

February 2024

## Page Numbers & Contents

2. [Activities and Events](#)
5. [Attendance Late to School](#)
5. [Charity and Justice](#)
6. [Children's Learning](#)
7. [Clubs](#)
7. [Information- Subject Leaders](#)
10. [Liturgy and Worship](#)
11. [Parish Links](#)
11. [Parent Teacher meetings](#)
12. [School Office](#)
13. [Sports & P.E.](#)
14. [Uniform.](#)
15. [New website - Stop Press](#)
17. [Dates for your Diary](#)
17. [Friends of St. Dunstan's information page](#)



Dear Parents,

Wow! What a wonderful exhibition of the children's art we all shared on Friday through the theme of the Holy Family. We do hope that you enjoyed coming in to school and walking through the exhibition with your children, together with the prayer stations. If you were not able to attend the exhibition, we will be putting a page on the school website very soon, giving a photo tour of the displays.

We hope that you will all by now have had a chance to look at the new school website and that you have found it interesting and easy to find what you are looking for. We will shortly be sending out a Microsoft form asking for your feedback on the website so that we can continue to build on the information available and make any tweaks and changes to make it even better! Please do take a few minutes to let us know what you think by completing a short survey [here](#). Thank you.

On a personal note, I would like to thank you for all the kind words and messages I have received in school since the notification of my retirement was sent out. These have touched me greatly. I'll be getting on with business as usual at school for now, ensuring that I hand everything over as seamlessly and as well as possible. Next half-term is very busy and I'm sure it will go far too quickly!

Thank you for your continued support.

Julianne Birch

St. Dunstan's  
Catholic Primary  
School  
Onslow Crescent, Woking,  
Surrey, GU22 7AX

T:  
01483 715190

E:  
[www.stdunstans.surrey.sch.uk](http://www.stdunstans.surrey.sch.uk)



# Activities and Events

## Art Week & Exhibition

A huge thank you to all who were able to visit the art exhibition last Friday afternoon and for your warm feedback on the day and in the survey. It really was a wonderful celebration of the children's learning journey which was voiced by you in the survey:

"Everything was beautifully created to enhance the children's learning."

"I liked the range of displays: so many different types of mediums used and it was so colourful."

"Amazing talent and the children had so much pride in their work."

"There was a clear theme throughout, an easy to see layout and there was a very high standard of work."

"The work allowed for all levels of creativity and to achieve a high standard of finish. The atmosphere was so lovely and peaceful, thanks to the attention to detail and good planning."

"There was a lovely sense of happiness in the children as they shared their learning."

If you would still like to give your feedback regarding the children's learning or the organisation of the art exhibition, please **do** as we use this to help us plan next year's Creative Arts Week: <https://forms.office.com/e/mgwRF83s3G>



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

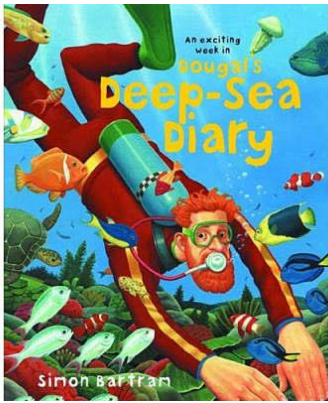
This year for Creative Arts Week our overarching theme was "The Holy Family". In Reception, we chose to focus of the beautiful sculpture outside St. Dunstan's Church. We looked carefully at Jesus' hands outstretched, welcoming us all into His family. This linked beautifully to our RE lessons where we have shared the gospel of Jesus welcoming the children (Mark 10:13-16). We have been thinking about how we can make others feel welcome, and how we welcome Jesus into our lives too. "We can open the door for someone walking past". "We can say good morning and smile at them". The children designed their own handprint using symbolic imagery inspired by the scripture. They then put these skills in practise by carving their own clay hand sculpture. "The clay felt sticky and we had to roll it carefully so it doesn't break". We are really looking forward to sharing these beautiful pieces with you at our art exhibition.



