

# St. Dunstan's Catholic Primary School

# Newsletter



Headteacher: Mrs G. Morganti [head@stdunstans.surrey.sch.uk](mailto:head@stdunstans.surrey.sch.uk)

December 2024

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Dear Parents,

In school, we are all very busy with rehearsals for our nativities - the corridors are filled with the sound of beautiful singing! This really is a very special time in school, the children are full of excitement and joy and they remind us each day of how special this time of year is for us all.

We are very much looking forward to welcoming you into school, or at the Church, to share in the celebration of the nativity. Our

wish is that you leave the performances filled with the gifts of joy, peace, hope and love to help you in your journey through Advent this year. As Father Rob reminded us at a nativity last week, try not to become caught up in the busyness of Christmas and try to pause and remember Jesus.

The children are so looking forward to the Christmas lunch and jumper day on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December. We have over 570 children sitting down to a delicious Christmas lunch. With this number of children having a Christmas lunch, our teachers will be on hand; ready to serve the roast potatoes and brussel sprouts - something the children love each year! We are looking forward to welcoming Fr Rob to join us for lunch too.

As we near the end of term, I wanted to recognise the FoSD committee for their tireless work to organise such wonderful events for children and families, and to thank you for your support at these events.

Following my recent letter regarding the safety of our children at drop off and pick up, I have received many words of support and encouragement. Many parents tell me that parking at the Lion Retail Park is so much easier, it only takes 10 minutes to walk and it has reduced a great deal of tension in the morning! **Please let's work together** to park considerately and keep up the endeavours to make the arrival and departure of our children as safe as possible.

With best wishes,

*Georgina Morganti*

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# Activities and Learning across the School

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



As the leaves began to change colour and fall from the trees, the children in Reception became very curious about why this happened. We went on a special autumn walk around our school grounds to look for other signs of autumn, including horse chestnuts, acorns, and conkers. "The leaves change because they need sunlight, and it's not very sunny in autumn time". Thank you to everyone who has uploaded photographs to Google Classroom or brought in items for our "autumn tables". These have helped bring the children's learning to life

and sparked their curiosity about seasonal change. We will continue to learn about the seasons throughout the year and have all dedicated a special space in our classroom that will grow and develop as each season changes. "My favourite season is autumn because the leaves look the prettiest and it's my birthday in autumn too!"



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

Year 1 has had a wonderful time discovering the story Grandad's Secret Giant by David Litchfield. In English, they've been exploring descriptive adjectives to bring the giant to life and learning to use 'and' to make their sentences longer. Their fantastic ideas include: "The giant is kind and he has a colourful, patchy apron" and "The giant has red, rosy cheeks and he is helpful."

The children thoroughly enjoyed experiencing the Nativity story during our visit from Wintershall. They had the chance to meet a shepherd and her sheep, follow the bright star alongside one of the wise men, meet Sam, the donkey, ask Elizabeth questions, and share a special moment with Mary. Seeing the key moments of the Nativity come to life was truly magical and created memories that we hope the children will cherish.

This month, our focus has also been on preparing for the Nativity. The children have put so much effort into memorising their lines, perfecting their movements, and speaking clearly. We cannot wait to present the performance to you this week, and we hope you enjoy the show!



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

What an exciting start to this half-term we have had! Beginning our new history topic, 'Footprints from the Past,' we learned about the word 'excavate' and even got to excavate a rock ourselves. We were thrilled to discover different dinosaur fossils inside! We are enjoying learning about Mary Anning and her amazing discoveries.

In English, we have been busy writing a character description of Mr Twit using fantastic adjectives. In maths, we have been adding, subtracting, and getting confident using dienes to help us.



We had a wonderful time when Wintershall came to visit our school. We heard a magical story and enjoyed meeting Sam the donkey and the sheep. It has got us very ready for the start of Advent.



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### Year 3- Mrs C. Barrett: Head of Year



November has been a very busy month for Year 3. Most of the year group have completed their 'Feet First' training, which is incredibly important as the nights draw in and the busy roads become even more hazardous. They have learnt skills to keep themselves safe as pedestrians and proudly wear their reflective zippers!

