

St. Dunstan's Catholic Primary School

Newsletter



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

March 2025

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Dear Parents,

It was lovely to talk to so many parents over the two Parent-Teacher evenings. Thank you for making the time to meet with your child's teacher, to discuss their learning and to look through their books.

Celebrating World Book Day is always a joyous occasion. This year I was so impressed with the creativity of children and their families to create costumes and to select a classic story character. What I enjoyed the most was the children's joy when talking about their character and their favourite books. We had Sherlock Holmes, Macbeth, Ann of Green Gables, Robin Hood, The Stick Man, The Enormous Crocodile and we had many versions of Little Red Riding, Matilda and of course Harry Potter!

Thank you to the Friends of St Dunstan's for organising the World Books Day book sale at the end of the day to help celebrate books and the joy books bring to all of our lives!

During the season of Lent, we will be talking to the children about how they can journey with Jesus through prayer, fasting and almsgiving. Our key message to the children about charity is that whatever they give, no matter how small, as long as they give generously from their heart, they are showing Jesus' love.

I know that the next few weeks of the term will go by very quickly; there is a great deal of learning, trips, visitors and events happening in school. This provides our children with broad and memorable learning experiences and allows them to learn in a different way or to learn something that expands their understanding of themselves as learners.

I very much hope that I will see as many of you as possible before the end of term and that you are able to join us for our end of term Mass on Friday 4th April at 10.00am.

With my very best wishes,

Georgina Morganti

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Activities and Events

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

Learning takes place outside too! In our Reception classrooms, children access our outdoor environment every day. We believe there is no such thing as “bad weather”, and with the right clothing and equipment, we can learn in rain or sunshine. Being outside helps children to develop confidence, resilience and a connection with nature. Our outdoor environment is planned so that the children can practise and apply what they have learnt in the classroom, for example, exploring the concept of capacity using concrete materials in the sandpit, or measuring with sticks in the woodland to compare length. The children absolutely love learning outdoors, and we know that you will agree how much they benefit from outdoor learning, too!



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



This half term, the Year 1 children received a very special letter from a little girl named Tessa. She wrote to us about the beauty and wonder of our planet - but also its fragility, as not everyone is looking after it, as they should. Tessa needs our help! Over the next few weeks, we will follow her journey through the story “Dear Earth” by Isabel Otter, as she blows bubbles with whales, soars alongside birds, and joins in the lively rainforest hullabaloo. Tessa wants to share just how extraordinary our planet is, and we cannot wait to

write our own heartfelt letters to Earth, just as she did.

In Geography, the children have been discovering more about the United Kingdom. We found out that the U.K. is made up of four countries - England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland. Using an atlas, we identified the capital cities of each country and carefully placed stickers on our own maps to mark them. We had to focus to make sure our stickers were in just the right spot! We are looking forward to exploring each country in even greater detail soon.



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

We have a very exciting and busy term ahead of us. Through the text ‘The Secret Sky Garden’, the children will think carefully about how we can take care of God’s wonderful world. They will be composing persuasive letters to our Eco Committee highlighting areas in need of improvement. Linking to our geography topic this half term, the children will be undertaking a field trip in the local area. The purpose of the trip is to complete a traffic



survey based on vehicles passing by within a 10-minute period. Once collected, they will carefully analyse their results, considering how the most popular choices of travel affect our local environment and well-being. The children will also use their data to create a pictogram with a key.



Year 3 – Mrs C. Barrett: Head of Year

Year 3 have really enjoyed learning about our history topic on Ancient Egyptians. They used their research skills to find out facts in books and on chrome books, and used this knowledge to write a non-fiction report about the lives of the Ancient Egyptians. How exciting that, over half term, a new

discovery was made of the tomb of an Egyptian pharaoh! So many children were eager to tell us the news and this shows how inspired they have been by this topic. We now move on to the Ancient Greeks and the legacy that they left us.



