

St. Dunstan's Catholic Primary School

Newsletter



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

October 2024

Pages and Contents

2. [Activities and Events](#)
4. [Attendance & Absence](#)
6. [Early Birds & Stay and Play](#)
6. [Catholic Life and Mission](#)
6. [Children's Learning](#)
7. [Governors](#)
8. [Governors' Premises Update](#)
10. [Information- Subject Leaders](#)
11. [Liturgy and Worship](#)
13. [Parent Teacher evenings](#)
13. [Questions & Queries](#)
13. [School Office](#)
14. [Sport & PE](#)
14. [Uniform](#)
15. [Staffing Updates](#)
15. [Dates for your Diary](#)
15. [Friends of St. Dunstan's](#)



Dear Parents,

The first month of term has most definitely flown by! It has been wonderful to see the children coming into school looking so smart in their school uniform and we are very pleased with the way the children have settled. The children are just so keen and happy to be in school and to learn. Thank you for your support and for working closely with us!

Year 6 had a fantastic week away at PGL, we have enjoyed hearing about all their activities. They will take away many wonderful memories from the week. I hope you enjoyed following their week on the Key Stage 2 Twitter! We were very proud of the children's resilience to keep going through every activity and challenge, even though it was the worst week for rainfall this year!

We announced our House and Vice House Captains this morning during our Celebration Assembly. Huge congratulations to our superb boys and girls whom I am sure will lead their houses with faith, love and excellence and be wonderful ambassadors for St Dunstan's.

Last week, we held our first FoSD meeting of the school year and were thrilled to be able to allocate funds of £22,000 to school projects. These funds hugely support the learning of all children, such as upgrading our library books, funding the subscriptions to wonderful learning programmes and to help with repairs and the ongoing maintenance of the swimming pool. We are extremely grateful to our parents for giving so generously and to the FOSD committee for organising the many fabulous upcoming events.

We look forward to welcoming you to our Parent Teacher meetings on 23rd and 24th October.

With best wishes,
Georgina Morganti

St Dunstan's
Catholic Primary
School

Onslow Crescent,
Woking, Surrey,
GU22 7AX

T: 01483 715190

E: info@stdunstans.surrey.sch.uk

www.stdunstans.surrey.sch.uk



Activities and Events

EYFS – Mrs H. Robbins: Head of Year and Senior Teacher

It has been wonderful to see all of the children in Reception settling into school, enjoying getting to know each other, and making new friends. Lunchtimes have been a particular highlight! It has been fantastic to see everyone using a knife and fork to eat carefully, whilst also trying new foods.



Our focus text for this half term is We're Going on a Bear Hunt by Michael Rosen. The children are especially excited for our upcoming workshop, where they will have the chance to act out the story. Additionally, we will be creating story maps to help us sequence the events in the correct order. In our RE lessons, we are learning about the story of creation, helping the children understand that they are God's most special creation and belong to His family.



Year 1 – Mrs G. Corsini: Head of Year



What a fantastic start to the year we have had! The children in Year 1 have settled back into school beautifully and are already beginning to grow in independence. We have been spending time recapping the basic skills learnt in Reception, such as letter formation, pencil grip, fine motor and cutting skills, during our explorative learning in the afternoons. We then used these skills to enhance our topic learning and particularly enjoyed creating a historical timeline of King Charles, ensuring to cut and stick carefully and with precision.



We crash-landed into our first focus text "Beegu" with a surprise visit from the strange creature. The children then wrote "super-star sentences" and used their writing checklist to make sure each sentence had a capital letter, finger spaces and a full stop.

In Maths, Year 1 have been building on the skills consolidated in Reception such as accurate counting and number recognition. We have been learning to represent numbers in different ways and have enjoyed using our mathematical resources such as number lines, bead strings and tens frames.



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

Year 2 were very excited to welcome Freshwater Theatre into school for our first History topic about the Great Fire of London. The children travelled back in time and acted out elements from this key historical event. They made roof shapes with their hands to demonstrate how the fire spread quickly from building to building. After fleeing London, they sought refuge in fields and huddled together trying to keep warm and sharing food. Some children dressed up as important characters from this time such as Sir Thomas Bloodworth, the Mayor of London.



So that we can make a comparison with fire-fighting in 1666 to today we have also had a visit from Surrey Education Fire Safety.

