

December 2023

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Dear Parents,

As we near the end of term, I wanted to thank you all for your support and encouragement with the focus we have had on our difficulties with parking and the safety of our children at drop-off and pick-up times. We have received a HUGE amount of support from parents and this has meant that together, the situation has improved significantly. We are aware of course, as many of you say to us, that as soon as staff are not outside, a small number of parents revert to stopping or parking illegally on yellow zigzags, pavements and double yellow lines. However, I think this is now a very small number of people and we will keep up our endeavours with the intention of making the arrival and departure of our children as safe as possible. Thank you! Mr Correira, our new caretaker will soon be taking up his post as road crossing patrol and this will further assist matters. He is currently awaiting his training by the Council.

School is now very busy with rehearsals for our nativities and the sound of beautiful singing. This really is a very special time in school, full of excitement and joy for the children. Christmas lunch and jumper day is now arranged for Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December and staff are all very much looking forward to sharing Christmas lunch with the children in the hall...they may even be on hand to serve the Brussel sprouts and roast potatoes! 571 children will be having a Christmas lunch on that day! We are very much looking forward to welcoming you into school or at the Church as we journey through Advent together. With best wishes,

*Julianne Birch*

St Dunstan's  
Catholic  
Primary School  
Onslow  
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# Activities and Learning Across the School

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

The children have really loved learning about "People Who Help Us" this half term. We began our topic with an exciting visitor- Mr Maher, a community first aid responder for Woking. He showed us some of the amazing equipment he uses to help people who are hurt or unwell. "Mr Maher is an important person because he helps people before the ambulance arrives". "He wears a special belt with all the things he might need to help people".

This links beautifully to our RE lessons where we have been learning about the birth of one of the most special people who helps us every day: Jesus. We have shared the story of the Annunciation together and used this opportunity to prepare our class home corners for the arrival of new baby dolls. "Mary said yes to God straight away". "The angel told Mary she was going to have a special baby".



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

The children in Year One have loved sharing the story 'Grandad's Secret Giant' by David Litchfield. In our English lessons, we have been thinking of exciting adjectives to describe the giant. We have also been using the word 'and' to extend our sentences. "The giant was colossal and he felt lonely". "The giant was helpful and he was jolly".

We have been busy this month preparing for our Nativity. The children have worked so incredibly hard to remember their actions, learn their lines and project their voices. We are very much looking forward to sharing our Nativity with you this week, and hope you enjoy the show!

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



We were excited to have Natasha from Surrey Education Fire Safety visit Year 2 this half term. The children learnt how to make emergency calls and even got a chance to role-play different scenarios. A particular highlight from the visit was asking questions about the role of fire fighters.

As a hook into our new History topic, Footprints from the Past, we learnt about the word 'excavate' and even got to excavate a rock ourselves. We were thrilled to discover different dinosaur fossils inside!

Wishing you all a wonderful Christmas and happy festive season.

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## Year 3- Miss N. Maloney: Head of Year & Senior Teacher

Year 3 were very excited to complete their 'Feet First' training. Especially with the days getting dark so soon they learnt some valuable skills to keep them safe as pedestrians. They are all wearing their reflective zippers with pride.

Our R.E topic of 'Visitors' has direct links with our Nativity this year. The children are given the learning in bite sized pieces which has certainly helped with their understanding and the quality of the finished piece.

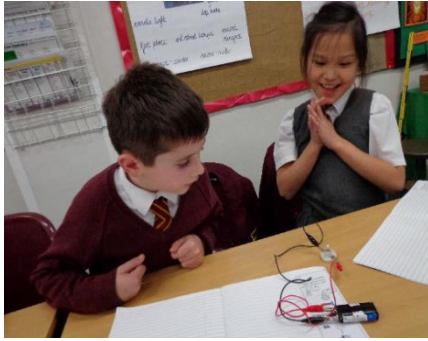
In our history topic of 'Ancient Civilisations' we have looked at chronology and time lines to establish the order in which events happen. It is a pleasure to see the children choosing library books that link with the topic.

