St. Dunstan's Catholic Primary School

Newsletter



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

May 2024

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Dear Parents,

It was only a short while ago that we shared the April newsletter with you, so this May newsletter is a little shorter than usual. As school life is always busy and filled with learning and events, we were keen to keep you up to date and share some of the activities that have taken place already and to prepare you for those coming up.

The month of May is a very special one in school, as it is the month of Mary, our most blessed mother. During this month, the children learn about Mary's endless love and how she intercedes for us. They also develop their knowledge and understanding of the Rosary. We hope you will be able to join us again, this May, to pray a decade of the Rosary at the Marian Grotto with one of our chaplains, Mary Smith or Father Peter



Andrews. All are welcome to join us each Tuesday morning of May, at 8.30am. (Don't worry if you do not have a rosary, you are very welcome to borrow one.)

The sun has shone brightly for the majority of the week, just in time for the first day of our swimming lessons. Grateful thanks to Mr Correia and his team who are working tirelessly to keep the pool clean, safe and warm for our children. It is wonderful to welcome back our swimming teachers, Mrs Rose-Freeland and Mrs Lake and we are looking forward to the taking part in the Woking Schools Swimming Gala later in the term.

Thank you for your support of Mr. Coyle as he undertook the gruelling challenge of running the London Marathon in aid of CAFOD. He really did appreciate all of your words of encouragement!

There are many things to look forward to this term, and we look forward to welcoming you in to school over the next few weeks.

Georgina Morganti

Activities and Events

EYFS - Miss K Bingle: Head of EYFS



The children were absolutely *buzzing* after our special workshop with Pauline and Greg from Guildford Beekeepers Association. Both Greg and Pauline are beekeepers themselves, and shared with us how they look after the bees in their hives. The children were fascinated by the model of a working hive, and were allowed to try on some of Greg's special beekeeping protective clothing too! We learnt so many new facts about bees, including the role of the queen bee, worker bee and drone



bee in the hive. It is wonderful to hear the children excitedly share their new knowledge with their friends and teachers. The children will be applying their knowledge by writing their favourite bee facts, drawing accurate diagrams of bees and creating posters to raise awareness of how other people can look after bees.

"The bees do a wiggle dance in a figure of 8 to communicate how far away the flowers are".

"The drone bees are all males and the worker bees are female and do all the work!"

We would like to thank Greg, Pauline and the Guildford Beekeepers Association for volunteering their time and helping bring the learning alive for the children.

Year 1 - Mrs G. Corsini: Head of Year 1

As part of our history topic 'What changes have my family seen?' Year 1 participated in a series of exciting workshops at Milestones Museum called 'Homes and Games'. In our first activity we learnt all about homes from the past. We explored room-sets of a typical kitchen in the 1930's/1940's, and then had the opportunity to compare them with those from the present. For our 'Games' workshop the children experienced 'play time in the past' through active participation with a range of toys and games dating from within living memory. We played some traditional games like hopscotch and dominoes, and explored a mystery box filled with games we were not familiar with. We had to guess how to play the games and then learnt to play them together. Pick-Up-Sticks and tiddlywinks were some of our favourites! It was a fantastic day and the children were, as always, an absolute credit to St. Dunstan's.







Year 2 - Miss L. Butler: Head of Year 2

As part of World Earth Day, Year 2 have been thinking about how to care for God's wonderful world. The children wrote special pledges about how they can take care of the planet. We spent time reflecting on the use of plastic and the negative impact it has on our environment.

In History we have just started our new topic 'Space Explorers'. The children started by going on a treasure hunt and finding information about Neil Armstrong, Mary Jackson and Katherine Johnson. We were amazed that Katherine Johnson lived until the age of 101! We are very excited to continue with our learning and find out more about these important individuals.





We are looking forward to welcoming you for our recorder concert on Tuesday 14th May.

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

As part of our learning about plants, the children have been conducting a fair test. We have planted broad bean seeds, ensuring the same amount of soil and identical pots.

