



September 2024

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Dear Parents,

It has been such a wonderful start back to school, it is always so lovely to have the children's voices back in the classrooms.



We were all delighted to welcome so many of you at our Introduction to Year Talks yesterday evening, standing room only! Thank you for your commitment to our school and to the staff who really do offer an outstanding education, based on deep care for the children.

As always, a huge thank you to our FoSD committee for organising refreshments for us all and sharing the exciting events coming our way this term. A fun filled term of events for all of us! If you have not yet offered your help with the FOSD events or roles in school, please do consider how you can help this year...any offer of help gives the team more capacity and remember all of the money raised goes straight back to the children in school!

The newsletter is a brief as it is our first full week back, though it is full of key information for you, so please do take time to read through it. If you have any questions or queries, please don't hesitate to speak to a member of staff or call/email the school office; senior leaders are always on hand before and after school either on Lower School or Kitchen Gates, or in the playground after school.

Wishing you all a very successful academic year full of exciting learning, new adventures and new friendships

Georgina Morganti

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Activities and Events

Request from EYFS - Mrs H Robbins: Head of EYFS and Senior Leader

We are currently refreshing the wellington boots that the children use for our mud kitchen. If your child has grown out of any wellies that are still durable, please consider donating them to school for the reception children to wear in the mud kitchen. A range of sizes would be welcomed. With grateful thanks, the EYFS team.



Year 1 – Mrs G. Corsini: Head of Year 1 and Senior Leader

We are so proud of how well Year 1 have settled back into school! Together, we created our very own set of class rules, which each child proudly signed. Some of our favourites are “We use kind hands; kind feet and kind words” and “We always try our best and never give up!” The children have loved their free flow learning in the afternoons, and we are excited to start out Little Wandle phonics programme next week!



Year 2 – Mrs J. Knowles and Mrs S. Bradshaw: Head of Year 2



What a fantastic start Year 2 have had! There was so much enthusiasm and excitement over the first few days of our new school year. We have loved being back with our friends and are enjoying having lunch together. Settling back into our routines, creating our class rules and beginning our new learning, school life has been busy and fun!



Year 3 – Mrs C. Barrett: Head of Year 3

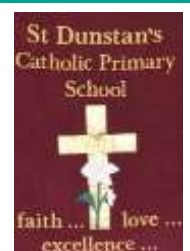
The children have made a fantastic start to the year. We have loved getting to know our newly mixed classes and watching friendships blossom. Although we have loved meeting the children, sadly they had other ideas! Based on the book Dear Teacher by Amy Husband, they wrote about all the places they would rather be instead of coming back to school! With amazing imagination, they told us of adventures from hunting in the jungle to outer space and the bottom of the ocean. We share a selection of the work with you here.



We are excited to see them grow in their learning this year.

Year 4 – Miss H Fail: Head of Year 4 and Assistant Headteacher

It has been a wonderful first couple of weeks with the children, as they have come back rested from summer and ready for lots of exciting learning opportunities in the year ahead. At the start of the year, our focus is on re-establishing routines and behaviour for learning. We have been delighted by the children’s ability to articulate how they can live out our motto of ‘Faith, Love and Excellence’ in the classroom and on the playground. The children have also started learning about the Romans and the eruption of Mount Vesuvius in Pompeii. Look out on X for photos of our learning.



Year 5 – Mrs E. Roe: Head of Year 5 and Assistant Headteacher

We were delighted to welcome the children back into their new classes, especially with the wonderful smiles they all gave us as they entered Year 5 for the first time. They have engaged in learning about their class saints and showed fantastic team building skills in PE. It has been a busy week with lots of

new information and the children have managed it all brilliantly. We look forward to more fun, love and laughter next week!

Year 6 – Miss N Johnson: Head of Year 6

Year 6 have settled back into school brilliantly, embracing their role as the oldest students. They have been reflecting on the qualities of a good role model, such as leadership, kindness, and perseverance, and applying this learning by writing persuasive job applications to become house captains. This is helping them think deeply about their personal strengths and how they can positively contribute to the school community. It's been wonderful to see their enthusiasm grow as they take on more responsibility and strive to set a positive example for others.



Parking and the Arrival Window

Arrival Window: 8.40am – 8.55am

There is an arrival window in place to assist with parking and to reduce congestion without impacting on lesson time. The arrival window works well although there are still a significantly greater number of people arriving and waiting at 8.40am than at 8.50am. Please remember that there is an arrival window between 8.40am and 8.55am. You may find it easier and quieter to wait until later in the arrival window to arrive, as long as the children are walking through the gate by **8.55am** when school officially starts. The register is taken at 9am to allow children who walk through the gate at 8.55am to get to their classrooms in time.

In order for the arrival window to work, we do please ask you to move your car as soon as your child is safely through the staff supervised gate at 8.40am so that another parent can park in your space...especially if you have parked in the church car park. Thank you for your consideration.

Father Rob has written a message to you all below, kindly asking you to be thoughtful and considerate in your parking.

