

# St. Dunstan's Catholic Primary School

# Newsletter



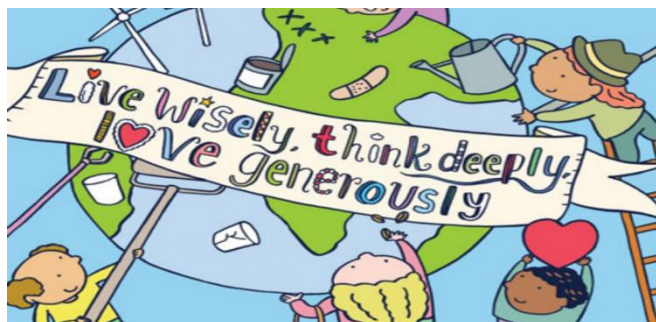
Executive Headteacher: Mrs J. Birch [head@stdunstans.surrey.sch.uk](mailto:head@stdunstans.surrey.sch.uk)

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October 2023

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Dear Parents,

It has been wonderful to see the children settling back so well in to school life this term and returning smartly dressed in their winter uniform this week. Thank you for your support to ensure that every message we give the children is that we give of our best in everything we do. Year 6 have just returned from the week away at PGL and we have enjoyed hearing about all their activities and the memories they have made. I know that a lot of you were following their week on Twitter!

Last week, we held our first FoSD meeting of the school year. We were thrilled to be able to allocate funds of £20,000 to school projects such as increasing our stock of home reading books in the lower years, upgrading our library books in KS2, purchase of a new and exciting whole school Science programme as well as funds to develop a new art/technology studio in one of the rooms in the main school building. We are extremely grateful to our parents for raising funds for our school so generously. In order to boost our FoSD committee, we are looking for a co-treasurer to join Kamila in this important role. If you are an accountant, and have some time available to volunteer with us, we would love to hear from you so that two people could work together in this role and ease the task across the year. Please approach a member of the FoSD or contact FoSD via the school office....thank you!

We look forward to seeing you at our Parent Teacher meetings on 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> October. (Details further below.)

With best wishes,  
*Julianne Birch*

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## Activities and Events

### EYFS – Mrs H. Robbins: Reception Head of Year

All of the children have settled beautifully into school and have had lots of fun getting to know each other and making new friends. A particular highlight has been our lunchtimes! It has been wonderful to see everyone eating their lunch carefully with a knife and fork and trying new foods. Our focus text this half term is: "We're Going on a Bear Hunt" by Michael Rosen. We are really looking forward to our workshop this week when the children will have the opportunity to act out the story. We will also be making story maps to help us sequence the story in the correct order. In our RE lessons we are learning the story of creation to help us understand that we are part of God's special creation and belong to His family.



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### Year 1 – Mrs G. Corsini: Head of Year

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

We crash-landed into our first focus text with a surprise visit from a strange creature. The children have been making predictions about what might happen to "Beegu" and have practised the skills of retelling familiar stories by sequencing key events from the text. We then wrote "super-star sentences" and used our writing checklist to make sure each sentence had a capital letter, finger space and full stop. In Maths, Year 1 have been building on the skills consolidated in Reception such as accurate counting and number recognition. We have been learning to represent numbers in different ways and have enjoyed using our mathematical resources such as number lines, bead strings and tens frames.



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## Year 2 Learning – Miss L. Butler: Head of Year

What a fantastic start to the school year we have had! Year 2 were very excited to welcome Freshwater Theatre into school for our first History topic. The workshop was all about the Great Fire of London. The children had the chance to act out elements from this key historical event. They sat close together to show how close the buildings were in 1666, they made roof shapes with their hands to demonstrate how the fire spread from building to building because of the wind. Some children dressed up as important characters from History such as Samuel Pepys who wrote about the fire in his diary.



So that we can make a comparison with fire-fighting in 1666 to today, we are having a visit from Surrey Education Fire Safety. We are looking forward to welcoming them into school on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> November.

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## Year 3- Miss N. Maloney: Head of Year

On Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> September, Year 3 went to Butser Ancient Farm as part of their History topic. It was a very practical, hands on day and the children took part in lots of activities. The first activity involved an archaeological dig where everyone had the chance to unearth an artefact. This helped the children to understand how evidence can help us understand people who lived long ago.

Sitting in the Round House gave the learners the opportunity to see how Stone Age buildings were constructed and to realise how resourceful and resilient the people were. They used resources that were all around them.

Creating cordage from dried plant fibres showed the children how strong naturally occurring items can be. Working with a hard flint stone allowed the children to carve patterns into soft chalk and making comparisons between the stones helped in their Science investigation when they were back in class. The children's behaviour was exemplary and they received many compliments about their behaviour from the staff at Butser Farm.