They changed just one variable each time. One plant has no light, one has no space, one has no



water, one has no soil, and one has no air. The control pot has everything our seed needs to thrive. The children are very careful to water at the same time each day with the same amount of water and they have made predictions about what might happen, but as yet, the seeds have not sprouted. The children are anticipating a change any day now!

Year 4 - Miss H. Fail: Head of Year 4 and Senior teacher

It has been a physically challenging start to the summer term for Year 4 with many children taking part in Bikeability and all children developing their swimming, frisbee and tennis skills in PE!

As part of the Bikeability programme, the children learnt to glide, control their bike, pedal with control and be aware of their surroundings. All of these skills are great stepping stones to be able to cycle on the road in future years. In their PE lessons, the children have been practising basic skills of throwing and catching with frisbees and serving and returning tennis balls. It has been wonderful to see the teamwork they have shown when taking part in these activities.







Year 5 - Miss L. Roe: Head of Year 5 and Senior Teacher

This term, Year 5 embarked on an exciting journey into the icy depths of the Antarctic, led by the legendary explorer, Ernest Shackleton. Immersed in Shackleton's remarkable journey, they are crafting a non-chronological report detailing his ambitious quest to cross the South Pole. Through the use of maps, they traced Shackleton's footsteps, understanding the challenges he faced.

In geography, Year 5 are focusing on India's conservation efforts to protect the tiger and its habitat. We're proud to announce that Year 5 are enthusiastically participating in tiger conservation by sponsoring a tiger—a tangible contribution to their learning journey.



Year 6 - Mrs S. Turner: Head of Year 6 and Senior Teacher

What a fantastic April it has been in Year 6! The children have been engaged in brilliant group work exploring our topic, The Islamic Golden Age. They are delving into the historical Islamic world once ruled by caliphates, where science, economic growth, and cultural achievements thrived. Using written clues as their primary evidence, the children collaborated to create maps depicting ancient Baghdad. We are looking forward to our trip to the local Peace Garden and exploring design and architecture we see there.





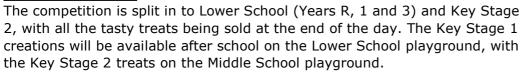
Alongside SATs preparation, we have investigated light, understanding its straight-line travel and how we see objects through light reflection. To top it off, the year group have embraced drama by immersing themselves in Hamlet, crafting their own soliloquys. It has been a great start to the summer term, filled with intellectual curiosity and creative energy.

St Dunstan's Bake Off - Mr A Coyle



On **Wednesday 8th May**, we will be holding our annual St. Dunstan's Bake Off. This is an exciting opportunity for the children to test their inner Mary Berry, or Paul Hollywood and enter the competition. On the morning of the Bake Off the

children are invited to bring in a cake (that they have made), which will then be judged by our star baking team.







The FOSD will kindly be helping staff sell the cakes, so please come along with a few pounds to enjoy a sweet treat.

The theme for this year's Bake Off will be based around the Olympics. With the games being held in Paris, we look forward to welcoming any creations based on an

element of the games, such as running, throwing, jumping etc. Let your imaginations run wild and we look forward to seeing all the entries on Wednesday 8^{th} May.



Please label your Tupperware and plates so we can ensure they are returned to you. If you wish to purchase your child's creation back at the end of the day- please do indicate this on the container.

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Children's Learning

Teaching and learning - Mrs T. Steer Assistant Headteacher

May: a wonderful term of learning awaits, with celebrations such as St Dunstan's Day and the Marian Liturgy, and our school's wonderful outdoor learning spaces are brimming with life and ready to be explored. The school grounds have been abuzz with activity already, including bikeability, swimming and map making.

At St Dunstan's, we believe that excellent subject expertise is fundamental to excellent teaching and this term staff are focusing on developing our geography skills. We are excited to be developing the children's sense of place (the identity of an area through its culture, human and physical features) with a focus on the use of maps to help them investigate and explain the world around them. More information can be found in our geography curriculum page.

https://www.stdunstans.surrey.sch.uk/page/?title=Geography&pid=134

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Information from Subject Leaders

Safeguarding: Designated Safeguarding Leaders

If you have any safeguarding concerns regarding your own children or children within our community, please do not hesitate to contact a member of the safeguarding team. You may have concerns regarding a child's welfare, have witnessed something that has worried you or have information that needs to be shared in order for us to keep a child safe.



