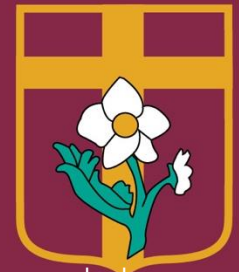


St. Dunstan's Catholic Primary School

Newsletter



Executive Headteacher: Mrs J. Birch head@stdunstans.surrey.sch.uk
Head of School: Mrs G. Morganti headofschool@stdunstans.surrey.sch.uk

January 2024

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Dear Parents,

A Happy New Year to all our families! I hope you have all had a lovely Christmas. On behalf of the staff I would like to thank you for your many kind gestures and messages at the end of term. The hand written messages the children write in their cards are so very special.

Many of you will have seen the school performance data released by the Department for Education before Christmas. This is the first time this information has been published in this format since Covid. We were extremely proud to see that, measured against all other schools nationally in 2023, St. Dunstan's was graded **well above average** for the progress children make across the school in Reading, Writing and Maths. For Reading, the school was placed in the 99th percentile, the 90th percentile for Writing and 98th percentile for Maths.

Reading

The banding for this school is 'well above average' because the score is greater than or equal to 3.1, and the entire confidence interval is above 0.

Banding

WELL ABOVE AVERAGE

Writing

The banding for this school is 'well above average' because the score is greater than or equal to 2.9, and the entire confidence interval is above 0.

Banding

WELL ABOVE AVERAGE

Maths

The banding for this school is 'well above average' because the score is greater than or equal to 3.2, and the entire confidence interval is above 0.

Banding

WELL ABOVE AVERAGE

You will have noticed last term the trailer outside the school office that housed temporary boilers whilst our new boilers were being installed. I am delighted to let you know that the new boilers are now up and running, more energy efficient and the school is much more snug and cosy than it was before. We are grateful to the Diocese of Arundel and Brighton for allocating our school the required (and significant) funds to replace the boilers.

We look forward to welcoming you in to school for our annual Art Exhibition on Friday 2nd February. Please do put this date in your diary, further details will follow.

With very best wishes for this new year ahead,

Julianne Birch

St Dunstan's
Catholic Primary
School

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Activities and Events

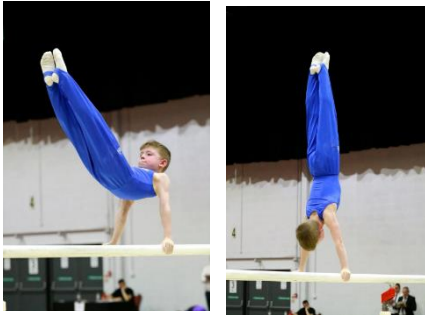
Art Week – Mrs G. Morganti



A note for your diary:

We are looking forward to this year's Creative Art's Week and seeing you at the exhibition to celebrate the children's learning. The exhibition afternoon is **Friday 2nd February**, the doors will open at 2.45pm and will close at 4.15pm. The children will have the chance to view the exhibition with their class on the morning of 5th February.

Gymnastics Success



We were all extremely proud of William who has been selected for the GB Men's Artistic Gymnastic Foundation Squad. A wonderful achievement!

EYFS– Mrs H. Robbins: Head of EYFS

Last term each class welcomed new baby dolls into their class family. This helped us to understand how Mary welcomed baby Jesus into the world. We have had lots of fun looking after the babies and thinking about what a baby needs to be happy and healthy. Each baby had a special Baptism celebration which helped us reflect on our own Baptisms too.

We hope you all had a peaceful and joyful Christmas with your families. Our new theme for learning this half term is 'Hot and Cold Places'. We have already begun to observe seasonal changes through the weather and are looking forward to exploring this concept further through our investigation into different foxes around the world!

In our RE lessons, we will be going on a journey from Galilee to Jerusalem as we begin to learn more about Jesus' life and his mission. We will be sharing the gospel story of Jesus welcoming the children (Mark 10:13-16), thinking about how we can welcome Jesus into our own lives through the way we treat others.