We have learned about ancient civilisations such as the Ancient Sumer and the Shang Dynasty in history. The children have discovered why these ancient civilisations were situated where they were (rivers and climate!) and their chronology. We will move on to study Ancient Egypt in more depth next term.

In science, we learn about our bodies, including our skeleton and muscles. We have learned the importance of keeping our muscles moving and the link to our health and well-being (the pictures show children stretching different muscles in the classroom). Before the end of term, the children will learn how to create a healthy lunch box, so a New Year's resolution could be to leave that job to them!

Wishing you a Blessed and Holy Christmas from the Year 3 Team.

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

In Year 4, the children have enjoyed our RE topic. Highlights were interviewing David to find out how he felt when God called him and creating prayer cards for confirmation candidates. Our music lessons are eagerly awaited every week, and the children have made good progress in reading music and playing the toot.



Our recent unit of work in English culminated in the children performing The Owl and the Pussy Cat. Watching the children use all the techniques they had learnt and perform confidently was a joy. Do ask them to perform their part for you at home.



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

There was great excitement as the term began when Year 5 visited Hampton Court Palace. They enjoyed investigating a variety of historical sources to discover more about Henry VIII and his reign.

From delving into the Old Testament, the book of Samuel, we have been learning about how to be an inspirational leader like King David and how he never lost faith.



Year 5 have enjoyed being pop artists like Julian Opie, creating their own self-portrait using his style.

This month we are working hard on our preparations for Advent and we are looking forward sharing this with you at the end of term.

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## Year 6 – Miss N Johnson: Head of Year

November has been filled with exciting learning opportunities centred around our overarching theme of "The Extraordinary World." Year 6 has explored a range of topics, from developing their scientific understanding of how animals adapt to their environment over time to studying mountains, volcanoes, and earthquakes in geography. In art, they have brought mountain landscapes to life using watercolours. True survival stories have enriched English lessons, sparking the creation of our own dramatic narratives.



As we turn our attention to the Advent Service, please keep an eye out for costume instructions, scripts, and song lyrics to rehearse with. We look forward to welcoming you to this year's Advent Service!

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## Inclusion and Welfare

**Mrs H. Robbins**

### **Surrey Family Information Service**

Surrey offers many free resources to families. Please look at their website for valuable articles and free courses (via Zoom) for parents. You can also search for family activities, holiday clubs, and other support groups.

This is [the link](#) to upcoming courses on supporting children's resilience and improving children's self-esteem.

### **Injuries, fractures and breaks**

If your child has an injury outside of school that will affect their activities within school, such as breaking an arm or leg, you should contact the school office to speak to a member of the Senior Staff before bringing your child to school.



This is to ensure that we are aware of the extent of the injury and anything we may need to put in place to support your child and keep everyone safe in school. It also enables us to inform relevant staff of the injury and the care plan so that everyone knows what needs to be in place to support your child, especially in an emergency.

Aids such as crutches and walking frames can only be used within the school when a medical professional has advised and authorised them. We also need to be aware of this before your child comes to school so that a care plan and risk assessment can take place. We can only allow children to use equipment such as crutches or support bandages if given to them by a medical professional.

### **Winter Coats**

Thank you for ensuring that your child has a named coat in school every day now that the weather is colder. We do keep a small amount of spare coats in school for the odd occasion whereby someone may have forgotten their coat. We have plenty of spare coats aged 4-8 but would love to add some coats to our collection in larger sizes. The school office would be grateful of any donations of coats aged 9-10, 10-11, 11-12 or 12-13. Coats should be in good condition and school colours in line with the uniform policy but do not need to be brand new. Thank you.

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## Advent Preparations

**Christmas Post – Mrs K. Willmott - Prayer and Liturgy Coordinator**

As part of our preparation for Christmas, the children within the same class or year group will have an opportunity to exchange Christmas cards. The children will take their cards to their classroom, where they will be sorted and handed out at the end of the day. This is a lovely opportunity for children to create their own cards to share. To ensure the Christmas cards reach the right child, please ensure the child's full name and class name are on the front of the envelope: e.g. John Smith, Year 5 St. Paul.