Year 3 - Mrs C. Barrett: Head of Year



As part of their history topic, Year 3 visited Butser Ancient Farm. Throughout the day, the children thoroughly enjoyed immersing themselves in their learning through hands-on activities. Their behaviour was outstanding and the staff at Butser Farm praised them for their excellent manners.



Sitting inside the Round House gave Year 3 a glimpse of how Stone Age buildings were constructed, highlighting the resourcefulness and resilience of the people who only used readily available materials from their environment.

Then, the day began with an archaeological dig, where each child had the opportunity to uncover an artefact, helping them to understand how evidence can reveal insights into the lives of people from the past.

Finally, the children learned how to make cordage from dried plant fibres, demonstrating the strength of natural materials. They also used flint stones to carve patterns into soft chalk, which later helped them make comparisons in science at school.

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

Year 4 have made an outstanding start and have settled well in their new routines. The children have recently enjoyed learning about Fair Trade, with many taking part in our school raffle. We were also delighted to have so many grandparents join us for grandparents' week, either sending in their stories or coming in to read to the children. In addition to this, it has been wonderful to see the children learning to play the toot. Despite being a new instrument for most children, they have shown a great level of focus and resilience, picking up the skills quickly as a result. Furthermore, they have been learning how to paint a volcano in art. This links with our English learning; the children have been writing a recount as one of the characters from our book: *Escape from Pompeii*. We look forward to sharing their final pieces with you!



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

Year 5 have shown great enthusiasm in English as we delved into *Kensuke's Kingdom*. The children have been exploring the story's protagonist, putting themselves in his shoes, and recounting the events so far using emotive language.

In history, Year 5 historians have begun to explore the Tudor Dynasty. We began with the Battle of Bosworth and recently explored Henry VII's strategic decisions to learn how he kept the crown.

Our science lessons have taken us beyond the classroom as we journeyed through the wonders of the solar system. The students have been using various sources to investigate how we know the Earth is spherical. We have also been learning about the movements of the Earth, Sun, and Moon.

It has been a joy to hear the children's questions as they wonder about the story of Exodus in our RE learning. They are deepening their faith and understanding why God chose Moses.

Year 6 – Miss N Johnson: Head of Year

In our first month of Year 6, we have been focusing on essential traits for our children: independence and responsibility. We have been actively developing these skills during our fantastic residential trip.



It has been a wonderful start to Year 6, providing a great opportunity for the children to bond outside the classroom. Upon returning, we reflected upon the skills we have developed, with independence, courage, and self-regulation being key themes. These skills will serve them well throughout the year!

This week, the children have been writing recounts reflecting on their time at PGL. Please find below extracts from the children's writing:

On the 23rd of September, Year 6 went on an experience of a lifetime as they travelled to Osmington Bay, Weymouth. That morning, I woke up shaking with excitement. On that brisk autumn morning, I travelled to school with my Year 6 buddies. (Alastair)

On the journey to school (with butterflies in my stomach), I couldn't stop thinking about all the fun activities I would be doing at the PGL campsite with my friends, teachers and the whole of Year 6. I would be there for 5 days with a big bag of responsibility on my shoulders, along with my excitement. (Arianna)

I was very eager to start the activities - especially the giant swing! Personally, my favourite activity was the abseiling. (Kristen)

Overall, PGL is a fantastic 5 day residential with cosy dorms, jaw-dropping activities and caring team leaders. (Harry L)



Dunstan Bear – Mrs J. Waltham



Our lovely school mascot, Dunstan Bear, spent the summer holidays in Malta with one of our Year 2 families. He had a wonderful time with them visiting a theme park and going on a boat trip!

If your family would like to have Dunstan Bear during October half term, you need to write a letter to Mrs Morganti by Tuesday 22nd October explaining why you would like him and what he will do during his time with you. In return, we do ask that you take some photos with Dunstan Bear and write something about your time together for his journal.

[Back to top](#)

Attendance and Absence

Why is school attendance so important?

School lays the vital foundations for a child's future life. There is strong research that shows that irregular attendance can adversely affect academic and social development. As a child's level of overall absence increases, the likelihood of achieving key attainment outcomes decreases. The school has an ethos of the highest expectations of self and others and we strive for the best we can be in everything we do. Family holidays and 'get togethers' are of course extremely important, but these need to be planned for the 13 weeks each year that the children are on holiday...that's 25% of the year!