Year One – Mrs G. Corsini: Head of Year

Happy New Year! It seems so long ago since the EYFS and Year One Nativity at the start of December but we have not had a newsletter since then! We therefore want to take this opportunity to say a huge thank you for all your support with the performances. From helping children learn lines to providing costumes, it would not have been possible without your help. The children were fantastic and such superstars! The high standard of the singing and acting was incredible, especially considering some children have never participated in anything like that before. We are so proud of each and every one of them!

Rehearsing and preparing for The Nativity was the perfect link to our R.E topic, "Prophecy and Promise". Through interpreting artwork and listening to the stories from the Bible, the children explored key parts of The Nativity story, including 'The Annunciation' and 'The Visitation'. The children learnt that the Christmas story reveals God's love by sending Jesus, his son and retold the most special story of all using beautiful adjectives.

This term is an exciting one. We have our very intriguing animal workshop in March and also begin our new topic 'God's and My Wonderful World'. We are looking forward to writing a diary entry in the first person, as well as studying significant people who care for our planet, such as Sir David Attenborough.



Reception and Year One Nativity- Mrs G Corsini and Mrs H Robbins

We were so proud of all the children who took part in the Reception and Year 1 Nativity, and we know that you will be immensely proud of them too! We feel that this feedback from a member of the Parish who watched our dress rehearsal summarised our thoughts perfectly:

Thank you so much for such a beautiful Nativity by Reception and Year 1 children last week. It was just glorious, so joyful and so moving. We felt very privileged to be there to share in such precious moments; thank you. The children are truly remarkable, everyone who took part (and there were many!) knew their part, delivered their lines with conviction and clarity; such enthusiasm and yet totally controlled and disciplined. We are truly blessed to have such a wonderful school in our parish!



Year Two- Miss L. Butler: Head of Year

During December the children focused on the importance of preparing for the Jesus' arrival in Advent. We specifically focused on the Annunciation and thought carefully about using adjectives to add more detail to such a special story. We were extremely proud to watch the children shine during all of our Nativity performances. The children were very excited to see their parents and grown-ups and they performed beautifully!



We are all looking forward to a very positive 2024, filled with lots of exciting learning.

Year Two & Year Three – Nativity 'Rock around the flock'

Miss L. Butler & Miss N. Maloney:

The year 2 and 3 Nativity can be described in one word, it was joyous! The children really took the message of the Nativity to heart and it was a direct link to the R.E. learning for both year groups. The enjoyment shone from the children, the confidence they displayed was incredible. They played kazoo, sang beautifully and made everyone focus on the most important message of all through their acting and singing.

I am sure that there were many proud parents and carers in the audience and certainly their teachers couldn't have asked for more.



In Year 3 have learnt about the succession of visitors that came to see the new Messiah. The children really enjoyed knowing that the lowly shepherds were the first to come and see Jesus. It reinforced the message that the new baby king came for everyone. As a team we would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very happy new year!

Year Four - Miss H. Fail: Head of Year & Senior Teacher

Year 4 were delighted to be a part of the Advent Service and this was shown by their enthusiasm and commitment to learning their song. The whole year group behaved beautifully and sang joyfully throughout the Advent Service. As part of our year group song, 'Something's Gonna Happen', we selected a group of percussionists who did a magnificent job at keeping the rhythm with their various instruments. We also had six children who sang the part of the innkeeper and we were impressed by how well they projected so everyone in the church could hear their beautiful voices.



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

We would like to start by wishing you all a Happy New Year and acknowledging the fantastic contributions made by Year 5 in our moving Advent service. Looking ahead, we are excited to delve deeper into our science topic on materials and enhance our scientific working skills. In English, our focus will be on the captivating text 'Who Let the Gods Out,' where we will continue honing our character description abilities. In mathematics this term, we will be exploring fractions, delving into improper fractions and converting them into mixed numbers. Additionally, in Creative Arts Week we will be developing our artistic skills to create a portrayal of the Holy Family using the medium of clay.

Year Six – Mrs T. Steer: Assistant Headteacher, Teaching and Learning

Despite the short month in school, we have filled the time with amazing learning and experiences. The Advent season in Year 6 is always a time of great joy. Seeing the children participate in their final Advent service is a highlight of the year. So many children shine with the opportunity to demonstrate their talents and lead by examples. They have gone above and beyond, rehearsing through breaks and lunches and sitting patiently whilst others practice.

