

St. Dunstan's Catholic Primary School

Newsletter



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

End of Term Summer 2024

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Dear Parents,

This week we celebrated our leaving Year 6 with the Leaver's Assembly- the children's message was 'aspire to be more'. They all showcased their talents throughout their assembly, making us smile, laugh and even shed a tear!

Today we had our Trophy Assembly, where we awarded Leavers' Medals and specific trophies to Year 6. The Key Stage 2 children watched on with awe and afterwards spoke about which award they would like to achieve or which Year 6 role model they were inspired by! At the end of the assembly, all children listened intently as Mr Coyle shared the number of house points collected over the year. He totalled them up, and announced the winning house...St Patrick!

On behalf of the staff, I would like to thank you all for your support and encouragement this year and for the trust you place in us.

We hope that you all have a very peaceful and relaxing summer holiday with your children.

With best wishes,
Georgina Morganti



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Activities and Events

EYFS – Miss K. Bingle: Head of EYFS

We have had a wonderful time this term reading with Year 5. It has been a lovely way to develop positive relationships with other children in school and test our comprehension skills. The Year 5 children chose a story to share with us and planned some discussion questions to help us talk about the story. It was especially exciting when Year 5 invited us to release their butterflies with them. We really enjoyed our visit from Mary Smith who shared with us how she is a friend of Jesus and taught us how to be a friend of Jesus ourselves. The children have all had an incredible first year at school and are excited and ready for the new opportunities in Year 1.



Year 1 – Mrs G. Corsini: Head of Year

As the school year draws to a close, the Year 1 team want to extend their heartfelt gratitude to all the children and parents for their hard work and dedication this year. Your support and enthusiasm have made this year truly special. We wish you all a wonderful, peaceful summer filled with joy and relaxation. Enjoy the break, and we look forward to seeing you refreshed and ready for Year 2 in September!



Year 2 – Miss L. Butler: Head of Year

As we approach the end of another school year, the Year 2 team are feeling so proud of every child! It has been an absolute pleasure to see the children's amazing progress this year. Thank you for all your support with your children's learning and development. Some of our highlights include our trip to Wisley Gardens, our recorder concert, arts week and how much progress we have made in English and maths. We will miss all the children and wish everybody a very happy summer break.



Year 3 – Miss N. Maloney: Head of Year and Assistant Headteacher

We have some budding poets in Year 3. The children looked at 'The Sound Collector' by Roger McGough. They learned about rhyming patterns, syllables and how to perform their poem. It was a delight to see all the learners creating their own lines and tapping out the syllables to fit the pattern.

Making the vegetable kebabs was very successful. The children were very safety conscious, using the correct cutting methods. It gave them a chance to evaluate what they had done and generate ideas for changes next time. A huge thank you goes to all the children in Year 3 for their perseverance and hard work throughout the Year. We hope you have a wonderful summer holiday.

The Year 3 team.

Year 4 – Miss H. Fail: Head of Year

As we approached the end of our science topic about living things, the children had the opportunity to classify a range of flowering and non-flowering plants in St. Francis Woodland. We were impressed by their observational skills and ability to use classification keys. It was a wonderful way to bring together all of our science learning from this term. As well as this, Year 4 have really enjoyed their end of year celebrations including Sports Day, a fun swim session and the move-up morning in Rosary House.



Year 5 – Miss E. Roe: Head of Year



As we draw this school year to a close, we are filled with pride and admiration for the incredible progress Year 5 have made. Their hard work, dedication, and enthusiasm have been truly inspiring.



This half term, Year 5 have excelled in developing their public speaking skills, preparing for more opportunities that will

come in Year 6. They have also enjoyed speaking to the Year 4 children, sharing insights about life in Year 5. As our Year 5's spread their wings and prepare to soar into Year 6, we wish them a restful and joyful summer break.

Year 6 – Mrs S. Turner: Head of Year 6 & Senior Teacher

Dear Year 6, Class of 2024

As the final school bell rings, the time has arrived to bid adieu. The term draws to a close, marking the end of this chapter in our primary school journey. We have revelled in your triumphs – from conquering exams to completing exciting projects, from the thrill of sports days and trophies and school badges proudly received.