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## Christmas Jumper Day and Christmas Lunch: Wednesday 18th December



On Wednesday, 18<sup>th</sup> December, we will have our Christmas lunch in the hall. It would be lovely if all the children could wear a Christmas jumper/'Christmassy' coloured jumper/winter jumper over their uniform as part of our celebrations for this.

If you have any Christmas jumpers that your child has grown out of, we would gratefully receive any donations to ensure everyone who wants to has the chance to join in the fun! Could these please be left at the office for Mrs Robbin's attention.

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## Advent Service Retiring Collection

This Christmas, during the Year 4, 5 and 6 Advent Services, we will be collecting money for the Diocesan Lourdes Pilgrimage.



Bishop Richard has asked all schools across the Diocese to support fundraising for the pilgrimage to support those who would not be able to without financial support. In his words, "Lourdes holds a special affection in the hearts of many across the Diocese. The annual Diocesan pilgrimage to Lourdes is one of the most significant pastoral events in the calendar each year and can be a great blessing for those able to travel." Thank you in advance for your generosity.



As in previous years, the retiring collection from the Reception—Year 3 Services will be for the Cardinal Hume Centre. The Cardinal Hume Centre is a non-profit organisation based in Westminster, London that helps families, children, and young people overcome poverty and avoid homelessness. Its main aim is to welcome everyone who comes to the centre and provide them with hospitality and sanctuary.

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## Dunstan Bear

**Mrs J. Waltham**

Our lovely school mascot, Dunstan Bear, spent the October half-term with one of our Reception and Year 3 families. He had a wonderful time with them! His favourite part of the holiday was feeding reindeer! He also got to see killer whales and the amazing Northern Lights. He missed everyone at school and is now resting before he heads off to South Africa with one of our Year 4 families for Christmas. It is a hard life being Dunstan Bear!



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## Catholic Life and Mission

**Mrs K. Willmott - Prayer and Liturgy Coordinator**

**Woking Lions Appeal**



To prepare for Advent and to see Advent as a time of giving, our Faith Ambassadors handed over our collections to Woking Lions on behalf of the school. We would really like to thank all the children and the parents for your kind generosity. The two lovely members who came to collect the goodies were overwhelmed to receive such lovely things. They were grateful and commented that the donations are very helpful to them at this time of the year.

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# Children's Learning

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

## Children's Learning:

For your information, all details of your child's learning is available on the school website. Please click [here](#) for the Year Group Learning Information page where you will find the Year Group Overview, the Rationale for the term and further guidance to the Maths and English expectations for the year group.

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## Geography- Messy Maps

Messy maps are an effective way of bringing abstract geographical concepts, such as spatial awareness and sense of place, to life. In Year 1, the children have been learning about our local area and have used satellite photos to create messy maps of Onslow Crescent and our school grounds. You could try this activity at home using Lego or blocks to create a visual representation of your local neighbourhood.



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## **i** For your information Parent Talks:

Thank you to the parents who attended our talks in the autumn term. Parental feedback shows how much you value these talks to know how best to support your child at home. If you have been unable to attend any of the talks, you will find the slides on our [school website](#).

We look forward to welcoming you for more talks in the spring term:

### **Friday 10<sup>th</sup> January**

#### **SEND Talk – Supporting your child at home**

Led by Miss Hughes and Mrs Robbins from 2.30-3.00pm.

### **Friday 24<sup>th</sup> January**

#### **Supporting struggling readers at home**

Led by Miss Fail from 2.30-3.00pm.

### **Friday 31<sup>st</sup> January**

#### **Sayers Croft briefing for Year 4 parents**

Led by Miss Fail from 2.30-3.00pm.

### **Friday 7<sup>th</sup> March**

#### **Sayers Croft briefing for Year 3 parents**

Led by Miss Fail from 2.30-3.00pm.

