St. Dunstan's Catholic Primary School

# Newsletter



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# July 2023

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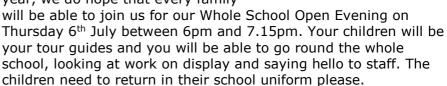
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Dear Parents,

I am writing this to you on the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Arundel Cathedral, the Cathedral of our Diocese. I felt very honoured to be invited to Sung Pontifical Vespers last Friday evening at the Cathedral with Bishop Richard, and was allowed to take a very small group of children with me. In attendance was the Apostolic Nuncio and the Duke of Norfolk.

We said prayers for our school and our wonderful school community at this celebration.

As we near the end of the school year, we do hope that every family



This newsletter contains lots of information so please do take the time to read it carefully. You will find the list of classes and class teachers in here; your children will be visiting their new classrooms with their new teachers today so they will be able to tell you all about it when they get home! If your child's class is being regrouped for September, you will receive a separate Schoolcomms today, letting you know who their teacher will be and the name of their new class.

We will send a final communication to you all before the end of term, but very much hope to see you in school this week and that every child will be in school on the last day of term! The last few days of the school year are so very important for the children in terms of putting closure on the school year, celebrating success and achievements, saying farewells and preparing for their new classes. It would be wonderful to have 100% attendance on the last day.

With best wishes,

Julianne Birch



### **Activities and Events**

### **EYFS - Mrs H. Robbins: Head of EYFS**

At the end of June we celebrated "Feeling Good Week" as part of our whole school initiative to help us think about how we can help others to feel good. All of the children enjoyed an interactive production of the story of "The Tortoise and the Hare" by Aesop's Theatre Group. This helped us to think about how the characters in the story reacted and behaved, and how their actions made others feel. We have also enjoyed sharing our learning with some of the older children too! Reading with Year 5 has been a lovely way to develop positive relationships with other children in school and test our comprehension skills. The Year 5 children chose a story to share with us and planned some discussion questions to help us talk about the story. We have wowed the Year 6 maths ambassadors with our knowledge of doubling, sharing and odd and even numbers. We are looking forward to sharing all of our learning this year with you too at our annual Open Evening.







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

The Year 1 team want to start by saying a big well done to all of the children this year. As we approach the end of another school year, we have been reflecting on the children's progress both academically and emotionally, and we could not be more proud of everyone. It has been an absolute joy to see the children grow this year and we will miss them all very much as they make the transition to Year Two. June has been incredibly busy and the children really enjoyed practising and participating in their sports day. The atmosphere was electric and the children loved the banners created by their grown-ups. What a fantastic afternoon! Another sporting success to celebrate this year is the children's weekly swimming lessons. It is amazing to think that some children swam for the first time just over a month ago. We are so lucky to have a swimming pool and we know the children really enjoy and appreciate it. Despite all the excitement, we still have a few weeks left to enjoy together as Year 1 and we are looking forward to all of the events yet to come!



### **Year 2 - Miss N. Maloney: Head of Year and Senior Teacher**

As part of our topic learning about healthy food Year 2 went on a trip to Wisley Gardens. Throughout the day the children had the chance to see different herbs, fruit and vegetables growing. It gave them the opportunity to decide which parts of particular plants we could eat; was it the root, stem, leaves or a mixture of all of them? The children planted dried peas to take home so that they would have fresh pea shoots to eat when they grow.

The staff at Wisley guided the children and taught them which plants they could safely touch and rub the leaves so that their fragrance was released. The glass house proved to be a highlight of the trip as

the children could experience walking through the tropical and desert areas identifying the specific plants that grew in each area. Climbing the stairs to be amongst the canopy of the trees was something that many of the children included in their writing.

All of the children would highly recommend the trip to others as they felt that they had learned so much.







Year 2 have been filled with enthusiasm in DT this half term as they begin to create their glove puppets. Planning their original design was the first step, taking into account the equipment required and success criteria – not an oven mitt in sight! Children have been learning how to do a running stitch carefully with a needle and thread, refining their cutting skills with felt fabric, and will move on to embellishing the main body with add-ons such as buttons. We cannot wait to share these with parents on the whole school Open Evening.

### Year 3 - Miss H. Fail: Head of Year and Senior Teacher

We started the term with a trip to the Shah Jahan Mosque as part of Islam Week. The children were intrigued to visit the oldest Mosque in Britain and learn about another religion. When we arrived, we began by sketching the outside of the Mosque including some of its key features such as the crescent moon, dome and pillars. The children were also invited to see the inside of the Mosque and prayer halls. They were particularly impressed by the golden Arabic calligraphy painted inside the domes. Another recent celebration was the Year Three Ukulele Concert. This was a wonderful opportunity to showcase the children's musical talents. They have worked particularly hard this year to learn different chords and improve their plucking and strumming techniques. The children thoroughly enjoyed the concert, especially their final song, which was a faster version of 'My Dog Has Fleas'. Thank you to all the parents for taking time out of your day to join us for the concert, as this was hugely motivating for the children.







#### Year 4- Mrs M. Cannon: Head of Year 4

What a busy June it has been for Year 4! The children absolutely shone during their sports day; I'm sure all who came to watch were very proud of the children, not only for their brilliant participation, but their wonderful sportsmanship - it was lovely to see the children cheering everyone else on.

In English, the children are really putting all of their learning together to write their own creative, inspirational stories. Their stories are based on the book 'How to Save The World with a Chicken and an Egg' by Emma Shevah - a story they are thoroughly enjoying.