Dear Parents,

St Dunstan's parish is very happy to have our car park used for school drop-off and pick-up. It is a joy to hear young voices around the place. However, there have been a few cases since the start of term when parents have indulged in "guerrilla parking", double-parking, ignoring the marked bays, etc.. Given the height of small children compared with the height of cars, there is a particular safety concern when people are driving through the car-park. So please respect the rules, in order to avoid a tragedy. And of course it's essential that disabled bays are only used by blue-badge holders.

Fr. Rob

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Attendance and Absence

Mrs H Robbins – Inclusion Leader

Please remember that children's attendance in school is paramount for their learning and development. Parents should not take any unauthorised leave of absence during term time.



All parents seeking leave of absence must complete an 'Request for leave of absence/exceptional circumstances' form, found on the [Useful forms](#) page of our school website:

It is for the Head Teacher to decide whether or not there are exceptional circumstances. All requests for leave of absence are treated sympathetically, but the policy of Surrey County Council, to which this school has agreed, is that other than in exceptional circumstances, absences during term time will not be authorised.

Please continue to use the [absence form](#) to report a child's absence.

This also helps us to know 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 our school attendance information is closely monitored. If your child is absent for more than three days, we may need to receive medical evidence, as this is an extended absence from school. Please find this helpful poster from the [UK Health Security Agency](#) that will help you understand when you should keep your child off school and for how long.

Thank you for your support to ensure the safety and welfare of our children is always given the highest priority.

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Children's Learning

Miss H. Fail and Miss E. Roe – Assistant Headteachers

At St. Dunstan's, we aim to develop expertise across the curriculum for all staff and work in teams to develop the curriculum subjects. If you have questions or feedback regarding your child's learning, please speak with your child's Head of Year, as they drive each year group curriculum. If you have a specific question in relation to a curriculum subject, you can email (via the office) the teacher who leads the subject.

SUBJECT LEADERSHIP 2024 – 2025

Subject Area	Staff Member
Religious Education	<u>Mrs R. O'Neill</u> Mrs K. Willmott (Prayer and Liturgy) Mrs C. Barrett (Liturgical Music) Mrs M. Lee (Choir Director)
English	<u>Miss H. Fail</u> Mrs L. King (Phonics) Miss L. Turner (Reading and Library) Miss M. O'Sullivan (Writing) Mrs S. Bradshaw (Spelling)
Maths	<u>Miss E. Roe</u> Miss R. Matorian (Key Stage Two) Miss T. Martlew (Lower School)
Relationship, Sex and Health Education (RSHE)	Mrs R. O'Neill and Mrs C. Banfield
Computing and Online Safety	Mrs S. Bryans
Science	Miss R. Clarke
PE (including clubs & competitions)	Mr A. Coyle
Art	Mrs M. Weedon and Mrs K. Richmond
Design and Technology	Mrs M. Weedon and Mrs K. Richmond
Music	Mrs C. Barrett and Miss E. Wisdom
History and Geography	Miss N. Johnson and Mrs C. Gentry
French	Miss H. Fail
Assessment	Miss E. Roe
Pupil Voice	Miss S. Paling and Mrs S. Zalaf
Educational Visits	Mr A. Coyle
House Teams	Miss K. Bingle
Eco-Committee	Mrs J. Knowles and Mrs C. Allen

Children's Learning- Working together to support your child

Partners in Learning:

At Partners in Learning, we warmly invite parents to visit the classrooms with your children to connect to their lived experiences of learning. The children are always incredibly proud to share their work and speak passionately about their favourite subjects. It is also an ideal chance to ask your child questions about their learning, as they can articulate this more clearly with their books as prompts.

Friday 29th November

Monday 10th February

Thursday 22nd May

The sessions start at **3.20pm** and end at **4.00pm**

Parent Teacher Meetings:

The first Parent-Teacher Meetings will be on **Wednesday 23rd and Thursday 24th October 2024**. The first meeting is focused around your child's pastoral progress and wellbeing i.e. how they have settled into their new class and year group, friendships and how they manage the organisation of the day in terms of their independence. It also gives you the opportunity to ask questions and seek any support or guidance.

The second meetings are on **Wednesday 26th and Thursday 27th February 2024** and are focused on your child's progress and their achievements, in particular with Reading, Writing and Maths. At these meetings, we aim to signpost you to particular advice or support for your child with their learning.

Details of how to make your booking for the Autumn Parent-Teacher meetings will be shared at the beginning of October.

Parent Talks:

We offer a range of talks for parents, which we hope are informative and provide the resources and top tips to support you to work with your child at home. Parent feedback highlights just how much you enjoy meeting the teacher face-to-face so you can ask questions and look at the resources. We have scheduled the talks for 2.30pm on a Friday (unless otherwise stated) to help make them as convenient as possible.

September:

How to support your child with calculations talk for Year 3 and 4 parents led by Miss Roe
Friday 20th September 2.30pm

October:

Supporting spelling at home talk for Years 2 to 6 parents led by Miss Fail
Friday 4th October 2.30pm

Early reading and phonics talk for EYFS and Year 1 parents led by Mrs Robbins and Mrs Corsini
Friday 11th October 2.30pm

November:

Early Number Talk for parents of EYFS and Year 1 parents led by Miss Martlew and Mrs Robbins
Friday 15th November 2.30pm

Previous recordings:

Please see the links below to a couple of previously recorded talks that you may find helpful as we start a new school year.

