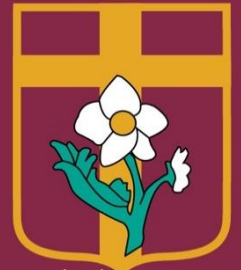


St. Dunstan's Catholic Primary School

Newsletter



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

End of Term Summer 2023

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Dear Parents,

I am often asked if the school is 'winding down' for the Summer.....the answer is a categorical no!! At St. Dunstan's we push forward on to the very end and through the finishing line on the last day so that the children receive the very best care until the very last minute!

This morning we held the 'Trophy Assembly' where we awarded Leavers' Medals and specific trophies. The children also find out the results of the main inter-house events. The scores for the whole year are added together and the winning house announced.....this year it is **St. David!**



I would like to thank everyone who contributed to the retirement gift for Mr Jamieson, enabling us to buy a well-deserved holiday for Mr Jamieson and his wife. Mr and Mrs Jamieson pass on their own very sincere thanks for your kindness and generosity both in your words and in your gifts.

On behalf of the staff, I would like to thank you all for your support and encouragement this year and for the trust you place in us. We hope that some of you will be able to join us for the Going Forth Mass on Friday morning. This Mass is celebrated for everyone. For those of you not able to join us, the Mass will be live streamed via the Church website.

We hope that you all have a very peaceful and relaxing summer holiday with your children.

With best wishes,
Julianne Birch

For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

JEREMIAH 29:11

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Activities and Events

EYFS - Mrs H. Robins: Head of EYFS

We would like to say a huge thank you to Mrs. Didimitis for teaching us some top tips on keeping our teeth healthy! Understanding how and why we look after our teeth is an important way of encouraging and supporting children to practise good oral hygiene.

"We need to brush our teeth in small circles for two minutes"

"Spit but don't rinse!"

"After brushing your teeth you should only drink water and not eat anything in the night time"

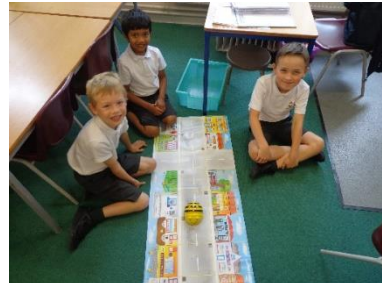
The children have all had an incredible first year at school and are excited and ready for the new opportunities in Year 1.



Year 2 – Miss R. Todd



In Maths, Year 2 have been embracing the fine weather by enjoying some outdoor learning. The children used metre sticks to draw lines of different lengths and recorded the height measurements of different objects in the playground.



Moreover, combining Computing and their knowledge of position and direction, Beebots were programmed to travel to specific locations on their floor mats.

What a successful year the children have had, and they are all very excited about the learning ahead of them in Year 3!

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

Dear Year 6, class of 2023

The time has come: it is time to part. It is the end of the term, the year and primary school. We have spent time celebrating your success. Stop and look at all you have mastered. Exams completed, projects accomplished, sports days finished, and trophies awarded. We have spent time reminiscing. Leavers books have been written, photos selected, and memories recounted. BBQs and picnics have given you time together in your school and you have triumphed in your leaver's assembly.



Now it is time to look forward. You are packed, prepared and the path is ready. With joy, tinged with sadness, we say farewell and wish you all the best. Today is your day – it's time to get on your way.

Shirt signing and picnic fun in St Francis Woodland



Thank you to Year 6 for your gifts

Yesterday we shared the Leavers' Assembly with the Year 6 children and their parents. What a wonderful occasion that was. We are immensely proud of all our children, of all that they have achieved and for the wonderful people that they are.

We would like to thank the parents of children in Year 6 for their very kind gift of a beautiful, new school banner that will take pride of place at school Masses and events. Also for the beautiful plant that will live in our new St. Dunstone's Library in Rosary House.



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End of Term Awards: Year 6

The end of year Trophy Assembly is always a very special occasion. Every child in Year 6 is awarded a Leavers' Medal as well as their collection of First of the Month books from across the whole school. This means the children can see the progress they have made from Reception to Year 6 and the children always really love looking through these books.