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### **Year 4 – Miss H. Fail: Head of Year**

Year 4 have made a wonderful start to the new school year with all children working hard to make good behaviour choices and settle into their new classes. One of the highlights of this year group is learning to play the clarinets and trumpets. The children have already shown a commendable level of focus during music lessons, which reflects their enthusiasm for this aspect of the curriculum. Showing commitment to learning, they are delighted to be taking their instrument home to practise each week. It will be wonderful to see the progress they make over the year. In art, the children are working towards painting Mount Vesuvius, which they have been learning about through reading 'Escape from Pompeii' in English. As their painting will be made with acrylic paint, the children have been taught new techniques to achieve different tones of colours and textures. Showing their resilience, they have been actively engaged in reflecting on their own work and using feedback to make improvements. We can't wait to share their final pieces with you!



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### **Year 5 – Miss E. Roe: Head of Year**

Year 5 have made an outstanding start and settled well into their new classes, enjoying their new learning environment in Rosary House and making new friends. As a year group, we have been working to form bonds developing our team building skills. We have also considered how to support each other to get the best out of our learning. There was great excitement when we visited the science garden discovering the wonder of God's world and also finding many frogs. We are very much looking forward to our trip to The Lightbox in October and Hampton Court Palace later in the term.



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### **Year 6 – Mrs T. Steer: Head of Year and Assistant Headteacher**

In our first month of Year 6, we have been focusing on the crucial characteristics needed of a Year 6 pupil: independence and responsibility. We have spent time talking about ways to keep each other safe, including how to securely walk home and how to choose the appropriate moment to talk to adults. We will also look at the use of social media.

We have also been proactively developing these skills with our awesome residential visit. It is a great start to year 6 and a fabulous opportunity to get to know everyone outside of the classroom. We are always very proud of our school pupils and yet again the group received compliments about their courteous conduct. On our return we have reflected on what skills we have developed, and independence, courage and self-regulation were key ideas that were discussed. Great skills for the year ahead,

Finally, a massive congratulations to everyone who applied to become a Year 6 House captain. After a class presentation and voting by their Year 6 peers, Mrs Birch has had the tough job of shortlisting our candidates with a final announcement due imminently. It was a privilege to listen to the applications: the confidence and enthusiasm was fantastic. We are all looking forward to the year ahead.



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## Attendance and Absence

### Why is school attendance so important?

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

Every message we give our children must reinforce the importance of education. When children are absent from school, they miss out on consistent teaching that is needed to develop basic skills. This can have a snowball effect that impacts future learning. Not only do children miss the academic side of their learning, but the children are also disadvantaged socially as the other children move on with their friendships and relationships while the other children are absent. Absence from school not only disadvantages the absent child but also the rest of the children in the class as the teacher has to spend time with the child who has been absent, helping them to catch up on their return. Other than for exceptional reasons such as illness, this is simply not fair.

### Authorisation of absence during term time

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

## Penalty Notices and Fines

Parents do not have the right to take their child out of school for any period of time. All parents seeking leave of absence must complete an 'Application for leave of absence/exceptional circumstances' form. It is for the Head Teacher to decide whether or not there are exceptional circumstances. All requests for leave of absence are treated sympathetically, but the policy of Surrey County Council, to which this school has agreed, is that other than in exceptional circumstances, absences during term time will not be authorised. This is explained to parents before they accept a place for their child at St. Dunstan's and is stated in the welcome booklet issued to parents. Parents sign the home school agreement agreeing to adhere to the school's policy on absence in term time.

The Governors' Attendance Policy (available on the school website:

<http://www.stdunstans.surrey.sch.uk/Policies/Welfare%20and%20Inclusion/Attendance%20and%20Punctuality.pdf> 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.**

The Penalty Notice is for £60 if paid within 21 calendar days and £120 if paid after this time but within 28 days. Failure to pay the Penalty Notice will result in you being served with a summons to appear at the Magistrates Court.

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

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## 'Early Birds' (Breakfast Club) and 'Stay and Play' (After School Care): Years 3 - 6

### Mrs E. Chamberlain

We have limited spaces in Early Birds and Stay and Play. Please contact Mrs Chamberlain in the school office (01483 715190) for further details. Registration forms for both clubs are available on the school website for children in Years 3 to 6:

[http://www.stdunstans.surrey.sch.uk/Extended\\_Schools.htm](http://www.stdunstans.surrey.sch.uk/Extended_Schools.htm)

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## Charity and Justice

### Charity and Justice –Miss H. King

We are delighted to be able to once again support Woking Food Bank this year. Whilst Woking Food Bank have expressed how grateful they are for our continued generosity, this year they have a particular shortage of:

- Long life items suitable for lunch boxes
- Tinned ham
- Chickpeas
- Instant hot chocolate drink
- Cooking oil
- Jam
- Canned beef
- Noodles
- Shampoo
- Long life sponge puddings
- Chocolate
- Long life juice