### **Friday 14<sup>th</sup> March**

#### **SATS talk for Year 6 parents**

Led by Miss Johnson and Miss Roe from 2.30-3.00pm.

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# Clubs

**Mr A. Coyle – Assistant Headteacher**

Further to our recent Schoolcomms message, you will know that the Spring Clubs timetable is available for parents to view on the school website. Please note below a change in how to book a club

## Important Information regarding booking:

**We will have two different booking windows, one for External Led Clubs and one for Teacher Led Clubs.**

### **External Led Clubs will go live on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> December at 6.00pm**

To book Chess Club please follow the instruction on the booking letter, which is found on the school website.

To book all other external clubs, please go to <https://stdunstan.schoolcloud.co.uk/>

### **Teacher led Clubs will go live on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> December at 6.00pm**

Bookings for Teacher Led Clubs remain the same; you can book via SchoolCloud from 6pm on Wednesday 11th of December, until 6pm on Sunday 14th of December 2024. At this point, we will review bookings of Teacher Led Clubs and if there are further spaces available, we will let parents know.



#### **Important dates:**

#### **CLUBS TIMETABLE – Spring 2025**

##### **\* INSET DAY MONDAY 6TH JAN**

Wk 1:	07/01/2025 – 10/01/2025	
Wk 2:	13/01/2025 – 17/01/2025	
Wk 3:	20/01/2025 – 24/01/2025	
Wk 4:	27/01/2025 – 31/01/2025	Last week of teacher led clubs
Wk 5:	03/02/2025 – 07/02/2025	
Wk 6:	10/02/2025 – 14/02/2025	Last week of external led clubs

##### **Half Term (17th February to 21st February 2025)**

Wk 7:	03/03/2025 - 07/03/2025 - All Clubs start
Wk 8:	10/03/2025 - 14/03/2025
Wk 9:	17/03/2025 – 21/03/2025
Wk 10:	24/03/2025 - 28/03/2025 – Teacher & External Led clubs finish

**\*INSET DAY 06TH JANUARY 2025 - make up session on 31/03/2025\***

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## **Healthy packed lunches:**

### **Mr A. Coyle – Assistant Headteacher**

We have children in school with allergies so as a reminder please, all packed lunches **must** be nut free, this includes spreads that may contain nuts.

School lunches are healthy and nutritious so we ask that all packed lunches are healthy and nutritious too. If you would like some ideas to help you with new recipes please see the [NHS website](#). The NHS guidance is that a healthy school lunch should contain:



- a starchy food like bread, rice, potatoes or pasta
- a protein food like meat, fish, eggs or beans
- a dairy item like cheese or yoghurt
- vegetables or salad and a portion of fruit

Children must not bring in chocolates or sweets, though an occasional biscuit is appropriate as the children may have a healthy biscuit, muffin or piece of cake for their pudding.

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## **Governors – Update from the Chair of Governors**

### **Mr Brian McKendry**

Christmas is always a major highlight of the school year - certainly from the perspective of our children. We would be hard put to think of an occasion, which is so eagerly anticipated. It is an important time from so many angles. St Dunstan's role is multi-faceted, joining in with the general air of celebration but ensuring that the central theme of the Christ Child and all that this means is front and centre. The most obvious example of this is the traditional Nativity Play. This year I was lucky enough to be invited to one of the rehearsals and saw some of the work that goes into the production before the final performance. Our thanks are due to the staff who put in a huge amount of effort to arrive at a finished product of which everyone is always very proud, even allowing for a little bias on all sides. This stage activity plus the effort on the musical front, the Advent Performances and everything else in the run up to Christmas means that the staff have truly earned their Christmas Holiday.

The Governors would like to thank everybody at the school for all their work over this Christmas period and wish everyone a Happy and Holy Christmas.