Every message we give our children must reinforce the importance of education. When children are absent from school, they miss out on consistent teaching that is needed to develop basic skills. This can have a snowball effect that impacts future learning. Not only do children miss the academic side of their learning, but the children are also disadvantaged socially as the other children move on with

their friendships and relationships while the other children are absent. Absence from school not only disadvantages the absent child but also the rest of the children in the class as the teacher has to spend time with the child who has been absent, helping them to catch up on their return. Other than, for exceptional reasons such as illness, this is simply not fair.

Authorisation of absence during term time

A pupil's absence during term time can seriously disrupt their continuity of learning. Not only do they miss the teaching provided on the days they are away, they are also less prepared for the lessons on their return. There is consequently a risk of underachievement. Parents should not take any unauthorised leave of absence during term time.

Penalty Notices and Fines

Parents do not have the right to take their child out of school for any period of time. All parents seeking leave of absence must complete an 'Application for leave of absence/exceptional circumstances' form. 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. This is explained to parents before they accept a place for their child at St. Dunstan's and is stated in the welcome booklet issued to parents. Parents sign the home school agreement agreeing to adhere to the school's policy on absence in term time.

The Governors' Attendance Policy on the [school website](#) explains that if parents persist in taking their child out of school without the approval of the school, they will be liable to receive a Penalty Notice for failing to ensure their child's regular school attendance. **Each parent will be liable to receive a Penalty Notice for each child who is absent.**

Penalty Notices for Unauthorised Leave of absence for exceptional circumstances

This information is to remind you that if you take your children out of school without authorisation for 5 or more days (which **do not** have to be consecutive), then the following will apply:

1. If you have not incurred a penalty notice relating to a child/children in a rolling 3 year period since 19 August 2024, then the penalty notice will be charged at the rate of £160.00, per parent/carer per child, if paid within 28 days. This will be reduced to £80.00 if paid within 21 days of receipt of the notice. Failure to pay the Penalty Notice will result in Surrey County Council considering legal proceedings against you in the Magistrates Court.
2. If you have incurred a penalty notice relating to a child/children since 19 August 2024, the rolling 3 year period will be activated from the date of the first penalty notice and the second penalty notice will be charged at the flat rate of £160.00, per parent/carer per child, if paid within 28 days. There will be no reduction for payment within 21 days. Failure to pay the Penalty Notice will result in Surrey County Council considering legal proceedings against you in the Magistrates Court.
3. If you have incurred 2 penalty notices relating to a child/children in the rolling 3 year period since the first penalty notice was issued, then you will NOT receive a third penalty notice – Surrey County Council will have no option but to consider a prosecution, per parent/carer per child, in the Magistrates Court under s444 Education Act 1996.

Advice and support is available from an Attendance Advice Officer by contacting Surrey Attendance Service: North West Surrey Officer- Tel: 01483 518130

If you have any questions please do contact Mrs M O'Riordan or Mrs Robbins.

If the absence exceeds 20 days, your child's name will be removed from the school roll and you will have to reapply for places upon your return. We have waiting lists for every year group.

[Back to top](#)

Early Birds Breakfast Club and Stay and Play After School Club: Years 3-6

Mrs N. Hammond

We have limited spaces in Early Birds breakfast club. Please contact Mrs Hammond in the school office 01483 715190 or wraparound@stdunstans.surrey.sch.uk for further details.

Registration forms for both clubs are available on the [school website](#) for children in Years 3-6.

[Back to top](#)

Catholic Life and Mission

Mrs K. Willmott

On Thursday 17th October, we will be celebrating our Harvest Festival Liturgy. In order to live out the words of the Gospel in our lives we will be collecting donations of non-perishable food for Woking Food Bank. These contributions are, of course, voluntary, but if you feel that you are able to donate one item of food from the shopping list then we will start collecting donations a week before the festival (from Monday 7th October) and will welcome them any time up to the day of the festival itself.

These donations should be sent into school with your child to their classroom. Each class will have its own collection point. Please find below a list of foods urgently required by Woking Foodbank.

Thank you for your support in helping those in our local community who are in need.

Woking Food Bank List:

- Canned vegetables (including potatoes)
- Canned chicken and meat
- Long Life Milk Full Type (Blue)
- Long Life Fruit Juice
- Honey, jam and marmite
- Deodorant
- Noodles
- Long Life sponge puddings
- Laundry detergent (small) Non bio
- Instant hot chocolate
- Tinned custard
- Tinned rice pudding



Thank you for your support with this.