### Year 1 – Mrs G. Corsini: Head of Year

Year 1 have had a busy but successful start to the New Year. The children have all been very engaged in our English text – Dougal's Deep Sea Diary by Simon Bartram. They have been exploring exclamation marks and how they are used to indicate strong feelings or a raised voice.





We have had a wonderful time exploring the technique of paint for Arts Week. We started the learning process by looking at warm and cool tones and discovered that warm tones consist of reds, oranges and yellows, and cool tones are greens, blues and purples. We were then introduced to the vocabulary 'gradient' and 'horizontal strokes'. We practiced creating a gradient effect using horizontal strokes. "A gradient is a slow change of colour, you can't see where one colour ends and the next begins." "Horizontal strokes is when you moved your brush from side to side, not up and down." We hope you enjoy our beautiful artwork!



---

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



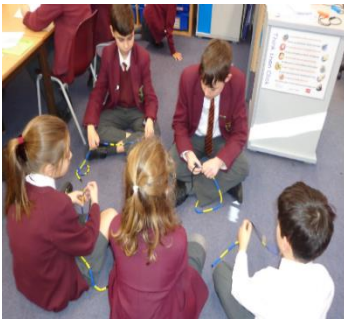
Arts week was a huge success in Year 2! We started our learning journey by exploring colour theory. It was interesting to discover how warm and cool colours complement each other if they are opposites on a colour wheel. A highlight of the week was using sticky back plastic and cellophane to create beautiful stained glass windows. The teachers feel so proud to have such incredible artists in Year 2!



In Maths this half term Year 2 have been revising their learning about money, and have just learnt how to calculate change in the same unit.

---

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



Year 3 have really enjoyed Art Week. They have had lots of opportunity to look at other children's work and 'magpie' anything they think works well and that they could incorporate. We have learned about each stage of creating our own version of our chosen portrait. We worked on sketching facial features in proportion, then used that skill to enlarge our drawings. To finish our abstract portraits of the Holy Family we used a variety of different media, we painted the figures and then used watercolour pencils to add in the background.

We also had a visit from the Year 6 maths ambassadors who were helping us with our learning of multiples of 4.

We are looking forward to showing our completed work at the Art Exhibition on Friday.

---

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

The children in Year 4 have been working hard to prepare for their upcoming Art Exhibition. They have built upon skills learnt in the autumn term to create a landscape painting with a silhouette of the



Holy Family. Developing their ability to blend, the children have experimented with different techniques including mixing colours and creating a gradient effect with water. At each stage in the process, the children have evaluated their successes and next steps and we have been delighted by their determination to act on these next steps to improve subsequent paintings. They are immensely proud of their final artwork and they are looking forward to showcasing them at the exhibition.

---

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

Year 5 have been getting creative this half term, with a special focus on their clay sculpting skills. Starting from basic shapes, the children have been honing their techniques and are now proud to unveil their very own abstract sculptures of the Holy Family, all made from clay. We're excited to announce that these wonderful art pieces will be showcased at the upcoming arts week exhibition, scheduled at the start of February. This will be a fantastic opportunity for the children to share their artistic talents with the wider community. In addition to their artistic endeavours, the class has also been actively engaged in other activities. We attended Parish Mass and the children have been relishing their singing lessons, as they prepare music for our upcoming Stations of The Cross Liturgy, set to take place in March. Overall, Year 5 has had a fantastically creative start to the term.

---

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



Year 6 have had a great month back: showcasing some fantastic excitement and interest with our learning. We have had a focus on science this month with our topic on adaptation. All pupils produced some lovely writing on Himalayan animals and their adaptations using some super Year 6 punctuation: they should all now be experts in parenthesis and cohesion!

We have spent the last week delving into art and some of us have been on a real journey of improvement. We cannot wait to show the learning and progress at the Art Exhibition.

It is now straight into our history topic on World War 2. Thank you very much for helping with costumes. It will be a great start to what is usually a very inspiring topic about evacuation and The Blitz.