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## Admissions - Reception Classes in September 2025

### Mrs E. Chamberlain – School Admissions Manager

For children born between 1<sup>st</sup> September 2020 and 31<sup>st</sup> August 2021, parents will need to apply for a school place between **1st November 2024** and **15<sup>th</sup> January 2025** (the final closing date for all applications to be received in 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. A document with proof of your child's current place of residence (e.g. council tax statement for the current year or Tenancy agreement in the name of the parent/carer who signed the Supplementary Form), proof of your child's date of birth and if appropriate, evidence 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. This can be done [online](#).

For any queries, please get in touch with our Admissions Manager, Mrs E Chamberlain, either via the school office or at [echamberlain@stdunstans.surrey.sch.uk](mailto:echamberlain@stdunstans.surrey.sch.uk)

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## Information from Subject Leaders

### Anti-Bullying Education – Mrs C. Banfield: RHE Lead



We have been exploring the topic of bullying, focusing on how we can support both others and ourselves. Often, we might witness bullying and stay silent, but by understanding the harm it causes and recognising that bullying is sometimes mistaken for "just banter," we can take action to help those around us. Our lessons across the school have highlighted the importance of treating everyone with respect.

Recently, we celebrated Odd Socks Day to highlight our uniqueness and, as always, linked it to the different ways we access our learning. It was wonderful to see just how many children and teachers chose to wear odd socks!

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### Creative Arts Week – Mrs M. Weedon and Mrs K. Richmond

We look forward to Creative Arts Week, from January 27<sup>th</sup> - Friday 31<sup>st</sup> January 2025, and our Creative Arts Week Exhibition on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> February.

We are excited to share that this year's theme is Community, where we will use our art to further build relationships with our local community.



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### Eco committee – Mrs J. Knowles and Mrs C. Allen



We hope that many of you have been trying hard to 'Cut your Carbon' during November. At the beginning of December, the Eco committee will add the number of children who delivered each of the 6 Cut Your Carbon actions. Once we have the results, we will share how well we did with you.

Look out for our next challenge—The Big Bird Watch and an upcycling competition to design your own bird feeder.



## Liturgical Choir – Mrs C. Barrett and Mrs M. Lee

On Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> December, our Liturgical Choir took part in a charity event organised by Seymours estate agents in aid of Woking and Sam Beare Hospices. In this time of giving, it was wonderful to see the choir give up their Saturday morning for the benefit of others. The girls sang beautifully and we were so proud of how they performed. After watching 5 other schools and hearing some moving testimony from users of the hospice, we were treated to a performance from starts of the West End show, Mamma Mia. What an uplifting way to spend time during Advent.



## Online Safety – Mr A Coyle, Assistant Headteacher

Knowing how to manage additional settings or security on your apps and devices can be tricky. The South West Grid for Learning creates this [handy guide](#) for parents to show you how to ensure that any apps you use are secure. It also contains some basic information about how the apps work.

ROBLOX



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## Road Safety Awareness – Mrs C. Banfield- RHE Lead

At St. Dunstan's, we believe teaching children how to stay safe while walking, cycling, or as passengers is crucial. This important lesson is reinforced throughout the year in every class. Ensuring safety is a shared responsibility between parents, children, and the school community.



Road safety learning is a valuable opportunity for our children to express their understanding of road safety and their need to stay safe while being with their peers. During this term, several year groups have demonstrated excellent road safety skills on their recent school trips within the local community or travelling further involving crossing roads.

We remind you that when crossing Pembroke Road, the dropped section of the pavement is the safest crossing point.

## RE: 'Come and See' topics – Mrs R. O'Neill and Mrs. K Willmott - R.E. Team

During Advent, we will all be preparing for the birth of Jesus with great care and excitement, which is reflected in our varied topic titles. This month, Year groups 3 and 4 will study the themes of Advent and Christmas.

### ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS – LOVING

Year 3 VISITORS - waiting for the coming of Jesus

Year 4 GIFT - God's gift of love and friendship in Jesus

#### SUGGESTIONS FOR HOME ACTIVITIES

Discuss with the children how your family welcomes visitors to your home.

Find out about some Christian symbols for Advent e.g. Advent wreath, calendar, Jesse tree.