Please click here for more information about [Woking Food Bank](#)

[Back to top](#)

Children's Learning

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

Parent Talks

Thank you for attending the recent Parent Talks, it is wonderful to welcome so many of you into school so you can understand our teaching and learning philosophy and how you can support your children at home.

Please note the upcoming talks, details will be sent out via SchoolComms. For all talks, please enter via the school office from 2.15pm.

October:

Reading and Phonics Talk for EYFS and Year 1 parents

Friday 11th October 2.30pm

November:

Early Number Talk for EYFS and Year 1 parents

Friday 15th November 2.30pm

[Back to top](#)

Governors



Message from the Chair of the Finance & Building Committee - Mr J. Dunne The Governors Maintenance Fund

Voluntary contributions from parents to our Governor's Maintenance Fund (GMF) help us to accommodate the increase in costs and budgetary constraints whilst continuing to deliver the outstanding facilities for the pupils of St Dunstan's.

Last year, the GMF investments were used to replace all four boilers and pumps and to install new lighting, which is more energy efficient- as you can imagine, this was a significant cost. During the summer, further investment was used to replace the remaining, original windows- again, to ensure that the school is more energy efficient and the swimming pool underwent significant repair and maintenance. The children all enjoy the benefits of these maintenance and refurbishment projects which ensure that we offer a welcoming and safe school for the children today and in the future.

The governors would like to thank you for contributing to the GMF. While there is absolutely no obligation on any family to contribute, may we respectfully remind those who have not, but are in a position to do so, that you make a donation using our CAF account.

We would be most grateful if you would use the following link to make your contribution
<https://cafdonate.cafonline.org/18812>

Admissions: Reception Classes in September 2025

Mrs E. Chamberlain – school admissions

For children born between 1st September 2020 and 31st August 2021, parents will need to apply for a school place between 4th 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](#) 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.

In addition, parents MUST apply to [Surrey County Council](#)

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.

Open Mornings for Prospective Parents, Reception Year - September 2026 and in year admissions

Details for open mornings to be held on Friday 18th October or Thursday 21st November, are published on our [school website](#)

Prospective parents should complete the online booking form for their preferred date of visit or please contact the school office for further information, even if you already have siblings at our school. For safeguarding purposes, **pre-booking is a requirement.**

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

Your children's safety-Mrs G Morganti

Children's Safety is all of our responsibility

Crossing the road at Onslow Crescent and Pembroke Road

I have left the school a few times over the last few weeks via the main gate during collection time and was shocked by the way parents, with young children, crossed directly in front of cars from all different angles and from risky crossing points! As a driver, I really did not feel able to move because there were just so many parents with young children rushing to cross over the road.

Our children learn so much from us and this dangerous, rushed crossing is not teaching them how to be safe crossing roads. Children are unable to judge speed of moving cars until they are at least 10-11 years old.

I urge you to please consider how you cross the road. Teach your child to stop, look, listen and think before crossing so they know when it is safe to do so. Please click [here](#) for some road safety advice for parents from the ROSPA.



A Surrey Safer Travel Officer visited the school this week to assess the safety of the crossing on Pembroke Road. The feedback was very positive to the role of Mr Correia however the Officer reported there was **a real concern regarding the large number of parents who were not using the crossing point.**

The crossing point is where the curb is dropped, it is the one position on the road where the visibility of cars coming from both sides of the curved road are at its optimum. Therefore we ask that you cross at the dropped curb where Mr Correia is positioned to ensure your child is crossing safely.

Governors' Premises Update

Entrances to school-Mrs S. Saul

The safety of the children entering and leaving the school is very important to us. Access for pedestrians at school drop-off and pick-up is via the Lower School, KS2 (next to Young Explorers Nursery) and Pedestrian Access (to the left of the drive) gates and the fire gate (onto the back of the field). At all other times of the day pedestrians should enter via the KS2 or Pedestrian Access gates.



To ensure everyone's safety and wellbeing, there is NO pedestrian access down the drive at any time as the car park is busy with staff vehicles moving at the start and end of the day and with deliveries during the day and is not safe for people on foot.

To minimise the risk of accidents to pedestrians, please ensure your child gets off their bike or scooter at the gate before entering the school grounds.



The Fire Gate is a designated entry point for access by emergency service vehicles to the rear of the school. There is a fire road on this side of the field down to Rosary House. For this reason, we are unable to restrict this access at all to create a fenced off waiting area or to encourage groups of people to gather here.