The children have worked very hard this term and we wish them all a well-deserved and Wonderful break.

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## Year 4 – Miss H. Fail: Head of Year & Senior Teacher

In Year 4, the children are enjoying learning about electricity in science. To begin the topic, they learnt about sources of electricity and how appliances can either use mains, batteries or re-chargeable batteries. Following this, the children made circuits and tested them by adding and removing components. They showed a secure understanding of this learning, as they were able to articulate the effect of these changes on their circuits. In music, the children have made good progress in their ability to play their clarinets and trumpets. We have been particularly impressed by the dedication of some children who have chosen to practise regularly at home. We hope this enthusiasm for their instruments continues into next year!



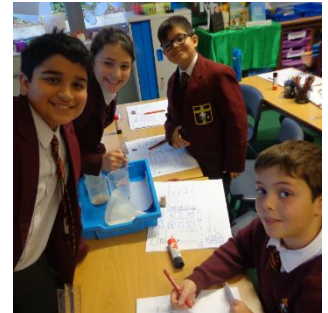
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## Year 5 – Miss E. Roe: Head of Year & Senior Teacher



There was great excitement as the term began when Year 5 visited Hampton Court Palace. They enjoyed investigating a variety of historical sources to discover more about Henry VIII and his reign.

We have enjoyed being scientists this half term investigating solutions and mixtures and considering which methods



we could use to separate them.

This month we are working hard on our preparations for Advent and we are looking forward sharing this with you at the end of term.

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

November is always a fully-packed month of learning. Year 6 have had their minds filled with classification theory in science; mountains, volcanoes and earthquakes in geography, the use of water colours in art for our mountain landscape paintings and spread sheets in computing. In English, we have been immersed in some wonderful true stories of misadventure, which have inspired our own narratives with a dramatic tone.

Now we turn our attention to the Advent Service. Please keep an eye out for costume letters and scripts and song lyrics to be learnt.

We look forward to seeing you at the Advent service this year.

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## Advent Preparations

### Christmas Post – Mrs A. O'Donovan, Assistant Headteacher



As part of our preparation for Christmas, there will be an opportunity for the children within the same class or year group to exchange Christmas cards. The children will take their cards to their classroom where they will be sorted. This is a lovely opportunity for children to create their own cards to share.

In order to ensure the Christmas cards reach the right child, please ensure the child's full name and class name is on the front of the envelope: e.g. John Smith, Year 5 St. Paul.

## Christmas Jumper Day and Christmas Lunch: Thursday 14th December 2023



On Thursday 14th December, we will be having our Christmas lunch in the hall. It would be lovely if all the children could wear a Christmas jumper/'Christmassey' coloured jumper/winter jumper over their uniform as part of our celebrations for this.

If you have any Christmas jumpers that your child has grown out of, we would gratefully receive any donations so that we can ensure everyone who wants to, has the chance to join in the fun! Please could these be left at the office for the attention of Mrs O'Donovan. Many thanks. You will have already received information about the Christmas lunch so that if your child usually has packed lunch they can have a school Christmas dinner.

## Advent Service Retiring Collection

This Christmas, during the Year 4, 5 and 6 Advent Services, we will be collecting money for the Diocesan Lourdes Pilgrimage as next year is the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the pilgrimage.



THE CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF  
**ARUNDEL & BRIGHTON**  
LOURDES PILGRIMAGE

Bishop Richard has asked all schools across the Diocese to support with fundraising for the pilgrimage to support those who would not be able to without financial support. In his words, "Lourdes holds a special affection in the hearts of many across the Diocese. The annual Diocesan pilgrimage to Lourdes is one of the most significant pastoral events in the calendar each year and can be a time of great blessing for those able to travel." Thank you in advance for your generosity.



The retiring collection from the Reception – Year 3 Services, will be for the Cardinal Hume Centre as in previous years. The Cardinal Hume Centre is a non-profit organisation based in Westminster London, which helps families, children and young people to overcome poverty and avoid homelessness. Their main aim is to welcome, as Christ, each person who comes to the centre and provide them with hospitality and a sanctuary.