It links so nicely to their Geography and DT learning: 'Where does our food come from?'. The children have been thinking carefully about where the food they eat comes from and the food miles involved in transporting food around the world. They have been designing their own low food miles dish and are looking forward to cooking it in DT in the coming weeks.







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

In June, there was a science focus to our learning. We were enthusiastic about having the chance to observe the first part of the life cycle of a butterfly, watching our caterpillars grow and then form a chrysalis before emerging as butterflies.

This month has seen us introducing paired reading with the children in the Reception classes. As well as sharing books and stories with the younger children this provided us with a wonderful opportunity for Year 5 to share the release of the butterflies with our younger friends.





As usual at this time of year, Rosary House is brimming with budding scientists as both Year 5 and 6 present their models to the school and parents as part of Science Expo 2023. We are incredibly proud of Year 5 for all of the effort that went into their models and posters and excellent scientific explanations on the day. Our thanks go out to all of the parents and helpers who have supported these excellent projects.

It will be a very busy July as we look forward to inviting you to our open evening where we will share all of our magnificent learning with you and our sports day later that week. Before we know it the summer holidays will be upon us and our wonderful time in Year 5 will be over and it will be time for Year 5, like the butterflies, to spread their wings and fly to Year 6.

### Year 6 - Mrs T. Steer: Head of Year 6 and Assistant Headteacher

June has sped by, and the Year 6 team cannot believe how rapidly we are approaching the end of the school year and, for our classes, the end of their time at St Dunstan's. Thank you to our parents who ensured your child was ready to take part in the Bikeability scheme, as well as for filling out the forms for the exciting school leavers' activities we have planned and sending in your photos. This month has been filled with fantastic themed weeks and possibilities for teamwork. The ability to work in different groups is a skill that the children will need when moving to Year 7, and it is something that we have spent time working on during June.

We collaborated on a week long circulation project that involved making 'blood' and measuring our heart rate, and it ended in some beautiful written reports produced by the children demonstrating their new understanding. It was wonderful to see children finding other facts to supplement their efforts. We then moved on to a rotation of learning that relied on their ability to operate as a team - speeches were expertly made, our fitness levels were improved, and robots were programmed. It's been a lovely, creative buzz in the classroom, and it's been great to see children work together on a range of projects. We'll be working hard this month to plan, practise and perform our Leavers' Assembly. It's also RSE topic and sports day month, so there's a lot to learn and do.







To finish off June, and in celebration of all their hard work, Year 6 had a day at Chessington World of Adventures. It was a fantastic day filled with laughter and a lot of sweets but most importantly

memory making.





### Feeling Good Week - Mrs A. O'Donovan - Assistant Headteacher



During the week beginning 12<sup>th</sup> June, the whole school celebrated "Feeling Good Week" and it was a hive of activity! The theme focused on how we can make others feel good through our actions and words and the difference this makes to everyone's lives.

Children across the school were challenged to carry out acts of kindness, year groups carried out activities to make a difference to others such as making cards to say

thank you to the school kitchen, writing prayers to share with the Parish and carrying out a litter pick in Woking Park to make an impact on the wider community. Special certificates were awarded to children who had made others feel good that week. We took time to thank God for all of the things that makes us feel good too – Key Stage 2 classes enjoyed using the prayer garden to reflect upon this- using small prayer bags.







Every child also created a picture or piece of writing that will make a book to send to Pope Francis as the theme of the week linked beautifully to his encyclical called Fratelli Tutti and we wanted to share with him how we are supporting this.

Key Stage 2 children were so lucky to enjoy performances by two actors



from Wintershall in collective worship. The actors performed monologues of two Bible stories that focused upon how Jesus' mission made others feel good and changed their lives. The children and staff were mesmerised!

Mrs Cheung from CAFOD visited Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 to talk to them about how the Church asks all of us to carry out its work – this linked to our learning as part of Feeling Good Week when we focused on the theme of "Making Others Feel Good". The children were introduced to this through animals that represent each



element of Catholic Social Teaching. Catholic Social Teaching is our guide for living out our faith in the world. You can find out more on CAFOD's website: <a href="https://cafod.org.uk/pray/catholic-social-teaching">https://cafod.org.uk/pray/catholic-social-teaching</a>





The teachers even had their own celebration of an Afternoon Tea to take time together as a team and enjoy a little treat!

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# **Children's Learning**

### Children's Learning - Mrs G. Morganti

In July, the teachers review the curriculum, including trips and school visitors, with consideration for the new classes.

Each year group will share information about the teaching and learning planned for the autumn first half term, on the website by the first week in September. This will include a rationale that explains the thread of the learning for the half term, information about the maths and English being covered and the Year Group Overview sharing the learning across the curriculum for the year.

During the Introduction to Year Talks in September, the teachers will share the highlights of the year, the visits (including the costs) and ways you can support children at home with their learning.

### **Exercise books coming home- Thursday 20th:**

The children have worked very hard this year and have several books, pieces of art work and folders to bring home. Therefore we ask in preparation that on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> July, you send your child in with a large named eco-friendly bag (as we don't encourage single-use plastics in school) to bring their things home from school on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> July. Books will not be available to collect before then. Thank you.

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### Class Reps - Mrs J. Birch

On behalf of parents, staff and pupils, I would like to thank our class reps who have provided support for the school and communication with parents throughout the year. Your time and dedication to the school and the children is so very much appreciated and highly valued.

As we end the school year, it would be fantastic if class reps could contact Mrs R. Turner in the school office and let her know whether they are happy to continue in this role or whether they are handing the role on to another parent. Thank you in anticipation!



