by telephone 01483 715190
Mrs C. Turner	School Administration School Finance School Premises Payments for Before and After School Care	admin@stdunstans.surrey.sch.uk or by telephone via the school office 01483 715190

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St Dunstan's Day Celebration: Monday 20th May

St. Dunstan's Day - Pastoral Team



St. Dunstan's Day is a very special day for us as a school family. We will be celebrating with a Liturgy in the morning led by children from Years 2 to 6 at the Church at 11.15am. Reception and Year 1 classes will join the St. Dunstan's Day Liturgy via the church Live Stream. It will be a wonderful opportunity for our children to come together and commemorate this special occasion.

After the Liturgy, we will continue our celebration with a picnic during lunchtime. Depending on the weather, the children will either enjoy their picnics outside as a class family or in the classroom together. To make the celebration even more special, the children have requested to bring their own packed lunch on this day. We kindly invite all children to bring their healthy packed lunch to school for our St. Dunstan's Day celebration. However, if your child is entitled to Free School Meals (which includes all children in Lower School), the Twelve 15 catering team will prepare and provide packed lunches for them. You will receive a Schoolcomms message to indicate your child's lunch preference for this day. For Key Stage 2 children, lunch monies will be adjusted accordingly.

It is crucial for everyone to remember that packed lunches must be completely nut-free and include a balanced, healthy meal.

In addition to the Liturgy and picnic, we have an exciting art project in the pipeline. We are eagerly looking forward to sharing this with you next month.

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Mrs S. Turner- Senior Teacher

Monday 15th April will mark the beginning of First Aid Fortnight for St. Dunstan's (Years 1-5), where we aim to educate children on first aid procedures, emphasising kindness, calmness, and safety. They will take part in fun, age-appropriate activities to learn and share important first aid skills with their friends. Through this event, we hope to empower children to confidently handle emergencies by teaching them how to make clear and efficient emergency service calls and provide basic first aid for common injuries such as head injuries.

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Uniform

Summer Uniform

A reminder that summer uniform can be worn from Wednesday 1st May for those who wish. Summer uniform is optional. The school uniform list can be found on the school website or viewed here

If you would like your child to wear summer uniform, please note:

- Grey shorts must be smart, like short school trousers. Not cargo shorts with pockets on the outsides as these are casual shorts.
- Shorts should be no longer than the knee. Three quarter trousers are not allowed.
- White polo shirts can only be worn with smart grey shorts, not with long trousers.
- Summer dresses are <u>pink</u> and white stripes (thin stripes) not checks. The alternative to a Summer dress is a white, cotton, revere collared, fitted, short sleeved blouse that can be worn with a school skirt and white socks. We have looked into 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
- White, long or ankle length socks are worn with summer dresses. Trainer socks (foot only) are not allowed.
- Short grey socks (not black) are worn with shorts.
- Blazers must be worn to school every day. If the weather is exceptionally hot, we will send a Schoolcomms to inform parents that blazers are not required. Please teach your child to be resilient!

Summer PE uniform: Mr Coyle, PE Leader and Senior Leader

As we move into the summer term and the warmer weather (hopefully!) arrives, it continues to be important that the children have the correct PE kit. On PE days it is even more advisable that children have a summer hat and water bottle. Although we endeavour to limit the time spent in direct sunlight it is inevitable that there will be exposure to the sun. Wearing the thicker maroon socks is not advisable in Key Stage 2 so if you could please supply a pair of white <u>sports</u> socks then the children will be far more comfortable.

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Dates for your Diary – noted changes to the Annual Calendar

Year 2 recorder concert date is now: **Tuesday 14th May 9.10am- 9.40am.**Transition talk for Reception parents is now: **Monday 3rd June 2.30pm to 3.00pm**

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

The FoSD Committee

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope many of you were able to attend Mrs Birch's Retirement Mass, I thought it was a marvellous occasion that was full of love for our departing Head. Thanks to all parents who contributed toward the **National Trust Life Membership** that the parents were able to collectively purchase.

Best of luck to Mrs Morganti as she takes the reins of our wonderful school!

Thanks to Sarah Genco, Sharon Saliba and everyone else who contributed to organise the recent FOSD Sponsored Walk. It really seemed to strike a chord with some of the children, who raised a remarkable £3067 to support school activities! I know my child was extremely pleased with the Certificate he received from FOSD for completing the walk. Look for this event to be repeated next school-year..... hopefully next time in nicer weather ©

FOSD have an exciting Summer Term planned with plenty of events!