Therefore, a reminder please that the Fire Gate is available as a thoroughfare only, NOT a waiting area. Please do walk to the area

outside Young Explorers to wait for the gate to open. If your Year 6 child walks to school independently, they must wait in the area outside the nursery if they arrive a little before 8.40am, not on the road.

Driving to School

Direction along Onslow Crescent



There has been a voluntary one-way system in place for many years in Onslow Crescent. This means that from 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.

We ask that you be tolerant of other road users not familiar with this voluntary one-way system.

Parking

We are extremely lucky to have the use of the Church car park in Shaftesbury Road, which has space for 70 cars. If the car park is full, at certain times of the day parking is available on Shaftesbury Road – please check the signs for restrictions.



The St. Dunstan's School side of Onslow Crescent is also available for parking at certain times of the day – please check the signs for current restrictions. Additional restrictions **prohibit parking** opposite our school (by the Lower School gate) and the Park School **from 8.00am until 11.30 am and from 2.30pm until 3.30pm**. Please check the signs on the roadside as these timings may change.

Please do not park on the other side of the crescent as it hinders the traffic flow and further parking restrictions are in place (check local roadside signs).

The parking area attached to Lion Retail Park at the end of Oriental Road can also be used at drop off and pick up times. If you and your child/children are able to manage the short walk from Lion Retail Park, please do consider this option as it will help to alleviate congestion in Onslow Crescent.

Where you can't park

THERE IS NO PARKING IN THE STAFF CAR PARK.



It is illegal to park on the **zig-zag markings** from 8.15am to 9.15am and between 2.30pm and 4pm, outside both school entrances or to drop off children in these 2 places*. These areas are marked for emergency vehicles and to help children cross the road to get into the school.

It is also illegal to park **near a school entrance** so you should not park immediately to the right of the main school gate as you are facing it from Onslow Crescent. **

Double yellow lines also clearly mark out areas where you cannot park on Onslow Crescent, primarily at the main junctions.

Traffic Enforcement Officers do operate at drop-off and pick-up times and we fully support enforcement action where cars are illegally parked.

* Highway code 238 ** Highway code 243

Walking to School- Mr A Coyle

Alternative methods of travel to School

Please do seriously consider whether you can help to reduce overall car journeys by:

- Walking to school – even once a week would be a significant contribution
- Scooting or cycling to school –there are bicycle and scooter stands available at the school



- c) Car sharing – as with walking to school, even teaming up with another parent/parents once a week would be a significant contribution
- d) Park one minute further away than you do now and walk the rest of the way.
- e) We have a staggered arrival and departure period in the mornings and afternoons to aid the situation with parking. We ask you to drop and go when you have handed your child over to staff at the gate in the morning and to collect and go when you have collected your child in the afternoon. This frees up parking spaces for other parents.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation and help in ensuring that we make the journey to school/nursery as safe as possible for our children and are seen in our local community to be a good neighbour.

[Back to top](#)

Information from Subject Leaders

Safeguarding: Mrs G. Morganti

A reminder of who our Designated Safeguarding leads are:



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.

Online Safety – Mr Coyle: Assistant Headteacher

Smartphone vs Feature phone



'Feature' phones (also called 'brick's 'dumbphones' or 'basic phones') are being reported as becoming increasingly popular among families with teens. Awareness of the risks that come with unrestricted smartphone, internet and social media use is growing. Many parents purchase their children a phone in year 6 for safety as they may walk to and from school.

Internet Matters has produced a great [guide](#) that might help you make a choice that feels right for you family. If you do make the choice to give your child a smartphone we urge you to learn how to use parental controls such as disabling web browsing, controlling location services or restricting app usage, content or contacts. And remember to keep discussion open in the house regarding phone use- know what your child is looking at and using!

Smartphone Free Childhood

[Smartphone Free Childhood](#) is a parent-led grassroots movement on a mission to challenge Big Tech's failure to keep children safe. They believe parents have been put in an impossible position. They either give children access to an adult product that opens the door to harmful content, addictive algorithms and the anxiety machine that is social media, or risk alienating them from their peers at a crucial stage of their development.