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### Clubs

### Message from Mr Coyle

Our clubs timetable for autumn 2023 will be available to view on the school website before the end of this term together with dates for both teacher-led and external clubs. At St. Dunstan's, although sometimes we may not realise, we are in a unique position where we run a wide range of clubs on every day of the week. A lot of time and consideration goes in to our clubs offer, where we hope that all children can find a club they are enthusiastic about.

Teacher led clubs will continue to charge a nominal fee for the administration of the clubs. Please only sign your child up for a teacher-led club if they wish to attend. Teacher-led clubs run for a shorter block of time than the external clubs as teachers have commitments in school at the beginning and end of each term that mean they are not available for clubs after school. We are very fortunate that so many of our teachers are willing to run after school clubs for the children.

In September, parents will receive a communication via Schoolcomms in advance of bookings going live with instructions on how to book teacher-led clubs and external clubs. All external and teacher-led clubs for autumn 2023 will continue be available to book via SchoolCloud under 'Clubs'.

These clubs are available for children in Years 1 to 6.

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# **Dates for Next Year: Annual Calendar**

### Mrs J. Birch

We know how important it is for parents to be able to book time off work in plenty of time to enable them to attend school events. We are currently working hard on the annual calendar of school dates for the next academic year so that we are able to get the calendar to parents by the end of term. This will be available on the school website and we will let you know when it is available.

Holiday/terms dates are always on the school website, at least one year ahead: <a href="http://www.stdunstans.surrey.sch.uk/Holiday">http://www.stdunstans.surrey.sch.uk/Holiday</a> dates 2023-2024.pdf

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### **Governors**

### **Message from Chair of Governors - Mr B. McKendry**

Many of the Governors have made visits to the school during this summer term. What has been evident, as always, is the atmosphere within the school. Well behaved children with smiles on their faces keen to take part in whatever challenge is set in front of them be it academic, sporting or musical.

The recent spell of great weather has certainly helped in the forming of a positive attitude but the work of the staff is pivotal to St Dunstan's success. The Governors, together with the parents, owe them so much.

The Friends of St Dunstan's are also owed a huge vote of thanks for their ongoing support of the school. The Summer Fair was another example of how central a role the FoSD plays in the school community. Their financial contribution is ever more important in these budgetary challenging times. Everyone plays an important part in the continuation of the unique atmosphere at St. Dunstan's. This atmosphere is given substance by the results of a recent official survey of school attendance across the country which placed St Dunstan's in the top 10 % of schools. There have been many negative

reports recently about school attendance, Covid and other all too valid reasons being cited. The community we have here, where everyone is involved is a major factor in why children and parents are producing the type of attendance figures seen in this survey.

For Year 6 the challenge of the future in an entirely different school environment is just around the corner. We all wish them every success when September arrives with its big changes. Before then it's the summer holidays, maybe the best time of the year. May everyone enjoy a well deserved break.

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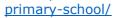
# **Information from Subject Leaders**

Safeguarding Designated Safeguarding Leaders



# **Healthy Schools – Mrs A. O'Donovan – Assistant Headteacher Preparing your child for starting Primary School**

Place 2 Be is a national charity that offers support to children in schools. Their website contains lots of useful information for parents too. If your child is starting school this September, you may find this link useful: <a href="https://www.place2be.org.uk/our-services/parents-and-carers/getting-ready-to-start-pairway-sebsol/">https://www.place2be.org.uk/our-services/parents-and-carers/getting-ready-to-start-pairway-sebsol/</a>



### **Transition to Secondary School**

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

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

#### **Packed Lunches - Warm weather**

Just a reminder for the last few weeks of term, it is important to consider what you are putting in your child's lunch box. There is no fridge space in school for packed lunches and so lunch boxes are kept on racks in the corridors or in the shaded areas of Rosary House when it is cooler than inside the building and in extreme heat these will be kept inside. We suggest that where possible pupils bring packed lunches in insulated bags with freezer blocks to stop the food going off. Children should bring their lunches into school in a container or lunch bag,



not a single use carrier bag. Another good idea is to freeze the drink that your child has in their lunch box – this will act as a freezer block and be cool for your child to drink at lunch time.

A little reminder that a balanced packed lunch should contain:

- Starchy foods. These are bread, rice, potatoes and pasta, and others.
- Protein foods. These are meat, fish, eggs, beans and others.
- A dairy item. This could be cheese or yoghurt.

- Vegetables or salad, and a portion of fruit.
- A drink

The Food Standards Agency have published guidelines about lunch boxes that can be found at:





http://food.gov.uk/multimedia/pdfs/publication/growingchild0310.pdf

There are also lots of packed lunch ideas in the parent section of: <a href="http://www.nhs.uk/Change4Life/Pages/healthy-lunchbox-picnic.aspx">www.schoolfoodtrustorg.uk</a> and at <a href="http://www.nhs.uk/Change4Life/Pages/healthy-lunchbox-picnic.aspx">http://www.nhs.uk/Change4Life/Pages/healthy-lunchbox-picnic.aspx</a>

### **Library - Miss N. Maloney**

Thank you to all the children who have already returned their library books to school. This is very helpful and means that you can take out a new book when you move to your new class in September. If you can't find your library book, now is the time to look in all the nooks and crannies to see if you can locate it. Your class teachers will be sending out reminder notes in the next few weeks so that you know which book you are looking for. If you are a member of your local library then get ready for the Summer Reading Challenge.

### **Summer Reading Challenge**



Launching Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> July and finishing on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> September, this year's Challenge is a fantastic celebration of imagination, reading, and being active.

The Summer Reading Challenge 2023 theme is "Ready, Set, Read!" and has been developed in partnership with the Youth Sports Trust. The Challenge will encourage children to engage in games and sports in any way that suits them best.