- Canned chicken
- Canned vegetables
- Cleaning spray
- Laundry detergent
- Salad cream

If you would like to take part in this initiative, please encourage your child to choose a non-perishable item to bring to their classroom from Monday 9th – Thursday 19th October. We have found that this is a practical way of supporting the children to live out the gospel values by caring for those in need in our local community. Woking Food Bank are part of a larger group of foodbanks who serve to support those in need in the local community. For more information about Woking Food Bank, please see <https://woking.foodbank.org.uk/>

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## Children’s Learning

**Mrs G. Morganti – Head of School**  
**Maths Survey for Parents**

As mentioned at last month’s Introduction to Parents Evening, we are exploring the resources that we share via the website to support parents to help their children with learning at home. We are focusing on the maths page of the website first and are looking at what parents would find most helpful now to confidently support their children with their maths confidence and fluency.

Therefore, this week we will be sending out a short survey. We would be grateful if you could spare 3 minutes to complete the survey and share your ideas for resources that we can add to the website and ideas for a parent talk.

### Parent Talks

Please note the upcoming talks for parents of Lower School children. Details will be sent out via a SchoolComms; for these talks please enter via the school office.

#### October:

Reading and Phonics Talk for Year 1 and 2 parents

Friday 13th October 2.30pm

#### November:

Recently added: Early Reading and Phonics Talk for EYFS parents

Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> November 9am

Early Number Talk for EYFS and Year 1 parents

Friday 17th November 2.30pm

## Children’s Learning Website

Details of the learning for after half term will be available by Friday 20<sup>th</sup> October. This will include the Year Group Overview and the rationale for the learning in the half term.

The Year Group Overview is the document that details the learning for your child over each half term in each subject area. This now contains more information about the learning in maths and grammar. Please note that each year we refine our curriculum and small changes are made to the overview, so please do check this each half term.

Engagement with parents or community		Nativity Woking Lions	Art Celebration Afternoon	Talent Show Mission Together	Letters to persuade others to avoid single-use plastics	Ukulele Concert Sports Day Open Evening
Enrichment	Butser Farm Visit	Feel Fit Training Geography Fieldwork – Woking Farm		Tutankhamun Day	Garbage Guts’ Day	Mosque Visit
Themed Days/ Weeks	Grandparents’ Week Judaism Week	Anti-Bullying Road Safety Remembrance Day	Creative Arts Week Safer Internet Day	Fairtrade Fortnight World Book Day Maths Day	St. Dunstan’s Day First Aid Fortnight	Feeling Good Islam Week
English- Grammar	Use ‘a/an’ correctly. Know how words are related by meaning (synonyms) Investigate word families based on common words. Introduce paragraphs.	Identify collective nouns. Introduce inverted commas and punctuation within speech. Introduce main and subordinate clauses. Introduce the full range of co-ordinating conjunctions. Identify and use co-ordinating and sub-ordinating conjunctions.	Form nouns using a range of prefixes. Conjugate verbs ‘to be, to go to have’.	Use headings and sub-headings to aid presentation. Begin to vary length of sentences. Begin to vary the position of sub-ordinating clauses and position of adverbs (fronted). Use commas.	Use the present perfect form of verbs instead of simple past. Continue to vary the position of sub-ordinating clauses, and adverbs (fronted) and use commas.	Use paragraphs, headings and sub-headings to organise writing. Express time, place and cause using conjunctions, adverbs and prepositions.

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# Governors

## Elected Chair of Governors – Mr B. McKendry

### Mrs A. Murray – Clerk to Governors

To notify the school community that with full support from all members, Mr B. McKendry was formally elected as Chair of Governors at the Full Governing Body (FGB) meeting on the 14<sup>th</sup> September 2023. For further information regarding who our school Governors are and their relative roles, please see the Governors' page of the school website:

<http://www.stdunstans.surrey.sch.uk/Governors.html>

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## Message from the Chair of the Finance & Building Committee - Mr J. Dunne

For the reassurance of parents I would like to confirm that, at the suggestion of the Diocese, the school commissioned a survey in May of 2022 which confirmed that no autoclaved concrete was found in the school buildings.

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## Admissions

### Reception Classes in September 2024

#### Mrs A Murray – school admissions

For children born between 1<sup>st</sup> September 2019 and 31<sup>st</sup> August 2020, parents will need to apply for a school place between 30<sup>th</sup> October 2023 and **15<sup>th</sup> January 2024 (the final closing date for all applications to be received at the school and online to Surrey County Council)**, if your child is due to start school in a Reception class in September 2024.