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## Charity and Justice

### Charity and Justice –Miss H. King

#### Woking Lions Appeal

Just a reminder that we are currently collecting for the Woking Lions' Christmas Hamper Appeal. We hope you have all received the Schoolcomms informing you of this appeal. The Woking Lions Club was founded in 1975 and supports local families in need at Christmas time. This is another practical way that we can help children to live out the values of the Gospel.

If you would like to get involved in this initiative please encourage your child to choose an item to donate and bring it in to their class teacher by Friday 8th December.

Suggested items include:

- A Christmas pudding
- Toiletries such as shower gel or bubble bath
- A warm item of clothing such as a scarf or pair of gloves
- A small toy or gift item (unwrapped please)
- Any other non-perishable food items that would be suitable for Christmas time



#### CAFOD fun run



*Just one world*

With so many people around the world needing support we would like all the children to take part in a sponsored fun run. The sponsored fun run will take place on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December. Each child will look to walk, skip, jog or run for 26.2 minutes at some point during the day. The reason why we have chosen this time is because Mr Coyle is going to run the 26.2 mile London Marathon this year for CAFOD and we want to try and support him in his training. More information about the event will be coming in a Schoolcomms soon.

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# Children's Learning

Children's Learning Mrs G. Morganti – Head of School



## Partners in Learning

Thank you for attending the Partners in Learning afternoon to view and discuss your child/children's learning with them. I hope you agree that the children are very proud of their work and enjoy their learning across the curriculum.

The learning for the Spring Term can be found on the website

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

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### For your information:

#### Parent Talks:

The talks have continued to be very well attended this term; thank you for your support. If you did not manage to make the talks, please see the website to find the slides from the presentation.

[http://www.stdunstans.surrey.sch.uk/Talks\\_for\\_parents.htm](http://www.stdunstans.surrey.sch.uk/Talks_for_parents.htm)

Please add the relevant talks for you for the spring term to your diary:

#### Friday 19<sup>th</sup> January

**Phonics and Writing Talk for EYFS and Year 1 parents** led by Mrs Robbins 2.30-3.00pm. This talk looks at how phonics can support early writing.

#### Friday 26<sup>th</sup> January

**Sayers Croft brief presentation to Year 4 parents** led by Miss Fail 2.30-3.00pm.

#### Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February

**Internet Safety Talk for ALL parents** led by Mrs O'Donovan (more details to come)

#### Friday 1<sup>st</sup> March

**Sayers Croft briefing for Year 3 parents for 2025** led by Miss Fail 2.30-3.00pm

#### Friday 8<sup>th</sup> March

**SATS talk for Year 6 parents** led by Mrs Steer 2.30-3.00pm

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### For your information:

#### Creative Arts Week Celebration reminder

This year the Creative Arts week celebration afternoon will be held on **Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> February** from 2.45pm to 4.15pm. The children will have the chance to view the exhibition on Monday 5<sup>th</sup>.

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## Clubs

Mr A. Coyle: Senior teacher

Further to our recent Schoolcomms message, you will be aware the Spring Clubs timetable is available for parents to view on the school website.

All external and teacher led clubs for this forthcoming term are available to book from Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> November, 2023. Teacher led clubs can be booked via [SchoolCloud](#) until 6pm Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> of December, 2023. At this point we will review bookings and if there are further spaces available we will let parents know.

All external led clubs can be booked directly with the external led club providers, details of which can

be found on the school website, please click [here](#).



### **Important dates:**

- **Teacher Led Clubs will run from:**
- **Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January, 2024 to Friday 2nd February, 2024 (Spring 1);**
- **Monday 26<sup>th</sup> February, 2024 to Friday 22nd March, 2024 (Spring 2)**
  
- **External Led Clubs will run from:**
- **Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January, 2024 to Friday 02nd February, 2024 (Spring 1);**
- **Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February, to Friday 22nd March, 2024 (Spring 2)**

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

**Monday 05<sup>th</sup> February to Friday 09<sup>th</sup> February, 2024 – parent teacher meetings**  
**Monday 12<sup>th</sup> February to Friday 16<sup>th</sup> February - HALF TERM**  
**Monday 18<sup>th</sup> February - inset day.**