The Summer Reading Challenge, presented by <u>The Reading Agency</u> and delivered by libraries, encourages children aged 4 to 11 to continue reading throughout the summer holidays, trying to prevent the reading "dip". The aim of the Challenge is to read up to 6 books, collecting special stickers and rewards along the way. Children will need to be a member of the library to sign up for the challenge but joining the library does not take long and is free. All reading counts including audiobooks, eBooks and comics!

https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/libraries/children/5-to-12-year-olds/summer-reading-challenge

https://readingagency.org.uk/

So enjoy the Summer and get reading!

### **Online Activities from Internet Matters for Families**



As much as we do in school in relation to online safety, it is important that this continues at home. An understandable concern from many parents is that they don't know where to start, what conversations to have etc. Internet Matters have made available a series of 'things to do together' which includes things like, 'am I ready for a social media account', 'is it okay to.....' activities, an online safety agreement, 'what-if' scenarios and much more. All of these are

free and you can see the full range **HERE**.

### **Limiting Harm from Upsetting Content (KS1/2)**

Childnet have a great free resource, including activities for younger children to help them respond if they see upsetting content online and the importance of talking to a trusted adult. You can download the resources **HERE**.

### Rainbows programme - Mrs A. O'Donovan



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 <a href="mailto:aodonovan@stdunstans.surrey.sch.uk">aodonovan@stdunstans.surrey.sch.uk</a>



### From the school nurse team

Do you have a child/children (5-16 years) who attend a Woking School? Did you know that you have a dedicated School Nursing team?

You are invited to come and meet your Woking School Nurse Team at our new **Child Health Drop-In at Eastwood Leisure Centre**, Albert Drive, Sheerwater, Woking GU21 5RF every **Wednesday between 9.30am and 11.30am (including holidays).** 

Just drop-in, no appointment necessary, there is a soft play area if you have a younger child and space to sit and have a coffee. Free parking at the venue.

The team (usually a school nurse and a nursery nurse) will be present to answer questions from parents/carers of school aged children and to give advice, information and signpost on

topics including early toileting, sleep, behaviour, healthy diet, dental care, school readiness, NCMP heights & weights, mental health, eating disorders, minor illnesses, internet safety and much more. They can also help with referrals to other services.

### **RE topics this term: Come and See - Mrs S. Turner**

"God created the world to show forth and communicate his glory: that his creatures

should share in his truth, goodness and beauty - this is the glory for which God created them."

(Catechism of the Catholic Church - CCC319)



### **Universal Church - World**

At school, your child is preparing to live and work in a changing, global society.

This month, they will be learning about global justice issues, and put their faith into action in order to build a just and fair world.

Each year group will learn about a different aspect of our universal church, through scripture, prayer, stories and a range of different activities.

Here you will find a list of the topics for each year group, with a short explanation, and some ideas for activities you could share with your child at home.

Reception: Our World Learning about the Gift of God's beautiful world.	Look out for the Fairtrade logo while out shopping. Share ways of saving water at home. Play 'God's Wonderful World' <a href="http://comeandsee.cafod.org.uk/gww/index.html">http://comeandsee.cafod.org.uk/gww/index.html</a>
Year 1: Neighbours Hearing about who our neighbours are and how they share God's world.	Look at a globe and pick out and name some different countries. Look at other children from around the world at <a href="http://kidzzone.cafod.org.uk/real-life-stories/">http://kidzzone.cafod.org.uk/real-life-stories/</a>
Year 2: Treasures Understanding the treasure of Creation that is God's gift to us.	Talk about any family treasures. On the way to school, look for examples of God's treasures. What makes them special?  Learn to pray the Gloria together.
Year 3: Special Places Knowing the special places for Jesus and us as Christians.	Look at pictures of places that have been special to the family. Talk about your child's baptism. Where was it? Why is it a special place? Remember the prayers and promises said there.
Year 4: God's People Knowing that ordinary people can be extraordinary, and that we are all called to be saints.	Y4— Tell your child about an 'ordinary' person whom you regard as extraordinary and explain why. Encourage them to find out about a saint that appeals to them. <a href="http://www.cafod.org.uk/Media/Files/Resources/Secondary/resource-pages/Saints-prayer-cards">http://www.cafod.org.uk/Media/Files/Resources/Secondary/resource-pages/Saints-prayer-cards</a>
Year 5: Stewardship Learning that we as the Church are called to be stewards of creation.	Y5—Share a special family object. Talk about what makes it special. Make a commitment to do something at home to help care for the world. Play a game on 'Picture My World'.
Year 6: Common Good Working as Christians for the good of all.	Y6—Ask your child to tell you the story of Oscar Romero. Listen to a broadcast of 'Thought for the Day' on Radio 4 at 7:45am.

A prayer to share with your child:

Dear God,

Thank you for having a special place in our hearts in school and at home.

Help us to take time to be still,

To know that you are always there,

wherever we are.

Fill our hearts with your Holy Spirit



Amen

### **Sun Safety**



Please remember that school hats can be purchased from the school office (at cost price) to protect children from the sun. During the warmer weather, please do try to apply sun cream (at least SPF 15) before school and ensure that your child has



a drink of water (in a clear bottle with a sports cap lid) with them – water bottles can be filled up during the day. Children do also have access to shaded areas at break times and lunchtimes to avoid prolonged periods in the sun.

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# **Liturgy and Worship Good Shepherd Celebration**



Four children from the Faith Ambassadors Team in Year 4 and 5 attended the Good Shepherd celebration with Bishop Richard at Arundel Cathedral, along with Mrs O'Donovan and Mrs Smith, our Chaplain.