Please see the school website [www.stdunstans.surrey.sch.uk](http://www.stdunstans.surrey.sch.uk) for details of the school's Admission Policy and procedures 2024-2025, or contact the school office for a paper copy. Two documents with proof of your child's current place of residence (e.g. council tax statement for the current year or utility or bank statement within the last 3 months), proof of your child's date of birth and if appropriate, proof of baptism must be submitted to the school with the completed Supplementary Information Form for 2024-2025.

**In addition**, parents MUST apply to Surrey County Council. This can be done online at [www.surreycc.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.surreycc.gov.uk/admissions).

For any queries, please contact our Admissions Secretary, Mrs A. Murray either via the school office or at [amurray@stdunstans.surrey.sch.uk](mailto:amurray@stdunstans.surrey.sch.uk)

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**Applying for Secondary School places – if your child was born between 1<sup>st</sup> September 2012 and 31<sup>st</sup> August 2013 you will need to apply to Surrey County Council for a secondary school place by the 31<sup>st</sup> October 2023.** Again this must be done online at [www.surreycc.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.surreycc.gov.uk/admissions).

Please do also contact individual secondary schools regarding their admission processes and application details. Our school office team cannot advise you of individual school's admission details. These will all be available on each school's website.

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## Open Mornings for Prospective Parents – Reception: September 2024 and in year admissions

Our final open morning will be held on Thursday 16th November. Please visit our school website to book your place:

<http://www.stdunstans.surrey.sch.uk/Open%20Mornings.pdf>

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

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# Governors' Premises Update – Mrs S. Saul

## Children's Safety

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



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

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

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



**Therefore, a reminder please that the Fire Gate is available as a thoroughfare only, NOT a waiting area. If your Year 6 child walks to school independently, they must wait in the area outside the nursery if they arrive early, not on the road outside Fire Gate.**

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## Driving to School

### Direction along Onslow Crescent



There has been a voluntary one-way system in place for many years in Onslow Crescent. This means that from 8.20am – 9.00am and 2.45pm - 3.45pm all cars associated with the school need to drive in ONE DIRECTION coming in at the Woking Station end of Onslow Crescent and driving out of the Post Box end of Onslow Crescent. However convenient it may be for you to drive in the Post Box end, please be aware that you will be creating gridlock and a dangerous environment for the children and other pedestrians. We ask that you be tolerant of other road users not familiar with this voluntary one-way system.



We are extremely lucky to have the use of the Church car park in Shaftesbury Road, which has space for 70 cars and our cheerful caretaker Mr. Hill, as our school crossing patrol, to help parents and children cross over Pembroke Road safely. If the car park is full, at certain times of the day parking is available on Shaftesbury Road – please check the signs for restrictions.

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



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

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

### Where you can't park

THERE IS NO PARKING IN THE STAFF CAR PARK.



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

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

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

Please do not park on the pavement or in front of residents' driveways. This may seem obvious, but unfortunately has been a recurring problem in a minority of cases. If you are late, please take time to find a safe place to park - the school will not let your child/children leave until you arrive.

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

### Alternative methods of travel to School

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

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



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

\* Highway code 238 \*\* Highway code 243

## **Bikeabitly Cycling Instructors Vacancies**

The Cycle Training Team at Surrey County Council are recruiting for Bikeability Cycling Instructors. We would be very grateful if you could please forward the link below to your parents and carers or add it to your next school newsletter. This way of advertising has been very successful in the past and has only been possible due to your generous assistance.

<https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/jobs/search/details?id=29155>

Thank you for your help with this request.

Regards

*The Cycle Training Team*

*Surrey County Council*

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## Information from Subject Leaders

### Blue Peter Book Badge – Miss H. Fail

Blue Peter has unveiled a new Book badge, designed by one of the UK's best-known illustrators, Sir Quentin Blake. The Blue Peter Book badge will be awarded to children aged 5-15 who send in their thoughts on a book, draw a character or scene and share which other books and writers they love.

The application is organised as below:

- 1) Tell us about the book you have read and what you think about it? (Between 50 and 250 words)
- 2) Upload your drawing or picture of a character or a scene from the story. This could be a drawing or a painting or digital artwork.
- 3) What other books and authors have you enjoyed reading and why? (Between 10 and 250 words)

Use the following link to find and submit the application:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbbc/findoutmore/blue-peter-apply-for-a-book-badge>

Sir Quentin Blake says: "Reading can take you to amazing places." We would love to celebrate in school any child who is awarded a Blue Peter Book Badge.



### RE – Come and See topics – Mrs S. Turner, R.E. Subject Leader

Year groups 2 to 5 will now begin studying Baptism and Confirmation (Belonging). The subject of RE is taught through a Catholic Primary Religious Programme called "Come and See" which is recommended and supported by the Diocese.