SEND: (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities)

Miss H. Hughes: SENDCo

[Dyslexia Awareness Week 2024](#)

The British Dyslexia Association work all year round to raise awareness of dyslexia and to challenge common misconceptions. This year, Dyslexia Awareness Week 2024 will take place from 7th to the



13th October. The theme is 'What's Your Story?' with the key messages that *every story is different* and *it's never too late to change your story*. In school, we will be celebrating our unique stories so far and thinking about what will help us write our next chapter.

For more information or to see the available resources, please see: [Dyslexia Awareness Week - British Dyslexia Association \(bdadyslexia.org.uk\)](http://Dyslexia Awareness Week - British Dyslexia Association (bdadyslexia.org.uk))

Welfare and Inclusion – Mrs H. Robbins: Inclusion Lead

Head lice

At St. Dunstan's, we believe that checking hair regularly rather than responding to individual cases is the best way to tackle head lice in the school community.

Please remember to always check your child's head for lice on a weekly basis. This is the only way to keep on top of it. We do not notify parents of individual cases of head lice.

We recognise that nothing can be done to prevent head lice and whilst they are nothing more than a nuisance, it is important that children are checked on a weekly basis so that any head lice can be dealt with quickly and before they are allowed to spread too far. Follow the simple CHECK, TREAT, COMPLETE routine to ensure you are doing your bit to keep head lice outbreaks to a minimum. Please [click here](#) for more information.

Myth or truth	State of hair	Length of hair	Spread of lice	Itchy scalp?
Myth	Prefer clean hair	Prefer long hair	Jump and can spread via clothes/towels	Always means itchy scalp
Truth	Infect both clean and dirty hair	Infect all lengths and types of hair	Walk from head to head	Only itches if allergic to bites/faeces

There is no need for children to have time off school due to head lice.

Remember: Once a week, take a peek!

Please ensure that your child's hair is securely tied up and away from the face during the school day if their hair is below their collar in length.

Surrey Young Carers

Surrey Young Carers is here to support all children who may be providing practical or emotional care for a member of their family with a long-term illness, physical disability or learning difficulty, mentally ill health or substance or alcohol dependency.



They offer a free service with a range of support depending on your family situation, from activities to give time out from the caring role and the chance to meet children in a similar position, to more intensive groups and tailored one-to-one help, for young carers in more difficult circumstances.

If you would like to find out more about Surrey Young Carers, you can contact them via email syc@actionforcarers.org.uk telephone 01483 568269 or on their [website](#).

If you think your child might benefit from belonging to Surrey Young Carers please contact me directly in school at inclusion@stdunstans.surrey.sch.uk.

[Back to top](#)

Liturgy and Worship

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



Pray with a grateful heart knowing how much God loves you; and the peace of God, which is greater than we can understand, will fill your minds and hearts and keep you safe and close to Jesus. (based on Philippians 4:4-9)



Grandparents' Week



We really enjoyed celebrating our Grandparents in school as part of Grandparents week. A big thank you to all of the Grandparents who came into school to read to classes or sent in videos or cards. Our lovely Faith Ambassadors made prayer cards as a little thank you. Here is their prayer and artwork:



*Dear God,
We pray for our wonderful grandparents, may they always be protected by your light.
Let them know that they are irreplaceable people in our lives. They are always there for us like an ever-loving source of love.
Thank you for our wonderful grandparents and the special times we have shared with them. Let us take care of our grandparents who make us feel special every time we look at them.
Amen*



The Harvest Festival Liturgy

The children in Year 4 are looking forward to sharing their Harvest Festival Liturgy on Thursday 17th October at 11.15am at St Dunstan's Church. This harvest liturgy is a joyful celebration of creation and all of the wonderful things that God has given us.



Please do come and join us.

Praying of the Rosary during October

During the month of October, we will be praying a decade of the Rosary on Tuesday mornings at 8.30am by the Lower School grotto. You are all invited to join in with this beautiful way to start to the day. You do not need a rosary we have lots to share and counting on your fingers is great too.



Parish links

Please do keep up with events in the Parish via the newsletter available on the Parish website: <https://st-dunstans.org/>

Ministry of Consolation Training

Within the Diocese, there is a wide network of 120 trained bereavement supporters who accompany and befriend those who are experiencing the loneliness and pain of loss, however we have a need for more in our parish.

If you are interested in joining the diocesan team, the next training course will be running from Wednesday 8th January 2025 through to Wednesday 12th February 2025 each Wednesday via Zoom from 9.30a.m. – 1.30 p.m.