There have been wonderful moments of nostalgia for us as we wrote heartfelt leavers' books messages, sifted through treasured photographs, and shared tales of shared memories. Barbecues and picnics brought you closer, paving the way for the grand finale – the fantastic leavers' assembly where you shone brightest. Remember the words of Saint Oscar Romero, "Aspire not to have more but to be more".

Now, prepare to step into the future, your bags packed, and your spirits high. With a bittersweet mix of joy and sadness, we send you forth with our warmest wishes. Today belongs to you – onwards to new horizons, Year 6, as you embark on your exciting journey ahead.



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End of Term Awards: Year 6

The end of year Trophy Assembly is always a very special occasion at our school. Every child in Year 6 receives a Leavers' Medal and their collection of First of the Month books from across the school, showing the progress they have made since Reception. Among the accolades presented are The 'Spirit of St Dunstan's' trophy, subject trophies, awards for outstanding contribution, outstanding athlete, star awards, and progress awards. Stay tuned for more photos on Twitter and a big congratulations to Year 6 - you truly are a wonderful year group!



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Breakfast Club and After School Club

Our clubs continue to thrive and we very much look forward to welcoming your children into breakfast and after school club in September. A gentle reminder please that your child must be dropped off by an adult for [breakfast club](#).

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Dates for Next Year: Annual Calendar

We know how important it is for parents to be able to book time off work, with plenty of notification to be able to attend school events. The annual calendar of key dates for the next academic year will be available on the school website by the first week of August.

Details of school trips and visits along with the costings will be shared with you at the Introduction to Year Talks in September as well as via Schoolcomms prior to the trips. As we have done this year, any additions to the annual calendar will be made in red and the monthly newsletter contains a section- 'Dates for your Diary' to draw your attention to the most important dates and school events.

Holiday/terms dates are always on the school website, at least one year ahead: Please click [here](#).

As previously notified, the Introduction to the Year Talks for Parents will be on **Thursday 12th September, between 6pm and 8.30pm**. Times for each year group are confirmed in the annual calendar.

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Information from Subject Leaders

Library – Miss N. Maloney

A huge thank you to all the Year 5 volunteers who have helped in the library this year. A small number will stay on next year to train the current Year 5 children. Opening the main library one lunchtime during the week proved hugely popular but it would not have happened without our parent volunteers. Their help was greatly appreciated. The new books that were bought for the library courtesy of Friends of St Dunstan's were a great success especially the graphic novels. We will definitely be on the hunt so that we can build up the number of books, as we could not keep them on the shelves!

Have a lovely summer everyone and don't forget to keep reading.

Singing Picnic – Mrs M. Lee



We were delighted to be invited by Surrey Arts to take part in a Singing Picnic in Woking Park on Tuesday 9th July with other local schools. Despite the weather not being on our side, the choir and staff accompanying them had great fun learning new singing games and songs in the warm up activities. Once our voices were prepped, the four schools that took part shared songs they

had been asked to prepare on the theme of "One World" whilst taking shelter from the rain under a tree. Our choir made us very proud – they sang beautifully, engaged with all of the games and songs and added flair with percussion instruments before enjoying an eagerly awaited picnic inside the Leisure Centre.



Online Safety – Mrs A. O’Donovan

The Cyber Crime Team at Surrey Police offer free online presentations on various topics. They have sessions especially designed by their Cyber Protect Officers for parents. You can sign up for the hour sessions here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/cc/online-safety-for-parents-3386699>

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Liturgy and Worship – Mrs S. Turner

Going Forth Mass for the end of term

Year 6 will lead us in our Going Forth Mass today at 10am to celebrate the end of the school year and to mark the transition of everyone to their new year groups and schools. Parents are warmly invited to attend at the Church. We kindly request parents to sit in the overflow room as the main church will be filled with children! Your understanding is greatly appreciated. Thank you.



Mass for the new school year

Our first Mass of the school year will take place on Friday 13th September at 10am. This will be led by our new Year 6 children (current year 5's) and Year 3 to 6 will attend. Parents are very welcome to join us at the Church for this special occasion!

For children in Lower School, we will have a liturgy in school.

Induction Mass for Mrs Morganti

On Sunday 15th September, Bishop Richard will be celebrating the 10.30am Mass to induct Mrs Morganti into the school parish. All are welcome!