FOSD 'Family Photo Session' on Saturday April 27th

Regular School photographers 'Smiles at School' will be taking Family Photos in the School Hall through the day on **Saturday April 27th**. https://www.smilesatschool.com/

These sessions can be arranged for children-only or for a larger family group. This is an inexpensive and easy way to arrange up-to-date pictures for the family album!

There will be a total of 60 slots available throughout the day. **It is just £10 to book a slot.** This £10 cost will be removed from your final fee when ordering photos. In addition to the £10 fee, 'Smiles at School' are also providing FOSD with an extra £5 per booking and a commission on final orders.

The booking process has two sections:

- **1. Book the photo-shoot slot for £10.** These bookings will close promptly on **April 17th**. We have a maximum of 60 slots. These can be booked on the PTA events website: https://www.pta-events.co.uk/fosd/index.cfm?event=event&eventId=78799
- **2. Select the time for your photoshoot.** People who have booked will be given the option of selecting a 10-minute slot between 10am 5pm. There will be two photographers available so there should be times available to suit everyone.

Please let Geraint Parry know if you have any questions about this (qeraintparry75@gmail.com).

Friday May 3rd: Happy Bag Collection Day.

You will have received a recycle bag from 'Happy School Bag' in your child's book bag before the Easter break. Happy School Bag is an easy fundraising scheme that helps school PTAs to raise funds through the collection of unwanted yet reusable clothing while also keeping valuable and reusable resources out of landfill. http://www.happyschoolbag.co.uk/

The bags will be clearly marked with what can be recycled and what NOT to recycle, but remember the more we collect the more money the school gets back in return. Please note, you can use additional black bags if needed!

Please bring back your filled bag(s) to school on the <u>morning of Friday 3rd May at drop off</u> <u>outside the school office</u> (NO earlier or later please). The Happy School Bag lorry will be collecting

the bags that morning and weighing them on site for us. <u>Please note that the school **cannot** store any bags before this time.</u>

Friday May 3th: School Disco

Tickets will be available to book from next term. There will be three discos for Years R-1, Years 2-3 and Years 4-5-6. Charlotte Reynolds is searching for DBS-checked volunteers to help at these events. The required in-room adult-child ratios have changed, which is putting a greater need for adult volunteers.

There will be a FOSD-run Bar in the KS2 playground, of which parents can take advantage whilst they are waiting for their children. Please spend freely!

Saturday May 11th: Film and Camp Night

Rosalia Farrugia is organising this super fun day where up to 30 families will be able to book to camp overnight on the school field. The event will also be open to day-visitors who can join in with organised games or visit the food trucks and bar. In the evening the film 'Wonka' will be played on the big screen in the school hall! Tickets will go on sale next term so we hope you can come along to this fun day!

Sunday June 30th: FOSD Summer Fair

Plenty of information on this to follow over coming weeks! Needless to say it's the big event of the year that last year contributed £13K toward school activities!

Summer Term Cake Sales on these dates:

Thursday April 18th organised by Year 2 Parents

Thursday May 16th organised by Year 1 Parents

Thursday July 4th organised by Reception parents (this might replaced by an icelolly sale... TBC).

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

Recent jackpot winners are:

February 2024: Mrs B. O' Callaghan

March 2024: Bradley Smith

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). We realise it can be difficult to commit to taking on these responsibilities but there is the option of job-sharing, especially for the Treasurer role.

We have outlined the main tasks for this Treasurer role below.

- 1. Be involved in FOSD decision-making about appropriate spending.
- 2. Holding the bank account: Making payments to suppliers and reimbursements. Providing a quarterly update on the finances.
- 3. Preparation of annual accounts, arranging audit and submission to Charity Commission. If needed FOSD could contract this to an external company.
- 4. Managing cash flow. Making cash payments to the bank, securing float money before big events. This can be done infrequently as we can hold cash in the school office for a short time.
- 5. Keeping track of card-reader payments and availability. FOSD has card-readers that we use for different events. These just need to be in the right-place at the right-time. This is a task easily shared by the whole committee.
- 6. Ensure there are available people to manage cash-flow at big events. This can be a shared job across the committee.

Without a Treasurer we will need to cut back on FOSD events, which will clearly impact what we are able to contribute to the school.

So far this Academic Year the school has received £30K from FOSD with which they have purchased everyday items such as library subscriptions, teaching books, chrome-books, balance bikes and scooters as well as larger items including PE mats and we have undertaken some repairs to the swimming pool.

Looking ahead FOSD will contribute to the **'The St Benedict Project'**, which will be a complete remodelling of the upstairs Art Studio. This will provide a much-improved artistic-experience for students.

As ever thanks for all your contributions that make these things possible.

Yours, The FOSD committee

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