In RE, we have moved on to study the order of the Mass service, which will support our children, as they get ready for their First Holy Communions later in the year. We are so proud of how well prepared they have been for the Sacrament of Reconciliation and wish them well in the remaining preparations.

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

At the end of last half term, Year 4 embarked on an exciting residential trip to Sayers Croft in the beautiful Surrey countryside. This three-day adventure was filled with outdoor challenges, team-building activities and valuable learning experiences that the children will cherish for years to come.



One of the highlights of the trip was seeing the children support and encourage each other in activities such as the climbing wall and ropes course. This experience fostered strong friendships and allowed children to step out of their comfort zones in a safe and supportive environment.

We would like to thank all of the parents for your support in helping to prepare the children for their first residential visit.



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

Year 5 are embarking on a scientific journey with our new topic: Forces! Through hands-on experiments, demonstrations, and interactive lessons, we aim to deepen our understanding of the physical world around us.



Through our RE topic this half term, Year 5 will engage in thoughtful reflections on the significance of Lent. On March 28th, our school community will come together for a solemn and meaningful event: the Stations of the Cross Liturgy.

Year 6 - Miss N Johnson: Head of Year

The spring term is well underway and there's still plenty ahead, starting with an exciting trip to Henley Fort in Guildford next week. The children will step into the roles of home guards and ARP wardens for the day, followed by a VE Day celebration. To tie in with this, your child will bring home some learning focused on rationing.

Alongside all this fantastic learning, we have been getting ready for the SATs week (May 12th – May 15th). The children have had lots of practice of past papers and revision books have been sent home. We also invite Year 6 parents to attend a SATS information session on Friday 14th March, at 2:30pm in the school hall.



Since we do not always see parents at pick-up time, please feel free to pop in anytime – our doors are always open for a chat!

Inclusion and Welfare

Mrs H. Robbins -being late to school

We have an increasing number of children being late for school. Everyone is late occasionally for an exceptional reason, but to be routinely late is uncomfortable for your child, as they have to come into school via the main office and go into class after everyone else.

Apart from this, being late for school not only disrupts the learning of the other children, but it means that the teacher has to go over the start of the day with your child, taking their time away from the rest of the class. Being late can leave children feeling anxious and affect their self-esteem. Please do

your very best to ensure your child gets to school through the normal gates on time, by 8.55am, and they can walk into class with all the other children. This gives them the very best start to the day.

If you are late getting your child to school, please ensure an adult brings your child to the school office and signs them into school using the electronic Inventory system. **Children must not be dropped off and left to walk in late by themselves.** For safeguarding reasons, an adult must sign them into school to confirm the reason for the lateness.

Thank you for helping us to ensure that every child starts school feeling good about the day ahead and not worried or embarrassed because they know they are late again.

Online Safety: Mrs H Robbins and Mr A Coyle

Thank you to everyone who attended the Online Safety talk before half term. The slides will be available on the school website and we will send a SchoolComms with useful links from the talk. For your children's safety, it is so important that you take the time to keep up to date with online safety and related issues. Current issues we are seeing in school in relation to online safety are:



- The amount of time children are spending on devices – health recommendations are that children should have no more than 2 hours of screen time a day – this includes television.
- The impact of gaming on behaviour e.g. frustration when they lose a game, addictive behaviour.
- Online etiquette – how children talk to one another online via chats within games or using WhatsApp

Snacks

Just a reminder please that snacks brought into school for morning break or an after school club, should be a portion of fruit or a vegetables (fresh or dried).

As part of the Government's "Free Fruit for Schools" scheme, children in the Lower School (Reception to Year 2) are provided with a free piece of fruit or vegetable every day.



Young Carers Action Day

Wednesday 12th March is National Young Carer's Action Day. This annual event is a wonderful opportunity to recognise and celebrate all children you are young carers.

A young carer is anyone under the age of 18 who has a significant caring role for a relative such as a sibling or parent. There are as many as 1 in 5 young carers in the UK.