Use the CAFOD or Missio websites to get a religious Advent calendar.



This half-term EYFS and Years 1, 2, 5 and 6's learning unit is Prophecy and Promise. In this unit, the children will begin to understand the role of the Blessed Virgin Mary and its importance to Christians. An overview of this topic was shared in last month's newsletter.

Look at ways to explore this learning with your child at home and in your community, especially during Advent. You might also like to talk about the traditions you carry out as a family to prepare for the Birth of Jesus Christ, our Saviour.

## Safeguarding – Mrs G. Morganti

### Our safeguarding team:

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

If you have a concern about a child's welfare, please record your concern, and any observations or conversation heard, and report to one of the DSLs as soon as possible the same day via the school office or using the link: <https://forms.office.com/e/ZVuuKpJdxJ>

For any concerns about a child in school, this must be brought to either the school's attention or the attention of Children's Services. It is highly inappropriate for any parent to make contact with another child or to conduct their own investigation.

You are able to make your own referrals to Children's Services – please click on the link below.

<https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/children/contact-childrens-services>



The Surrey Safeguarding Children's Partnership has a useful page for parents that give information relating to various aspects of safeguarding, including a range of free to access parenting courses. Click [here](#) to find out more.

### SEND: (Special Education Needs and Disabilities) - Miss H. Hughes - SENDCo

Sending love and warm wishes to our whole school family for the Advent and Christmas period.

While the festive period is generally filled with fun, it can become stressful or uncomfortable, particularly for some of our young people with Autism. Freemantles, a school for young people with complex social communication needs, put together some 'Top Tips for Christmas at home' to help them have a successful Christmas. You can view their ideas here: [Freemantles - Top Tips for Christmas](#)



### World Book Day – Thursday 6th March 2025 - Miss L. Turner

We are delighted to announce that our next World Book Day will be a dress-up day for the whole school, and our theme will be 'Classic Children's Literature'.

This year's World Book Day theme celebrates classic children's literature for its rich language, enduring moral insights, and timeless lessons. These treasured stories open gateways to the past while showing the present moment in a new light. If you want to share a beloved classic from your country, we invite children to bring their copy to school to share with their class. This is a perfect opportunity to appreciate the diversity of stories from around the world.

Younger children may like to choose well-known characters from classic children's stories such as *The Tiger Who Came to Tea*, *The Tale of Peter Rabbit* and *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*. Older children may take inspiration from classic stories, such as *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*, *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* and *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*. As always, you can bring a prop or wear a single item of clothing to represent your chosen character.

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## Liturgy and Worship

Mrs R. O'Neill and Mrs. K Willmott - R.E. Team



### Preparing ourselves during Advent

Advent is a very special time when the children learn that we are all encouraged to think about our spiritual journey with God and the impact that we can have on our local and global community. The whole school is involved in activities that enable each child to appreciate how they can prepare themselves during Advent for the birth of Jesus at Christmas.

At the end of November, we welcomed the Wintershall Travelling Crib to our Advent preparations. We joined the characters and animals of the nativity on their journey to Bethlehem, a wonderful reflection on the true meaning of Christmas.

The Faith Ambassadors have asked each class to complete an Advent Calendar Challenge, which involves thinking about others and their relationship with Jesus.

Mrs B. Preston very kindly worked with children in Early Years and Years 6 to create Advent wreaths for our main foyer and Rosary House. In Whole School Worship, Canon Rob joined us to bless our wreaths and remind us about the meaning of the evergreen.

### Travelling Crib



From last Monday, 2nd December, classes began welcoming the 'Travelling Crib' into their classrooms. The purpose of the travelling crib is to help the children reflect on the special journey Mary and Joseph made to Bethlehem and the coming of the birth of our Saviour, Jesus Christ. The children will have the opportunity to lead their classmates in liturgy and share the nativity story.

### End of term Mass



Key Stage 2 will celebrate an End of Autumn term Mass with the Parish at 10am on Thursday 19th December. Children from across the Key Stage will be helping to lead the Mass.