[Resilience and Independence Talk](#)

[KS2 How to support an independent and confident approach to home learning](#)

Website - Children's Learning:

The website offers a wealth of information to provide insight into your children's learning at school and to find out ways to support their learning at home. We would like to draw your attention to some key pages within the [children's learning](#) section of our website.

1. Curriculum

This section is designed to give you more information about the overall aims and purpose of each subject area. This will be useful if you are looking to better understand how a particular subject is taught at our school.

2. Information Talks for Parents

This section includes slides of previous talks in various areas such as home learning, spelling and online safety. Please take a look at this page for guidance about how to support at home.

3. Year Group Learning Information

This gives you specific information about the learning in your child's year group. This is updated on a half-termly basis, so you may return to this page regularly during the year.

- **Year Group Curriculum Overview**- this is a comprehensive summary of what your child will be learning across the whole curriculum, over the year.
- **English Expectations:** full details of the objectives in reading, writing and grammar directly from the National Curriculum for each year group. This details what your child is expected to learn over the year, according to the National Curriculum.
- **Topic Rationale**- this summarises the main purpose of their learning each half term and outlines themes that connect their learning together.
- **Maths Expectations:** full details of the End of Year expectations directly from the National Curriculum for each year group. There are links in this document to the calculation policy and there is additional information to help explain some of the learning objectives.



The image shows a document titled 'Year 1 Curriculum Overview' with a table of contents. The table lists sections such as 'Reading', 'Writing', 'Maths', and 'Science' with corresponding page numbers.



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 very limited capacity in 'Early Birds' on a **Monday, Wednesday and Friday**. Please contact Mrs Hammond in the school office for further details or, to apply for a place on the waiting list on 01483 715190 or 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. Thank you.

HM Government Childcare Choices -Tax Free Childcare- Mrs L. Mason

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/>

Please note, when registering with HMRC you will need to provide one piece of information from three options, our Ofsted number 125238; our postcode GU22 7AX or our school name.

If you choose to use this method of payment, please notify Mrs Hammond in the School Office 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.

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Governors

Open Mornings for Prospective Parents, Reception Year - September 2025

Our Open Morning for prospective parents wishing to visit the school prior to applying for a place for their child to start in September 2025 will be on Thursday 21st November 2024. Please note that the session on Friday 18th October is now fully booked.

The open morning will begin at 9.30am with a talk by Mrs Morganti the Headteacher, followed by a tour of the school. The session will finish at 11am. Prompt arrival for the 9.30am start would be very much appreciated. Car parking will be available in the Lower School playground from 9.10am.

NB The Open Morning is for parents/carers only. Please therefore pre-arrange childcare for young children and babies. Thank you. To book a place, please complete the form using [this link](#)

Admissions: Reception Classes in September 2025 - Mrs E. Chamberlain

For children born between 1st September 2020 and 31st August 2021, parents will need to apply for a school place between 1st November 2024 and **15th January 2025** (the final closing date for all applications to be received at the school and online to Surrey County Council), if your child is due to start school in a Reception class in September 2025.

Please see the school website www.stdunstans.surrey.sch.uk for details of the school's Admission Policy and procedures 2025-2026, or contact the school office for a paper copy. Two documents with proof of your child's current place of residence (e.g. council tax statement for the current year or utility or bank statement within the last 3 months), proof of your child's date of birth and if appropriate, proof of baptism must be submitted to the school with the completed Supplementary Information Form for 2025-2026. **Originals of any documents must be seen, not emails or copies please.**

In addition, parents MUST also apply to Surrey County Council. This can be done [online](#).

For any queries, please contact our Admissions Manager, Mrs E Chamberlain either via the school office or at echamberlain@stdunstans.surrey.sch.uk

Applying for Secondary School places

If your child was born between 1st September 2013 and 31st August 2014 you will need to apply to Surrey County Council for a secondary school place by the 31st October 2024. This can be done [online](#).

Please do also contact individual secondary schools regarding their admission processes and application details. Our school office team cannot advise you of individual school's admission details. These will all be available on each school's website.

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Information from Subject Leaders

Healthy Schools – Mrs H. Robbins: Senior Leader and Inclusion Leader

Birthday treats

It is important of course to celebrate children's birthdays, and we always make sure this happens in school. However, we ask that children do not bring in birthday treats from home to celebrate their birthdays with their class in school. This is not to be party-poopers but because it can put unnecessary pressure on families who may not wish to, or who may be unable to, provide sweets for their child's class (and for parents who do not wish their children to have sweets). In school, we always celebrate birthdays in our weekly celebration of the word, so your child will still feel very special. We also ask that birthday invitations are not sent into school, your child can hand these out to their friends in the playground before or after school.