If you would like to find out more about how you can support children who are young carers, or talking to your child about being a young carer please use the links below.

[Woking Family Centre](#)



[Action for Carers](#)



[Carer's Trust](#)



Attendance

Why is school attendance so important?

Children's attendance in school is paramount for their learning and development. 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!

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 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.

The [Governors' Attendance Policy](#) (available 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.**

Reporting your child's absence:

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 Inclusion 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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Catholic Life and Mission

Mrs K. Willmott - Prayer and Liturgy Coordinator
Lenten Fundraising

On Monday 10th March, we will welcome Mrs Thomas into school for our Celebration of the Word. The children will learn about the charity 'Mission Together - children helping children'. They will reflect on how in the Jubilee year we can bring hope to others throughout the world.

Catholic Social Teaching calls us to show:

Solidarity - God created us as one global family called to support our brothers and sisters throughout the world.

Preferential Option for the Poor - to think first about the needs of those who are the most vulnerable.

The children will be bringing home a Missio red box and prayer. Please use the prayer as a family and encourage your child to think about how they can collect some money for their box. It is not about filling the box, it is about thinking how we can 'give', how we can show our care for our brothers and sisters. Perhaps they could put in some of their pocket money, do a job around the house or bake something to share with friends and family.

Please bring the boxes back to school after the Easter Break, Tuesday 22nd April.

May all the children
In the world
Share love
Share friendship
In the peace of God's love
Now and forever
Amen



Thank you in advance for your support.

CAFOD Fun Run - Mrs G. Corsini



A huge thank you to everyone for your incredible support and enthusiasm for our CAFOD Fun Run back in February—it was a fantastic success! It was truly inspiring to see children, from our youngest in Reception to our oldest in Year 6, giving their all to raise money for such a worthy cause. Their determination was remarkable, with children running for the full 26.2 minutes!

I am thrilled to announce that together, we raised an amazing £4887.41 for CAFOD! I am overwhelmed by the generosity and kindness of our St. Dunstan's community, and I want to sincerely thank all parents and carers for your incredible donations and support. Your generosity will help transform lives, and I am so proud to be able to pass on your contributions to CAFOD, a charity we work so closely with as a school.

When I take on the London Marathon, I will be thinking of our wonderful children and the determination they showed—especially when the going gets tough!



Thank you all again for making a difference!

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Governors

Message from Mr B. McKendry (Chair of Governors)



Determined Admission Policy for 2026-2027

In accordance with statutory requirements, a copy of the Determined Admission Policy and the Supplementary Information Form for 2026-2027 are available to view on the school's website.

Please click here: <https://www.stdunstans.surrey.sch.uk/>

Should you wish to be provided with a paper copy, please contact the Clerk to Governors via the school office on 01483 715190 or by email: echamberlain@stdunstans.surrey.sch.uk

Governor's Maintenance Fund Contributions 2024-25 – Mr J. Dunne (Chair of Finance & Building committee)

Our annual letter was sent via SchoolComms last month regarding contributions for this academic year.

A reminder that you can make your contribution use our [CAF account](#), which accepts online payments and collects Gift Aid on our behalf.

You will be able to set up regular or one off payments and complete the necessary details for Gift Aid if you are a taxpayer. By completing the Gift Aid details, you will enable CAF to claim an additional 25% from the Government on each contribution. Using the CAF online system to donate will reduce use of paper and admin time in the school office

Those of you who currently have a standing order set up with your bank and are happy to continue with this method of contribution do not need to make any changes.

St Dunstan's Wraparound Care Fee Review

Joe Dunne – Chair of Finance & Buildings Committee

Governors have reviewed the fees at a recent committee meeting and decided that the charges for Early Birds breakfast club and Stay and Play after-school club should be increased.

Therefore, the fees will be increasing to £6.25 per session for Early Birds and £16.00 per session for Stay and Play Club as of 22nd April 2025 (after the Easter Holidays).

