

St. Dunstan's Catholic Primary School

Newsletter



Executive Headteacher: Mrs J. Birch - head@stdunstans.surrey.sch.uk

Head of School: Mrs G. Morganti - headofschool@stdunstans.surrey.sch.uk

May 2023

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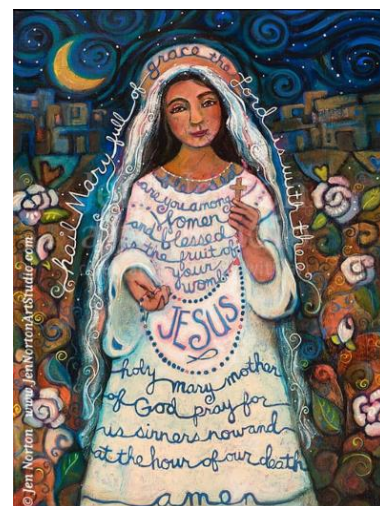
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Dear Parents,

This is a slightly shorter newsletter than usual as it is not long since we sent out our April newsletter to you. The summer term is always very busy so we were keen to keep you up to date with activities and updates.

May is always a very special month in school. The children enjoy learning about May as the month of Mary. We think about how Mary teaches us that love is selfless and how she cares for all of us as our heavenly mother. We do hope you will be able to join us at the Marian Grotto (on the Lower School field) at 8.30am each Tuesday morning during May to pray together. Prayer will be led by either Mary Smith, our school chaplain, or Father Peter Andrews.



Swimming started this week and the pool was crystal blue and inviting. Grateful thanks to Mr Jamieson who keeps the pool safe and gleaming for us, we really are so very fortunate to have our own heated pool on site; the children were certainly very excited to start their swimming lessons. Please do check that your child's towel is big enough to wrap round them snugly when they get out of the water.

We look forward to welcoming you in to school very soon.

Julianne Birch

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Activities and Events

EYFS – Mrs H. Robbins: 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 how we can look after bees by buying special seeds or leaving a bowl of water for them to drink on hot days. Since our visit, the children have enjoyed sharing 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 drone bees are so lazy they just eat honey and sleep so the worker bees kick them all out of the hive in the winter!". "Bees actually have five eyes and four wings but it looks like they have two wings because they clip them together". We would like to thank Greg, Pauline and the GBKA for volunteering their time and helping bring the learning alive for the children.

Year 1 – Miss G. Hearn: Head of Year 1

As part of our history topic, 'What changes have my grandparents seen?' Year 1 participated in a series of exciting workshops at Milestones Museum called 'Homes and Discoveries'. In our first activity, we learnt all about homes from the past. We explored room-sets of a typical home in the 1930's/1940's, and then had the opportunity to compare them with those from the present. We were also lucky enough to engage in some exciting role-play and explore the Victorian streets of the museum. We had to solve tricky riddles to locate objects in the museum and participated in a scavenger hunt where we followed clues to learn more about the Victorian collections. We even got to dress up as Victorian children! It was a fantastic day and the children were as always, an absolute credit to St. Dunstan's.



Children's Learning

Mrs G. Morganti – Head of School

St. Dunstan's Curriculum

The staff here at St Dunstan's have spent time to consider what our curriculum offers the pupils. We have reflected on the purpose of the curriculum and what difference it makes to the pupils during their time at St. Dunstan's.

The new website is coming soon and our reviewed Curriculum Statement can be found on the new Children's Learning page.