All of the schools in the diocese are invited to attend to celebrate the fundraising that all schools do for Mission Together.

This year, the celebration was held at our cathedral in Arundel as part of the celebrations of its 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Did you know that the cathedral was

commissioned as part of the  $21^{\rm st}$  birthday celebrations for Henry XV Duke of Norfolk! Bishop Richard also explained where a cathedral gets its name from. The seat that a bishop sits on is called a "cathedra" and the word cathedral comes from that. Cathedra is the Latin word for chair.

Every school took their banner and were asked to take a sheep to represent how we are all part of God's flock.





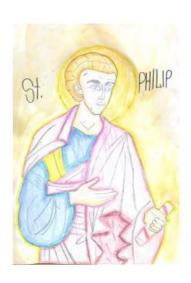
You can view a video of the celebration on the Diocesan website: Arundel Cathedral (abdiocese.org.uk)

### **150th Anniversary of Arundel Cathedral**

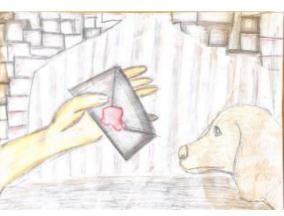
Several pupils in Year 6 entered the diocesan competition to celebrate the anniversary of our cathedral. The children were asked to create art work to show the relationship between St. Philip Howard and his dog. The art work will be displayed in the Arundel Museum which can be viewed here: St Philip Howard Art Gallery 2023 - Diocesan Schools | Flickr











### **First Holy Communion**



Many of our children in Year 3, as well as other children across the school received the sacrament of Holy Communion in June. We loved hearing about the children's special days in school and the whole school community remembered these children in their prayers.

It was so lovely to celebrate the Solemnity of St. Peter and St. Paul when many children received Holy Communion as part of a school Mass for the first time.

### The solemnity of St. Peter and St. Paul

Year 3 St. Peter's Class and Year 5 St. Paul's class led a beautiful Mass to celebrate the feast day of St. Peter and St. Paul for the children in Years 3 to 6, as well as the Parish community.

Children in Lower School celebrated the Holy Day with a Liturgy in school led by Mrs Robbins, during which they learnt some facts about each of the saints.



### **Going Forth Mass**



On Friday 21<sup>st</sup> July, Year 6 will lead the end of year school Mass. The theme is all about "Going Forth". We will be celebrating and giving thanks for all the children and staff who are moving on from St. Dunstan's.

Parents are welcome to join the Mass but would we would request that you sit on the chairs in the overflow area at the back of the Church to enable seating to be available together for the children. Thank you.

The Mass will be live streamed on the Parish website.

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# Parish Links: Notices from the parish office

**RCIA PROGRAMME** 

Have you never been baptised ...?

Were you baptised Catholic but have never gone on to be Confirmed ...?

Were you baptised into a different Christian tradition ...?



If any of these apply to you and you now feel that you would like to find out more about what it means to be a Catholic Christian and how to go about it, then you are warmly invited to a meeting on Tuesday 18th July at 7.30pm at the Church. You will be able to find out a little more about what is involved and to meet with some of those who have already 'signed up' for the next course, beginning in September. You will also have the

opportunity to chat with people who have been on the course in previous years. This will be a very informal meeting and by going along, you will not be making any commitment to join the course.

# Save the date – Let Us Dream Saturday, September 23, 2023, from 10.30am-1.30pm

John Paul de Quay from <u>journeyto2030.org</u> will be leading a workshop at St Dunstan's, Shaftesbury Road, Woking GU22 7DT for the parishes and schools of Woking Deanery to explore how our communities can come together to stop climate change, protect nature and support people. The workshop will include: creative activities, action planning and building a local network. For inquiries contact: <u>jp@theecg.org</u>.

### **Woking Street Angels - Volunteers Needed**

Do you have the time to support those in need in your local community one evening a month? The Street Angels team give practical care to anyone who has found themselves in a vulnerable state in Woking town centre on Friday and Saturday nights. Full training and uniform provided, and training starts soon. To find out more or to arrange a



taster night please get in touch: wokingstreetangels@gmail.com; 07827 914714.

### TODDLERS' 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 continue to meet over the summer holiday 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 <a href="mailto:yanalinch@qmail.com">yanalinch@qmail.com</a>. Thank you.

### CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS!

Could you support our initiative: "Free Art Summer Holiday Camp for children" which we are planning to hold between 24<sup>th</sup> July and 4<sup>th</sup> August, Monday to Friday from 9:00 to 12:00 at St Dunstan's church. We are seeking volunteers who could help us support the children's activities. You might be able to help for the whole of one of the weeks, or just once, and you would be very welcome to bring children with you. The activities will be suitable for children of primary school age. For more information, please contact Dorota Cranmer at <a href="mailto:dcartcamp23@qmail.com">dcartcamp23@qmail.com</a>. Thank you

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# **Open Evening – Mrs J. Birch**

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

This is an opportunity for pupils to proudly show their parents, grandparents, families and carers around the whole school on Thursday 6th July between 6.00pm (start) and 7.15pm (finish). All the classes in both main school and Rosary House will be open for parents/carers to visit with their children. Teachers will be in their classrooms and you will be able to meet your child's new teacher too. (This is not an evening to discuss individual pupils or to look at children's books, but an opportunity for families to see the inside of the school, meet staff and to look at displays of work.) Pupils should return to school proudly in their school uniform including school shoes as they will be your tour guides and will need to show themselves as ambassadors for all our visitors!

The Lower School playground will be open for parking so please keep your children close to you. The school corridors will be very busy and we will therefore be unable to facilitate prams or buggies on this occasion.