Ad hoc session fees will be charged at £6.50 per session for Early Birds and £16.50 per session for Stay and Play Club.

The same billing and payment arrangements will continue as now in place.

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Information from Subject Leaders

Bake Off

The Jubilee Year was the theme for this year's Bake Off. We asked the children to think about God's amazing creation- our natural world. The children created the most amazing bakes, incorporating a special place, plant or animal in nature that they want us to cherish and love. The House Captains found it very challenging to choose the winners, amongst the most outstanding creations. The winning creations included a dig pit full of fossils, a cosy home for worms, a rushing waterfall, a sea turtle and an erupting volcano.



Clubs Summer Term - Mr A. Coyle – Assistant Headteacher

All summer term clubs are now available to view on the website. We do hope your child finds a club they enjoy. Please discuss with your child if they wish to attend any of the clubs on offer prior to making a booking, as there are no refunds given due to cancellation.



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 Wednesday 12th March at 6.00pm

To book **Chess Club** please follow the instructions on the booking letter, which you can find on the [school website](#).

To book all other external clubs, please use [SchoolCloud](#).

Teacher led Clubs will go live on Thursday 13th March at 6.00pm

Bookings for Teacher Led Clubs remain the same; you can book via SchoolCloud from 6pm on Thursday 13th March, until 6pm on Sunday 16th March 2025. At this point, we will review bookings of Teacher Led Clubs and if there are further spaces available, we will let parents know.

Whilst this term we have managed several late bookings, please note that for the summer term, if you miss both booking windows you should contact the school office. Your request will be noted and a communication sent to you thereafter notifying you of a 'one off/final' booking window. We will not be able to continue to accept late bookings throughout the term.



Important dates:

SUMMER TERM CLUBS TIMETABLE - 2025

EASTER MONDAY BANK HOLIDAY – 21ST APRIL

WK 1: 22/04/2025 – 25/04/2025 – ALL CLUBS START

WK 2: 28/04/2025 – 02/05/2025

WK 3: 04/05/2025 – 09/05/2025

WK 4: 12/05/2025 – 16/05/2025 - Teacher Led Clubs finish

WK 5: 19/05/2025 - 22/05/2025 (FRIDAY 23RD MAY 2025 INSET DAY) External Led Clubs finish

HALF TERM BREAK (26th May TO 30th May 2025)

WK 6: 02/06/2025 – 06/06/2025 – ALL CLUBS START

WK 7: 09/06/2025 – 13/06/2025

WK 8: 16/06/2025 – 20/06/2025

WK 9: 23/06/2025 – 27/06/2025 – Teacher Led Clubs finish

WK 10: 30/06/2025 – 04/07/2025 – External Led Clubs end, apart from makeup sessions.

Please note that no clubs will run on the following dates:

- EASTER MONDAY 21ST APRIL (MAKE UP SESSION ON MONDAY 07/07/2025)
- BANK HOLIDAY 05TH MAY (MAKE UP SESSION ON MONDAY 14/07/2025)
- INSET DAY FRIDAY 23RD MAY, (MAKE UP SESSION ON FRIDAY 11/07/2025)

Eco Committee – Mrs J. Knowles and Mrs C. Allen

The Eco Committee have two projects they would like your support with during March.

The first is 'Walk to School Wednesday' on Wednesday 19th March and the second is celebrating Earth Hour, which falls on Saturday 22nd March. We will be taking part in some activities during school to support [Earth Hour](#) and we hope you will support at home too. Please also see [this link](#) for more information.



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



This half term, children in EYFS, Year 1, Year 2, Year 5 and Year 6 will be following Jesus on a journey in their RE learning through a unit called Desert to Garden.

Children will begin to understand the season of Lent and the events of Holy week. They will learn about the Paschal Triduum at the heart of the Catholic Church's Liturgy and life. This includes exploring the significance of Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Sunday.