### **Leaving school at home time**

A final thank you for the support with your children and their safe behaviour when leaving school. It is really important that our children have the opportunity to develop their skills of walking independently from school in a safe and respectful manner. We continue to appreciate your support with ensuring our Year 6s represent themselves to their best; demonstrating consideration to others and taking care when leaving school grounds.



---

## Girlguiding World Thinking Day – 22nd February

 World Thinking Day is a celebration of 10 million girls worldwide to think of each other and celebrate all around the world.

To honour this day, children who are members of Girlguiding and Scouting, are invited to wear their uniforms to school on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> February. Alternatively, they could proudly display their promise badges on their school uniform.



[Back to top](#)

---

## Attendance: Late to School:

**Mrs J. Birch**

We have an increasing number of children being late for school. Everyone is late once in a while for an exceptional reason, but to be routinely late is uncomfortable for your child, as they have to come in to school via the main office and go in to class after everyone else. Apart from this, being late for school not only disrupts the learning of the other children, but it means that the teacher has to go over the start of the day with your child, taking their time away from the rest of the class. Being late can leave children feeling anxious and affect their self-esteem.

Please do your very best to ensure your child gets to school through the normal gates on time, by 8.55am and they can walk in to class with all the other children. This gives them the very best start to the day.

If you are late getting your child to school, please ensure an adult brings your child to the school office and signs them in to school using the electronic Inventory system. **Children must not be dropped off and left to walk in late by themselves. For safeguarding reasons, an adult must sign them in to school to confirm the reason for the lateness.**

Thank you for helping us to ensure that every child starts school feeling good about the day ahead and not worried or embarrassed because they know they are late again.

[Back to top](#)

---

## Charity and Justice

**Charity and Justice –Miss H. King**  
**Christmas Woking Lions Collection**

Thank you to all those families who contributed to the Woking Lions Christmas collection, we can now confirm that St Dunstan's families helped contribute donations towards 120 Christmas hampers. The children really lived out their Gospel values of loving one another and loving their neighbour with this appeal. A special thanks to the faith ambassadors for helping to organise the donations.



### Lenten Fundraising

The season of Lent is approaching, when we will be reflecting on how to walk in the light and how to follow Jesus' example from our words and our actions. During the week beginning Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February, 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. Equally, you may want to encourage your children to do small jobs around the house to earn extra pennies to contribute to their red box, so to encourage them to follow Jesus' example of helping others.



Please return the boxes via your child’s book bag in the first week back after the Easter holidays. We will also be supporting CAFOD this year. Details of both charities are available through the links below:  
<http://www.missiontogether.org.uk/> <http://cafod.org.uk/>  
 Thank you for all of your support and generosity.

## Fairtrade Fortnight –Miss N. McMahon



We are looking forward to Fairtrade Fortnight, starting on Monday 26th February! It's a chance for us to delve into the incredible purpose and impact of the Fairtrade organisation. As they celebrate their 30th anniversary this year, we'll also take a moment to appreciate the countless lives around the globe that have been positively touched

by their amazing work. The influence Fairtrade has on people globally is truly important to us. We remember Jesus' teachings to love our neighbours, especially those enduring poverty, we aim to raise awareness about the valuable work Fairtrade does.


We will also be holding a Fairtrade raffle. To participate, kindly encourage your child to find a food or drink item at home with the Fairtrade logo. The packaging of this item will serve as their raffle ticket. Make sure to clearly label the packaging with your child's name and class. We ask that children bring their packaging to their classrooms during the week commencing 4th March. At the end of the week, we'll randomly select an item for a chance to win an exciting Fairtrade-inspired prize.

Let's come together to support Fairtrade and make a positive difference in the lives of those in need.

[Back to top](#)

## Children’s Learning

Mrs G. Morganti – Head of School

 We hope you have had a chance to look at the new website and examine the different sections. We have listened carefully to your feedback and have designed the website to enable information to be located quickly and easily.

All information regarding your child’s learning can be found in the [Children's Learning](#) section. Within this section you will find a number of links to information regarding all aspects of learning at St. Dunstan’s.