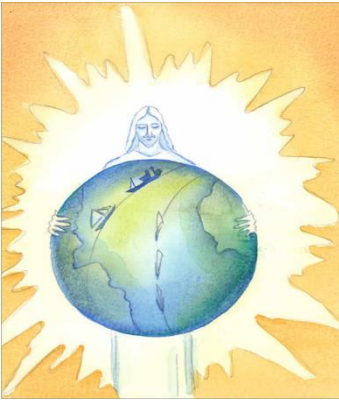
Each year group will approach the themes through different topics.

#### BAPTISM AND CONFIRMATION - BELONGING

Year 2	<b>SIGNS AND SYMBOLS</b> - Signs and symbols in Baptism
Year 3	<b>PROMISES</b> - Promises made at Baptism
Year 4	<b>CALLED</b> - Confirmation: a call to witness
Year 5	<b>LIFE CHOICES</b> - Marriage, commitment and service

#### SUGGESTIONS FOR HOME ACTIVITIES

Talk to someone who has been to a Baptism and/or Confirmation about their memories of this celebration.



This half term EYFS, Year One and Six will continue to build on their learning about a unit titled: Creation and Covenant. In this unit, the children will encounter the God who creates and calls all people. They will explore revelation of the Christian belief that all that is comes from God, the Creation accounts in Genesis, and scientific explanations of the process of Creation. 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.

### JUDAISM WEEK (9<sup>th</sup> - 13<sup>th</sup> October)

Children in Years 2 to 6 will study various aspects of Judaism for one week. Some year groups will visit a local synagogue, other year groups will be welcoming guest speakers and be involved in workshops. We are all looking forward to it. Do ask the children what they have been learning about.



### Safeguarding: Mrs A. O'Donovan

#### Our Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSLs)



**Lead DSL:**  
Mrs A. O'Donovan  
*Assistant Headteacher*



**Deputy DSL:**  
Mrs J. Birch  
*Executive Headteacher*



**Deputy DSL:**  
Mrs G. Morganti  
*Head of School*

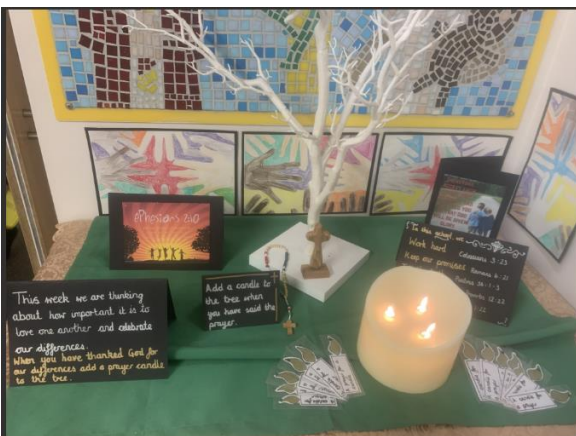


**Deputy DSL:**  
Mrs S. Hughes  
*SENDCo*



**Deputy DSL:**  
Mr A. Coyle  
*Senior Teacher*

### SEND: (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities) Mrs S. Hughes- SENDCo



From October 2nd to 8th, 2023, the British Dyslexia Association invites us to join us in commemorating Dyslexia Awareness Week with the theme, 'Uniquely You.' At the heart of our celebration is the profound understanding that each person's journey with dyslexia is an individual story.

At school, we will be focussing on celebrating difference and the unique qualities and talents that individuals contribute to society.

<https://www.bdadyslexia.org.uk/support-us/awareness-events/dyslexia-awareness-week>

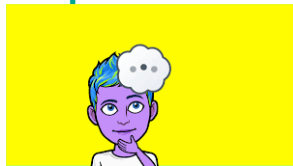
## Welfare and Inclusion – Mrs A. O’Donovan Online Safety

### Rumble - what is it?



With the allegations against Russell Brand over the last couple of weeks, you may hear the media talking about a platform called Rumble. Essentially, it's a YouTube competitor founded in 2013 and appears to be gaining in popularity. This is because many of those who have been 'cancelled' by other platforms are able to keep talking to their fans on Rumble, which has far more lax policies as the platform opposes censorship. As you can imagine, it contains lots of disinformation, conspiracy theories and much more.

### Snapchat AI

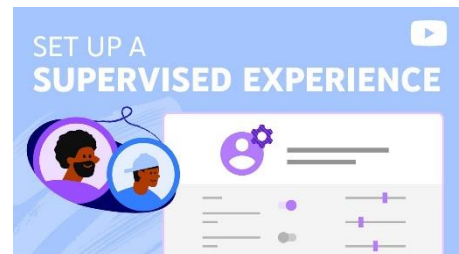


In a bid to keep up with everyone else, Snapchat introduced their AI chatbot a few months ago by default into users' accounts. You don't get a choice, it can't be turned off unless you pay! There is an article that may be useful for you [HERE](#).