Home learning opportunities – Miss H. Fail and Miss E. Roe: Assistant Headteachers

St. Dunstan's is committed to providing a learning experience that supports all children and that includes providing opportunities for children to continue their learning at home. We believe that home learning enables children to develop the foundations of time management, independent learning skills, and work ethic and allows you to be connected with your child's learning.

Key Stage 1:

Children will be provided with a reading book, to practise their early reading skills. This will be supplemented with a summary of the learning in class and additional optional home learning ideas linked to the current children's learning, including number and phonics.

Key Stage 2:

Core skills in reading and number will continue to be developed through regular practice at home. In addition, classroom learning is enhanced through short, focussed home learning tasks that build in duration and challenge to support development of independent learning.

Do visit the [home-learning page](#) on the website for further information.

The first piece of home learning will be set during the second full week of term therefore, home learning commenced on Monday 16th September. Future dates are indicated in the annual calendar.

In Key Stage 2 children are provided with books in which to complete work, with the details and other challenges to be found on Google Classroom. For all year groups, please do ask your child to show you the classroom pages, as they will contain useful information about what home learning is being set and due dates.

Home Learning is a valuable learning opportunity for children and we value your support in this partnership to ensure that home learning is completed.

Medicines in school – Mrs H. Robbins: Inclusion Leader and Senior Leader

Please can we remind all parents that wherever possible, medication should be given outside of school hours. If it is essential for your child to have any form of prescribed medication during the day (e.g. creams, tablets, liquid medicine) this must be handed in to the school office. In order to safeguard all of our pupils, medication should never be in school without the knowledge of school staff and should not be sent in bags with children.



When you hand your child's medicine in to the school office you must have also completed the relevant form on the school website: "[Pupil Medication in School – Request Form](#)".

Please note that medicines will only be administered at break and lunch times in order to minimise disruption to learning. For your information, our school policy on the '[Administration of Medicines and Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions](#)' can be found on the school website.

RE – Mrs R. O'Neill and Mrs K. Willmott, R.E. Subject Leader

We are thrilled that this year Years 2 and 5 join EYFS, Year 1 and 6 on the new RE curriculum. This is a change for all Catholic schools in England and Wales, the implementation of the new RE curriculum is being gradually phased in. Years 3 and 4 will join the new curriculum next academic year. The new curriculum is fantastic, providing our children with the information, understanding, and ability to reflect spiritually, think ethically and theologically, and recognise the challenges of religious commitment in everyday life.

There are six areas of learning that are taught in the six half terms in a school year. Each unit reflects the liturgical school year, telling the story from creation through to redemption. They are taught systematically in order for the children to build on prior learning and to fully understand the theological principle of the scriptures being studied.

This term EYFS, Year 1, 2, 5 and 6 are learning about Creation and Covenant. In this unit, the children will encounter the God who creates and calls all people. They will explore revelation of the Christian belief that all that is comes from God, the Creation accounts in Genesis, and scientific explanations of the process of Creation.

EYFS God made our beautiful world and everything in it, including me. The children will learn the words and actions of the sign of the cross: 'In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen'. As they learn more about the importance of prayer, they will give thanks for God's wonderful world.

Year 1 - The Creation story in Genesis 1:1-4, 24-26 as an ancient, prayerful, poetic reflection on God's world. God wants us to love and care for the world because the world is God's gift to us. When we care for the world, it is one of the ways we love and care for each other.

SUGGESTIONS FOR HOME ACTIVITIES

- Think about the Creed that we pray in Mass. (For younger children, just the first few lines). Talk about the meaning of the prayer and why we say these words in Mass.






<p>Year 2 – The overarching theme this term is Baptism and being reborn into new life. The children explore this through the story of Noah’s ark Genesis 9:7-17. In this story, we explore the idea that creation is reborn from the waters of the flood. Through psalm 139, we will look at how God knows each and every one of us.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Talk about stewardship, how your family takes care of the Earth and how this influences what you do and the decisions you make in your daily life. • Go out as a family and explore your surroundings. Take time to contemplate what in the natural world, fills you with awe and wonder. • At home, you could share photographs or experiences you or your family have had visiting places in the world that filled you with awe and wonder. • Explore music and art that has been written or created in praise of creation.
<p>Year 5 - Moses is the lawgiver and the one who leads the people of Israel out of slavery. David is the great king who is a shepherd to his people. Pupils will have opportunities to understand how to read the Bible, recognising stories meant to the people at the time of telling and what they mean to us now. We will look at the Ten Commandments and at Jesus’ summary of the Law and how this speaks to us today. We will explore the Sacrament of Confirmation where people choose to be anointed as a disciple of Christ and seek to follow his teachings and reflect on the last things.</p>	
<p>Year 6 - The Genesis account of Creation and Fall is not a literal scientific description, but expresses beliefs about God, the world, and human beings. Baptism is the first sacrament and it unites Christians with Jesus Christ.</p>	

Years 3 and 4 will be studying RE via the diocese-supported curriculum ‘Come and See’. The first theme is the Domestic Church (Family). Within this theme, Year 3’s topic is HOMES - God’s vision for every family and Year 4’s PEOPLE - The family of God in Scripture.