There are two key links to signpost:

- [Year Group Learning](#) for all details concerning your child’s learning for the year
- [Information Talks for Parents](#) for handouts and presentations from any recent or relevant talks

Within each Year Group Learning section, there is a link to the Maths Calculation Policy which outlines the different models and images we use in school to support the teaching of addition, subtraction, multiplication and division.

In This Section
Curriculum
E-safety
Eco Committee
EYFS
Inclusion
Information Talks for Parents
Pupil Voice
Woking Schools Learning Partnership (WSLP)
Year Group Learning Information

Skill: Add 1-digit numbers within 10	Year: 1
	<p>When adding numbers to 10, children can explore both aggregation and augmentation.</p> <p>The part-whole model, discrete and continuous bar model, number shapes and ten frame support aggregation.</p> <p>The combination bar model, ten frame, bead string and number track all support augmentation.</p>

For each of these operations, the learning is broken down into skills across year groups. Each skill has a brief outline of how it is taught using the models and images.

The Maths Ambassadors have created a video to support children with their learning at home. The first video shows how to use some of these models and images for formal addition as the children progress from Year 3 to Year 6. These videos will be uploaded to Google Classroom over the year to allow children to refer to when they are working at home on their maths learning.

Skill: Subtract numbers with more than 4 digits	Year: 5/6
	<p>Place value counters or plain counters on a place value grid are the most effective concrete resource when subtracting numbers with more than 4 digits.</p> <p>At this stage, children should be encouraged to work in the abstract, using column method to subtract larger numbers efficiently.</p>

For an outline of the maths learning across the school, see the Mathematics link in the Curriculum section.

[Back to top](#)

## Clubs

### Mr A. Coyle – Senior Teacher

Bookings for the summer term will open in early March. Once again, we will review initial bookings and there will be an opportunity to book a second teacher led club if spaces are available. NB: Parents can book as many externally led clubs as they are eligible for, if there are spaces available.

All external and teacher led clubs for this forthcoming term are available to book from Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> March, 2024 at 6.30pm. Teacher led clubs can be booked via [SchoolCloud](#) until 6pm Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> March 2024. At this point we will review bookings and if there are further spaces available we will let parents know.

All external led clubs can be booked directly with the external led club providers, details of which can be found on the school website at the beginning of March.

**\*\*Please note\*\*** that for the summer term, if you have missed both booking windows for teacher led clubs, 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.

Thank you for your understanding.

[Back to top](#)

## Information from Subject Leaders

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 Executive Headteacher</p>	<p><b>Deputy DSL:</b> Mrs G. Morganti Head of School</p>	<p><b>Deputy DSL:</b> Mrs S. Hughes SENDCo</p>	<p><b>Deputy DSL:</b> Mr A. Coyle Senior Teacher</p>

### Safeguarding – Mrs A. O'Donovan

On the 6<sup>th</sup> February, the children will have a particular focus on online safety (see curriculum section of the newsletter for more information). Below are some really good resources for you as parents. I would particularly highlight The Internet Watch Foundation – they are reporting a 66% increase in children under 10 being groomed online in the past year. That is a really scary statistic!

Do make use of the school's subscription to National Online Safety to access regular, bitesize information relating to the latest platforms, games etc. that your child may be using. Do your homework before allowing them to download apps or games.

At St. Dunstan's, the biggest concern we have regarding the children and their online use in our school is in relation to smartphones. There are children in the school who are messaging peers past 11pm at night, which suggest they have their phone in their bedrooms. This is a great concern not only due to the impact on sleep but also around the contact and content the children could be having access to.

We would suggest:

- Not allowing phones in bedrooms
- Checking your child's online activity regularly – timings of messages, what are they sending, are their messages kind?
- Ensuring sufficient parental controls
- Talking to your child about what they do on their smartphones or device
- Using settings to restrict access to the internet after a certain time



### **IWF - Exploitation of Under 10's Increasing**

The annual report from the Internet Watch Foundation is due out soon – it provides important information and insight into online safeguarding issues. You can find the article and further statistics to those mentioned above [HERE](#).