### YouTube Supervised Accounts

YouTube Supervised Experience is really easy to set up and gives parents much greater flexibility in managing the content their children are watching on YouTube.

Alan McKenzie, an online safety expert has information on his page with 5 very simple videos showing parents how to set up and use Supervised Experience, YouTube Kids (which also has new settings). <https://www.esafety-adviser.com/youtube-parental-restrictions>



### Parenting Courses

**THE PARENTING PUZZLE**

This tried and tested programme can help you deal with challenges so you have a calmer, family life.

The course covers:

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

For further information, visit [www.woking.gov.uk/familysupport](http://www.woking.gov.uk/familysupport)  
Register your interest with us on email [familycentres@woking.gov.uk](mailto:familycentres@woking.gov.uk) or call 01483 743 812

FAMILY LINKS  
SURREY  
WOKING

A QR code located in the bottom left corner of the flyer.





If you are looking for support and advice in relation to parenting, Woking Family Centre are running "The Parenting Puzzle" courses for families. Please see below for more information.

## Head lice

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

Please remember to always check your child's head for lice on a weekly basis. This is the only way to keep on top of it. We don't send emails home every time a child has headlice. While lice are nothing more than a nuisance, it is important that children are checked on a weekly basis so that any headlice can be dealt with quickly and before they are allowed to spread too far. Follow the simple CHECK, TREAT, COMPLETE routine to ensure you are doing your bit to keep head lice outbreaks to a minimum.

There is no need for children to have time off school due to head lice.  
Remember: Once a week, take a peek!

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

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

## Upcoming Flu Vaccinations



On the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> October 2023, children whose parents have given consent will have their flu vaccinations in school. Don't forget to complete the e-consent that you were sent via Schoolcomms – please complete the consent whether or not your child will have the vaccine.

Please do carefully consider allowing your child to have their flu vaccine. This is important for several reasons:

### Five reasons to have the flu vaccine:

- 1. Protect your child** - The vaccine will help protect your child against flu and serious complications such as bronchitis and pneumonia.
- 2. Protect you, your family and friends** - Vaccinating your child will help protect more vulnerable friends and family.
- 3. No injection needed** - The nasal spray is painless and easy to have.
- 4. It's better than having flu** - The nasal spray helps protect against flu, has been given to millions of children worldwide and has an excellent safety record.
- 5. Avoid costs** - If your child gets flu, you may have to take time off work or arrange alternative childcare.

More information about the flu vaccine can be found on the government website:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/flu-vaccination-leaflets-and-posters>

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## Liturgy and Worship

Liturgy, Worship and RE – Mrs A O'Donovan – Assistant Headteacher



Pray with a grateful heart knowing how much God loves you; and the peace of God, which is greater than we can understand, will fill your minds and hearts and keep you safe and close to Jesus.

(based on Philippians 4:4-9)



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## Grandparents' Week



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



a little thank you. Here is their prayer:

*Dear God,  
Thank you for our wonderful grandparents.  
Thank you that they make us feel loved and safe. They bring us such joy and happiness into our lives.  
Thank you for all the special times that we have shared with them.  
We ask that you please watch over them, protect them and care for them. May they know your goodness and love always with them.  
Amen*

Written by our Faith Ambassadors September 2023



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## The Harvest Festival Liturgy



The children in Year 4 are looking forward to sharing their Harvest Festival Liturgy on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> October at 11.15am at St Dunstan's Church. This harvest liturgy is a joyful celebration of all of the wonderful things that God has given us. As we would invite the parents of a class to join us for a class collective worship, the parents of Year 4 are very welcome to join us in our celebration at the church. The Year 4 children will have the opportunity to share this special liturgy with the other classes; therefore, there will not be a live-stream from the church as the children will be able to see it in person.

A reminder please that photography or videoing of the children at religious services is not allowed.

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## Praying of the Rosary during October

During the month of October, we will be praying a decade of the Rosary on Tuesday mornings at 8.30am by the Lower School grotto. You are all invited to join in with this beautiful way to start to the day. Don't worry if you do not have a rosary, we have lots that we can share! If the weather is wet, we will gather under the awning of St. Teresa's classroom.



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## All Saints Day



As the 1<sup>st</sup> November is a Holy Day of Obligation, children in Years 3 to 6 will join the Parish Mass at 10am for the feast day. Parents are welcome to join us at the Church. Children in Reception to Year 2 will have their own liturgy in school.

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### **Parish links:**

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

### **CAFOD**

The collection for CAFOD family fast day appeal will take place at Masses on the weekend of the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> October.

### **Food Bank**

There is a food bank collection on the weekend of the 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> October. They are particularly looking for tinned ham/pork/spam, tinned mixed vegetables, long-life sponge puddings, cooking oil, cloths washing detergent, coffee, hot chocolate, long life full fat milk, nappies in sizes 5, 6 and 7, shampoo and conditioner, tinned carrots, tinned spaghetti, tinned salmon, instant potato and instant noodles. Thank you.