The safeguarding team can be contacted via the school office on 01483 715190 - just ask to speak to the DSL or one of the deputy DSLs. For non-urgent concerns, you can email via dsl@stdunstans.surrev.sch.uk

This term we welcome Mrs Steer and Mrs O'Riordan to the safeguarding team as Deputy DSLs (Designated Safeguarding Leads).



Ofcom have recently published their annual study of media and the online world.

Making communications work Their report found that 24% of 5 to 7 year olds own a smartphone and if the for everyone definition of devices is widened to tablets that figure rises to 76%! We

encourage you to read the full report here.

Library - Miss N. Maloney and Miss M. O'Sullivan



A huge thanks to all the FOSD, some of the money raised by you all went to update the library resources. We focused on choosing mainly non-fiction books in order to keep any research current and up to date. We also managed to order a set of graphic books that are a cross between books and comics for those children who especially enjoy the sophisticated graphics. The children love reading new titles and the new resources would entice any reader.

Prayer Life- Mrs A. O'Donovan: Assistant Headteacher

Oscar Romero Award



This year, we have been working towards the Participator Level of the Oscar Romero Award.

This is an award designed to support Catholic schools to recognise and celebrate what they do to promote Catholic Social Teaching. Gathering the evidence for this award made us realise just how much the children learn and do already in school, in order to live out the themes of Catholic Social Teaching.

We have just submitted our evidence and hope to be able to let you know the outcome shortly!

You can find out more on the Oscar Romero Award website.

Faith in Action

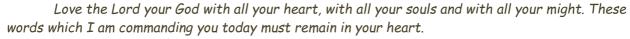


Our wonderful Faith Ambassadors in Year 5 and 6 have been very busy this year working towards their Faith in Action pins and compiling their reflection journals to document their journey.

The Pin Level is designed to allow young people to discover how faith shapes lives and acts, this level is a stepping-stone to higher award levels. The

children have been supported by Miss King and have been invited to a celebration with the Bishop along with other children from across the Diocese who have been working towards achieving their Faith in Action awards at various levels according to their age.

RE learning this term- Mrs S. Turner, RE Leader and Senior Teacher



Deuteronomy 6: 4-9



Year groups Two to Five are concluding their exploration of 'Pentecost' (Serving), delving into the significance of this event and learning how the Holy Spirit empowers Christians to share the Good News of Jesus' love. By receiving and celebrating the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, children gain strength to engage in the Church's mission.

In the upcoming month, they will explore 'Reconciliation', learning about the role the Holy Spirit in our lives. This unit will focus on understanding how God helps us make good choices, reflect when we make wrong choices, and follow Jesus' teachings on forgiveness. The children will also explore the concept of examination of conscience and the stages of the Sacrament of Reconciliation, including admitting wrongs and seeking reconciliation with God and others. Through this learning, children will develop a deeper understanding of Jesus' attitudes towards sinners and his teachings on forgiveness.

As they learn to live more closely in Christ, they consider their motives and emotions which influence choices.

RECONCILIATION - INTER-RELATING

Year 2 **Rules** – Reasons for rules in the Christian family Year 3 **Choices** – Importance of examination of conscience

Year 4 **Building Bridges** – Admitting wrong, being reconciled with God and each other.

Year 5 **Freedom and Responsibility** – Commandments enable Christians to be free and responsible.

SUGGESTIONS FOR HOME ACTIVITIES

Take together about times when you have forgiven or been forgiven. Discuss the importance of saying sorry. Look for opportunities for forgiveness and reconciliation in the day to day life of the family.



This half term EYFS, Year 1 and 6 will continue to build on their learning about a unit titled: To the Ends of the Earth. In this branch, the children will be delving into the events that unfolded after the Resurrection and Ascension, exploring the incredible impact of the Holy Spirit, and studying the remarkable work of the apostles and early Church. An overview of this topic and an explanation about changes to RE was shared in last months' newsletter. Do take a look at ways in which you might explore this learning with your child at home and at Mass.