### **Children and Screens**



The Institute of Digital Media and Child Development have really important and useful information on their website. This includes tips for parents on giving your child a smartphone: from assessing your child's readiness, to preparing your child for healthy smart phone use and then tips for what to do once your child has a smartphone.

It also provides answers to common questions such as:

- How much screen time is too much?
- Is my child addicted to screens?
- How does technology affect children's social development?

Go to the "Learn and Explore" section to see the range of topics covered, information for specific ages and where to find the parent tips: <https://www.childrenandscreens.org/>

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

A huge thank you to all the Year 5 librarians and the parent helpers who are doing a super job of helping in the main library every Tuesday. It really benefits the younger children to have someone to guide them if they find choosing a book difficult.

Watch out in the coming weeks as our new non-fiction books should begin to arrive. Happy reading everyone!

### **RE Learning - Mrs S. Turner – RE Subject leader & Senior Teacher**



*'Where two or three are gathered together in my name I am there among them.'*

*(Matthew: 18:20)*







Year groups 2 to 5 will embark on 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.

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

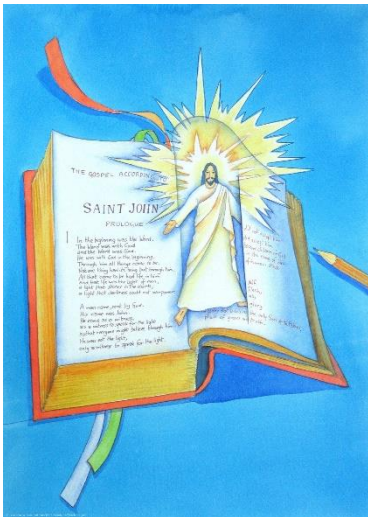
## EUCHARIST - RELATING

- Year 2** THANKSGIVING - Mass, a special time to thank God
- Year 3** LISTENING & SHARING - Jesus gives himself to us
- Year 4** GIVING & RECEIVING - Living in communion
- Year 5** MEMORIAL SACRIFICE - Eucharist as the living memorial of Christ's sacrifice

## SUGGESTIONS FOR HOME ACTIVITIES

Look through the family photograph album to help the children remember important events and special people in their lives. Discuss how we come together for special celebrations.

This half term EYFS, Years 1 and 6 will continue to build on their learning in the unit titled: Galilee to Jerusalem. (Details about RE learning for EYFS, Years 1 and 6 was shared in the September newsletter.)



In **EYFS**, the children are exploring the message that Jesus came for everyone. They are learning about His mission to demonstrate God's love and welcome everyone. Through their words and actions, they will strive to be like Jesus by showing love and extending a helping hand to those in need.

**Year 1** are delving deeper into Jesus' life, focusing on how He grew up to reveal God the Father's love. They will learn about the significance of Candlemas, a celebration where Christians commemorate this important event. Children will learn how to spread the Good News, take care of those in need, and follow Jesus' example.

In **Year 6**, the children are exploring John's Gospel, both its literal and spiritual meanings. Within our church community, including the Parish priest and the congregation, we ensure that Jesus' teachings are passed on through the sacraments. These sacraments serve as visible signs, embodying God's presence and purpose in the life of a Catholic.

An overview of this topic was shared in last months' newsletter. Do take a look at ways in which you might explore this learning with your child at home and at Mass.

## Safer Internet Day 2024 – Mrs S. Turner & Miss N. McMahon



We're thrilled to announce that Safer Internet Day 2024 will be taking place on 9th February. This exciting event will be filled with celebrations and engaging activities, all centred around the

thought-provoking theme of **'Inspiring change? Making a difference, managing influence and navigating change online'**.

Safer Internet Day is widely recognised as the largest online safety celebration in the UK. Every year, we focus on addressing online issues relevant to young people's daily experiences. For this year's Safer Internet Day, responding to feedback from young people across the UK, we will be exploring the idea of 'change online'.

Safer Internet Day 2024 promises to be an informative and empowering occasion, enabling our children to navigate the online world with confidence and resilience. Together, let's inspire change, make a difference, manage influence, and navigate change online!