### **Wild Goose Course**

The Wild Goose course on the Holy Spirit starts on the 9<sup>th</sup> October from 7.30pm to 9pm in the Parish Room. Sign up details are in the newsletter.

### **Parish Christmas Fair**

The date for this will be Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> November and volunteers are needed!

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## **Parent -Teacher Meetings - Appointments for Autumn Term 2023**

### **Mrs G. Morganti - Head of School**

We are looking forward to welcoming you to the Parent Teacher meetings on **Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> October**. The evenings will begin at 3.45pm with the last appointment at 6.45pm.

A reminder:

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

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## **Parent to Parent**

Mrs Wendy Steer is an Ofsted registered childminder and has recently notified us that she has limited availability for before and after school. Please contact Mrs Steer directly for further details. Tel no: 07776 289323.

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## **Questions and Queries**

### **Mrs J. Birch**

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

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## School Office

### Medical – Ms A. Madden

We kindly remind parents that any ad hoc prescribed medicines for administering in the school day must be handed in to the Office with a completed Pupil Medication Request Form. This form is available to download on our website under Office Information and Forms:

[http://www.stdunstans.surrey.sch.uk/Office\\_links.html](http://www.stdunstans.surrey.sch.uk/Office_links.html)

May we also remind you that only medication prescribed by the child's medical practitioner can be administered by members of staff and the prescription label must be attached to the medication container. The only exception to this is junior paracetamol (e.g. Calpol) which must be provided in an unopened bottle or in sachets or 'fastmelts'. All medication must be brought in to the school office by a responsible adult, not sent to school with your child.

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

Thank you.

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### School lunches – cost for Autumn Term 2

A reminder please that payment for school lunches should be made in advance in the first week of each half term. The cost of lunches for this half term is £91.80. Payment can be made either via



Scopay (preferred option), by cheque made payable to Surrey County Council (with the child's name and class on the reverse of the cheque) or by cash (handed directly to the school office not via a child please). Payments should be in a sealed envelope with the child's name and class clearly marked on the front. Thank you for your assistance.

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

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### Free School Meals – Years 3 - 6 - are you eligible?

Please contact the school office for details of eligibility. You can email:

[office@stdunstans.surrey.sch.uk](mailto:office@stdunstans.surrey.sch.uk) Application forms can be collected from the school office for completion and return.

Mrs C. Turner, our school Bursar, is always very happy to check your eligibility for you if you are unsure. You can contact Mrs Turner in confidence by email on: [admin@stdunstans.surrey.sch.uk](mailto:admin@stdunstans.surrey.sch.uk) or by phone: 01483 715190. Thank you.

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## Sport & PE

### Sporting update – Mr A. Coyle, PE Leader and Senior Teacher

#### Sporting update

It is truly great to be back, and see the children full of life and spirit. The school year has begun with the children impressing as always in our PE lessons. We have been focusing on our fundamental core skills in Key Stage One. In Key Stage Two, the children have been working on team games, with a progression into invasion games now starting to take precedence.

With leaves beginning to fall from the trees and the colder weather arriving, we ask that the children are suitably equipped.

Children will need to have their tracksuits for every lesson, as well as suitable footwear for PE. They will be on wet, muddy fields and their shoes and socks may get wet, so we do not want the children to feel the cold even more! Having longer PE socks is part of the children's kit and having them will make their lessons more comfortable, please check your child have these in their kit every week.

Our new sports leaders for this year have already begun showing their leadership skills. Over the course of the year, they will assist on the playgrounds, in competitions and helping the PE team.



As a more comprehensive sporting fixture programme begins in October, we look forward to taking part and hosting a variety of fixtures and festivals. Looking to reach as many children as possible, we continue to endeavour to run a plethora of events, from those higher, competitive events to the inspire events, which allow children to try these experiences for the first time.

### **Competition Update**

#### **Year 5 football at Cranmore**

On Friday 15<sup>th</sup> September, some of our Year 5 footballers played in the school's first fixture this year, as we travelled to Cranmore School for a football tournament. In the school's beautiful grounds, with the late summer sun shining on us, we played against unknown opposition. Playing against 6 other teams our boys performed amazingly well, winning 3 games, drawing 2 and losing 1. We finished an incredible runners up against some really tough opposition. Well done boys.

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## **Uniform**

### **Winter Uniform**

For reference, the school uniform list can be found on the school website:

<http://www.stdunstans.surrey.sch.uk/SCHOOL%20UNIFORM.pdf>

### **Hats/Gloves**

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

### **Socks – winter uniform**

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

### **Summer Dresses – Spring 2024**



Last Summer some of our parents experienced difficulties in purchasing summer dresses.