At the completion of the course, you will be commissioned into the Ministry of Consolation by Bishop Richard. If you feel that, this is something that you are called to do contact simon.south@abdiocese.org.uk for more details.

Food Bank

The next collection will take place next weekend 5th/6th October. They are in particular need of multi pack crisps, small size laundry detergent non bio, tinned ham & spam, bars of chocolate & chocolate snack bars, deodorant, hot chocolate, tinned meat meals, tinned vegetarian & vegan meals, disposable razors, tinned custard, peanut butter, tinned rice pudding, cooking oil, long life sponge puddings, tinned salmon, long life full fat milk, long life fruit juice and honey.

Tea and Coffee volunteers needed

The Sunday 10.30am Tea & Coffee co-ordinators are seeking new volunteers to join the rota. If you are able to help please contact the parish office

Parish Christmas Fair

The date for this will be Saturday 23rd November and volunteers are needed! PLEASE sign the form available in the Narthex. Alternatively, you can complete the online version if you wish to volunteer: <https://bit.ly/ChristmasFair2024> email Lara: 07466 763 735 laraspereira23@gmail.com

[Back to top](#)

Parent -Teacher Meetings - Appointments for Autumn Term 2024

Mrs G. Morganti

We are looking forward to welcoming you to the Parent Teacher meetings on **Wednesday 23rd and Thursday 24th October**. The evenings will begin at 3.45pm with the last appointment at 6.45pm.

A reminder:

The meetings will be in the children's classrooms for children in Years EYFS to Year 3. Years 4 to 6, the teachers will hold the meetings in the school hall. For all meetings, please enter via the school office.

Please be mindful that there will not be staff available to supervise your children whilst parents attend the meeting and we remind you that children should not bring mobile phones or devices with internet connection into school.

[Back to top](#)

Questions and Queries

Mrs G. Morganti

Members of the school's leadership team (SLT) are outside in the playground at the end of every day and on the Kitchen Gate and Lower School Gate every morning. Please do feel free to pop over and say hello or to ask any questions or share any queries. We are always happy to see you and to help if we can. If we don't know the answer to your query, we will be able to signpost you to another staff member who can.

[Back to top](#)

School Office

Medical

We kindly remind parents that any ad hoc prescribed medicines for administering in the school day must be handed in to the Office with a completed Pupil Medication Request Form. This form is available to download on our website under [Useful Forms](#). May we also remind you that members of staff can administer only medication prescribed by the child's medical practitioner and the prescription label must be attached to the medication container.

The only exception to this is junior paracetamol (e.g. Calpol) which must be provided in an unopened bottle or in sachets or 'fastmelts'. All medication must be brought in to the school office by a responsible adult, not sent to school with your child.

Please do not send your child with creams or lip salves in their bags or pockets.

Thank you.

School lunches – Cost for Autumn Term 2



A reminder please that payment for school lunches should be made in advance in the first week of each half term. The cost of lunches for this half term is £95.20. Payment can be made either via Scopay (preferred option), by cheque made payable to Surrey County Council (with the child's name and class on the reverse of the cheque) or by cash (handed directly to the school office not via a child please). Payments should be in a sealed envelope with the child's name and class clearly marked on the front. Thank you for your assistance.

May we remind parents that one week's written notice this can be through email to office@stdunstans.surrey.sch.uk, is required to change from hot to cold lunches (and vice versa). This is to ensure that the school caterer has the advance information needed to order weekly food supplies.

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

[Back to top](#)

Sport & PE

Sporting update – Mr A. Coyle: PE Leader and Assistant Headteacher

Competition Update

Year 5 football at Cranmore



On Friday 13th September, twenty of our year five footballers played in the school's first fixture this year, as we travelled to Cranmore School for a football tournament. In the school's beautiful grounds, with the late summer sun shining on us, we played against unknown opposition. Playing as two teams, in separate groups, each team played four matches. Both teams had a mix of results, winning, drawing and losing games. There was an abundance of quality on display and the boys played really well as teams. Although, we did not win overall, the boys won the team of the tournament award. This was awarded for the

respect the children showed to the referees, the manner in which they played and the values shown whether winning or losing. It is amazing to see that the values we hold so dear as a school community were clearly evident outside of school. Well done to all the boys who played.