Important Dates

The month of May is dedicated to Our Lady.

THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD (Thursday 9th May)

After his Resurrection, Jesus appeared to his disciples over a period of forty days. Ascension Day is when we celebrate Jesus' return to his Father in Heaven. Children in Key Stage 2 will join the Parish Mass.





PENTECOST (Sunday 19th May)

Pentecost is one of the most important feast days of the year that concludes the Easter season and celebrates the beginning of the Church.

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Liturgy and Worship

Start of the term Mass



Year 5 led a wonderful Mass, embracing the theme 'I Am the way, the truth and the life'. The children shone in their delivery of readings and prayers, demonstrating their hard work and dedication. The heartfelt message from the children touched us all, reminding us to find comfort in the loving presence of Jesus, our guiding light through life's journeys as the way, the truth, and the life.

Praying the Rosary during May



A reminder that everyone is welcome to join us in praying a decade of the Rosary during the month of May! We gather by the Marian grotto on the Lower School field on Tuesday mornings at 8.30am. Our chaplains, Mary Smith or Fr Peter, will lead the prayer.

It's a lovely way to start your day. We hope to see you there!

Upcoming Collective Worships, Liturgies and Masses



Please see below the dates the children will be leading Mass, Liturgies and Class Collective Worships. Parents are welcomed to attend.

Friday 3 May – Year 3 will be leading the Marian Liturgy in church for Years 4 to 6.

Thursday 9 May – Holy Day of Obligation: The Feast of the Ascension. Year 4 will be leading the Parish Mass and children in Key Stage 2 will attend.

Friday 10 May - St Catherine's Class Collective Worship

Monday 20 May – St. Dunstan's Day Liturgy for Years 2 to 6 at the Church starting at 11.15am

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Parish links

International Mass and Social - Sunday 19th May



PARISH FESTIVAL

International Mass and Social 11am on Sunday, 19 May 2024 at St Dunstan's School. Mass will be followed by a celebration of delicious food and a fantastic cultural show from all around the world. To make this event a stunning success, please volunteer to read in your native language, share a cultural hymn or Eucharistic tradition, wear traditional clothes, make and bring your country flag https://bit.ly/InternationalMass Flags, bring traditional food and perform in the cultural show of traditional music and dance.

To volunteer please contact co-ordinators:

Africa Cathy 07952 367701 c.emerson@usa.net
Asia Lara 07466 763735 or 01483 756278 laraspereira23@gmail.com
East Europe Isabel 07841 141807 home@thomaspfann.com
UK & West Europe Susan 07927 606811 susan.lawson72@gmail.com
Rest of the World Nicole 07756 006104 Nicolepeay1000@hotmail.co.uk

or volunteer using the following link https://bit.ly/InternationalMass2024

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School Office

48hr absence rule for diarrhoea and vomiting

Please support us and other children and parents by ensuring that if you child has diarrhoea or vomiting that you keep them off school for 48hrs from the last episode. This is NHS recommendations to limit the spread of illnesses such as stomach bugs.



We would ask parents where possible to inform the school office in advance of any medical consultants, orthodontist appointments and hospital appointments that are coming up. Please note that routine medical/dental/optician check-up appointments are not normally authorised during school hours, but we understand that some appointments are made with exceptional circumstances. A Pupil Absence Form must be completed with a copy of the appointment letter attached. Alternatively please show the School Office your appointment confirmation email or text message when handing in your form.

Thank you for your co-operation.

DBS (Disclosure & Barring Service)

A reminder please, that if you have recently undertaken a new DBS clearance to volunteer at the school, please register for the UPDATE service. This is a free service for volunteers and does mean that we can do an online check when you wish to help on any school trips/events etc. You only have 30 days from the date of issue of your certificate in which to subscribe. The website address is https://www.gov.uk/dbs-update-service.

Lunch money for Summer Term 2023- Mrs M. O'Riordan

School dinner costs for Summer Term are as follows: half term £75.60, full term £170.10. 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 as orders are made in advance.