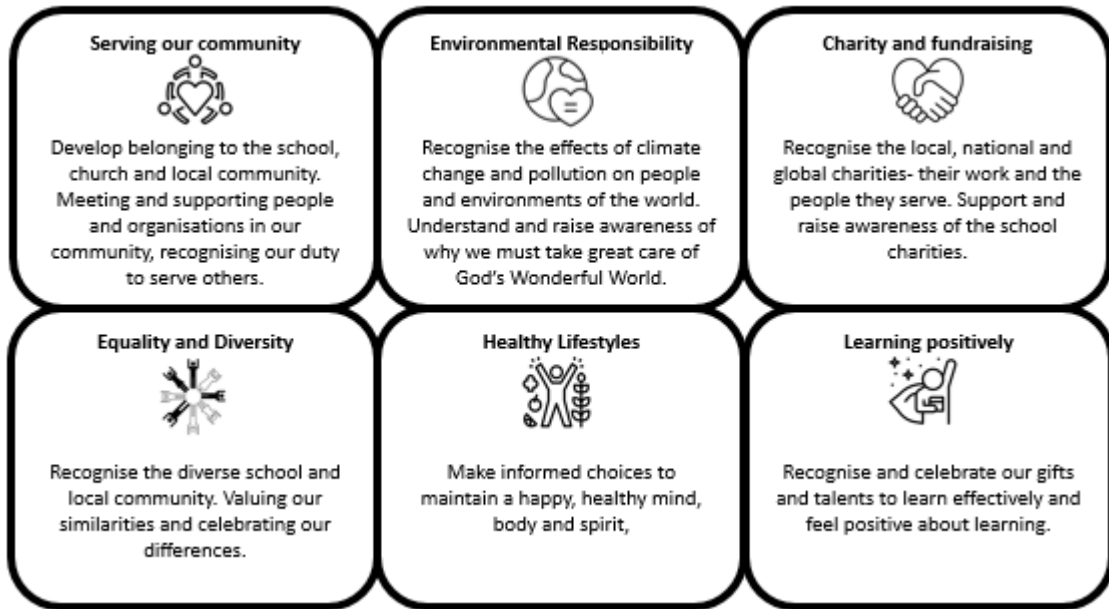
As part of this reflection, we revisited our **St. Dunstan's 'drivers'** to ensure they continue to prepare the children for their future: to have the opportunities, the responsibilities and experiences which

provide the knowledge and skills to be happy and successful life-long learners and to go into the world ready to help to make it a better place.

As our curriculum is distinctive to our values, the St. Dunstan’s drivers help to connect our faith, the real world and our community in a way to provide inspiring, purposeful and memorable learning for all children.

Six key drivers that underpin our school curriculum:

The first 3 drivers:



- 'serving our community',
- 'environmental responsibility' and
- 'charity and fundraising' ...

...encourage the children to consider what it means to serve and how they can bring love and care to the world.

The second 3 drivers:

- 'equality and diversity',
- 'healthy lifestyles' and
- 'learning positively' ...

...teach the children about themselves and others to help them make positive choices and to show respect to themselves and to others.

Across the 6 drivers, there is a focus on building and nurturing a positive relationship with other children, staff and the people in our community.

When you read the year group overviews for the year, the top section provides the bigger picture to the learning. You will notice that these 6 drivers are included to show where they help to drive the year's curriculum.

	Autumn 1	Autumn 2	Spring 1	Spring 2	Summer 1	Summer 2
Key Learning Question/ Title	Early Britain- what are our origins? (History)		Origins (English & History)	A continent of contrasts (English)	River Journeys	Food journeys
Overarching Theme	Journeys- why do people travel to different places?					
	The diversity of the UK- invasion and settlement		Migration- everyone has a place in this world.	Discovery- the journey of learning	Environment- everything has a place in this world	Food miles- from farm to table
St. Dunstan's Curriculum Theme	Serving our community Different kinds of responsibilities, rights and duties at school Equality and diversity Diversity of our school and the wider community	Serving our community What being part of a community means. Living together with others. Healthy relationships Learning positively Being safe Taking risks		Equality and diversity Recognising some of the injustices in our world Charity and fundraising Equality, fairness and charity	Environmental responsibility How we can help to build a world where people and nature thrive	Environmental responsibility Sustainability, food waste and environmental solutions Healthy Lifestyles Physical and emotional well-being Positive relationships
Outcome of learning	Visual representation of our global class family	Compare and contrast migration before 1066 to today	Class short story compilation- everyone has a place in this world.	Fairtrade presentation for parents to raise awareness	WWF- postcard of actions for nature	Letter to local supermarket persuading them to reduce their carbon footprint
Engagement with parents or community	Grandparents' Week	Advent Liturgy	Art Celebration afternoon Chertsey Museum	Talent Show Mission Together	WWF	Tuning Up Concert to parents and year 3 Sports Day Open Evening

Information from Subject Leaders

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

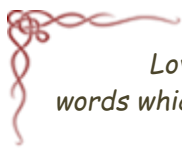


Deputy DSL:
Mrs S. Hughes
SENDCo



Deputy DSL:
Mr A. Coyle
Senior Teacher

RE topics this term: Come and See – Mrs S. Turner, Senior Teacher



Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your souls and with all your might. These words which I am commanding you today must remain in your heart.