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## **Governors – Update from the Chair of Governors**

### **Mr Brian McKendry**

Now that we've seen the back of Black Friday and Cyber Monday, we only have to survive the marketing blitz specifically aimed at Christmas. The marketeers of course lean towards words like "Seasonal" or "Festive" rather than Christmas. Here at St Dunstan's, we can be proud of the fact that our approach embodies the real approach to Christmas. Advent is the period of preparation for the arrival of the Christ Child and our children are made fully aware of the importance of these four weeks during their Religious Education classes. When the day finally arrives their excitement will, we hope, be properly balanced. The staff in this period have a fuller load to cope with than normal. The Nativity Play preparations, the music and all the extras around Christmas always make this perhaps the most pressured time of the year, although likely the happiest too. The Governors would like to thank everybody at the school for all the extra work that takes place in the Christmas term. Without this work Christmas, somehow, wouldn't be so special.

*May everybody have a Holy and Happy Christmas*

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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 1st November 2023 and **15<sup>th</sup> January 2024** (the final closing date for all applications to be received in 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. A document with proof of your child's current place of residence (e.g. council tax statement for the current year or Tenancy agreement in the name of the parent/carer who signed the Supplementary Form), 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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# Information from Subject Leaders

## Anti-Bullying Learning – Mrs S. Turner: RHE Lead and Senior Teacher



We have been finding out about bullying and what we can do to support one another and ourselves. We might see bullying happening and say nothing, but if we understand the damage bullying causes and realise that bullying is frequently misinterpreted as "just banter," we can take action to support those around us as well as ourselves. Our learning throughout the school emphasised how important it is to treat one another with respect.



## Creative Arts Week Mrs M. Weedon and Miss L. Butler

We are in the middle of preparations for Arts Week in January 2024. We are excited to announce that the theme for this year is "The Holy Family". The children will be building on previous art skills taught and developing some new techniques, which may include sketching, painting, collage, sculpture and printing. The date for your diaries is Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> February when we shall have an Exhibition of the children's work in school.



## Library – Miss N. Maloney: Senior teacher

Thanks to some parent volunteers and our new Year 5 librarians. The main library is now open each Tuesday at lunchtime for Year 3 and 4. After the holidays Year 2 will also have access on a Tuesday. 'St Dunstones' which is the library situated in Rosary House is open each lunchtime and before school for Year 5 and 6. The Christmas holidays are a fantastic time to catch up on reading or giving and receiving books as gifts. Happy reading everyone,



## Online Safety – Mrs A. O'Donovan

The South West Grid for Learning produces some useful checklists to help parents consider any additional settings or security, as well as some basic information about how certain apps work. You can download them for free using the links below:

Snapchat: [https://swgfl.org.uk/assets/documents/snapchat-checklist-2023.pdf?\\_id=1697637951](https://swgfl.org.uk/assets/documents/snapchat-checklist-2023.pdf?_id=1697637951)

Tiktok: [https://swgfl.org.uk/assets/documents/tiktok-checklist-2023.pdf?\\_id=1698230685](https://swgfl.org.uk/assets/documents/tiktok-checklist-2023.pdf?_id=1698230685)

<https://swgfl.org.uk/resources/checklists/>

## Road Safety Awareness – Mrs S. Turner: RHE Lead



At St. Dunstan's, we think it's important to teach children how to be safe when they ride their bikes, walk, and are passengers. Throughout the year, we reinforce this lesson in every year group. Assuring our safety when out and about can only be achieved by collaborating with parents, children, and the school community. It is such a valuable experience to be at school, among our classmates, with genuine opportunities for children to express their understanding and need to stay safe with their peers.

*Year 3 enjoyed their Feet First session this month.*

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## RE: 'Come and See' topics – Mrs S. Turner: Senior Teacher, RE Subject Leader

During Advent we will all be preparing for the birth of Jesus with great care, but also great excitement and this is reflected in our varied topic titles.