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 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. Lunch monies will be due until the date change is confirmed by the school office.

School Photographer:

Fraser Portraits will be in school on **Tuesday 4th and Wednesday 5th June**, to take class photos and Year 6 'fun' photos will also be taken on that day. We would like boys to wear their shirt and tie for these photos please (shorts may be worn if the weather is hot, but **not** polo shirts) and girls in Year R – Year 5 should wear summer dresses *if possible*. (We appreciate that not all girls wear summer dresses and do not want parents to buy one especially for this.) Both girls and boys should wear their blazers as always.

Thank you for your support to ensure the children are really smart for their end of year group photos.

Swimming hats, sun hats, water bottles and book wallets:

These are all available for purchase from the school office.



Please note sundry items are no longer available to purchase via your Scopay account. All of these items are now available to purchase at the school office by card payment only. **We no longer accept cash payment.**

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Sports & PE

Mr A. Coyle PE Leader and Senior Teacher



The children have been really excited with the commencement of swimming lessons this half term. The pool reopening seems to have brought about a change in the weather and the lessons have taken place under clear blue skies. It has been lovely to hear the splashing of arms and legs and welcome back out fantastic swimming teachers.

The children gain so much from swimming lessons. Not only they do they enjoy becoming water confident and

swimming in lessons with their peers, but they are also learning lifelong skills. To have the knowledge that if you ever become troubled in water you are able to save yourself is essential in life.

Swimming is part of the national curriculum and we are very fortunate that our children are able to swim each year, from year one upwards. Please can I ask that, unless your child is particularly unwell, or has a medical need, they swim

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with their class. It is pivotal that we help the children swim 25metres on a variety of strokes, by the time they leave us at Year 6.

We do have spare kits in school that we can offer to the children if they forget their kit. We look forward to every child joining in with swimming lessons over the next term and hearing all their excitement and joy in the water.

Competition Update

Year six girls' football finals day



Our year six girls took part in their football finals day at Pirbright School on Friday 26th April. Having won their cluster league with three wins from three, they were very excited to challenge themselves against the other cluster winners. Despite not getting off to the best start against a strong West Byfleet team, the girls dusted themselves off and drew an entertaining match against Pirbright. In their final game, the girls knew a win would secure second place and a runners up medal. They played superbly well and rounded off a memorable team display with a comfortable 4-0 win against Goldsworth. The girls have grown in to a really impressive squad over the last year and it is so fantastic to see so many of our girls, not only enjoying their football in

school, but also outside too.

Superb effort as always girls, we are immensely proud of you all.

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Staffing

We are very proud to share the news that Mrs Amy O'Donovan has been appointed as Head of School at St Cuthbert-Mayne Primary School, from September. We are delighted that Mrs O'Donovan has used her experience here at St Dunstan's to springboard to the special role of Catholic School leader. She will be greatly missed by staff, pupils and parents, though I know you will join me in wishing Mrs O'Donovan the very best in her new and exciting position.

At the end of this month, Mrs Claire Turner will be retiring as Bursar after 20 years of dedicated service. We are very grateful to her for her commitment to the school and for the time she has given to train Mrs Mason, who we are delighted to share, has been appointed as school Bursar. She will take up this position at the beginning of the next half term.

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St Dunstan's Day Celebration: 20th May

St. Dunstan's Day - Mrs A. O'Donovan: Assistant Headteacher



St. Dunstan's Day is a very special day for us as a school family. We will be celebrating with a Liturgy in the morning led by children in KS2 at the Church at 11.15am, followed by a picnic at lunchtime. Weather dependent, the children will sit outside as a class family to enjoy their picnics. Should the weather not be on our side, the children will enjoy their picnics in the classroom as a class family.