Even in the last week, the learning didn't stop. We have created some outstanding work. The exquisite Christmas cards were the result of a term dedicated to practising watercolour skills. Additionally, we created some fantastic reports about mountains, which can be seen in Rosary House and the school hall.



Years Four, Five and Six Advent Service - Mrs T. Steer

This year the annual Advent Celebration at St Dunstan's church shared the theme of Peace. Reflecting on the turmoil of the world at this moment the children of Year 4, 5 and 6 brought their message through the Advent story and their beautiful singing of how - Jesus, the bringer of peace - can support and guide us. Through the Holy Spirit we are gifted the experience of peace but we are not meant to sit still and relax in this peace. Peace is not an indulgence. Jesus calls us to work at creating peace. In this New Year, we will look at how we can start in our school and spread this message of peace.

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Charity and Justice – Miss H. King

Woking Lions Christmas Hamper Appeal

This year for our Christmas Appeal we collected Hamper's for Woking Lions. Woking Lions were stunned with our generosity and kindness and they were able to make lots of Christmas Hampers for those in need this Christmas. We would like to thank everyone who brought in donations for the Woking Lions Christmas Hamper Appeal. The children really lived out the Gospel values of "love your neighbour".



At our Reception, Years 1,2 and 3 Nativities, we collected money for the Cardinal Hume Centre. We would like to extend a big thank you to all our families who donated money to this charity; together we raised over £400. This will bless those children and young people who are facing poverty and homelessness in London. We would like to thank you for your continued generosity.

At our Years 4,5 & 6 Advent Service we collected £570.52 for the 50th Anniversary Arundel and Brighton Lourdes Pilgrimage Fund. Again we offer our grateful thanks for your very generous donations.

CAFOD Fun Run

Well done to all the children who took part in the CAFOD fun run, as a school we raised £1855.55. This money will help reach those who are in need and those living in poverty. We would like to thank all the parents for their support with this run. It was great to see the children run with great enthusiasm and passion.

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Children's Learning

Mrs G. Morganti – Head of School



Reminder: The Spring term information about your child's learning is now available on the school website.

Please note:

The year group overview which summarises the learning in each subject area over the academic year may at times be reviewed and updated, so please do check this each half term.

Parent Workshops



Reminder of the upcoming talks:

EYFS and Year 1 Phonics and Writing Talk:

Mrs Robbins is leading a talk to share some of the ways in which we teach writing in school and offer practical support on how you can help your child become a writer at home. The talk is for parents with children in Years R and/or 1 and it will be held in the school hall at **2.30pm on Friday 19th January**. The slides from the presentation will be available on the school website.

Year 4 Sayers Croft presentation for Year 4 parents:

Miss Fail will lead a presentation about the Sayers Croft residential and answer any general questions you may have about preparing your child for the exciting trip later this term. The presentation will take place in the school hall at **2.30pm on Friday 26th January**.

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Clubs

Mr A. Coyle, Senior teacher

Once again, it is fantastic to see the enthusiasm for both teacher led and externally led clubs. If you have signed your child up to attend an external provider led club, please ensure you have completed the appropriate paperwork/contact details, directly with the club.

We wanted to remind you of the club dates for this term:

Spring Term 2024

Wk 1: 08/01/2024 – 12/12/2024 – **All clubs start**

Wk 2: 15/01/2024 – 19/01/2024

Wk 3: 22/01/2024 – 26/01/2024

Wk 4: 29/01/2024 – 02/02/2024 – **All clubs finish**

Wk: 05/02/2024 – 09/02/2024 – No Clubs

Half Term (12th February – 16th February 2024)

Wk 5: 19/02/2024 – 23/02/2024 – **External Led Clubs start**

Wk 6: 26/02/2024 – 01/03/2024 – **Teacher Led Clubs start**

Wk 7: 04/03/2024 – 08/03/2024

Wk 8: 11/03/2024 – 15/03/2024

Wk 9: 18/03/2024 – 22/03/2024 – **All clubs finish**

- Monday 19th February is an INSET day.