The 'Spirit of St Dunstan's' trophy is awarded as well as subject trophies, trophies for outstanding contribution, outstanding athlete, star awards and progress awards. We shall post some more photos on Twitter. Congratulations to Year 6 ...you are such a wonderful year group.



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Breakfast Club and After School Club:

Our clubs continue to thrive and we very much look forward to welcoming your children into breakfast and after school club in September. A gentle reminder please that your child must be dropped off by an adult for [breakfast club](#).

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Children's Learning - [Mrs G. Morganti, Head of School](#)

We are pleased that parental feedback regarding children's learning over the year and in the parental survey has been very positive. In September, on the children's learning page of the school website, you will be able to view:

[The Year group overview](#) which has the summary of the purpose of learning for the term along with details of trips, visits and ways the children share their learning with others. In addition, for each subject for each half term, the learning is summarised to ensure parents know what the children will be covering.

[The rationale](#) which is an overview of the learning in the half term and how any learning links across the curriculum. This will now contain more information in regards to English learning; this can be read alongside the Year Group Overview which will give more detail for parents about what the children will be learning and/or practising in Reading, Grammar and Writing.

[The maths end of year expectations document](#) which contains the learning objective for each aspect of maths learning for the year. The statements are highlighted to show what will be covered in the upcoming half term and what has been previously covered.

All documents will be ready to view by Thursday 7th September.

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

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Dates for Next Year: Annual Calendar

Mrs G. Morganti

We know how important it is for parents to be able to book time off work with plenty of notification to enable them to attend school events. The annual calendar of the key dates for the next academic year are now available on the school website (see link below). Details of school trips and visits along with the costings will be shared with you at the Introduction to Year Talks in September as well as via Schoolcomms prior to the trips. As we have done this year, any additions to the annual calendar will be made in red and the monthly newsletter contains a section- 'Dates for your Diary' to draw your attention to the most important dates and school events.

http://www.stdunstans.surrey.sch.uk/Annual_Calendar_for_Parents_2023-2024.pdf

Holiday/terms dates are always on the school website, at least one year ahead:

http://www.stdunstans.surrey.sch.uk/Annual_calendar_and_dates.html

As previously notified, the Introduction to the Year Talks for Parents will be on **Thursday 7th September between 6pm and 8.30pm**. Times for each year group are confirmed in the annual calendar.

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Information from Subject Leaders

Book Amnesty!

As the school year closes, we would be very grateful if parents could take a look in bookcases at home to check whether there are any school library books tucked away. All the school's books will have a St. Dunstan's stamp either in the front or back cover. Every year we find that books go missing as they simply get forgotten about and not ever returned.

The school office would be grateful to receive any books returned! Please just drop them off!

Many thanks

Online Gaming – Mrs A. O'Donovan



Come rain or shine, over the summer holidays many children and young people will be spending longer on gaming consoles. It is imperative that as parents, you take an active role and understand gaming (it isn't just playing games), the games your children are playing, potential risks and how to mitigate those risks.

Internet Matters have a whole gaming hub, a library of information just for parents covering the areas above and more. You can get to the gaming hub [HERE](#).

Don't forget that there is also a wealth of information on the National Online Safety website. You can sign up for free for parent membership through our school account:

<https://nationalonlinesafety.com/login>

Free secondary transition webinar



Anna Freud
building the mental
wellbeing of the
next generation

The Anna Freud Centre are running a free webinar for parents of children transitioning up to Year 7 in September. It is on 9th August at 2pm. The webinar will be run by Anna Freud education and mental health experts, sharing practical tips and advice for supporting wellbeing and dealing

with potentially stressful situations. You can book your place here:

https://www.annafreud.org/training/training-and-conferences-overview/online-conferences-webinars-and-events/transition-to-secondary-school-supporting-your-year-7-child/?mc_cid=32af069b9d&mc_eid=d7e6681b69

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Liturgy and Worship – Mrs A. O’Donovan – Assistant Headteacher

Service for Mr Jamieson

On Friday 14th July, we celebrated a service to say thank you to Mr Jamieson for all his hard work in school over the last 17 years. Dunstan Bear even had a new outfit for the occasion! Year 2 to 6 celebrated in Church, whilst Reception and Year 1 watched the live stream in school. We were able to share our favourite memories of Mr Jamieson and all of our favourite things about him - such as what a lovely person he is! A special thanks to Mia in Year 4 who drew a beautiful portrait of Mr Jamieson that really captured his character.