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### **School Office**

### **Collection of Medication**

We would like to ask all parents to collect any medicines held in the School Office, on Friday  $21^{st}$  July 2023. This is particularly important so parents can check the expiry date of medications provided.

Medicines will be available for collection from 1pm via the Office.

We would kindly ask parents to return any medication to the School Office on the morning of Tuesday  $5^{th}$  September 2023, the first day of term.



### Whole school photograph

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

We would like boys to wear their **shirt and tie** for these photos please (shorts may be worn if the weather is hot, but not polo shirts) and girls should wear summer dresses *if possible*. (We appreciate

that not all girls wear summer dresses and do not want parents to buy one especially for this.) Both girls and boys should wear their blazer as always. Please ensure that your child's blazer has buttons on that can be done up.

If you do not wish your child to be included in the whole school photo, please email the school office (office@stdunstans.surrey.sch.uk) by Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> July. You will always receive an acknowledgement for any email sent to the school office.

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

### **Lost Property**

On **Friday 14**<sup>th</sup> **July 2023** at 2.30pm, we will place all named lost property on tables by the school office at the main entrance.

### **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.

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# **Sports & PE**

### **Sporting updates - Mr A. Coyle**



Once more, we see the brown grass appear, knowing summer is well and truly with us. Despite this, we continue to be extremely busy, both in and out of school. Having 6 sports days this year has really allowed the children to display their athletic talents. They are able to run, throw and jump in more events than they would

normally. It has been incredible, yet unsurprising, to see how they approach their sports day; with energy, vigour and confidence. We are blessed to have such a large pool of children, who can easily take part in a multitude of



Before the dust (literally on our field) settles though, we reflect as always, on what we have accomplished. PE and sport can be judged a success on who can run the quickest, throw the furthest or play in the most teams. We are the architects in expanding the children's understanding of the basic fundamental movement skills and arming them with the



opportunities to try new activities. When they leave us at 11, we endeavour to equip everyone with enjoying taking part in some form of physical activity.



This year St. Dunstan's has been at the heart of school sport in Woking. As a school, we participate in every available Woking competition; we have travelled further than we have ever gone and are always looking to create events against others. A lot of thought goes in to selecting our teams, making sure the right children come to represent the school. There will, of course, be obvious disappointment if a child has not be included, but we endeavour to try and include as many children as possible across the year.

We continue to build our relationships with both local amateur clubs and professionals in order to signpost children towards outside clubs and events. Our thanks have to go again to the individuals and clubs who have helped not only children, but allowed the teachers to up skill themselves and improve lesson plans.

I would like to extend the warmest of thanks to all the amazing staff for giving so much time and energy when it comes to helping the children prepare and participate in sport. It really is a testament to every single one of them who selflessly runs clubs and happily goes to fixtures to see the joy of the children. We have so many clubs that other schools simply do not, managing to give the children at our school more opportunity than most to take part weekly in clubs! As with everything at the school, it shows the love they hold for giving every child a chance to shine and I constantly hear from them how proud they are when we are out representing the school. Thank you to you, the parents



for understanding that not all children can take part in every club, but we try our hardest to provide opportunities across the year.

Our clubs and fixtures would never run without the hours spent arranging everything that Mrs Chamberlain, Mrs O'Riordan and the office team put in to organising fixtures and clubs. They don't get an ounce of the credit they truly deserve in making sure we have enough players, chasing last minute replacements, organising transport and managing me!!!

I hope everyone has a lovely, warm and "outdoors" summer when we get there in a few weeks and I look forward to hearing all the stories from the boys and girls come September.

### **District Quad kids**



What a wonderful couple of days we had taking part in the Woking District Sports "quad kids" event. Working on a similar format to recent years district athletics competitions, spread over two days the Year 3/4 and 5/6 boys and girls each took part in four separate events. Sprints, middle distance runs, vortex throwing and standing long jumps meant that each competitor was tested on their all-round athletics ability. At the state of the art Sports Box everyone should look and reflect on their efforts with distinct pride. When taking into account that in each section the children were up against over 200 athletes, competition was bound to be tough.

When the results were sent through we had huge cause to celebrate both individual and team successes. In the Year 5/6 event, particular success came with both Amaya and Massimo finishing  $2^{\rm nd}$  and  $3^{\rm rd}$  overall in the long jump. In Year 3/4 our throwers were incredibly successful, Theo and William having the two longest throws at the event.

Our Year 5/6 were unlucky to not medal, finishing 4<sup>th</sup> place out of the 20 schools, an agonising 5 points off 2<sup>nd</sup>! However, we had huge celebrations finding out that our girls and boys combined scores for Years 3/4 meant we had won

the event! Well done to all the boys and girls who took part.



### Tri golf festival



On Monday 12<sup>th</sup> June, we hosted a WASPs Aspire Tri Golf competition at St. Dunstan's. Seven schools from across Woking came to take part, rotating around a variety of golfing activity stations. The main focus of the festival was to try and improve both putting and chipping skills, a nd trying to work as part of a team, concentrating on accuracy and speed. The scores, however, were tracked across the event, and it was lovely our children received a silver medal for a second place finish.

### **Netball Rally**

We travelled to Hoebridge School on a very hot Thursday evening to take part in the WASPs Netball Rally. Taking a mixed team from Years 4-6 we were placed in to a pool with four other schools, St. Lawrence, Horsell, Brookwood and The Hermitage. Our children played amazingly well, beginning to gel together as a team as the event went on. Winning once and losing three, we are extremely proud of our young team and look forward to seeing their confidence and experience grow over the next few years.