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Parish Links



CONFIRMATION 2024/25

Those who will be starting Year 10 or above in September will be eligible to sign up for the Confirmation preparation course, for the coming academic year. Please keep an eye on the newsletter towards the end of September, when the online application form will open.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2025

If you have a child, or children, who will be in year 3 or above in September and you think that they may be ready to celebrate their First Reconciliation and Holy Communion in 2025, then please make a note of the date Monday 16th September 2024. There will be a meeting that evening at 7.30 pm which you will need to attend (parents, not children). We will outline for you how the course will run and distribute details of the key dates and events in the programme. Registration will open after this meeting.

SUMMER ART CAMP FOR CHILDREN AND ADULTS

Planning an activity for the summer holidays? Why not try our free summer art camps at St Dunstan's Church. Suitable for all ages. Parent or Guardian must accompany children throughout the session. All materials will be provided.

Summer camp will run sessions over 2 weeks from 10:30am to 12:30pm on July 23rd-26th and July 30th-August 2nd. Booking is essential, please email dcartcamp24@gmail.com

TODDLER GROUP

Thursday morning toddler group will be taking a break over the summer. The last session will be on Thursday 18th July and will resume again on Thursday 12th September.

TODDLER PRAYERS & CHILDREN'S LITURGY

We will not be running sessions over the month of August as so many of our volunteers will be on holiday, but will be back refreshed in September. We are seeking new volunteers for the next academic year to plan, lead or simply support the sessions. If you normally attend the 9am or 10:30am Sunday Mass and would be willing to help with please get in touch dominiquemeparsons@gmail.com.

COULD YOU HELP IN THE PARISH?

At this time when many individuals and families are thinking about 'Giving' we would like to invite you to think about how you can 'Give' of your time and talents to your Parish Community. St Dunstan's is a very large Parish and an enormous amount of time and effort goes on behind the scenes to enable us to come together to celebrate the Sacraments, to pray and worship God regularly, and in different ways, and to be formed as an evangelising community which reaches out to those in need, both within and outside our parish. Volunteers are vital to what we do. During the last 2 years, volunteers in many areas have decided to 'retire', often after numerous years offering their help. We thank them for all that they have done.

Now is the time for new volunteers. No one can think that 'someone else will do it'. Each one of us has something that we can offer, whether it be now, or in the future if circumstances are too difficult at the moments. If it is now, thank you. If perhaps in the future nonetheless let us know and we will put you onto our records for future help.

Click [here](#) page for a note listing many of the areas where we need people to help in the running of the parish. Please do look at it and if you feel that you could offer your time and talent in one or more of the areas suggested then please fill in the form and return it, either electronically or otherwise, to the Parish Office.

DIOCESAN NOTICES

Catechists' Day– Saturday 21 September 10.30am to 4pm at Worth School

Live Life to the Full Summer Camp for young people in School years 7-11

– 20-24 August at Worth Abbey

Marriage Anniversaries Mass – Saturday 12 October 11.30am at Arundel Cathedral

Grandparents' Formation Day – Wednesday 6 November 11am – 3.30pm at the St Philip Howard Centre, Crawley

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Parent Support – Mrs A. O'Donovan

Barnardo's and the Woking Family Centre

Woking Family Centre is run by Barnardo's on behalf of Surrey County Council. Barnardo's is a national charity with experience of providing targeted services for the most vulnerable children and young people.

The centre offers parenting programmes and group activities to help with family routines or keeping your children safe.

Parenting Puzzle Workshop

Woking Family Centre is pleased to offer a **FREE** Parenting Puzzle Workshop to parent and carers of children (0-11years). This tried and tested programme can help and support you deal with challenges of a family life. The aims of the programme are to build positive constructive relationships and calm confident parenting. The Workshop encourages parents/carers of children to enjoy bringing up children and get the best out of family life. It offers positive, practical ways of guiding children. The

Parenting Puzzle is a series of weekly sessions over a four-week period. All resources are provided free with an opportunity to gain a certificate. The programme is delivered by our qualified facilitators.

The workshop is informal, fun and a great confidence boost!