Mr Jamieson’s wife joined him for the service, along with invited guests of past members of staff and governors. Fr Peter led the service, which ended with a blessing for Mr Jamieson and his wife. During the service, Mrs Birch presented Mr Jamieson with gifts from the whole school community, which included the whole school photo, a holiday voucher and membership to a fishing club, as well as heartfelt cards from the staff and pupils. We wish Mr Jamieson a very happy retirement and hope he pops back now and again for a visit!



Going Forth Mass for the end of term

Year 6 will lead us in our Going Forth Mass on Friday 21st July at 10am to celebrate the end of the school year and to celebrate everyone moving on to their new year groups and schools. Parents are of course welcome to attend at the Church. Please can we ask parents to sit in the overflow room as the main church will be full with children! Thank you.

Mass for the new school year

Our first Mass of the school year will take place on Friday 15th September at 10am. This will be led by our new Year 6 children (current year 5s) and Year 3 to 6 will attend. Parents are very welcome to join us at the Church. For children in Lower School, we will have a liturgy in school.

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Parish Links



Confirmation Preparation – help needed

We are incredibly privileged to have such a dedicated, hard-working and inspirational group of catechists in both our parishes. And we should be proud of the fact that this year nearly 70 young people from our two churches were Confirmed by Bishop Richard at Arundel. The task is essential, fun and demanding, all at the same time. But we would like to strengthen our team of catechists. We need new coordinators and would also be delighted if younger members of the community were willing to get involved. Please pray that the new catechists and helpers we need will volunteer – and ask the Lord whether he might be inviting you to get involved.

Toddler’s prayers

We are delighted that we have been able to offer Toddlers' Prayers at both the 9.00 am and 10.30 am Sunday masses, enabling our young parishioners to hear the Word of God through the Sunday Gospel, but we are in need of more volunteers so that this can continue. Please, if you would be able to help once or twice a month, could you contact the parish office. Thank you.

Toddler Group

This year the Toddler Group will meet over the summer holiday on July 27th, August 10th, 17th and 31st, but are also looking for some additional volunteers to make this possible. If you could help once or twice a month, please contact Yana Linch yanalinch@gmail.com. Thank you. For more information follow their Instagram feed [wokingtoddlergroup](#).

Summer Art Camp for Children and Adults

Planning an activity for summer holiday? Why not try our free Summer Art Camps at St Dunstan's Church, suitable for children 7-12-years old. A parent or guardian must accompany children throughout the workshop. All materials will be provided.

Sessions will run over 3 weeks from 9 am to 11:30 am

Week 1: July 24, 25, 27, 28

Week 2: July 31, August 1, 3, 4

Week 3: August 14, 15, 17, 18

So that we can plan the sessions and arrange materials, booking is essential, please email: dcartcamp23@gmail.com.

Help needed for St. Vincent De Paul's

If you or anyone you know is familiar with the legal process or requirements for Asylum Seekers to obtain interviews for Permits or Right to Work in the UK, please contact the SVP. Your advice would be greatly appreciated!

Gatwick Detainees' Welfare Group

Gatwick Detainees' Welfare Group supports asylum seekers and other migrants who are held in immigration detention at Gatwick. Some of those held arrive with only the clothes they are wearing. The charity gives out good quality second-hand men's clothes and would be extremely grateful for laundered donations. The clothes they need are: Tracksuit bottoms: M, L, XL, XXL. T-shirts: S, M. Jeans: 32", 34", 36". Trousers: 32". Trainers: 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 (40-45). They do not give out second-hand underwear. No women's clothes please. To arrange delivery or collection of much-needed supplies please contact Nasima nasima@gdwg.org.uk. The charity's staff only speak a few of the languages of those detained. They buy in interpreter skills, but these are expensive. If you speak any of the following languages, could you offer just a few hours per week to speak to a detained person on the phone and find out how we can help them: Albanian, Romanian, Portuguese Brazilian, Polish, Lithuanian, Arabic, Kurdish Sorani. Please contact Karris if you can help karris@gdwg.org.uk.