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Governors

Admissions to St. Dunstan's School Reception Classes in September 2024

AN URGENT REMINDER PLEASE - the school Supplementary Information Form and accompanying documents need to be completed and received in school by 15th January 2024 **even if you already have a child at this school.** If you have already submitted your supplementary information form to the St. Dunstan's Parish Priests, please also ensure that you submit documents as listed below, direct to the school (please do not post or email these):

Proof of Baptism/Christening (if appropriate)

Proof of your child's date of birth: passport or birth certificate

Proof of your current address (Council Tax Statement or Tenancy agreement)

The Supplementary Information Form is available to download via the school website

http://www.stdunstans.surrey.sch.uk/School_policies.htm

You will also need to complete a Surrey online application form by **15th January 2024** by visiting:

<https://www.eadmissions.org.uk/eAdmissions/app>

Please contact the Surrey Schools and Childcare Service on **0300 200 1004** for further details



For any further queries, please contact our Admissions Secretary, Mrs A. Murray either via the school office or amurray@stdunstans.surrey.sch.uk

Governor's Maintenance Fund Contributions 2023-2024 – Mr J. Dunne (Chair of Finance & Building committee)

Our annual letter is due to be sent out via Schoolcomms regarding contributions for this academic year. To assist with contributions we now have our CAF account set up to accept online payments and Collect Gift aid on our behalf. We would be most grateful if you would use the following link to make your contribution <https://cafdonate.cafonline.org/18812>

You will be able to set up regular or one off payments and also complete the necessary details for Gift Aid if you are a tax payer. By completing the Gift Aid details you will enable CAF to claim an additional 25% from the Government on each contribution. Using the CAF online system to donate will reduce use of paper and admin time in the school office

Those of you who currently have a standing order set up with your bank and are happy to continue with this method of contribution do not need to make any changes. We are also able to accept payment by cheque, or cash -please contact the school office for the appropriate forms.

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Information from Subject Leaders

Library – Miss N. Maloney

In our modern times when everything seems to revolve around 'tech' it is nice to take a breath sometimes and lose yourself in a good read.

Below are some interesting book lists that you might like to try.

<https://www.theguardian.com/books/2023/dec/07/best-childrens-books-of-2023>

<https://www.waterstones.com/blog/the-childrens-books-you-need-to-read-in-2023-july-december>

If you have read a really good book over the holidays and would like to recommend it for the library please let me know.

Happy reading everyone!

Head lice: a reminder

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.

While lice are nothing more than a nuisance, it is important that children are checked on a weekly basis so that any head lice 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 of school due to head lice.

Head lice myth buster				
Myth or truth	State of hair	Length of hair	Spread of lice	Itchy scalp?
Myth	Prefer clean hair	Prefer long hair	Jump and can spread via clothes/towels	Always means itchy scalp
Truth	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

Injuries and breaks – Mrs A. O'Donovan

To ensure that we have made the necessary arrangements for health and safety purposes, please could we ask that if your child has an injury outside of school that will impact their activities within school, such as breaking an arm or leg that you contact the school office to speak to a member of the Senior Staff before bringing your child to school. This is so that we are aware of the extent of the injury and anything we may need to put in place to support your child and to keep everyone safe. It also enables us to inform relevant staff of the injury and of the care plan so that everyone is aware of what needs to be in place to support your child, especially in case of emergency.

Aids such as crutches and walking frames can only be used within school when a medical professional has said that this is necessary in school and we need to be aware of this before your child comes in to school so that a care plan and risk assessment is completed.

Online Safety – Mrs A. O'Donovan



National Online Safety

If you haven't already, please don't forget to sign up to the National Online Safety website. As a parent at our school, you can access lots of information to support you in keeping your children safe online – from courses for parents, to short webinars or weekly posters with topical online safety tips.

You can access National Online Safety via their website or by downloading their app.

To create your account, please click here: <https://nationalonlinesafety.com/enrol/st-dunstan-s-catholic-primary-school> and complete your details. When you're set up, you'll be able to set 'Parent/Carer' as your user type.