The Course Covers

- Recognising feelings behind behaviours
- Different approaches to discipline
- Co-operation and self-discipline
- The importance of looking after ourselves

Date and times:

Length of programme: 4 weeks

Day: Every Tuesday

Date: 10th September - 1st October 2024

Time: 7pm – 9pm

Venue: Woking Family Centre, Sythwood, Woking GU21 3AX

Register your interest

To register your interest please contact our team on 01483 310419 or email wokingfamilycentre@barnardos.org.uk

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Rainbows programme – Mrs A. O’Donovan



In September we will be beginning a new series of weekly support groups for those children who are living with a single parent, step families, in foster care, have been adopted or who have families that are going through painful transitions. This programme is called RAINBOWS. When something significant happens in a family, the entire family is affected. Even though death, divorce or other issues appear to only be grown up problems, they have a profound effect on the children who are touched by such experiences. These effects are often not healed by time. If a parent dies or a divorce happens or a painful loss occurs, not only the parents grieve, the children do also. Children find it extremely hard to verbalise their feelings of grief because of their age or inexperience.

We have trained members of staff who have agreed to help these children put their feelings into words, work through their grief, build a strong sense of self-esteem and begin to accept what has taken place in the family.

If you would like to discuss the RAINBOWS programme, feel free to make an appointment to meet with Mrs Robbins through the school office or via inclusion@stdunstans.surrey.sch.uk

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School Office

Collection of Medication

Can we kindly ask you to collect any medicines currently held in school for your child before the Summer break. Please come to the school office window by the main entrance doors and we will return any medicines to you. Medicines will be available for collection **from 1.15pm on Friday 19th July.**

Please can we ask you to return any medication to the School Office on the morning of Wednesday 4th September 2024, the first day of term.



Lunch money for Autumn Term 2023

School dinner costs for autumn term are as follows: The cost of school lunches will increase from September, from £2.70 to £2.80 per day, therefore costs are: First half term £106.40, full term £201.60.

Please remember that should you wish to change your child's meal choice from hot to cold or vice versa, one week's notice is required in writing.

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

Therefore, if parents change their child from school dinners to packed lunches without notification they will be liable for the outstanding monies due to Surrey County Council. All notifications will receive confirmation of receipt.

Recording your child's absence

We would like to remind you that if your child is absent due to illness, you must fill out the online form. Please click [here](#) to access the form.

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 Headteacher 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.

As informed in the last newsletter, Surrey County Council has updated guidance with regards to taking your child out of school for exceptional circumstances, which take effect from 19 August 2024. Please [click here](#) to access the updated leave of absence/exceptional circumstances form.

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Uniform and Earrings – Mrs G. Morganti

A reminder that in September, the children can wear either their winter or summer uniform until Monday 30th September when everyone should be wearing their winter uniform.

School coats should be *plain* navy or black please and the maroon sports jackets may also be worn.

Earrings in school

If parents have their child's ears pierced in the school holidays, a reminder please that earrings are not allowed to be worn in school so will need to be able to be removed by school re-opening on Wednesday 4th September. Please note that plastic keepers cannot be worn to school either.

Hair

Please do look at the school uniform on the website. Hair must be kept neat and tidy and not be extremes of fashion. Hair should be no shorter than grade 2.

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Dates for your Diary – Reminder of school closing times on Friday 19th July



EYFS –	1.30pm
Years 1, 2 & 3 –	1.35pm usual place
Years 4 & 5 –	1.40pm usual place
Year 6 –	1.50pm (through the Lower School playground)

Term dates and INSET days for 2024-2025 are available on the school [website](#).

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

Happy Summer Holidays to all pupils, parents and carers from FOSD.

It's been a truly outstanding year for Friends of St Dunstan's. We have engaged with hundreds of people through ~20 activities across the year. Tristan is finalising the final accounts but we have again raised over £40k that will all go toward school funds.

Thanks to everyone who has contributed toward any FOSD event throughout the school year. Special thanks to Sarah Genco and Sharon Saliba who have led on many FOSD events and to Elizabeth Lucek, who will leave FOSD as her youngest child is leaving the school, for her work over the past 10 years.

Of course we are already planning for next year so please put these dates in your diary!

- Reception Party: 22nd September
- FOSD Firework Night: 12th October
- Happy School Bags: 8th November
- Autumn Disco: 8th November
- Winter Wonderland: 7th December

We look forward to seeing you next school year!

Yours,
The FOSD committee

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