SUGGESTIONS FOR HOME ACTIVITIES

- Make a collage using family photographs of all the significant family members—grandparents, parents, children, aunts, uncles etc. who show God’s love. Write underneath it “We show God’s love to one another.” Include those who have died.
- Create a prayer for your family and pray it together.

Safeguarding: Our Designated Safeguarding Leads

Our Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSL’s) are:				
				
<p>Lead DSL: Mrs G Morganti <i>Headteacher</i></p>	<p>Deputy DSL: Mr A Coyle <i>Assistant Headteacher</i></p>	<p>Deputy DSL: Mrs H Robbins <i>Inclusion Leader</i></p>	<p>Deputy DSL: Miss H Hughes <i>SENDCO</i></p>	<p>Deputy DSL: Mrs M O’Riordan <i>Office Assistant</i></p>

What is the role of a Designated Safeguarding Lead in school?

The Designated Safeguarding Leads are the people in school who you would contact to share any safeguarding concern about a child at our school.

How can I contact the DSLs?

Please use the [form](#) to share information directly with our Designated Safeguarding Lead. This form is also accessible via the website. Or you can call the school office to ask to speak to one of the DSLs to share a safeguarding concern with.

What do I need to do if I have a concern about a child's welfare?

If you are concerned about a child's welfare, please record your concern and any observations or conversations heard and use the form to note this information or call the school office. It is vital that you do share the information as soon as possible with one of the DSLs, on the same day.

DO NOT conduct your own investigation. You are also able to make your own referrals to Children's Services. Please click [here](#).

Keeping your Children Safe Online – Mrs G. Morganti

Please can we ask for your support from the beginning of the year to keep your children safe when using mobile phones, smart devices, tablets etc.

Giving a child a device without parental controls and monitoring is like letting your child leave your front door on their own to encounter all of the dangers of the world without any restrictions, preparation or protection!

As parents, you want to protect your children and prepare them for the risks and challenges in their world and you know your children best to know what they can manage and when they are ready for the next step in their journey to independence and responsibility. We ask you to be mindful that as a school, we cannot control what devices etc. that your children have access to at home and therefore, we cannot police the behaviour that takes place on those devices outside of school hours.

We would strongly recommend:

- **Children in primary school are not given a smart phone.**
They simply do not have the life experience to be able to be aware of, understand or manage the risks. Parents can really struggle to decide what the right age is for their child to have a phone. This is mainly due to social pressures from friends and the fact that many children see it as a common 'toy' that other children have and maybe it is even seen as a status symbol



Many experts say the right time for a smart phone is about 13, but we think the more practical answer is when they **need** one rather than **want** one.

If your child is walking home alone and has a significant distance to take, you might decide your child needs a phone. However, your child can have a basic phone, not a smart phone. Internet Matters have many tips and advice for parents when deciding if their child needs a phone and which phone to choose – a smart phone or a 'dumb' phone. Please do view their website which is full of useful resources and information for parents.



[Does my child need a phone and if so, which one?](#)

- **Children do not have access to any devices in their bedrooms overnight**
We advise that all devices are handed to parents at bed time and that you have agreed times and places that are "tech-free".
- **Do your research**
Research devices and apps before allowing your child to use them. You may find this link to [Safer Internet](#) useful. Check the PEGI age rating and descriptors on games before buying them for your child and carefully consider whether the content is appropriate for them.



Surrey Police recommended the following [website](#) to help parents know which apps are 'the most dangerous' for children.

Learn how to install parental controls and filters and don't forget to sign up for FREE membership to National Online Safety via our school account

<https://nationalonlinesafety.com/enrol/st-dunstan-s-catholic-primary-school>

- **Have open conversations with your children**

Speak to your children about what your children like to do online. See Childnet.com for more advice how you can do this.

Know your children's passwords and regularly check their devices.

Safeguarding our children

St Dunstan's is a mobile free zone



Just a little reminder that we ask that anyone dropping off or picking up children at our school keep their mobile phones in their bags. This ensures that the children remain the most important thing at this time and get to see smiley faces rather than a sea of phones at pick up. It enables us to safeguard our children and ensure that no one is taking photos or videos of children or the school site. Please do tell grandparents and anyone else who may be picking up your child. We thank you for your cooperation with this.

National Online Safety



**National
Online
Safety**

Please do sign up here for free membership as a parent: [National College](http://NationalCollege)

Just remember to choose your role as a parent and to put the name of the school as St. Dunstan's Catholic Primary School.

The website hosts a wealth of online safety information from courses and videos for parents to their weekly "Wake Up Wednesday" tips for parents regarding the most current apps and websites that children might be using and the pros and cons of allowing your child access to them.

Do follow them on:

X <https://twitter.com/natonlinesafety>

Instagram <https://www.instagram.com/nationalonlinesafety>

Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/NationalOnlineSafety>

SEND – Miss H. Hughes – Special Needs Co-ordinator and Senior Teacher

A warm hello and welcome to the new school year. As lots of you know, I am brand new to the St Dunstan's family and I'm really enjoying getting to know everyone.