Since M&S discontinued the pink and white striped dress, Valentino Schoolwear is currently our sole supplier. Moving forward, and in an effort to avoid supply issues, Valentino's have asked us to put a request out to all of our parents to assist them with ordering.

If you know that you will need a Summer Dress for your child next Spring, would you be kind enough to contact Valentino's. They do not require any payment but to assist them in their order quantities, ask that you contact them on 01483 475051 or email [info@valentinoschoolwear.com](mailto:info@valentinoschoolwear.com). with size/number of dresses. Valentino's would very much appreciate hearing from our parents by Friday 27<sup>th</sup> October 2023 and thank you in advance.

We are actively seeking to source an alternative supplier for our summer dresses in order to give parents a choice. If any parent has links with a company that could source these dresses for us, (or who works for M&S supply chain and could arrange for these dresses to be available again ) please contact Mrs Birch directly.

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## Dates for your Diary



**For your information:** - a reminder that the term dates for 2023-2024 are available to view on the school website -

[http://www.stdunstans.surrey.sch.uk/Annual\\_calendar\\_and\\_dates.html](http://www.stdunstans.surrey.sch.uk/Annual_calendar_and_dates.html)

**PLEASE NOTE:** [School term dates for 2024-2025](#) are now available to view on the school website under the link above

**INSET DAY** – Monday 30<sup>th</sup> October – school closed for pupils.  
Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> November at 9am Early Reading and Phonics Talk for EYFS parents

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

*The FoSD Committee*

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

We hope everyone has settled into the term and it's not **\*too\*** much of a challenge getting everyone out of the house each morning!

Thanks to everyone who completed the FOSD survey. We received some really great suggestions and you will see from the upcoming schedule of events that we have taken some suggestions on board for this year. Other events will hopefully happen over the coming years.

These are upcoming FOSD activities to note:

- **Sunday October 8<sup>th</sup>:** Welcome Party for Reception children and parents.
- **Saturday October 14<sup>th</sup>:** FOSD Fireworks (**tickets sold out**)
- **Friday November 10<sup>th</sup>:** School Disco. Look for tickets to go on sale soon!
- **Friday November 17<sup>th</sup>:** Happy School Bag Day (<http://www.happyschoolbag.co.uk/>). This is an opportunity for you to donate reusable clothes, for which FOSD get money! Easy! Therefore when you have a summer-clothes-clear-out please keep hold on to them until November 17<sup>th</sup>.
- **Saturday November 25<sup>th</sup>:** The Great Gatsby Themed Winter Ball at Pyrford Lakes. We have 190 tickets available for this event and they are also selling fast! It'll be a superb night-out so please buy a ticket for yourself or even a table for 10.

FOSD is run by a small committee of people. I (Geraint) as Chairperson, Kamila as Treasurer, Elizabeth as Secretary, Sarah and Sharon as Event Managers.

**There is a lot of work for this small team to manage so we are looking to recruit a Co-Treasurer to share the work with Kamila.**

Having someone else involved will reduce the workload for everyone and will be hugely helpful for FOSD and the school. If you have interest in this please contact me (07411967414, [geraintparry75@gmail.com](mailto:geraintparry75@gmail.com)) and we can arrange for you to have a chat with Kamila about the role.

### **Please sign up for the FOSD Jackpot**

I strongly encourage you to sign up for the **FOSD Jackpot**; whether its parents or grandparents everyone is welcome to join and help support the school. It is the easiest and simplest fundraiser in which to participate – no meetings, no baking and no jumble sorting – It's just a monthly (or Annual) payment that becomes funds for the FOSD. **It really is an easy win for everyone!**

The minimum contribution is £1/month which gives you a unique number in the monthly Jackpot draw (£12 for the year). You can increase your chances by having as many tickets as you like for £1 each. **Each month a winner is picked who wins £50.**

It's easy to join:

- a. Set up a monthly recurring payment with your bank (£1 or more) to pay St Dunstan's School Jackpot, **Account 00379100, Sort Code 30-99-80** and send an email with your name, email address and child's name and class to [stdunstansschooljackpot@gmail.com](mailto:stdunstansschooljackpot@gmail.com) stating when your DD will start and come out each month.

**OR**

- b. Make a one off payment by BACS to the account details above and send an email with your name, email contact, child's name, class and how you would like the money to be split each month to [stdunstansschooljackpot@gmail.com](mailto:stdunstansschooljackpot@gmail.com)

**Friends of St Dunstan's - Account 00379100, Sort Code 30-99-80**

Any queries, please get in touch on [stdunstansschooljackpot@gmail.com](mailto:stdunstansschooljackpot@gmail.com)

*We wish you a very happy new term and best wishes for the year ahead!*

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