For children in Year 3, they will be remembering Jesus' total giving. In Year 4, the children will be celebrating growth to new life. To support their learning at home, as a family, you might want to talk about how you are going to practise self-control and self-giving for the season of Lent. You may decide to give up biscuits or cakes and donate the money to a charity.

EYFS	SUGGESTIONS FOR HOME ACTIVITIES
<p>In EYFS, we will understand that this is a time to reflect on the story of Lent and Easter. Lent is a special time when we learn to care for others, just as Jesus did. They discover why Jesus' dying on the cross is sad, but also, how he rose again, making everyone rejoice! It is all about loving God and each other, just like Jesus taught us.</p>	<p>As we prepare for Lent and Holy Week:</p> <p>Visit the CAFOD and Mission Together website for prayers and liturgies, introducing the significance of Lent through prayer, fasting, and charity.</p>
<p>Year 1</p> <p>In Year 1, we explore the significance of Lent as a special time for praying, fasting and helping others, following Jesus' teachings. Children also comprehend the importance of Jesus' death and resurrection. By the end of this branch, they will grasp simple words, actions, and symbols from the Ash Wednesday and Palm Sunday liturgies. They will understand that Lent is a period of preparation for Easter, involving prayer, fasting and charitable acts. Additionally, they will experience music or art reflecting how Christian communities worldwide celebrate Lent and Jesus' final week.</p>	<p>Celebrate Palm Sunday by engaging the children in making palm leaves or displaying real palms, allowing them to experience and reflect on the sensations and sounds of the procession.</p> <p>Share the story of The last supper. The younger children are looking at the Gospel of Luke. Next time you are at church, invite the children to make the link between Jesus' Last Supper and Mass. Are there any words or phrases that they recognise?</p>
<p>Year 2</p> <p>In Year 2, children will revisit Scripture readings of Holy Week from the previous year. They will make links with how Jesus shows forgiveness to others and they will begin to make links with their previous learning on sin and forgiveness. They will explore how Lent and Easter highlight the importance of saying sorry, forgiveness and reconciliation. Children will learn the meaning of the Easter Vigil Mass and the importance of Easter within the Church.</p>	<p>Create hot cross buns with modelling clay or natural materials or perhaps make your own for a Good Friday snack.</p> <p>To help us to remember the Easter story, we can make an Easter Garden in a tray, with symbols in it to help us to remember the story – adding greenery for new life, the three crosses for the crucifixion, a cave for the empty tomb – maybe made with stones or a card tube. You might consider some other Easter symbols – palms, donkeys, eggs, etc. Invite the children to play with the garden and label the different parts themselves.</p>
<p>Year 5</p> <p>In Year 5, children will explore Ash Wednesday and explore the words that are used when receiving ashes – “Turn away from sin and receive the Good News”. They continue to learn about Lent and recognise it as a time to realign their lives to God. They will explore key events in Holy Week and make links with the sorrowful mysteries of the Rosary. Children will end by understanding God’s plan for heaven including thinking about how people get there and the belief that Christ will come again in the future and there will be a final judgement.</p>	<p>You could decorate your own eggs to celebrate Jesus’ new life at Easter. Use empty eggshells to paint or decorate cards or clay eggs. They could have choices of different colours, collages, buttons, paper, etc. to choose from for their designs.</p>
<p>Year 6</p> <p>In Year 6, the children will explore the significant event of the Last Supper. They will discover that at this moment, Jesus exhibited his love by humbly washing the feet of his disciples. Furthermore, they will learn that Jesus's ultimate act of love was sacrificing himself on the cross, taking on the suffering of the entire world to reunite us with God's perfect love. The children will also comprehend that Mary holds the revered position of the mother of all Christians. By the end of this branch, the children will be familiar with the significance of the Mass on Holy Thursday, as it commemorates Jesus' actions at the Last Supper and the devout reflection offered by the Stations of the Cross on Christ's journey to the cross.</p>	<p>Talk about your own traditions that follow during Lent, Holy Week and Easter.</p>

Safeguarding - Mrs G. Morganti

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

Helpful Information for parents



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.