This month, Year groups Two to Five will be studying the theme of Advent and Christmas (Loving). The subject of RE is taught through a Catholic Primary Religious Programme called "Come and See" which is recommended and supported by the Diocese.

### ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS – LOVING

- Year 2 PREPARATIONS** - Advent: preparing to celebrate Christmas
- Year 3 VISITORS** - waiting for the coming of Jesus
- Year 4 GIFT** - God's gift of love and friendship in Jesus
- Year 5 HOPE** - Advent: waiting in the joyful hope for Jesus, the promised one.

### SUGGESTIONS FOR HOME ACTIVITIES

- Discuss with the children how your family welcomes visitors to your home.
- Find out about some Christian symbols for Advent e.g. Advent wreath, calendar, Jesse tree.
- Use the CAFOD or Missio websites to get a religious Advent calendar.



This half term EYFS, Year One and Six learning unit is called: Prophecy and Promise. In this unit, the children will begin to understand the role of the Blessed Virgin Mary and her importance to Christians. An overview of this topic 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 in your community, especially during Advent.

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## 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*

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## SEND: (Special Education Needs and Disabilities) Mrs S. Hughes: SENDCo and Senior Teacher

Wishing all of our families a wonderful Advent and Christmas time.

The website [www.mindworks-surrey.org](http://www.mindworks-surrey.org) has a wealth of support and advice for parents regarding lots of issues, including neurodiversity.

For free mental health crisis support, 24 hours a day, call: **0800 915 4644**. A professional will provide confidential advice and support.



For general help and support sometimes it feels easier to text. **SHOUT** is a free and confidential 24/7 text support for anyone in the UK struggling to cope. To start a chat, text the word **SHOUT** to 85258

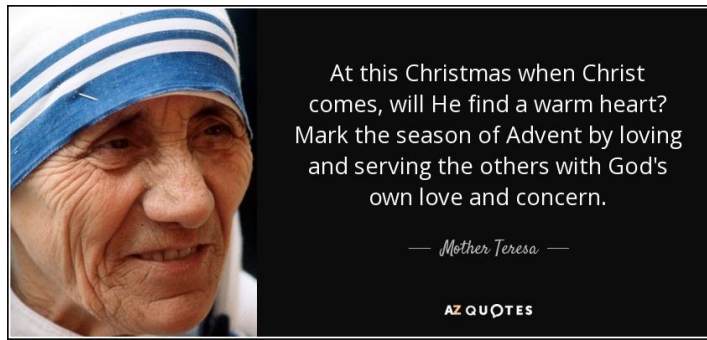
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# Liturgy and Worship

Liturgy and Worship – Mrs. A. O’Donovan, Assistant Head (Pastoral)



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## Preparing Ourselves during Advent

Advent is a very special time when the children learn that we are all encouraged to think about our spiritual journey with God, as well as the impact that we can have on our local and global community. The whole school is involved in activities that enable each child to appreciate how they can prepare themselves during Advent for the birth of Jesus at Christmas. The Faith Ambassadors have set the children a Advent calendar challenge that encourages acts of service and action for others – this will be shared with them via Google Classroom and if logged in to Google Classroom via this link:

[https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/19JU2sIy6kiIivsk7bl8-VdnkXp9Sg9r\\_U95l\\_593aR4/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/19JU2sIy6kiIivsk7bl8-VdnkXp9Sg9r_U95l_593aR4/edit?usp=sharing)

Mrs B. Preston very kindly worked with children in Early Years and Years 6 to create Advent wreaths for our main foyer as well as that in Rosary House. In Whole School Worship on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> December, Canon Rob joined us in order to bless our wreaths and reminds us about the meaning of the evergreen ring that the wreath forms and the different spiritual focus of the purple and rose candles.

If you come into school for the Nativity performances or when you are walking past the hall, you may notice the beautiful Advent decorations that have been made by every child. This year, every child has made a snowflake to symbolise how they and Jesus are “one pure, unique and perfect form”. Each class has also created a prayer together to thank God for Jesus.