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Parent Information

Interested in teaching?

Xavier Teach SouthEast, are the local ITT (Initial Teacher Training) provider. They offer excellent training across both primary and secondary as well as offering other flexible routes into teaching; they provide bespoke support to suit individuals' needs. If you are interested in training to teach, please contact us or visit their website to find out more. <https://tshub.xaviercet.org.uk/>

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Rainbows programme – Mrs A. O'Donovan – Assistant Headteacher



In September we will be beginning a new series of weekly support groups for those children who are living with a single parent, step families, in foster care, have been adopted or who have families that are going through painful transitions. This programme is called RAINBOWS. When something significant happens in a family, the entire family is affected. Even though death, divorce or other issues appear to only be grown up problems, they have a profound effect on the children who are touched by such experiences. These effects are often not healed by time. If a parent dies or a divorce happens or a painful loss occurs, not only the parents grieve, the children do also. Children find it extremely hard to verbalise their feelings of grief because of their age or inexperience.

We have trained members of staff who have agreed to help these children put their feelings into words, work through their grief, build a strong sense of self-esteem and begin to accept what has taken place in the family.

If you would like to discuss the RAINBOWS programme, feel free to make an appointment to meet with Mrs O'Donovan through the school office or contact me via aodonovan@stdunstans.surrey.sch.uk

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School Office

Collection of Medication

Can we kindly ask you to collect any medicines currently held in school for your child before the Summer break. Please come to the school office window by the main entrance doors and we will return any medicines to you. Medicines will be available for collection **from 1.15pm on Friday 21st July.**



Please can we ask you to return any medication to the School Office on the morning of Tuesday 5th September 2023, the first day of term.

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Lunch money for Autumn Term 2023

School dinner costs for autumn term are as follows: First half term £91.80, full term £189.00. 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 this also means that the school is liable for the cost of the food order.

Therefore, if parents change their child from school dinners to packed lunches without notification they will be liable for the outstanding monies due to Surrey County Council. All notifications will receive confirmation of receipt.

Recording your child's absence

We would like to thank you for using our new absence form to notify us if your child is not in school. This has been a great success and we hope you have found this new system to be user friendly.

Lateness – Mrs A. O'Donovan



Our Inclusion Officer, Patrick Cox, from Surrey County Council ran a "Late Gate" on Monday 17th July with myself. Six children were late on this day. Patrick will continue to run "Late Gates" throughout the year during the next academic year. Being late for school impacts upon your child's learning and affects how they start their school day. Did you know that being 5 minutes late every day is the equivalent of losing three whole days during the year!

Being 30 minutes late every day is the same as losing half a day of learning every week over the year!

Whole School Photo

Please note that you can still order a whole school photo from Fraser Portraits by following this link: www.orderphotos.co.uk

Sports & PE

Sporting updates - Mr A. Coyle

School games mark

We are delighted to announce that we have achieved the School Games Gold Mark Award for the 2022/23 academic year.

The School Games Mark is a Government-led award scheme launched in 2012, facilitated by the Youth Sport Trust to reward schools for their commitment to the development of competition across their school and into the community, and we are delighted to have been recognised for our success.