Keeping your children safe

The area outside the Young Explorers is not supervised in the morning. We ask you to not leave your child unattended, as there will not be a member of staff to ensure your child is safe. Staff do not open the gate at until 8.40am.

SEND - Miss H. Hughes

If you are a parent of a child with a SEND need, you are warmly invited to attend a coffee morning on Wednesday 19th March at 9am. It is a chance to meet other parents from across the school and to speak informally with Miss Hughes (our SENDCO) and Mrs Robbins (our Inclusion Leader).

Please can we kindly ask you to complete [this form](#) confirm your attendance. We do hope to see you there!



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Liturgy and Worship

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



As a school and parish community we started our Lenten journey on Ash Wednesday. Key Stage 2 joined the Parish for the Ash Wednesday morning Mass- they were complimented on their exemplary behaviour and beautiful singing. Children in Lower School joined together in a liturgy at school with Father Peter and Mrs Smith, where the Faith Ambassadors helped our school chaplains to administer the ashes.

Lent is a season to live simply and focus on prayer, fasting and almsgiving. In his message for Lent 2025, Pope Francis asks us to journey together in hope which ties into the broader theme of the Jubilee Year - "Pilgrims of Hope." He reminds us of the importance of living one's life as a constant journey of conversion, choosing to walk in peace and hope aside one's fellow humans. Ideas for family prayer and reflection during Lent can be found [here](#)

Pope Francis said, "May the hope that does not disappoint, the central message of the jubilee, be the focus of our Lenten journey toward the victory of Easter."

Stations of the Cross



We are very much looking forward to Year 5 leading the Stations of the Cross for Key Stage 2 and parents at Church on Friday 28th March. This is a beautiful way to journey with Jesus through his path to the Cross.

You are very welcome to join us at the Church on Friday 28th March at 11.15am. This will not be live streamed.

Reconciliation

On Monday 17th March, Fr Rob, Fr Peter and Fr Paul Turner will provide the children in Years 4, 5 and 6 with the opportunity to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation as part of their Lenten journey. We are very grateful to the priests for the time they give to support children in this sacrament.

Our Year 6 children will lead the rest of Key Stage 2 in a Reconciliation Service. Through music and drama, the children will lead us in a time of reflection and prayer to contemplate what it means to forgive and to be forgiven.



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Parish Links

LOURDES – A RETREAT - 22nd-26th SEPTEMBER 2025

SPIRITUAL LEADER – FR PETER ANDREWS

This retreat is an opportunity to spend a few quiet days in Lourdes with time for prayer alone or as a pilgrim group. Those who wish can join the Torchlight and Blessed Sacrament Processions; visit the Grotto and the Baths. However, those who prefer can spend time alone or with others as they feel called to do. There will be the opportunity to join a visit to Bartres where Bernadette lived for a time. If you would like more details about travel, accommodation, cost and the itinerary, then please speak to Mary Smith and ask for a brochure.

DIACONATE INFORMATION EVENING

A reminder of the open evening at St John the Evangelist, Horsham, RH12 2PJ on Friday 14th March 2025, beginning at 7.00pm. If this is something that you may be interested in learning more about, please email tim.murrill@abdiocese.org.uk for more information and to register to attend.

FLAME 15th MARCH 2025

The parish has tickets for the largest Catholic youth event in the UK! The full day event at Wembley Ovo Arena includes world-class speakers, dynamic music and an atmosphere full of energy, prayer, joy and hope. It is suitable for young people aged 14 upwards. If you are interested, contact Teresa: pastoral.woking@abdiocese.org.uk

WALK 200KM IN 40 DAYS TO HELP FIGHT GLOBAL POVERTY

Challenge yourself and take on The Big Lent Walk! Walk when and where you choose over 40 days, alone or with friends. Raise money to help people as they overcome poverty.