### **Triathlon**

On Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> June, we took 20 of our Year 6 children to Bracknell Leisure centre to participate in a triathlon event. Although, there was not any official scoring for the event, the children were able to see their timings. Taking part in a 50 metre swim in the pool, an 800m cycle followed by a 300m run around the grounds of the leisure centre, the children experienced an amazing event. Our thanks to Mr Wise for



going and giving the children the opportunity to take part.

**Sports Days** 



The weather has been kind and there has been plenty of sunshine so far this half term, this proving a welcome sight across our five sports days. With a vast array of sporting prowess on display, the parents at each have been amazed at the athletic talents of the children. Our sports days have had a slightly new look that allowed the children to display their talents over more events than would usually be permitted if we shared sports days with other year groups. A whole afternoon filled with encouragement and cheering each other on in athletic style competition has yielded some superb results.

Every child had several events to

take part in and the level of commitment, camaraderie and togetherness was evident throughout. There were so many smiles on faces, of both children and adults alike it was a lovely way to come together, and from years two upwards help earn houses some points. Some of the loudest cheers, not to mention high levels of competition were saved for our wonderful staff races as always.

With the year 5/6 competition to come on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> July, I would like to extend my thank you to all the staff for helping to prepare the children, as well as the parents for their wonderful support of the children, and some fantastic banners this year on display too!







### **Swimming Gala**

On Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> July, we took part in the WASPs Swimming Gala at the Pool in the Park. Over the past few years, we have really proved our prowess in the pool. As a school we have been blessed with some truly amazing swimmers in recent times, so going in to the Gala on Saturday there was an air of expectation around. Always a highlight of our year watching some fantastic swimming, we were hoping that we might see another successful performance from our team.



Cheered on by a vociferous, small army of parents and spectators, armed with banners of support, the children were as always, excellently prepared by Mrs Rose-Freeland and Mrs Hutchinson.



With nine schools entering the Gala this year, all races were timed over two heats. There was an abundance of talent from both club and non-club swimmers, across all schools, the competition was indeed extremely fierce. With superb courage, fantastic camaraderie and plenty of encouragement it was a wonderful night for our swimmers!

From the first race, when the spectators were given cause to celebrate a first place, right through to the final relay success we had an amazing night. When the results were called out after every event had finished the faces of the children told their story that we had successfully won!!! Further to our team success, we brought home individual medals galore. We finished with; 11 golds, 7 silvers and 7 bronze from 30 races.

Rich jubilation and joy as Francesca and James lifted the trophy! A huge well done to all the boys and girls who trialled and took part, and a special thanks to Mrs Rose- Freeland, Mrs Hutchinson



and Mrs Zalaf who once again worked tirelessly getting everyone (including the teachers!) ready.

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# Staffing Updates: Leavers and Joiners - Mrs G. Morganti

As we come to the final month of this academic year, we prepare to say goodbye to treasured staff and colleagues, congratulations to promoted staff as well as welcoming new staff to our St. Dunstan's team.

#### Farewell

Mrs J. Thompson is retiring at the end of term, she has worked at St Dunstan's for 13 years, teaching classes in Year 2 to 6; parents will also remember Mrs. Thompson for leading many wonderful drama club productions over these years. Following the birth of her 3<sup>rd</sup> child, Mrs J. Edwards is going to take a short break from teaching to spend time with her family. We wish both Mrs Thompson and Mrs Edwards our very best, though we are sure we will see both back in school from time to time.

We say farewell and thank you to Mrs M. McCarthy who is leaving to take on a new venture and Mrs K. Hutchinson who is, as you know, now working for Swim England. With thanks and best wishes, we say goodbye to Mrs S. Edwards, Mrs L. Rashleigh and Mr R. Wise as they leave to take up new teaching positions in schools more local to them.

In September, Mr Thompson will be working for part of the week, supporting the PE team as well as working in Year 6.

We are so pleased for Mrs D. Cranmer, as she been accepted at university to complete an Art degree. She has worked tirelessly with the Premises and IT team to help keep the school running smoothly and we wish her the best of luck and enjoyment with her degree. We are delighted, and extremely proud, to share that Miss J. Habgood has successfully completed her SCITT training with us and has taken up a teaching position at a local school.

As you are all well aware, our beloved caretaker, Mr Brian Jamieson will be retiring at the end of this term. There will be a Service of Thanks at St Dunstan's Church on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> at 11am. All parents are of course welcome to join us to show appreciation of Mr Jamieson's dedicated service to St Dunstan's, though please be aware there will be limited seating. The service will of course be live streamed so you will be able to view from home.

We thank all of our leaving staff for everything they have given to our school family; for their hard work, their kindness and their care for the children. They will all be greatly missed but leave with our love and prayers for their new ventures, knowing they will always be part of our St. Dunstan's family.

#### Congratulations!



We are certain that you would want to know that both Miss Hearn and Miss D'Souza are getting married during the summer. In September, Miss Hearn will be known as Mrs Corsini and Miss D'Souza as Mrs O'Neill.

Mrs M. Cannon is currently completing the National SENDCo qualification and we are very pleased to share that she will be Assistant SENDCo in September, supporting Mrs S Hughes.

#### <u>Welcome</u>

We warmly welcome Miss M. O'Sullivan, Mrs B. Hartley, Miss M. Kinsella and Miss N. McMahon as class teachers starting in September. Mrs Hartley will leading on music, in particular, liturgical music; supporting the singing and music during worship, liturgy and masses.

We are delighted that Mrs N. Hammond has been appointed as our new school office assistant.