Parents are very welcome to join us in this celebration.

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## Parish Links – Notices from St. Dunstan's Church

### Alpha – Explore Life, Faith, Meaning

The Alpha Course will start in the New Year. We invite you to try Alpha, where you can connect with others and build friendships as you explore questions about life, faith, and God.

Each Alpha session starts with a light meal, a film and an informal discussion in small groups, where no question about life or God is out of bounds, and there is no pressure to speak or to share.

**Location:** St Dunstan's Church



**Weekly:** Monday 20<sup>th</sup> January to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025  
**Time:** 7:15 to 9:00pm  
**Who:** Parents and all over 18. No matter where you are in your faith journey, whether you are Catholic or not

Click on [this link](#) to view the taster video (2 mins)  
Follow [this link](#) to register for the course

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## School Office

### Christmas Lunch

The date for the Christmas lunch will be **Wednesday 18th December**. If your child is already on hot dinners, they will receive Christmas lunch automatically, and the cost will be included in your lunch balance.

If your child usually has lunches from home, and you have not already informed the school that they would like to have Christmas lunch, please notify the office as soon as possible. The cost is £2.80 (Years 3 – 6).

**Children in Reception – Year 2 - do not need to pay.**



Please note that due to forward purchasing and operational costs incurred for this highly popular school meal, no refunds will be given for a Christmas lunch.

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### Lunch money for Spring Term 2025 – Mrs M. O’Riordan

School dinner costs for the Spring Term are as follows:

First half term £81.20, full term £165.20

Please remember that you must give one week's notice in writing if you wish to change your child's meal choice from hot to cold or vice versa.

We have had several occasions when parents have changed without notifying the school office. Not only does this cause administrative difficulty when numbers do not tally, but it also means that the school is liable for the cost of the food order.

***Therefore, if you change your child from school dinners to packed lunches without notification, you will be liable for outstanding monies due to Surrey County Council. The amount due will be up until the date change comes to the attention of the school office staff in writing.***

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### Medication at school – Mrs C. Hughes

If you wish to collect your child's medication kept in school (in the office and/or the classroom), please do so on the last day of term via the school office. This is particularly important so that parents they can check the expiry date of medication.

**Please ensure all medicines are returned to school on the first day of the new term, Tuesday, 7<sup>th</sup> January 2025.**

We also remind you that staff members can administer only medication a medical practitioner prescribes. The only exception is junior paracetamol (e.g. Calpol), which must be provided in an unopened bottle, in sachets or 'fast melts'. All medication must be brought to the school office by a responsible adult, not sent to school with your child, and a Pupil Medication Request form must be completed and accepted by the school office. Thank you.

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### Super Six chess tournament



On Friday, 22<sup>nd</sup> November, children from our school participated in Paul Welling's Super Six Chess Tournament, where eight schools competed for the trophy.

The tournament was held here at St Dunstan's Primary School and all 48 children who played represented their schools admirably. They played in a friendly, though competitive environment.

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## Sport & PE

### Sporting update – Mr A. Coyle

Now that the winter weather has arrived, can we please send a reminder that we still participate in PE outdoors. We are finding that some children do not have tracksuits in school and KS2 burgundy socks. Burgundy socks are for years 3 and upwards. These items are part of our school uniform and keep the children warm and dry. Please ensure your children have their full PE in school on their PE day. Many thanks

Mr Coyle and the PE team

### Competition Update

#### Year 5 County Cup



On Friday, 8th November, our Year 5 boys began their county cup campaign with a fine 8 – 0 victory vs. Manor Park School. From the first whistle, the boys pressed the opposition and forced mistakes. Their early pressure on the ball paid off with a quick goal. This settled the boys, and as they continued to press the ball, they were rewarded with more goals. The final score was a testament to the boys' determination, motivation and teamwork, and we now look forward to the next round.

#### Greenfield Football Tournament

Our Year 6 footballers travelled the short distance to represent the school at the Greenfield 7, a side competition, on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> November. Much exciting action was happening with the two teams playing in different groups. Every single boy played to their heart's content and should be proud of their efforts. Although the Burgundy team were unfortunate not to qualify from their group, our Gold team won their group and progressed to the semi-final.