Deuteronomy 6: 4-9



As we return to school after Easter the Church is still celebrating this great event. The focus of this term's work in Religious Education is the role the Holy Spirit plays in our lives. We will be studying the three themes of Pentecost (Serving), Reconciliation (Inter-relating) and Universal Church (World).

PENTECOST—SERVING

Early Years	GOOD NEWS - Passing on the Good News of Jesus
Year 1	HOLIDAYS AND HOLYDAYS - Pentecost: feast of the Holy Spirit
Year 2	SPREAD THE WORD - Pentecost: a time to spread the Good News
Year 3	ENERGY - Gifts of the Holy Spirit
Year 4	NEW LIFE - To hear and live the Easter message
Year 5	TRANSFORMATION - Celebration of the Spirit's transforming power
Year 6	WITNESSES - The Holy Spirit enables people to become witnesses

SUGGESTIONS FOR HOME ACTIVITIES

Talk about good news in your family and how you shared it. Ask your child to tell you the story of Pentecost and the work of the Holy Spirit.



Important Dates

The month of May is dedicated to Our Lady

THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

(26 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.

Special Educational Needs –Mrs S. Hughes, Senior Teacher

<https://eikon.org.uk/parents-and-carers/parent-support-webinars/>

Please see the above link for details of free parent courses such as:

- **Supporting your Child's Self-Esteem and Confidence (Primary)** Thursday 11th May 2023 19.00-20.00
- **Supporting your Child with the Transition to Secondary School - for parents of children with SEND** Thursday 6th June 2023 at 12.00-13.00pm
- **Supporting your Child with the Transition to Secondary School** Thursday 22nd June 2023 19.00-20.00 (A repeat of the webinar hosted on 23rd March)

Liturgy and Worship

Mrs A. O'Donovan: Assistant Headteacher

Start of the term Mass and Liturgy

Year 4 led a beautiful Mass for Key Stage 2 on Friday 28th April. The theme of the Mass was The Good Shepherd. The children did a wonderful job with the readings and prayers, as well as a beautiful reflective dance and song after Communion. Thank you to the children and year 4 staff for all of their hard work and thank you to those parents who joined us for the occasion as well as Fr Rob for leading the Mass.

Lower School had a liturgy in school for the start of term that was led with the help of Year 2 pupils. We too focused on the theme of the Good Shepherd and the children thought about how they can be good members of Jesus' flock.





Praying the Rosary during May

Just a little reminder that everyone is welcome to join in with praying a decade of the Rosary during the month of May. We meet by the Marian grotto on the Lower School field on Tuesday mornings at 8.30am. Either Mary Smith or Fr Peter (our chaplains) lead the prayer and it is a beautiful way to start your day! It would be lovely to see you there.

Upcoming Collective Worships, Liturgies and Masses



Tuesday 16th May - St. Bernadette's Class Collective Worship in the Hall – 9.00 – 9.30am: parents are welcome to attend.

Thursday 18th May – Key Stage 2 attending Parish Mass for the feast of the Ascension at 10am.

Friday 19th May – St. Dunstan's day Liturgy for Key Stage 2 at the Church at 11.15am.

Tuesday 23rd May - St. Bede's Class Collective Worship in the Hall – 9.00 – 9.30am: parents welcome to attend.

Parish links:



The Sacrament of Confirmation

Please pray every day for the 70 young people from across the parishes of St Dunstan and St Hugh who are going to the cathedral on Saturday, May 13th to be confirmed by Bishop Richard. May the Holy Spirit work powerfully in them and make them witnesses to the Gospel their whole lives long.

Holy Spirit Course (Wild Goose): 15th May 7.30pm in the Parish Room at St Dunstan's Church



We are running a weekly course on the Holy Spirit, called The Wild Goose, which is the name the ancient Celts used for the Holy Spirit. It will help you experience a deeper relationship with the Holy Spirit. The course will be 6 weekly sessions lasting just over an hour NB. No meeting on 29th May. The format will be a video followed by a small group discussion. It would be helpful if you could SIGN UP via the link below or contact the Parish Office.

Do come along if you can – even if you cannot make every session.