The children have previously requested that they are all allowed to bring in their own packed lunch to celebrate. Therefore, we would like to invite all children to bring their own healthy packed lunch to school on this day, as part of our celebration. If your child is entitled to Free School Meals (this is all children in Lower School) and you wish for your child to have school lunch, the Twelve 15

catering team, will make and provide packed lunches for them and if you pay for lunches but would prefer your child to have a school packed lunch, this can be provided. You will have received a Schoolcomms message about lunch preference for this day. Lunch monies for KS2 children will be adjusted accordingly if you choose for your child to have their own packed lunch. It is absolutely vital that everyone remembers that packed lunches must be totally nut free and contain a balanced, healthy meal.

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Dates for your Diary – noted changes to the Annual Calendar



For your information please: -

Friday 10th May, 2:30pm – PGL Residential Trip Parent Talk for Year 4

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Friends of St Dunstan's - Swimming Donations

Swimming lessons for children from Year 1 upwards, has started on April 29th. This is part of their summer term curriculum and is a fantastic opportunity for the children who attend the school; as few schools are fortunate enough to have their own pool on site. The school (with additional funding from the Governor's Maintenance Fund) finances the cost of running and maintaining the pool. The Friends of St Dunstan's School request that you make a donation to help cover the cost of the swimming teachers.

FOSD request that, where possible, each family makes a voluntary donation of £10 per child who benefits from these lessons. This will go towards the cost of providing swimming lessons for all our children, which in total costs around £5500.

If you are able, it is possible to donate more than £10 per child. These extra donations would help families who are unable to contribute.

It is important to note that NO CHILD will be excluded from swimming lessons should a donation not be paid.

We will look where we can to claim for the 25% Gift aid. Please if you donate using this platform, donate using the tax payer name and address and tick gift aid.

Please visit https://www.pta-events.co.uk/fosd/index.cfm?event=event&eventId=80280 to make your donation. Please ensure the PTA Events User is in the name of the Tax payer and that gift aid is clicked.

If would like to pay via PayPal, via bank transfer, or by cash, please email treasurerfosd@gmail.com for further details.



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

Dear Parents and Carers.

Thanks to everyone who came to the Family Photo Shoot on April 27th. The Smiles at School photographers did a great job putting everyone at ease and hopefully they got some really nice photos! This event earned ~£400 for the School, which is a good first effort. We'll get feedback from parents and then hopefully plan another event during the next School year!

Thanks to everyone who donated and bought cakes at the recent Year 2 cake sale. We made a *remarkable £560* in just 30 minutes of selling! It's definitely the most time-effective (and tasty) of all our events.

We are yet to finalise the date for the Year 1 sale but will obviously keep you involved. The St Dunstan's Bake Sale is on Wednesday May 8th and FOSD will sell cakes after the event. We are looking for a few people to help with this so please step up if asked!

We have lots of upcoming events at which you can contribute and enjoy!

Saturday May 11th: Film and Camp Night

Rosalia Farrugia is organising this super fun day where up to 35 families will be able to book to camp overnight on the school field. The event is also open to, day visitors who can join in with organised games and/or visit the food trucks and bar. In the evening the film 'Wonka' will be played on the big screen in the school hall! Camping and Day Tickets are now on sale on PTA website, where you can read more details about the daytime entertainments!

https://www.pta-events.co.uk/fosd/index.cfm?event=event&eventId=79706

Saturday June 22nd: FOSD Parent Football Tournament

This will be held at Winston Churchill School from 12pm – 5pm. Organiser Johnny Fox will share more details soon!

Sunday June 30th: FOSD Summer Fair

Plenty of information on this to follow over coming weeks! Needless to say it's the big event of the School Fundraising Year that includes plenty to look forward to!

Please sign up to have a Seymours Property Board placed at your house in the 6 weeks leading up to the Fair. Seymours provide £25 to FOSD for every placed board, which would give a *very easy* £1000 for the school!

https://www.pta-events.co.uk/fosd/index.cfm?event=event&eventId=78801

Please let us know if you'd like to sign up for the monthly Jackpot at stdunstansschooljackpot@gmail.com. It has a minimum £12 annual contribution for the chance to win a monthly prize of £50!

Recent jackpot winner is:

April 2024: Helen Toghill

As ever thanks for all your contributions that make these things possible.

Yours, The FOSD committee

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