We have had several fantastic sporting achievements this year including:

- WASPs Year 5/6 girls football cluster league champions
- WASPs Year 6 boys football cluster league champions
- WASPs Year 5 boys football cluster league runners up
- WASPs Year 6 boys finals day football champions
- WASPs Year 6 girls finals day football champions
- Year 6 boys football county cup runners-up
- Year 6 girls Greenfield school football six a side champions
- Year 4 Racket pack county champions
- Combined years 3-6 cross country champions
- Sports hall athletics county finals runners-up
- WASPs Orienteering Festival winners
- WASPs Year 3/4 Quad kids district sports champions
- WASPs Year 4 Tri-Golf runners up
- WASPs Swimming gala champions

With many of our children competing in local inter-school competitions this year, we are extremely proud of everyone for their dedication to all aspects of school sport, including those young volunteers, leaders and officials who made our competitions possible.

As part of our application, we were asked to fulfil criteria in the areas of participation, competition, workforce and clubs, and we are pleased that the hard work of everyone at our school has been rewarded this year.

A special thanks to all the staff who have made participating at events possible. Without the tireless behind the scenes work, we would not have the fantastic opportunities we do. A special thank you to Mrs E. Chamberlain in the school office, who without her admin support, the fixtures would be impossible to run.

We look forward to applying once again in 2024!

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Uniform and Earrings – Mrs J. Birch

A reminder that in September, the children can wear either their winter or summer uniform until Monday 2nd October when everyone should be wearing their winter uniform.

School coats should be navy or black please. The maroon sports jackets may be worn.

There is now a new PE bag for children in Years R, 1 and 2 available from Valentinos. This is now a rucksack style PE bag without the long dangling cords. The old bag may still be used as parents may be passing these down to younger children, but we do consider the new bags safer and easier to manage. Thank you.

Earrings in school

If parents have their child's ears pierced in the school holidays, a reminder please that earrings are not allowed to be worn in school so will need to be able to be removed by school re-opening on Tuesday 5th September. Please note that plastic keepers cannot be worn to school either.

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Dates for your Diary – Reminder of school closing times on Friday 21st July:



EYFS –	1.30pm
Years 1, 2 & 3 –	1.35pm usual place
Years 4 & 5 –	1.40pm usual place
Year 6 –	1.50pm (through the Lower School playground)

Term Dates and Inset Days (School closure days for staff training) for the academic year 2023-2024 are available to view on our school website:

http://www.stdunstans.surrey.sch.uk/Holiday_dates_2023-2024.pdf

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

The FoSD Committee

Carys, Kamila, Elizabeth and Dhina.

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

A final note from me, as outgoing Chair of FoSD.
What a rewarding two years it has been.

It may be the fantastic money raised, and this academic year I was pleasantly shocked (as surprise doesn't quite do it justice) to learn late last week, that we have raised over £40000 this year...WOW, just WOW!

It may be the wonderful values and sense of community promoted by a fantastic school, all of its teachers and its senior leadership team.

Actually I think it is both of these and much more, and most of all, it is the amazing mums and dads that I have had the pleasure to work with over the last two years, that has made this such a rewarding experience. To the current team, Kamila, Elizabeth and Dhina, thank you for your ongoing support, and all you do for me and FoSD. To Sarah G, Helen O'B and Mrs Turner, as you know, I would not have been able to do it without you, thank you again! To so many others, Suzie BD, Charlotte R, Sharon S, Mr Jamieson, Nikki H, Johnny F, Fran B, Michelle G, to all the Class Reps, and so many more, you're all a credit to the school and your ongoing support of FoSD is invaluable to its success, and so gratefully appreciated.

Early next academic year, an AGM will be called for Geraint to take up the position of Chair. Please keep an eye out for the date, the past couple of years have had limited attendance and it would be great to see more of you there. Remember there are a number of ways to get involved in FoSD, by joining the committee, volunteering to arrange, or support events, by joining the jackpot, and of course, by attending the many wonderful FoSD events.

Next year promises to be amazing, with the **Fireworks Night** planned for the **14th October**, the **Winter Disco** scheduled for the **10th November**, and the **Winter Ball** planned for the **25th November**, and that is just the big events. There will no doubt be a Christmas Raffle, Christmas Gifts and Cards, and much more.

There is only one thing left to say, well two, I hope you all have a wonderful summer, and thank you again for all you do for FoSD, and our fantastic school.

Yours Sincerely,
Carys.

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