International Mass and Social - Sunday 21st May



You are warmly welcome to our annual parish festival on Sunday, 21st May 2023 where we will be celebrating an International Mass at 11.00 am, followed by a rich Multicultural Social of delicious food and entertainment. So come and proudly represent your native country and make this a joyous celebration; please volunteer to read in your native language, share a cultural hymn or Eucharistic tradition, wear traditional clothes, bring your country flag (https://bit.ly/InternationalMass_Flags), traditional food and

perform in the cultural show of traditional music and dance. To Volunteer Please Contact Co-ordinators: Asia: Lara, 756278, 07466 763735, laraspereira23@gmail.com; Africa: Cathy c.emerson@usa.net; East Europe: Isabel, home@thomaspfann.com; UK & West Europe: Susan, susan.lawson72@gmail.com, Rest of the World: Nicole, Nicolepeay1000@hotmail.co.uk.

Can you help please?



Ladies and gentlemen we are in great need of more cleaners to help keep our lovely church clean and inviting. Would you be able to spare 1 or 2 hours a month? Unfortunately, over a period of many months our numbers have diminished. For information, we have a Rota and the cleaning usually takes place after the 10 am Daily Mass and/or the Rosary, so a start of around 11 am-11.15 am is normal. Church cleaning will sometimes be prevented by Funerals and school children visits. If you can help then please email Jackie Clements on jackieclements250@btinternet.com or telephone/text Jackie on her Mobile No. 07799 054698. Looking forward to hearing from you.

Homes for Ukraine



Do you have a spare room or a larger space available to accommodate one person, a mother and child or a small family escaping the war in Ukraine? Some Ukrainians who have been living in Woking in recent months are looking to be re-homed as well as possible new people arriving. If you can help, please contact refugee.support@woking.gov.uk or visit www.woking.gov.uk/ukraine

Are you an Arabic speaker?

Woking Citizens Advice Bureau are seeking a volunteer who can speak Arabic to help in liaising with some of their clients, particularly refugees living in Woking. It does not have to be a full-time commitment, even just one or two days a week would be helpful. If you can assist, please call 01483 725192.



School Office

48hr absence rule for diarrhoea and vomiting – Mrs A. O'Donovan

Please support us and other children and parents by ensuring that if your 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.



Making payments

Where we offer online payment, it would help us enormously if parents could make their payments through Scopay. If you need assistance setting up your account or need any guidance please contact the office and we will be happy to help. Thank you.

Link to Scopay: http://www.stdunstans.surrey.sch.uk/Parents_online_payment.html

i DBS (Disclosure & Barring Service)

A reminder please, that if you have recently undertaken a new DBS clearance to volunteer at the school, to register for the UPDATE service. 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>. 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 trip/function etc.

Thank you.

Lunch money for Summer Term 2023– Mrs M. O’Riordan

School dinner costs for Summer Term are as follows: half term £72.90, full term £167.40. 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:

i Fraser Portraits will be in school on **Tuesday 16th & 17th of May**, 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.

Update: Swimming hats, sun hats, water bottles and book wallets now available for purchase online

Swimming hats, sun hats, water bottles and book wallets are now available to pre-order from the school office. Parents can pre-order and pay for items via their Scopay account as follows:

- login to your account
- go to ‘Products’ to view school sundries
- add items you wish to pre-order to your basket and make payment

If payment is made by 4pm the school office will have these items available for collection by parents on the following day.

Sports & PE

Competition Update: Mr A. Coyle, Senior Teacher

Year 4 girls’ beginner football session

On Wednesday 26th April, some of our Year 4 girls went to Woking Leisure Centre for an introduction to football taster session.

Skills taught focused on moving with the ball, learning how to pass and think about space on the football pitch. The girls returned to school full of enthusiasm and pride at having represented the school.



Year 6 football finals day



After, a long season of football, in which both our boys' and girls' teams won their cluster leagues, we travelled to Pirbright School for a finals day. Playing against the league winners from other clusters, we were aware the competition would be tough.

In the boys' competition in the morning, we played three games with our last match being a winner takes all encounter.

The boys played amazingly well, working beautifully together and showing superb skill and ability, winning the game 5-0. Crowned the district champions for 2023, this a superb achievement for all boys who have represented us this year.

The girl's competition in the evening was just as tight an affair as the boys, with the girls needing to avoid defeat going into the final. Not content with sitting back though, the girls won convincingly and were also crowned district champions for 2023. Again a superb achievement for our girls.

A huge well done to the girls' and boys' teams, it is fantastic to have two winning teams.