I thought the beginning of the year is a good time to share the Surrey Local Offer website. This is a great place to look for all things SEND related, including up to date information, resources and signposting to further support. [Parents and carers | Surrey Local Offer](#)



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Liturgy and Worship

Liturgy, Worship and RE – Mrs R. O'Neill and Mrs K. Willmott

'For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ.'

1 Corinthians 12:12

The whole school staff started off the year with the celebration of Mass together with Fr. Rob at the Church on the 2nd September. We focused on the joy of being part of one body, the Body of Christ. Reflecting on how individually and together we can be living examples of God's unconditional love and inspire the children to love and serve others too. It was a lovely way to start the year.



Catholic Life and Mission- Mrs R. O'Neill and Mrs K. Willmott

Our Chaplains

As part of our Pastoral Team, we are very lucky to have two chaplains, employed by the Parish to support our work in school – who will both be very familiar to you from the Parish and school! Mrs. Mary Smith and Fr Peter share the role of chaplain. They work to support the staff, pupils and you as parents in a pastoral capacity. The chaplains can be contacted via chaplaincy@stdunstans.surrey.sch.uk.



They regularly pop into school to informally chat with the children and staff, join prayer and worship and have a presence within the community. They are also there for you if you were to need someone to talk to.

Fairtrade Fortnight

This Year Fairtrade fortnight will begin on the 9th of September and the children will be participating in exciting activities to understand the concept of fair and unfair in different settings. We will be using CAFOD's methodology of See, Judge and Act when we explore our learning. Please see the Parent mail with regards to our Fairtrade raffle, the winner will be announced on Thursday the 19th of September. Keep a Look out for pictures on X!

Liturgy News

Liturgies for various events throughout the year will be led by different year groups, and in this way, we all have an opportunity to serve the school family through leading others in worship. We are always keen to explore and share our spirituality together. The children and their class will either be involved in a class collective worship or a special whole school liturgy or Mass. Do join us, if at all possible. The children bring such joy in their singing and poignant reflection in their prayers. Please refer to the annual calendar for the details of all of our liturgies and Masses.

Grandparents' week

Our special Grandparents' Week will be held from 23rd to 27th September. We will be celebrating the lives of our grandparents who have often passed down their wisdom and faith to us, and remain such important figures in the lives of the children.



Dear Grandparents,

We were delighted by your support and response last year and it was a real highlight for your grandchildren. This year we would again like to invite grandparents to share and celebrate their role with us by either:

- **Joining their grandchild's class and reading a children's story at the end of the school day (2.45 – 3pm on 23rd to 27th September). Please get in touch with your grandchild's class teacher to organise the details.**
- **Recording a message, bible story, prayer or story that can be shared with your grandchild's class. Please send recordings to the school office for the attention of your grandchild's class teacher by Friday 20th September.**
- **Or sending the class a card with a message that they can display on their class prayer table. Please post or send items in via your grandchild, by Friday 20th September.**

We are really looking forward to hearing from you and thank you in advance for your support. Thank you so much.

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Parish Links – St. Dunstan’s Church

New Parishioners evening

If you have moved into the Parish since our last New Parishioners' Evening last year or have been unable to come to a New Parishioners' evening before then you are warmly invited to come to an informal gathering for New Parishioners on Friday 20th September at 7.30pm. This will be an opportunity to meet one another and the clergy, as well as some longer standing parishioners. Children are very welcome. You do not need to let us know that you are coming. We look forward to seeing you.

Save the date

On Saturday September 21st the Alton Day of Renewal (ADoRE) will come live to St Dunstan’s. ADoRE is one of the longest running days of Catholic Charismatic renewal in the UK and widely attended on-line every month. In September we are pleased to announce a live event at St. Dunstan’s Church, starting at 10 am with Mass and ending at about 3 pm. The theme for the day is ‘You shall Prophesy’ and the talk will be given by Geoff Poulter, former parishioner of St. Dunstan’s and head of Rhema Outreach, which offers training in healing, prophecy and discipleship. The day includes Mass, Adoration, Prophetic ministry, Praise and Worship, Testimonies, Geoff’s talk and individual Prayer Ministry. All are welcome, refreshments will be provided, but please bring a packed lunch to share. More details soon, or go to <https://www.altonrenewal.com/>

Altar Server Mass – Saturday 23 September at Arundel Cathedral

Saturday 26 October at 12 noon Fr Aaron Spinelli, Diocesan Director for the Guild of St Stephen, invites all diocesan altar servers to a special Mass at Arundel Cathedral led by Bishop Richard. The occasion will offer an opportunity to celebrate and thank servers for their service to our parish communities. Refreshments will be available but please bring a packed lunch. Contact Fr Aaron to confirm attendance and numbers aaron.spinelli@abdiocese.org.uk

Catechists’ Day – Saturday 21 September

11am - 4pm at Worth School for all catechists and those involved in adult formation across our parishes: a day of formation, reflection and networking.