Little Digital Helps Toolkit



Put together by Internet Matters and Tesco, this toolkit gives information about the parental controls that are available on different devices. It takes around 8 minutes to answer a few questions and then you will receive a tailored toolkit. <https://www.internetmatters.org/little-digital-helps-toolkit/>

Roblox Checklist








For those of you whose children enjoy playing Roblox, here is a link to a checklist for parents with information for keeping your children safe whilst they are playing:

https://swgfl.org.uk/assets/documents/roblox-checklist-2023.pdf?_id=1691587832

Pupil Voice – Miss S. Paling

Giving the children a voice with the school is of utmost importance. The children's feedback and insights into key issues can really help to shape our school. It has been lovely to meet the committee and hear all of their excellent ideas. So far, this academic year, we have discussed the importance of maths outside of the classroom as well as our role at St. Dunstan's to serve others. With inputs from Year 3 to Year 6 there is a wide range of views, all very worthwhile and on topic. By reporting this back to staff and leaders, including all other pupil committees, it allows everyone to work together to plan next steps. The Year 6 children have become our chair people for the year and will look to drive forward the ideas and meeting content, acting as the ambassadors they truly are. The Pupil Voice committee is looking forward to future meetings and helping to support the school community to grow.

Safeguarding – Mrs A. O'Donovan

Our Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSLs)				
 <p>Lead DSL: Mrs A. O'Donovan <i>Assistant Headteacher</i></p>	 <p>Deputy DSL: Mrs J. Birch <i>Executive Headteacher</i></p>	 <p>Deputy DSL: Mrs G. Morganti <i>Head of School</i></p>	 <p>Deputy DSL: Mrs S. Hughes <i>SENDCo</i></p>	 <p>Deputy DSL: Mr A. Coyle <i>Senior Teacher</i></p>

Safeguarding - Mrs A. O'Donovan



As a community, we all have a responsibility to look out for the welfare of all children. If you are concerned about the welfare of a child you speak to Mrs O'Donovan our Safeguarding Lead or one of the Deputy DSLs (Mrs Birch, Mrs Morganti, Mrs Hughes or Mr Coyle). You can also make a direct call yourself to the NSPCC on **0800 800 5000** or the Surrey Children's Single Point of Access (C-SPA) on 0300 470 9100 Monday to Friday, 9am – 5pm or out of hours in an emergency 01483 517898.

If a child is in immediate danger you should call the Police.

There are other useful contacts and information regarding safeguarding on our website:

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

If you, as an adult feel at risk in your home or you are concerned about another adult, you may find the following information useful:

<p><u>Surrey Safeguarding Adults Board</u></p> <p>www.surreyssab.org.uk Phone: 0300 470 9100 or out of hours 01483 517898 Text: 07527182861 Email: ascmarsh@surreycc.gov.uk</p>	<p><u>Your Sanctuary (for victims of Domestic Abuse)</u></p> <p>Your Sanctuary Helpline Telephone: 01483 776822 Email: info@yoursanctuary.co.uk http://www.yoursanctuary.org.uk</p>
<p><u>Mental Health for Adults</u></p> <p>Samaritans 116 123</p>	

Anxiety UK 03444 775 774
CALM 0800 585858
Papyrus 0800 068 4141
Crisis text line (Text SHOUT to 85258)

Special Educational Needs – Mrs S. Hughes, Senior Teacher

Happy New Year everybody –please see some useful resources below:

Occupational Therapy:

Some children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities may have difficulties completing daily tasks such as self-care, managing their sensory needs in the busy school setting, completing school tasks or accessing playtimes. Children and Family Health Surrey provide a range of resources online <https://childrenshealthsurrey.nhs.uk/services/occupational-therapy>. The resource finder tool is a self-service approach to help parents get the right help and support.

Surrey Short Breaks for Disabled Children

Surrey Short Breaks for Disabled Children funds voluntary organisations and SEND schools to provide short break services, including after school clubs, holiday schemes, home-care and more.

Visit <https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/children/support-and-advice/children-with-disabilities/surrey-short-breaks-for-disabled-children> to find out more about Surrey's short breaks offer in full.

Freemantles Outreach Service

Freemantles Outreach provide a range of services to support families and children with Autism whether they are diagnosed or not. They run training courses on a broad range of subjects as well as providing lots of useful information. Their website can be found at

<https://www.freeoutreach.org.uk/Training/Training-for-Parents-and-Carers/>

SEND parenting courses

Specialist courses and workshops for parents and carers of children with SEND can help develop strategies that are recognised as being helpful for children who have particular needs. Courses often focus on building more effective strategies to support children and young people with SEND and their families.