Staffing

Mrs G. Morganti – Head of School

Mrs Pearson has left to start her maternity leave. The children sent her off with many cuddles and good luck messages and Mrs Pearson was very grateful for your kind messages and the lovely gift from the class. Mrs J. Edwards will be returning from her maternity this month to work alongside Mrs Bradshaw in Year 2.

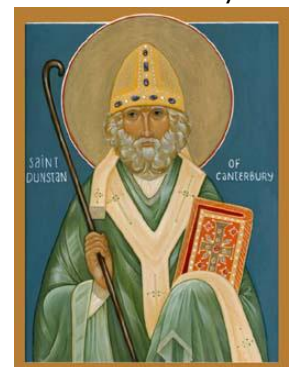
At the end of May, we will say farewell to Mrs Caszo who is leaving us to pursue a different career. We wish her all the very best and thank her for her many years of dedication to the children at St. Dunstan's. She will be greatly missed on our staff team.

St. Dunstan's Day Celebration: 19th 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. We also have plans for an exciting art project that we will share with you next month.

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. You will have received a Schoolcomms message about lunch preference for this day. Lunch monies for KS2 children will be adjusted accordingly. It is absolutely vital that everyone remembers that packed lunches must be totally nut free and contain a balanced, healthy meal.



Dates for your Diary – noted changes to the Annual Calendar



For your information: there are no changes to record.

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



The FoSD Committee

Carys, Helen, Kamila, Andrew and Elizabeth

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

REMINDERS PLEASE

Swimming Donations

Swimming lessons for children from Year 1 upwards, starts the 2nd May, as part of their summer term curriculum. The school (*with additional funding from the Governor's Maintenance Fund*) finances the cost of running and maintaining the swimming pool. FoSD donates money to cover the cost of providing the swimming teachers, which last year cost over £5000.

We would please ask, where possible, that each family makes a voluntary contribution of £15 for the first sibling and £5 per additional sibling up to the suggested maximum donation of £25, to help fund the swimming lessons.

No child will be excluded from swimming lessons should a donation not be made.

Please visit <https://www.pta-events.co.uk/fosd> to make donations online. Please ensure the *PTA Events User* is in the name of the Tax payer and that gift aid is clicked.

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

Happy Bags

For all parents, carers and friends of St. Dunstan's who are new to Happy Bags, please see the link to see details, and to find out what should be included, and what should be avoided.

<http://happyschoolbag.co.uk/>

Please return your bag **at drop off on Tuesday 23rd May**, and not before. There is unfortunately no room to store the bags at school.

Happy spring cleaning 😊

Summer term Cake Sales

This term FoSD will aim to host two cake sales; one on **Friday 19th May**, a week before half-term, and the second and final one, on **Friday 14th July**. FoSD will be asking Year 3 to please host the 19th of May cake sale, and Year 4 to please host the final cake sale on Friday the 14th of July

2023 Quiz Night

The 2023 Quiz Night will be held on **Saturday 20th May**. VIP and standard table and individual tickets are on sale on the FoSD website; <https://www.pta-events.co.uk/fosd>; do hurry, they are selling fast. The quiz has in the past always been a great evening, and is set to be a fabulous event

this year. A separate Schoolcomms will also be circulated in advance of the quiz night with all the details.

The Summer Fair

Plans are well under way for the summer fair, and separate communications have been circulated this week in relation to this. A couple of things, we would still like to invite sponsorship please; if anyone is interested in sponsoring an event or stall at the summer fair, please do get in contact with Carys on 07976235857 or friendsofstdunstanschairperson@gmail.com.

We would also like to invite any parents, carers or friends of St. Dunstan's who would like to either advertise services, or businesses within the summer fair programme, or to host their own stall at the summer fair, to please get in touch with Carys or Sarah Genco too, to discuss this. Sarah can be contacted on 07837189446 or sarah.genco@yahoo.co.uk.

The Parents Football Tournament

A separate Schoolcomms will be circulated in relation to this separately, but if in the meantime, if you would like to find out how you can get involved, and support this event, please contact Johnny Fox on 07766555087.

Dates for the Diary

Year 3 cake sale: Friday 19th May

Quiz Night: Saturday 20th May

Happy Bag School Drop: Tuesday 23rd May (at drop-off please)

Summer Fair: Sunday 25th June

Year 4 cake sale: Friday 14th July

Parents Football Tournament: Saturday 15th July

We are unable to run these events on our own and we really appreciate all help offered!

Thank you.