---

## World Book Day – Thursday 7th March 2024 – Miss H. Fail



As it is approaching World Book Day, we would like to remind you of our upcoming celebration of children's literature through our chosen theme of 'Heroes and Heroines'. The children will have the opportunity to dress up as their favourite hero or heroine inspired by a fictional or factual story. This theme will enable us to celebrate this special day as a whole school community, while also allowing

different interpretations depending on the age of your children. Younger children may like to choose the popular heroes and heroines from children's stories such as Spiderman and The Incredibles. Older children may take inspiration from biographies, such as the Little People Big Dreams series, in which the lives of outstanding people are retold, from designers and artists to scientists and activists. We would love for the children to be inspired by books to choose their hero or heroine, so please avoid dressing up as a sporting star or footballer, as they are mainly seen on television rather than in stories. As always, there is the option to bring a prop or wear a single item of clothing to represent a chosen hero or heroine.

[Little People, BIG DREAMS - Be Bold, Be Brave, DREAM BIG! \(littlepeoplebigdreams.com\)](https://www.littlepeoplebigdreams.com)

[Back to top](#)

---

## Liturgy and Worship

Catholic Life: Lent –Mrs A. O'Donovan



Lent begins on Ash Wednesday (14<sup>th</sup> February). During the season of Lent, we journey with Jesus through his 40 days and 40 nights in the desert. We take time to get closer to Jesus on our own personal journeys towards Holy Week and the wonderful feast of Easter.

You may like to use the following resources as a family during your Lenten journey:

- <https://cafod.org.uk/pray/prayer-resources/lent-family-prayer-ideas>
- <https://catholicprouts.com/40-faith-building-lenten-activities/>
- <https://www.catholicicing.com/simple-lenten-traditions-for-families-with-little-to-no-prep-work/>
- <https://www.catholicfamilyfaith.org/lenten-season-resources.html>

In school, KS2 children will participate in a Reconciliation Service led by Year 6 and have an opportunity to receive the sacrament of Reconciliation as part of their preparation for Easter. Lower School will celebrate a Reconciliation Prayer Service.

## Sacrament of Reconciliation

Please pray for the children in our school and Parish who will celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> February.

[Back to top](#)

---

## Parish Links

**Invited:** Arundel & Brighton Diocese are delighted to bring you the fourth season of *Invited* this Lent. It is a deeper dive into our faith and is designed to help us grow as Disciples of Jesus by offering a richer level of formation as well as some practical challenges along the way. To learn more visit [www.abdiocese.org.uk/invited](http://www.abdiocese.org.uk/invited)


**Diocesan Lourdes Pilgrimage 2024:** Applications to join the 50th anniversary diocesan Lourdes pilgrimage are now open. 2024 will also mark the 20th anniversary of the Redshirts youth programme. Visit [www.abdiocese.org.uk/lourdes/home](http://www.abdiocese.org.uk/lourdes/home) to apply.

**Help needed for toddler group:** The toddler group is looking for new volunteers to join the team. If you can spare your time on Thursdays during school term time, from 9 am - 12 noon (even if it's one Thursday a month, it will help!) to help set up the toys, make teas and coffees, help with song time and tidying up, please get in touch with Yana [yana.linch@gmail.com](mailto:yana.linch@gmail.com) or the parish office.

**Can you help please with church cleaning?:** We are in great need of more volunteers to help keep our lovely church clean and inviting. Would you be able to spare a couple of hours a month? Cleaning normally takes place in the morning, on a Tuesday after the 10 am Mass and the Rosary, or on a Wednesday morning when there is no Mass. If you can help please e-mail Jackie Clements on [jackieclements250@btinternet.com](mailto:jackieclements250@btinternet.com) or text/call on 07799 054698

### Advertisement Text for Pastoral Coordinator Role

Pastoral Coordinator – St Dunstan’s Parish, Woking & St Hugh of Lincoln Parish, Knaphill

 The Catholic parishes of Woking & Knaphill are seeking an energetic, committed worker with a good understanding of Catholic faith to join their pastoral team, to assume responsibility for coordinating and developing catechesis, developing lay leadership and promoting a culture of missionary discipleship across our twin parishes.