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## Travelling Crib

Starting from Monday 4<sup>th</sup> December, classes will begin to welcome the ‘Travelling Crib’ into their classrooms. The purpose of the travelling crib is to help the children reflect on the special journey Mary and Joseph made to Bethlehem and the coming of the birth of our Saviour, Jesus Christ. The children will have the opportunity to lead their classmates in liturgy and share the nativity story together.



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## Creative Arts Week



This year, the theme of Creative Arts week is “The Holy Family”. In addition to the focus on art, the week will also be supported with a focus on the Holy Family in collective worships and prayer life in school.

During the week, year groups will have time to reflect and meditate on images of the Holy Family, have time to write prayers that focus on the Holy Family and consider the role models that the Holy Family provide for all of our families. We will use art, music and drama to explore the theme in prayer.

We will also use this week to launch our family prayer bags. The bags will contain all the materials you need and instructions if you need them. The idea is that once a week the bag will be sent home with a child and you can then use what is inside for your prayer time at home. There will be a book in the bag that you can add prayers or photos to if you wish. We hope you enjoy using these with your families.

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## End of term Mass

Key Stage 2 will be celebrating an End of Autumn term Mass with the Parish at 10am on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> December. Children from across the Key Stage will be helping to lead the Mass. Parents are very welcome to join us in this celebration but we would ask that you initially sit in the Narthex until we know what seating will be free in the main Church once the children are seated. Thank you.



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## Parish Links – Notices from St. Dunstan’s Church

### Taizé Service: Monday 18<sup>th</sup> December

Come and join us prepare for Christmas with a Taize style service of music and prayer at St Dunstan’s Church, on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> December at 7.30 pm for about an hour, followed by refreshments.

### Posada

To sign up for this year’s Posada please print your details next to your preferred date on the Rota in the Narthex, near the office. Posada means “Inn” in Spanish, and you are invited to receive Mary, Joseph and Jesus into your home for one night during Advent. This is in the form of a (very small) crib set. The following day/evening you take the crib to another home. Please feel free to invite friends, family and neighbours to join you when you welcome the Holy Family into your home.

### Secretary needed

Churches Together in Woking urgently seek a new secretary to take minutes at their meetings 3 times a year and also email out periodic notices and adverts to various churches and other groups. This unpaid role requires the secretary to be around in the daytime when meetings are held. If you are interested or want more info, please contact Rev Mark Wallace, Moderator of Churches Together in Woking. Email: [moderator@ctiw.org.uk](mailto:moderator@ctiw.org.uk)

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## School Closure due to Severe Weather

### Mrs J. Birch – Executive Headteacher

As we may experience much colder weather over coming weeks and months, I thought it would be helpful to remind parents about how we would communicate any emergency school closure to you.

**Please be assured that we will open if at all possible.**

1. We will post a note on our main school Twitter page @st\_dunstans\_ by 7am.
2. We will send a Schoolcomms text and email.
3. A notice will be placed on the **school website**.
4. There will be a notification on the Surrey County Council website under school closures.



***Please do not presume that if SJB school is open that St. Dunstan’s will be open. The needs of a 5 year old child in terms of staffing and welfare are not the same as a teenage child as a higher staff ratio is required.***

### How do we make a decision as to whether the school can open?

Essentially I don’t make the decision by myself. I consult Headteachers of other local schools, our Chair of Governors and seek guidance from the local authority.

The following are examples of the types of issues that are taken into account when undertaking a risk assessment before deciding whether to open or close:

1. Is it possible to provide adequate staffing cover for all or some of the pupils? Are sufficient numbers of staff able to get in to school safely?
2. Will sufficient first aiders be on site? Will first aid cover be available?
3. Will there be adequate supervision of children at lunchtime and break times? Will there be

sufficient support staff available in class to assist with children with special needs etc. and the particular demands of pupils with medical needs or disabilities?

4. Will there be health and safety issues, e.g. insufficient heating, frozen pipes, iced pavements.

5. Are the surrounding roads safe for travel? Would emergency vehicles be able to attend the school to assist a child or staff member if needed.