Dodgeball festival

Some of our Year 6 children took part in a dodgeball festival, at Woking leisure centre on Friday 20th September. Playing in a round robin tournament, each team took on every other team before the results were announced. Our two teams finished third and fourth overall, which were fantastic results. More importantly, it was lovely to see the energy, togetherness and respect the teams showed towards each other and their opposition. A fantastic afternoon, well done all.



[Back to top](#)

Uniform- Mrs G Morganti

Winter Uniform

For reference, the school uniform list can be found on the [school website](#).

Hats/Gloves

Please help us in school by reiterating to your children that they should put their hat and gloves in their coat pockets when they come in to the school cloakroom in the morning or from playtime. This is the best way not to lose the gloves or hat! **Ear muffs may not be worn.**

Socks – winter uniform

A reminder please that for winter uniform, school socks/tights should be mid grey - apart from year 6 who may wear black.

Hair and hair cuts

Children are expected to come to school looking clean and smart each day. Fashion-wear and styles are not part of our school uniform or ethos. Hair should not be cut any shorter than Grade 2. Shaven hair, hair dye and colour in hair are not permitted. Hairstyles, which are extreme, which includes hairstyles where the sides are much shorter than the top / back, where lines / patterns are shaved into the hair, are not permitted.

Any hair, which is shoulder length or longer must be tied back at all times. Any hair accessories must be burgundy, blue or black and flat to the head

For clarity, examples of the boys' hairstyles which **are not** permitted are below.



[Back to top](#)

Staffing Updates

Mrs G. Morganti



I know many of you are aware that Miss Paling is expecting her first baby later this month, of course we will share the exciting news with you, as soon as we hear! We are delighted to welcome to the school family, Mrs Cosnett who will be covering the maternity this year.

Dates for your Diary



For your information - a reminder that the term dates for 2024-2025 are available to view on the [school website](#).

PLEASE NOTE: [School term dates for 2025-2026](#) are now available to view on the [school website](#)

INSET DAY – Monday 4th November – school closed for pupils.

[Back to top](#)

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



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

We hope everyone has settled into the term, the FOSD committee has exciting news to share.

Firstly, we would like to share a reminder of the events we have planned for you in the coming months:

- Saturday 12th of October: **FOSD Fireworks** - Tickets can be found [here](#).
- Friday 18th of October: **Our first cake sale**, led by Year 6. Also pre loved uniform sale.
- Friday 8th of November: **School Disco**. See recent comms for details to book tickets.
- Friday 8th November: [Happy School Bag Day](#)

This is your chance to donate reusable clothing, which helps FOSD raise funds! It is simple. So, when you sort through your summer wardrobe, please save the items until the 9th of November.

- Saturday 16th of November: **The Night at the Oscars Themed Winter Ball** at Pyrford Lakes. We are offering an exceptional night-out experience with tables of 10, allowing you to start organising your group now!
- Saturday 7th of December: **St Dunstan's Christmas Market** from 11am until 6pm.

Secondly, as you know FOSD is run by a small committee of people. We have said farewell to our previous chair Dr. Parry and thank him for his contribution to the committee. This new year we are welcoming new members to the group:

- New Secretaries and Chair support: Mrs. Perez & Mrs. Gaeta

Also, we would like to remind you of your other FOSD Committee members:

- Treasurer: Mr. Tristan Lee
- Event Coordinators: Mrs. Sarah Genco & Mrs Sharon Saliba

- Trustee: Mrs Carmen Hughes

Finally, don't forget to sign up for the FOSD Jackpot! It is an easy fundraiser with a monthly or annual payment contributing to the FOSD. For just £1/month, you get a unique number in the monthly draw (£12/year). You can buy multiple tickets for £1 each to increase your chances. Each month, one winner gets £50. Here is how to join:

- a. Arrange a monthly recurring payment with your bank (minimum £1) to St Dunstan's School Jackpot, Account Number 00379100, Sort Code 30-99-80. Subsequently, email stdunstansschooljackpot@gmail.com with your name, email address, and your child's name and class. Please specify the start date of your direct debit and the date it will be deducted each month.
- b. Alternatively, make a one-time BACS payment to the account details above and email stdunstansschooljackpot@gmail.com with your name, contact info, child's name, class, and preferred monthly split.

For any questions, contact stdunstansschooljackpot@gmail.com

We are looking forward to serving our community and raising funds that support the children in our wonderful school, we all remain at your service for any ideas and comments you may have. #

With our best wishes,

The FOSD Committee.

[Back to top](#)