Some require the child to have a specific diagnosis prior to the parents going on the course. However, some courses are open to parents whose child shows traits of a condition, but hasn't been assessed yet or didn't meet the threshold for a diagnosis.

For further information, please follow the link to the Surrey Local Offer website:

<https://www.surreylocaloffer.org.uk/parents-and-carers/help-and-support/courses-and-training-for-parents>

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



Year groups 2 to 5 will begin studying Local Church (Community) and each year group will approach the themes through different topics. The theme of community within the local church is developed throughout the units, underpinning an understanding of the Incarnation (the belief that God took human form in the body of Christ). This focus centres on the people of God gathered in Christ, united in the journey of faith, in caring for one another, and in sharing their stories and celebrations, whilst learning from scripture.

The sacraments, scripture, and involvement in the church community all play a vital role in helping people to

appreciate more deeply who God is, what God is like, and what God is doing everywhere and at all times, for all people. These elements represent God's way of expressing, 'I am with you and I love you.'

The subject of RE is taught through a Catholic Primary Religious Programme called "Come and See" which is recommended and supported by the Diocese.

LOCAL CHURCH - COMMUNITY

- Year 2** **BOOKS** - The books used in Church
- Year 3** **JOURNEYS** - Christian family's journey with Christ
- Year 4** **COMMUNITY** - Life in the local Christian community and ministries in the parish
- Year 5** **MISSION** - Continuing Jesus' mission in diocese (ecumenism)

SUGGESTIONS FOR HOME ACTIVITIES

Explore the Diocesan website, looking at the number of Churches. Read Bible stories together or encourage older children to read a child's Bible.

EYFS

We celebrate Jesus, God's Son, and His birth at Christmas who came for everyone. His mission is to demonstrate God's love and to welcome all. The "Glory Be" prayer is our response to Jesus' arrival. We are called to emulate Jesus by showing love in our words and actions and by assisting the needy. We Show love to everyone like Jesus.

Year One

Jesus, growing up, shows us the Father's love. He is the Son of God, come to save all and is the 'light to all nations.' Christians celebrate this on Candlemas. We are all called to follow Jesus, spread the Good News, and look after those in need, as he did.

Year Six

Year Six will look at John's Gospel, understanding that God inspired the authors of Sacred Scripture, which we appreciate both literally and spiritually. Our church community, including the Parish priest and laity, pass on the teachings of Jesus through the sacraments. The seven sacraments, each serving as a meeting point with God, bring individuals closer to Him and the wider Church community. These sacraments, such as baptism, confirmation, and Eucharist, are visible signs of God's presence and action in the life of a Catholic.

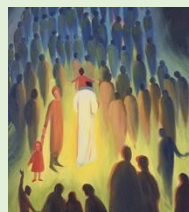
SUGGESTIONS FOR HOME ACTIVITIES

Talk about special places where we find Jesus.

- Tabernacle
- Word of God
- Through prayer and praise.
- When we light a candle and invite him to be with us.
- Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.

Allow the children to spend some time in silence, just being in the presence of Jesus.

Talk about your family's experience of the sacraments and share photographs. Talk about what we learn about Jesus when we share these.



Go out as a family and look for at light sources. A candle light, lamp light, early morning light. Take time to contemplate how this makes you feel and why Jesus is called the 'light'.

Explore the CAFOD kidszone site and think about the wider world with their online games, films and prayers for children, as well as printable activities to do indoors or outdoors. Think about how we show love in our words and actions to everyone in our world. <https://cafod.org.uk/education/kidz-zone>

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Liturgy and Worship

Catholic Life and Mission

Mrs. A. O'Donovan – Assistant Headteacher

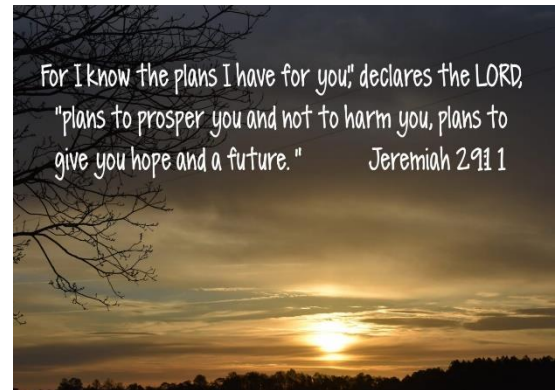


Whole School Mass for the beginning of the Spring term.