## Home Learning on School Closure Days

As we now have Google Classroom to facilitate home learning, any period of school closure will automatically trigger online learning for the children at home. Please check now that your child is able to access their Google Classroom from home and has the necessary passwords for any apps or programs that their year group uses, if appropriate. Teachers will be ready to facilitate home learning from 9.30am on any day the school is closed, so we really need the children to be able to get straight online too. Thank you.

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## School Office

### Christmas Lunch

The date for the Christmas lunch will be **Thursday 14th December**. If your child is already on hot dinners, they will receive Christmas lunch automatically and the cost will be included in your lunch balance.

If your child normally has lunches from home, and you have not already informed the school that they would like to have Christmas lunch, please inform the office as soon as possible. The cost is £2.70 (Years 3 – 6).



### **Children in Reception – Year 2 - do not need to pay.**

Please note that due to forward purchasing and operational costs incurred for this highly popular school meal, no refunds will be given for a Christmas lunch.

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### Lunch money for Spring Term 2024– Mrs M. O’Riordan

School dinner costs for Spring Term are as follows:

First half term £72.90, full term £145.80.

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

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. The amount due will be up until the date change comes to the attention of the school office staff in writing.***

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### Medication at school – Miss A. Madden

If you wish to collect your child’s medication that is kept in school (in the office and/or the classroom) please do so on the last day of term via the school office. This is particularly important for parents so that they can check the expiry date of medication.

**Please ensure that all medicines are returned to school on the first day of the new term, Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2024.**

May we also remind you that only medication prescribed by a medical practitioner can be administered by members of staff. The only exception to this is junior paracetamol (e.g. Calpol) which must be provided in an unopened bottle, 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, and a Pupil Medication Request form must be completed and accepted by the school office. Thank you.

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# Sport & PE

## Sporting update - PE update



As the nights creep in earlier and the cold winds blow, it is a timely reminder to ensure your child has their full PE kit in school on PE days. We will still endeavour to go outside, unless the rain is too heavy or the temperatures drop too low. Certainly, in Year 3 upwards, the children need to have their burgundy socks and tracksuits. In Key Stage One, please ensure your child has their tracksuits to wear. Despite the weather, the children continue to show great

enthusiasm and love in PE lessons. In Key Stage One, we continue to work on our ABC's (Agility, Balance and Coordination). Children in Key Stage Two began the month taking part in house competitions, for netball, rugby and football, and then turned their attentions to orienteering and cross-country. Orienteering is always a lesson the children approach with excitement and give their all. Teaching important map reading skills, the children navigate around 28 points.



We are really pleased over the last term to have had the opportunity to work with both Surrey Cricket club and students from the Royal Holloway University. Coach Ed, led cricket sessions for Years 2 and 3 on a Tuesday during the first autumn term, teaching the children new cricket skills. We were really lucky that the varsity cheerleading squad from Royal Holloway have been running a club after school in the autumn term. Our links with the University have grown over the last year and we are sure that more opportunities will emerge to work in partnership again soon.

## Competition Update

At St. Dunstan's, we pride ourselves on trying to arrange as



many inter sport competitions as possible. As a school, we are hugely proactive in creating fixtures and festivals for our local Woking district schools. Taking on a central role within WASPs (Woking area sports partnership schools) we lead on many of the events we compete



in. Our school leadership team have always been so supportive, despite tight financial budgets in making sure the children are afforded the chances to represent the school.

With so many children wanting to compete and represent the school, there is never going to be enough fixtures taking place to satisfy the need. At one stage this month we had seven fixtures in ten school days. We want to try and support all children which is why much thought goes in to the competitions we create. Most of our competitions will be for Key Stage Two children, with Years 5 and 6 having the lions' share.

We ask therefore that parents are patient when their children are not selected. A great deal of deliberation goes in to choosing teams. We aim to select our teams based on the needs of the event and what we know of the children. In life, there will unfortunately always be moments where we might feel rejection and pain. Explaining to your child that their moment will come supports us in our decisions.