Signing of Secondary School supplementary information forms

The Priests will be available to sign SJB Admission Forms on Friday 20th September, 3.30 - 5.00pm and Friday October 4th, 5.30 - 7.00pm. There is no need to make an appointment, please just come to the church.

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Parent to Parent – School Annual Calendar

Our very grateful thanks to Mrs Dharshi Rajan, a current parent, who has very kindly put together the following useful links to sections of the Annual Calendar for ease of reference. **Please note: any changes that are recorded in following monthly school newsletters will not be reflected in these google calendars but on the school Annual Calendar only.**

Whole School:

<https://calendar.google.com/calendar/ical/stdunstansschoolcalendars%40gmail.com/public/basic.ics>

Lower School

<https://calendar.google.com/calendar/ical/184qbu9n353k78an94a27vsnk%40group.calendar.google.com/public/basic.ics>

KS2

<https://calendar.google.com/calendar/ical/oc7om8blol3d7182kiolo33vbc%40group.calendar.google.com/public/basic.ics>

Reception

<https://calendar.google.com/calendar/ical/gh6s14tl5veu49eo88dnkurnrs%40group.calendar.google.com/public/basic.ics>

Year 1

<https://calendar.google.com/calendar/ical/2be0fp530mcvvk3sn8bbifqpggo%40group.calendar.google.com/public/basic.ics>

Year 2

<https://calendar.google.com/calendar/ical/hpmk12qrti0nuf5d3n64rkqsl8%40group.calendar.google.com/public/basic.ics>

Year 3

<https://calendar.google.com/calendar/ical/4f758ub9id3011ccenr3ga3avs%40group.calendar.google.com/public/basic.ics>

Year 4

<https://calendar.google.com/calendar/ical/56fu7ulg6cgj1jnthdpar72rg4%40group.calendar.google.com/public/basic.ics>

Year 5

<https://calendar.google.com/calendar/ical/c6p5dbdb5qi9ocmofon78knpfs%40group.calendar.google.com/public/basic.ics>

Year 6

<https://calendar.google.com/calendar/ical/obnlmpa72s7ko955aoc1psrn4c%40group.calendar.google.com/public/basic.ics>

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Safeguarding

Gates at home time

At the end of the day, **all external gates are locked by 3.35pm**. The reason for this is because we have after school clubs running after school and we need to ensure the children are safe and the site is as secure as it would be when the school is in normal session.

The Kitchen Gate will re-open at 4.15pm when clubs finish. Parents who need to collect their child early from 'Stay and Play' After School Club should go to the school office and staff will phone through to ASC so that your child can meet you in the main reception. Children at After School Club play in the Lower School playground and this area remains locked.

Parents arriving after 4.15pm will be able to come in via Kitchen Gate as usual.

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School Office



For your information: [School Photographs – Wednesday 02nd and Monday 07th October 2024](#)

Our School Photographer will be in school on **Wednesday 2nd October** to take photos of individual pupils and **7th October**, for sibling groups (this applies only to siblings currently attending St Dunstan's School). Please do ensure that your child is dressed in full, smart **winter** uniform and has their blazer in school as usual that day. Thank you!

Office contacts:

Please be advised of whom to contact in the office via email:

Mrs E. Chamberlain - echamberlain@stdunstans.surrey.sch.uk

- PA to the Headteacher
- School Admissions
- Clerk to the Governors

Mrs N. Hammond - wraparound@stdunstans.surrey.sch.uk

- Extended Schools
- School trips and visits

Mrs A. Madden – office3@stdunstans.surrey.sch.uk

- Sporting Fixtures
- Swimming (Summer Term)

Mrs M. O’Riordan - office@stdunstans.surrey.sch.uk

- Attendance, absences/medical appointments and change to end of day collection of pupils
- School Lunches
- Cool Milk
- School photographs
- Teacher and External Led Clubs

Mrs N Hammond - trips@stdunstans.surrey.sch.uk

- School trips and visits
- Bikeability

Mrs C. Hughes - office2@stdunstans.surrey.sch.uk

- FoSD Liaison
- Parent / Teacher meetings
- Medical

Accepting card payments for sundry items

We accept card payments at the school office for sundry items, e.g. water bottles, reading wallets, school caps etc.

Online payments

If you have not yet registered for online payments, please contact the school office office@stdunstans.surrey.sch.uk. You will be issued with a unique Pupil Link Code which will enable you to set up your account via [Scopay](#)



****IMPORTANT REMINDER FOR NEW PARENTS ****

Schoolcomms

All new parents have now been sent an invitation to register with Schoolcomms and to download the School Gateway App. If you encounter any difficulties, please do contact the school office.

Guidance on how to register: Please download the School Gateway App and enter the same email and mobile number currently held by the school. You will then receive a pin via a text message. The pin will allow you to login and activate the App.

NB It has come to our attention that not all parents are receiving text messages sent out via the School Gateway App. This applies to registered users of the App. This issue seems to arise if a parent changes their mobile phone/device. 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.

Only text messages are sent via the School Gateway App. All other communications are sent on email via Schoolcomms.