Our opening Mass for the spring term, celebrating the start of a new year, will take place on Friday 12th January at 10am in the Church, led by Year 4. Years 3 to 6 will attend Mass.

Families are very welcome to join us at the Church for Mass.

Lower School will have their own 'start of the new term' service in school.



Family Prayer Bags

During our Creative Arts week on the theme of "Holy Family", we will be launching our new family prayer bags. Each class will have a bag with items and guidance for how to use it at home for family prayer times. A child in each class will be chosen each week to take this home and share with their families. If you would like to, you can add your prayers or a photo to the book that will also be in the bags. We hope you enjoy sharing this prayer time as a family.



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Parish Links

Parish Carol Service

Just before we broke up for the end of term, our Liturgical Choir participated in the Parish Carol Service on Sunday 17th December. They sang "A Star Shone Bright" and two of our pupils also read in the service. Many thanks to the children for their beautiful singing and reading. It was lovely to see so many families join the service which really helped everyone to spiritually prepare in the last few days of Advent.

Seniors' Lunch at St Dunstan's Church

A group of our Year 6 children joined the senior parishioner's lunch. They were kind, considerate and full of energy and smiles as they chatted with the parishioners. We are looking forward to the next Seniors Lunch and the opportunity to serve within our Parish.

The Church organiser forwarded her thanks: "Thank you to the St. Dunstan's school children who added so much to the afternoon."

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Parent-Teacher meetings - Spring Term 2024

Mrs G. Morganti – Head of School

The dates for the Spring Term Parent-Teacher meetings are **Wednesday 7th February and Thursday 8th February**. The evenings will run as they did in the Autumn Term, starting at 3.45pm with the last appointment at 6.45pm. For children in Years R to 3, the meetings will take place in the classroom and for children in Years 4 to 6, the meetings will be in the school hall.

Please help the teachers keep to time, if you feel you need further time to discuss a query or concern you can arrange this with the school office.

We hope to see the Year 6 pupils at the parent-teacher meetings. If you need to bring your other school children to your appointment, please be aware that there will not be staff to supervise them whilst you attend the meeting with the class teacher.

We will be sending a Schoolcomms message to all parents with the link to School Cloud and details of how to make your booking. The booking will go live on **Wednesday 24th January** and close on **Wednesday 31st January**.

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Parent to Parent

Mrs W. Steer (Ofsted Registered Childminder), has availability to offer childcare from March 2024. Please contact Mrs Steer direct on:
07776289323
Wendysteer27.08@hotmail.com

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School Office

Polite Reminder please:



School Office: please phone or email if at all possible

Could we please ask that you telephone or email the school office with your messages/requests if possible? The number of people coming into the main school office on a daily basis, has increased significantly. Whilst we understand it may be more convenient for you to come into the office in person, we are having to accommodate a large number of requests which could be addressed via the Annual Calendar or by phone or email. Thank you for your understanding. School Office tel no: 01483 715190.

Mrs A. Murray - amurray@stdunstans.surrey.sch.uk

- PA to the Executive Headteacher
- School Admissions
- Clerk to the Governors

Mrs E. Chamberlain - frontdesk@stdunstans.surrey.sch.uk

- Sporting Fixtures
- Extended Schools (Early Birds and Stay and Play)

Ms A. Madden - info@stdunstans.surrey.sch.uk

- Medical
- Sporting Fixtures
- Swimming (Summer Term)

Mrs M. O'Riordan - office@stdunstans.surrey.sch.uk

- School Lunches
- Absences and changes to end of day collection of collection
- Clubs

Mrs R. Turner - office2@stdunstans.surrey.sch.uk

- Governors' Maintenance Fund
- FoSD Liaison
- Class Reps

Mrs N Hammond - trips@stdunstans.surrey.sch.uk

- School trips and visits
- Extended Schools (Early Birds and Stay and Play)
- Bikeability

Extended Schools – Years 3 to 6 - Mrs E. Chamberlain

If you have a child in Year 3 or above, you can apply for a place at 'Early Birds' Breakfast Club and/or 'Stay and Play' After School Club by completing a registration form via the link on the school website. If a place becomes available for your child, the school office will contact you.