November has been our busiest month for some time, in terms of sporting fixtures. Whilst trying to fulfil football and netball fixtures, we have also had the opportunity to include more children, with Aspire and Inspire competitions taking place. As always, we thank parents for allowing their children the chance to represent St. Dunstan's, it always fills them with pride.



We look forward to hosting and travelling to many events in the spring term, where we will start to take part in cross country, orienteering, football, netball, rugby, golf, gymnastics, lacrosse and many more.

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## Staffing News

### Mrs G. Morganti – Head of School

At the end of the term, we will say farewell to Miss A. Lay who has worked at St Dunstan's for 7 years, teaching children across the school. Miss Lay has decided to step back from teaching for a while to work full time for her family's business. We wish her our very best and thank her for her commitment to the children at St Dunstan's.

We warmly welcome Mrs C. Altana who is joining the school at the end of the month as a Teaching Assistant in Year 4.

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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)

### Dates to bring to your attention please:

#### LAST DAY OF TERM – Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> December 2023:

Reception collection time –	13.30
Year 1 & 2 collection time –	13.35
Years 3 & 4 collection time –	13.40
Years 5 & 6 collection time –	13.45

#### School re-opens for pupils: Spring Term 2024 – Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> January (normal school times)

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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.*

It's been a busy few weeks for FoSD and as ever we thank you for all your contributions.

Last Saturday was the Winter Ball at Pyrford Lakes where we had a great time whilst contributing £4K to school funds! Massive thanks to Sarah Genco, Sharon Saliba and their team for organising the event.

Similarly large thanks to Charlotte Reynolds and her team who organised the recent Autumn Disco, which made an excellent £3500 for FoSD.

Over recent weeks the Happy Bag collection and Christmas Card orders raised £600 and £1000 respectively so once again, thanks for everyone who *brought* and *bought* items!

**The next Cake Sale is organised by Year 5 parents and will take place on Thursday December 7<sup>th</sup>. Please give generously to this event.** The Year 6 sale in early November made a handy £300.

Raffle tickets have been sent home for the Christmas Hamper Raffle. Each class will make a unique hamper that will be raffled in the draw on **Tuesday December 12<sup>th</sup>** following the Yr2-3 Nativity. Raffle tickets are just £1 each and are super great value considering the prizes. Raffle tickets **MUST** be returned to school by 9am on **Monday December 11<sup>th</sup>**. There is a post-box for ticket stubs located outside the School Office; please use the an envelope to return stubs and cash.

Additional raffle tickets can be purchased on the FoSD website and if needed more 'real' tickets can be picked up from the School Office.

<https://www.pta-events.co.uk/fosd>

The October FoSD Jackpot (£50!) was won by Debra McGraw. Congratulations!

Please let us know if you'd like to sign up for the monthly Jackpot at

[stdunstansschooljackpot@gmail.com](mailto:stdunstansschooljackpot@gmail.com). It's has a minimum £12 annual contribution for the chance to win a monthly prize of £50!

Thanks to everyone who stepped forward to volunteer with FoSD. We received some great interest in getting involved with different activities so thanks to those of you who can spare the time for this. **We are recruiting people to help with Secretary and Treasurer roles.** Having others involved will reduce the workload for everyone and will be hugely helpful for FoSD. If you have interest in these positions please contact me (07411967414, [geraintparry75@gmail.com](mailto:geraintparry75@gmail.com)) and we can have a chat about these roles.

Yours,

*The FOSD committee*

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## Come and join our catering team

Looking for a secure, Term-time only position with great work/life balance and benefits?

Twelve15 has been delivering healthy, well-balanced and nutritious school meals for over 70 years.

We are currently recruiting:

- Goldsworth Primary school, Catering Assistants -20 hours and 12.5 hours a week, £11.04 an hour
- 
- Knaphill Junior school, Catering Assistant – 20 hours a week, £11.04 an hour
- St. Dunstan's Primary school, Catering Assistant – 25 hours a week, £11.04 an hour

Please [click here](#) to find out about our current vacancies and apply. Catering Assistants please apply to the Surreywide advert.

For more information, please call Lisa on 07779 451317.