Free School Meals – Years 3 - 6 - are you eligible?

Please contact the school office for details of eligibility. You can email office@stdunstans.surrey.sch.uk Application forms can be collected from the school office for completion and return.

Mrs L. Mason, our School Business Manager, is always very happy to check your eligibility for you if you are unsure. You can contact Mrs Mason in confidence by email on sbm@stdunstans.surrey.sch.uk or by phone: 01483 715190. Thank you.

Updating your contact details?

Please remember to let the school office know in writing if you have changed your address or telephone numbers during the school holidays. **This is vital so that we can contact you in an emergency.** Please do not update your contact details via Schoolcomms as this inbox is not monitored.



Phoning home for forgotten items

A reminder, please, that in order to develop children's independence, the school office do not routinely phone home to ask parents for forgotten school items. Please remind children to check they have got everything they need each day.

Driving to School - Unofficial one-way system around Onslow Crescent



There has been a voluntary One-Way system for school traffic in place for many years in Onslow Crescent. This means that between 8.20am – 9.00am and 2.45pm - 3.45pm all cars associated with the school need to drive in ONE DIRECTION:

- coming in at the Woking Station end of Onslow Crescent and
- driving out of the Post Box end of Onslow Crescent.

However convenient it may be for you to drive in the Post Box end, please be aware that you will be creating gridlock and a dangerous environment for the children and other pedestrians. It is never acceptable to mount the pavement in your car, *especially* when there are children walking to and from school.

Please ensure that anyone else dropping or collecting your child is aware of this one way system in order to keep the traffic flowing. Thank you.

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X/Twitter



A great way to keep up to date with the day to day learning and events in school

The school Twitter page is:

@st_dunstans_

Following parent feedback, the year group pages for EYFS, Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 are locked so that those who wish to follow them have to request to do so.

If we recognise you as a parent, we will automatically authorise you to follow the page, *but if we don't recognise your X name*, we won't be able to allow you to join. For safeguarding purposes, please ensure your X name reflects your own name so that you are recognisable. Thank you.

The main school Twitter page and the PE page have open access. We don't authorise advertising via our school Twitter with people using business names unless there was a specific reason. Thank you.

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Uniform: Mrs G. Morganti

School Coat

Uniform is a great leveller. All children are equal at school. As autumn draws near, please ensure your child has a proper school coat ready to wear which should be **plain black or navy** available from a range of suppliers. **Ideally this needs to be waterproof.**



Our coat of preference is the navy blue school coat (available from a range of suppliers such as Valentinos, M&S and John Lewis) which has a waterproof exterior and a fleecy inside. It is also fairly lightweight and suitable for children to play in at playtime.

As always, any family in financial hardship should contact Mrs Robbins or Mrs Morganti directly. The maroon, reversible, showerproof school sports jacket with fleece inside from Valentinos or our pre-loved uniform sale is also acceptable as this is already part of the school uniform. However, no other maroon coat. We encourage the wearing of high-visibility fluorescent waistcoats when walking to school.

We aim to get the children out to play at lunchtime if at all possible, as getting the children out to run about in the fresh air for even a short time helps them to release energy and be ready for their

learning in the afternoon. Therefore, the children go out if it is drizzling - but ONLY if they have a rain coat or similar with hood to keep them dry.

We appreciate it is not routinely cold enough yet for children to wear their winter coats, but if we could ask please that everyone ensures their child has a navy or black raincoat/pac-a-mac/cagoule or similar that can be worn or brought to school every day now for the children to wear out at playtimes when it is wet. Ideally it should be something that can be folded and packed in school bags easily if not needed on the way to school. Something big enough to go over your child's uniform including blazer.



Please consider donating good quality school coats and raincoats that no longer fit to the swap shop. Many thanks for your support.

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Dates for your Diary –



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](#)

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

Hello Everyone, we hope you all had an amazing summer!

Now that we are back to School we hope everyone is looking forward to all the events planned from FOSD in the coming months:

Some Dates for your diaries

Fireworks - 12th October

Discos - 8th November

Happy School - Bag 8th November

Winter Ball (Theme - A night at the Oscars!) - 16th November

Winter Wonderland - 7th December

However, to make these events a success, **we need your help!** We are looking for more **volunteers** to assist with our events. Whether it's an hour of your time running a stall at an event, helping to coordinate Christmas activities or bake sales, any time you can offer is greatly appreciated. If anyone is interested in these roles or helping in any way, please come and speak to us.

We have decided this year for our Winter Wonderland we are going to allocate a stall per year group in order to help us out for this event. We are also recruiting for a Father Christmas, so if anyone would like the 'very important' job, please see either Sarah or Sharon!

We are also looking for a parent volunteer to help us with our Pre Loved school uniform. This would entail helping to sort through the donations received at the school office and to help at the uniform sales at the end of the school day. Please contact the school office on 01483 715190 if you are interested in helping or to find out further details.

Your support will make a huge difference, and together, we can ensure this year is even more successful for our school and community.

Once again, thank you so much for everything you've done. Together, we're making St Dunstan's the best it can be!

FoSD Committee

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