A reminder that a half-term's written notice should be provided if you wish to withdraw your child from a regular booking at Breakfast or After School Clubs.

PLEASE NOTE At the beginning of each half term parents will be able to log into their Scopay account and see the amount due for the current half term. As per our terms and conditions fees are payable within **7 days** of the first day of term.

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

PLEASE NOTE We no longer send invoices for School Lunches. At the beginning of each half term parents will be able to log into their Scopay account and see the amount due for the current half term. Lunch monies are payable within **7 days** of the first day of term.

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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Sound system – Mrs J. Birch

New sound system in the hall

Those of you who attended Nativity concerts in the school hall will I'm sure have noticed the much improved sound from the wonderful wall mounted sound system funded by the FoSD last year. Previously, if you had been sitting near the one mega speaker, the sound would have been very loud and if you had been sitting further away, the sound would have been much quieter. The improved sound of the accompanying music made a huge difference to the quality of the singing and the concerts generally. Grateful thanks to our FoSD as always for raising funds to enrich our provision further.

Staffing

Mrs G. Morganti – Head of School

A huge thank you from all of the staff for your kind words of support, thank you messages and Christmas gifts. We truly appreciate your thoughtfulness.

Welcome

We are pleased to welcome Mrs E. Wisdom to the school teaching team in January and to welcome back to our team, Mrs J. Edwards and Mrs H. Rose-Freeland.



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Uniform

Hair

Please can we remind parents that school uniform policy does not allow extremes of fashion hair styles to be worn in school. This includes hair that is cut below a grade 2, very long fringes over hanging the eyes, tram lines, hair that is long on the top and very short around the sides.

Dyed hair is not allowed.

Please keep these styles for holidays and keep any form of distraction away from school so we can concentrate on what is really important. Thank you.

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Website – Mrs J. Birch

New school website

It is looking very hopeful that our new school website will go live very soon. Watch this space!

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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

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Friends of St. Dunstan's (FoSD)

FoSD committee

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



I hope you had an enjoyable Christmas and are looking forward to fun spring term.

FOSD had an enormously successful winter term, thanks to the fantastic support of our helpers and the wider school community.

Winter term activities included Fireworks night, the Winter Ball, three School discos, the Happy Bags donations, two Cake Sales, Christmas Card/item sales. Hamper raffle, Jackpot and the PE kit/ Pre-loved uniform sales.

All told FOSD made ~ £18,000 in the winter term, which was immediately transferred to school funds.

Prior to Christmas we met with Mrs Birch, Mrs Morganti and Mrs C. Turner who provided an update about the items to which FOSD has contributed.

Description	
Library Software subscription	Art exhibition: fabrics and resources
Living Eggs – 2 sets	3 x microphone stands
Maths Shed subscription	Update the very large photos for walls around the school
School Comms subscription	Update non- fiction books for main library
Wasps subscription	Small balls update for PE
New library books Autumn term	Balance Bikes-10 x 14"
New library books Spring Term	Scooters –x 12
Little Wandle books	Helmets x 10
Regency book shop	Giant wooden abacus(replacement) for outdoor area in EYFS
New Subscription for science scheme(Unity schools Partnership Education Ltd)	Hoops for the hall
Yr1 library books upgrade	
2 set of netball posts	
History Mural	
EYFS shared area refurbishment	
Upgrade chrome books	
3 x pots & plants for prayer garden	
Football Goals	
Smiles at school photographer for Nativities	
Prayer bags for family prayers	
15 New PE mats @£100.00 each	
2 x PE mat trolleys	
RE Resources (new scheme plus prayer tables)	
Handwriting font for computers	
PE archery equipment upgrade	

You will agree that this is a fantastic use of FOSD funds!

Looking ahead to the coming term these are the events on the FOSD schedule:

- **Thursday February 1st:** Years 3+4 Cake Sale
- **Saturday February 3rd:** Comedy and Curry night in the School Hall.
- **Friday March 1st:** Sponsored Walk.

We are currently planning two possible Movie Nights in the School Hall and the opportunity for a Family Photo Session. More on those over the coming weeks.

Please let us know if you'd like to sign up for the monthly Jackpot at 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) and we can have a chat about these roles.

Yours,
The FOSD committee

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