The post is full-time but applicants who can offer least 0.6 FTE will also be considered. Salary £32,000-35,000 depending on experience and qualifications. Application deadline: Friday, March 1, 2024.


Interviews: Friday, March 15, 2024. For job-description and application form see:

W: <https://www.abdiocese.org.uk/careers/pastoral-coordinator-woking-knaphill-parishes>

[Back to top](#)

---

## Parent Teacher Meetings

 The Parent Teacher meetings will take place on **Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> February**. These meetings are to discuss your child’s progress and any next steps they may have with their learning. Teachers will provide ideas for parents to support their children at home.

Mrs Hughes will be available for any parent who may wish to speak with her, after their appointment with their child’s class teacher.

### **Please note:**

We hope the Year 6 children will attend the appointment with their parent/s and teacher/s. For other school children, please be mindful that there will not be staff available to supervise them whilst parents attend the meeting. Please make child care arrangements for your children if at all possible.

**Please be remember that children may not bring or use mobile phones or devices with internet connection into school, even at these evenings.**

[Back to top](#)



---

## School Office

### School Gateway App



We are aware that a small number of parents do not receive text messages sent out via the School Gateway App. This applies to registered users of the App. This issue seems to arise after parents change their mobile phone. The School Gateway App does not appear to automatically transfer across to a new phone/device.

If you find this is an issue after changing devices, please can we ask you to download the School Gateway App again from the App Store

*Please note, only text messages are sent via the School Gateway App. All other communications are sent via email.*

---

### Extended Schools

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

Our ever-popular Early Birds and Stay and Play Clubs continue to thrive. We currently have capacity in Early Birds (all mornings). Please contact Mrs Hammond in the school office for further details or, to apply for a place on the waiting list.

#### **\*\*INFORMATION FOR PARENTS OF CHILDREN IN YEAR 2\*\***

We will be sending parents of children in Year 2 an electronic communication prior to half term asking you to register your interest in applying for a place for your child at Breakfast (Early Birds) and/or After School Club (Stay and Play). **NB** both clubs are for children in Year 3 upwards.

During the week commencing Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February, we will send out application forms to all parents who have registered their interest asking you to complete and submit your application form within 14 days.

If you have any questions, please contact Mrs Hammond in the School Office telephone no: 01483 715190 or email [wraparound@stdunstans.surrey.sch.uk](mailto:wraparound@stdunstans.surrey.sch.uk)

*May we remind parents please that a half-term's notice is required should you wish to cancel a regular booking. However, if you already know 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.*

---

### HM Government Childcare Choices -Tax Free Childcare- Mrs C. Turner

We are registered with the above scheme to accept payments for childcare for Early Bird's Breakfast Club and Stay and Play After School Club.

If eligible, for every £8 a parent pays into their Childcare account, the government will add an extra £2, up to a maximum of £2,000 per child per year (or £4,000 for disabled children). To find out more about Tax-Free Childcare please visit <http://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk/>

If you choose to use this method of payment, please notify Mrs Hammond in the School Office ([wraparound@stdunstans.surrey.sch.uk](mailto:wraparound@stdunstans.surrey.sch.uk)) of the date, full amount and reference number relating to your payment. This will then enable us to allocate the payment to your account.

---

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

If you have yet to pay for this half term’s school dinners, payment is now overdue.

The amount for the next half term will be £72.90.

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.

**i** **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.**

---

### **i** **Reporting your child’s absence (illness) :**

For safeguarding reasons it is very important that we know who is absent and who is at school as soon after 8.55am as possible. We also need to be sure *why* a child is absent so that we can accurately record this on each child’s attendance register and notify the UK Health Security Agency and any vulnerable staff/pupils of any symptoms or infections of concern. The Inclusions Officer from Surrey County Council, visits the school once a term and looks at the school’s attendance information. If a child’s absence is for more than three days, we may also need to receive medical evidence for the extended absence from school.