<https://walk.cafod.org.uk/> or join our parish group where we can support one another. Please contact Lila Fletcher lila.fletcher@gmail.com or 07950 771534. Alternatively, sign up on the list in the church entrance. A chance to do something for others this Lent.

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School Office

Wraparound Care

Breakfast club and after-school club – Mrs N. Hammond

We have contacted Year 2 parents directly regarding places at breakfast and after-school clubs from September 2025 and have sent out electronic registration forms to those who have registered interest. Please see the [school website](#) for further information.

May we remind you, please, that a half-term notice is required should you wish to cancel a regular booking. If you already know however, that you will definitely not need a space in September 2025, it would be very helpful if you could make us aware as soon as possible to allow us to allocate places to those families on the waiting list. *Thank you.*

Lunch money for remaining spring term 2025 – Mrs M. O’Riordan

The amount for the second half term will be £84.00 covering the period 24th February 2025 – 4th April 2025.

Please make payments online via Scopay or by cash/cheque (payable to Surrey County Council). Please remember to write your child’s name and class on the reverse of any cheques sent into school.



Should you wish to change your child’s meal choice from hot to cold or vice versa, one weeks’ notice (starting on a Monday), is required in writing. Thank you.

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Sporting update

Mr A. Coyle - Competition Update

Netball Festival



Our fabulous sports leaders helped to organise and facilitate a netball festival for seven schools on Friday 31st January. The boys and girls ran activity stations focusing on the key skills of netball. Stations were based on passing, shooting, movement and speed. Our Year 3 children who attended the festival had a fantastic time, learning new skills and developing their teamwork skills.

The afternoon was rounded off with small-sided matches against other schools, so the children could start to experience some competition in a friendlier, fun environment.

All our children conducted themselves impeccably and we are very proud of them.

Orienteering festival

On Wednesday 5th February, our Year 5 children travelled to Hoe Bridge to compete in an orienteering festival.

Before being set off in to the grounds to find the orienteering points, the children were taught how to use the map, the key points on a map and the way they should use the map to find all the points in the most effective manner.

The teams, tasked with finding 18 stamp points on 45 minutes were keen to find as many points as possible. Although there were no winners, it was fantastic to see how well the children worked together and supported their team.



A lovely morning was had by all with a lovely homemade biscuit to finish!

Royal Holloway Festival



The Royal Holloway University ran a community multi-sports day on Thursday 6th February. Our children were treated to a plethora of sporting masterclasses throughout the day, led by the University Varsity teams.

The sports on offer to our children were netball, football, rugby, basketball and dance. The children had a fantastic day in the beautiful University grounds. Thank you to the University for giving the children the opportunity to take part and learn some amazing new skills.

Panathlon Competition

We rounded off a busy sporting week by taking part in a Panathlon competition on Friday 7th February.

Our children rotated around eight stations, with a focus on multi-skills. Testing skill, accuracy, agility, balance and coordination, our boys and girls were scored on each station. The teamwork and camaraderie on show were such a joy to see throughout, with the team captain, Leandro, in particular, making sure everyone was happy and enjoying the experience.



As the results were announced at the end, the children were delighted to learn we had finished as runners-up and were to take silver medals and a trophy back to school. The pride etched on the faces of our team as we went to receive our medals was amazing.

What made the competition even more special were the comments that I received from those leading the festival about the conduct and manners of our team. From the sports leaders of Hoe Valley, right to Lee from Active Surrey every person loved working with our team and felt they were fabulous role models for our school.

Amazing result and even more importantly amazing comments. Well done girls and boys!