After a nail-biting encounter with Pyrford, the game would be settled on penalties. To our delight, Liam saved the third penalty to send us through to the final against Goldsworth.

Trailing in the final with only a matter of seconds remaining, we grabbed a deserved equaliser to send the game to penalties once again. With both teams missing one penalty apiece, Liam saved again to send the boys into raptures. All had a great afternoon of football and it was a joy to see the boys receive their winner's medals.



#### Tennis festival

Some of our Year 4 children competed in a tennis festival at Woking Leisure Centre on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> November. The Woking Park Tennis Club led the festival, and the children were treated to expert coaching. The children had a fantastic afternoon focusing on learning new skills, such as forehands, backhands, and rallying.



Our thanks to the leisure centre and the coaches from the tennis club for giving us the opportunity to come and learn new skills.

If anyone would like their children to try tennis at [Woking Park Tennis](#), please visit their website and please use the code schools20 to receive 20% off sessions

Well done to the boys and girls who came to the festival and were superb ambassadors for our school.

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# Staffing News

**Mrs G. Morganti**

We warmly welcome Mrs Price who will be joining the Teaching Assistant Team in the New Year.

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# Dates for your Diary



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

**Dates to bring to your attention, please:**

**LAST DAY OF TERM – Thursday 19th December 2024**

Reception collection time – 13.30

Year 1 & 2 collection time – 13.35

Years 3 & 4 collection time – 13.40

Years 5 & 6 collection time – 13.45

**School re-opens for pupils: Spring Term 2024 – Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2025 (normal school times)**

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## Friends of St. Dunstan's (FoSD)

Dear Parents,

November has been a busy week for FoSD. The month started with our Autumn School disco. It was a buzzing night, with children dancing and having a great time with their friends. A massive thank you to Mrs Rawson, who has taken the responsibility of organising the discos and has done a fantastic job!! We are also very grateful to all the parents who joined and volunteered for the event.



That same morning, FoSD made £460 with the Happy Bag collection; thank you to all parents who contributed with donations.

Mid-November, we had our Night at the Oscars Winter Ball at Pyrford Lakes, where we had a great time whilst contributing to school funds! Massive thanks to Sarah Genco, Sharon Saliba and their team for organising the event.



December will start with our Winter Wonderland event! Thank you to all who volunteered on the day and helped to wrap the presents for the Santa Grotto. It was a very successful day and we were very grateful to you all for making it out in the bad weather.



The next Cake Sale is organised by Year 5 parents and will take place on Friday, 13th December. We will also include a preloved uniform sale.

Congratulations to our November FoSD School Jackpot winner, C. Dawson. Please let us know if you would like to sign up for the monthly Jackpot at [stdunstansschooljackpot@gmail.com](mailto:stdunstansschooljackpot@gmail.com). It has a minimum £12 annual contribution for the chance to win a monthly prize of £50!



We would like to say a huge thank you to the children for all the beautiful Jolly Jars for the Jolly Jars competition. We had so many wonderful entries and congratulations to our winners!

**Reception - Simi F**  
**Year 1 - Laura L**  
**Year 2 - Seraphina R**  
**Year 3 - Aaron M**  
**Year 4 - Arina P**  
**Year 5 - Marco N**  
**Year 6 - James P**



Finally, we would like to remind you that raffle tickets for our Christmas hampers have been sent out. Each class will make a unique hamper that will be raffled in the draw on Wednesday, 11<sup>th</sup> December, after the Year 2 and 3 Nativity performance. We kindly ask parents to return the cash and completed stubs by Tuesday, 10<sup>th</sup> December. Additional raffle tickets can be purchased on the FoSD website, and if needed, more 'real' tickets can be picked up from the School Office. <https://www.pta-events.co.uk/fosd>.

Thank you for all your time and participation in the FoSD activities and events.

Sincerely,

The FoSD committee

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