We ask parents to use a Microsoft Form to record their child’s absence from school due to illness or other medical reasons. Any other absence (non-illness/medical) should continue to be applied for as current procedures.

The link to the absence form is below, but it can also be found on the Attendance page of our school website or under useful forms.

<https://forms.office.com/e/FtSwBLfb1b>

This form will be saved directly onto your child’s attendance register. Please complete a new form for every day your child is absent.

**[Back to top](#)**

---

## Sports & P.E.

**Mr A. Coyle**

### **PE update**

Our grateful thanks to the FoSD, for kindly helping us buy 20 brand new balance bikes, and 20 scooters. We will be able to use them in our PE lessons and at lunch times. Every child in KS1 will benefit from these bikes and scooters. They support the children in learning how to balance as well as helping develop important core muscles. The children in Year 1 have used them already, and we look forward to introducing them to the other year groups over the coming weeks and months.



---

## Competition Update

### Greenfield Year 6 girls' football



On 17<sup>th</sup> January, two teams participated in the Greenfield football competition. With an abundance of talent in both squads. All the girls played superbly and this was reflected in our results. Out of 8 matches in total, the two teams finished the day with 4 wins, 4 draws and 0 (zero) defeats.

As the final results, which were a combination of the two pitches, were announced the girls were delighted (and slightly upset) to hear we had finished as runners-up by just a mere point!

Never the less it is so fantastic to see the strength in depth we currently have at the school with our girl footballers. Many of the girls are in their first years of football and the improvements we see week on week is incredible. To not lose a game all day is a fantastic achievement and we look forward to the next event.

### Year 6 boys' rugby fixture

On Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> January, we took two teams to Greenfield to play in a rugby fixture against Greenfield and Barfield schools. After dividing ourselves into two teams, we played against each school once. The boys demonstrated incredible resolve and determination and came away with some impressive results in this friendly fixture. We would like to thank Greenfield for hosting us and look forward to many more opportunities to compete.



### Year 4 multiskills



Our final fixture of the month, was a multiskills festival at the Woking Leisure centre on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> January. Eight of our budding Year 4 stars took part in a carousel of activities, including; basketball, football, dance and accuracy throws. Everyone really enjoyed representing the school and the pride bursting from the children was evident throughout. It was wonderful to receive lots of wonderful comments throughout about the children's behaviour and endeavour to succeed. Well done to all the boys and girls who came and we hope to run more festivals like this one in the coming months.

[Back to top](#)

---

## 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 will place 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.

[Back to top](#)

---

## New Website - stop press

**i** Please be aware that we are now using the front page of our new website to display stop press news, calendar, upcoming dates and reminders. Please do check the website for up to date information. There will no longer be a stop press notice board as this was not well located for all. The new website is just a click away! - <https://www.stdunstans.surrey.sch.uk/>

[Back to top](#)

---

## Dates for your Diary

**i** **For your information:** - there are no notified changes to the dates as published in the Annual Calendar for February.

### **Reminders:**

Spring half term break – Monday 12<sup>th</sup> to Friday 16<sup>th</sup> February (inclusive)

Staff Inset Training (school closed for pupils) – Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February

Girl Guides and Girl Scouts World Thinking day – Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> February – children able to wear their girlguiding uniforms to school

[Back to top](#)



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

*The FoSD Committee*

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

Let us first offer very best wishes from FOSD to Mrs Birch ahead of her upcoming retirement. She will be greatly missed by the entire St Dunstan's community.

**Friday March 1<sup>st</sup>** is the date of the FOSD Sponsored Walk. Please watch out for more details on this by email and from Class reps!

Finally we are hoping to organise the opportunity for a '**Family Photo Session**' on a Saturday morning coming soon. You will be able to book a place for family pictures taken by a local school photographer. The session will be free and FOSD will receive a commission from any subsequent purchases. Please look out for more details soon!

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:

*November 2023: Leo Haestier*  
*December 2023: Michela Noble.*

As ever we are very grateful to the people who have stepped forward to help with cake sales, uniform sales, PE kit sales and at any of our events.

**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.

**[Back to top](#)**