We welcome Mr M. Hill as the School Caretaker. You will begin to see Mr Hill around school now as Mr Jamieson hands over the mantle and his treasured school crossing patrol uniform and stick. Please do give Mr Hill a warm welcome and help him to get to know your and your children's names.

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# Staffing: Class teachers and Classes in September

Today, during the 'Move Up Afternoon', the children will meet their new teachers and visit their new classrooms. Please see the classes and the class teachers for September below.

Parents will have the opportunity to meet their child's teacher and visit their child's new classroom over the Open Evening on **Thursday 6th July** from 6.00pm to 7.15pm.

Current class July 2023	New Class in September 2023	Class Teacher/s in September 2023
Will be new entrants – September 2023	Reception St. Bernadette	Mrs L. King/Mrs M. Weedon
Will be new entrants – September 2023	Reception St. Teresa	Mrs H. Robbins Head of Year
Will be new entrants – September 2023	Reception St. Catherine	Miss K. Bingle
Reception St. Bernadette	Year 1 St. Francis	Miss G. Hearn Head of Year

Reception	Year 1 St. Bede	Mrs B. Hartley/Ms T. Martlew
St. Teresa Reception	Year 1 St. John Bosco	Miss R. D'Souza
St. Catherine	real 1 31. John Bosco	Wiss R. D 30020
Year 1 St. John Bosco	Year 2 St. Christopher	Miss L. Butler
		Head of Year
Year 1 St. Francis	Year 2 St. Thomas More	Miss R. Todd
Year 1 St. Bede	Year 2 St. Mary Magdalene	Mrs S. Bradshaw/ Mrs J. Knowles
Year 2 - Parents will know their child's class today, via a Schoolcomms message	Year 3 St. Peter	Miss N. Maloney Senior Teacher, Head of Year
	Year 3 St. Anne	Miss C. Jones
	Year 3 St. Clare	Mrs N. McMahon/ Miss M. Kinsella
Year 3 - Parents will know their child's class today, via a Schoolcomms message	Year 4 St. Elizabeth	Miss N. Johnson
	Year 4 St. Columba	Miss S. Paling
	Year 4 St. Augustine	Miss H. Fail
		Senior Teacher, Head of Year
	Year 5 St. Paul	Miss E. Roe
Year 4 - Parents will know their child's class today, via a Schoolcomms message		Head of Year
	Year 5 St. Faustina	Miss M. O'Sullivan
	Year 5 St. Maximilian	Miss H. King
Year 5 St. Paul	Year 6 St. Margaret	Mrs S. Turner
		Senior Teacher
Year 5 St. Maximillian	Year 6 St. Joseph	Mrs T. Steer
		Assistant Headteacher and Head of Year Mrs C. Gentry
Year 5 St. Faustina	Year 6 St. Brigid	Mrs M. Cannon
		Assistant SENDCO

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# Twitter - Mrs J. Birch

If your child is moving from Reception to Year 1 (EYFS to KS1) or

From Year 2 to Year 3 (Key Stage 1 to Key Stage 2)

Now is the time to request to follow the relevant Twitter page !!

The Twitter page for KS1 (years 1 and 2 ) is @Yr2Dunstans

The Twitter page for Key Stage 2 is: @Yr4StDunstans

The PE page is: @st\_dunstans\_pe

Please remember that we will only allow access to the pages if we recognise who you are, so please make your own name identifiable. Thank you!

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# **Uniform** – Mrs J. Birch

### **School dresses**

We are aware that we are still having issues with the supply of the light pink school uniform summer dresses. Valentinos sold out of some sizes very quickly due to higher than expected levels of pre-

ordering....so as soon as the stock arrived, it was already committed. Whilst Valentinos have more on order, these are unlikely to be in stock before the holidays. Some sizes are still available however. We are activity seeking an alternative online supplier for the pink dresses.

For this reason, if you have summer dresses your child has grown out of, we would be very pleased to receive these in school for a pre-loved uniform sale. Please drop these at the school office. Grateful thanks in advance for all your donations.

In the meantime, please do not purchase summer dresses that are red, or any other pattern, as these cannot be worn in school. We are actively seeking to resolve this issue and thank you for your patience.

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# Dates for your Diary – noted changes to the Annual Calendar



There are no changes to bring to your attention.

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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 few updates from FoSD:

### Summer Fair

A separate email will be circulated, but for those who haven't yet seen it, an **unbelievable £15,000** was raised this year at the summer fair. A big thank you to Sarah Genco, and all those who helped plan, organise, and run I dare to say, the most successful fair. Although there were some minor hiccups, we do hope that each and every family that attended had a lot of fun while raising valuable funds for our school.

#### **Swimming Donations**

Swimming lessons for children from Year 1 upwards are underway, and we would like to remind parents that where possible, a voluntary contribution of £15 for the first sibling and £5 per additional sibling up to the suggested maximum donation of £25 is donated to help fund the swimming lessons. A very big thank you to all those that have contributed to date.

Please visit <a href="https://www.pta-events.co.uk/fosd">https://www.pta-events.co.uk/fosd</a> to make donations online. Please ensure the PTA Events User is in the name of the Tax payer and that gift aid is clicked.

If would like to pay via PayPal, via bank transfer, or by cash, please email Kamila on <a href="mailto:treasurerfosd@gmail.com">treasurerfosd@gmail.com</a> for further details.

### Summer term Cake Sale

The final cake sale will be held on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> July. Year 4 together with FoSD will be running this as a final fundraiser before the summer holidays.

### The Parents Football Tournament

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

### Dates for the Diary

> Year 4 cake sale: Friday 14<sup>th</sup> July 2023

> Parents Football Tournament: Saturday 15th July 2023

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

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