Judo festival

Some of our Year 6 boys travelled to The Dojo on Monday 10th February, for an experience day, learning some of the key principles of judo. Led by the expert Dojo coaches and Nekoda Smythe-Davis, commonwealth gold medallist, the boys were tested against others and themselves to think about how they can use judo in everyday life. Thinking about the breathing techniques and overcoming obstacles, the boys had a truly memorable experience and were absolutely buzzing about the day when they returned to school. Thanks to Mrs Zalaf for taking and supporting the boys.



Year 6 six a side festival

On Friday 28th February, we hosted a football festival for the WASPs schools. With 8 teams playing and around 80 boys, it was a busy festival on our school field.

Playing across two pitches the teams, we split in two, with winners and runner-ups coming from each group. We had two teams in the festival, with each team playing on separate pitches.

Our two teams, as well as all the schools played in the correct way, with honesty, togetherness and support for each other. On pitch one, our boys played amazingly well, not losing a game. However, when the results were called out at the end they had narrowly lost the group by courtesy of one goal! A runner up position is an amazing achievement!



On pitch two, our boys again did not lose a game. Unlike the team on pitch one though they had the best record on the pitch and were announced group winners at the end.

A special mention to our three boys who refereed the games for us. Although, they were refereeing the same age group as themselves they were strong, confident and unafraid to make tricky decisions. Well done to all the boys involved in the festival.

Dance Festival

Our final competition of another busy month saw 25 of our girls and boys take part in a dance festival at Greenfield School. Over the past few weeks the children have been busy learning a dance with Mrs King in PE that they took to showcase. Whilst there, Greenfield staff led a dance masterclass where the children all learnt another dance with the other schools and took part in a performance at the end.

A really lovely event to attend. We hope this will be the first of many and that we will see dance and gym become more frequent events again.



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Uniform

Mrs G. Morganti

Summer dresses or reverse collar, fitted, short-sleeved blouses

The summer dresses are cotton, **pink and white** and striped. Over the last year, we have searched for alternative suppliers to provide a more affordable summer dress but we have been unable to find anything suitable. You are able to purchase these dresses from [Valentinos](#) and we will have a small stock for parents in our Pre-Loved Uniform supply.



Please check that the dress you buy is pink and white and that it is striped.



If you are unable to purchase a summer dress, we do have the alternative summer uniform for girls:

A white, cotton, **reverse collared**, fitted, short-sleeved blouse that can be worn with a school skirt and white socks.

There is a range of suppliers where these blouses are available such as M&S, TU, Valentino and Very. The link to the M&S blouses is [here](#).

A photo of the school blouses is shown here and we will have an example in the main reception for any parent who would like to check what they are like.



Thank you for your support to ensure the children always look smart for school.

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Dates for your Diary



All dates can be found on the annual calendar on the [school website](#)

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

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

Thank you to everyone who took the time to complete the FOSD survey. We appreciate all of your kind comments and of course, your constructive feedback.

We scored 4.3 out of 5 on how satisfied parents are with FOSD events. It was positive to hear how much parents enjoy events and how there is a good mix for families and parents only.

It was reassuring to see that many of you are happy with the frequency of our communications and the preference in channels via the school emails and class reps. We will endeavour to continue this going forward.

The survey also helped us to plan for the next school year. During the winter term, the most popular event was the fireworks followed by the school disco and these events are in the calendar for next year.

In terms of what you would like to see more of, we received feedback on events parents would like to return, such as the quiz and camping night. Some of you also shared that you would like to hear more on how the FOSD funds are spent and we are preparing coms shortly for parents to see more details.

Thank you again for all your feedback. If you have any additional thoughts, everyone is welcome to send ideas and comments via email to fosdcommittee@outlook.com.

In the meantime, we hope you are ready for our upcoming events:

9th May: School Disco and happy bags

22nd June: Summer fair, we will be emailing reps on details of the stalls shortly

We will also have cake sales by Y2, Y1 and Reception with preloved uniform sales. Also Congratulations to Michela Noble, our February jackpot winner!

If anyone would like to volunteer, please reach out to any of your committee members or your class reps!

Best regards,
FOSD Committee

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