

St. Dunstan's Catholic Primary School

Newsletter



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

February 2025

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Dear Parents,

Thank you for joining us on this afternoon for the Art Exhibition. It was a wonderful exhibition of the children's learning, they were rightly proud of their journey and of their successes! We do hope that you enjoyed coming into school and walking through the exhibition with your children, they are looking forward to now finalising their art work to share with members of our local community. We will of course share this with you in the next newsletter and on X.

There are early signs of Spring starting to show around the school grounds. And for me when I am at my desk, it is a joy to watch the children outside playing together, taking part in their PE lessons, praying in the prayer garden and taking part in the Big Garden Bird Watch - counting the numbers of birds they spot. Year 2 were so very excited when they saw a huge kite fly over them this week!

As we come toward the end of this half term, we thank God for our gifts, for the wonderful school grounds and the many opportunities we have to learn and grow together as a school family. We are grateful for the love that is shared within our school and we hope that we are able to shine this love to others in our local community.

We are looking forward to welcoming you into school this month for Partners in Learning on 10th February and for the Parent Teacher meetings on 26th and 27th February.

Wishing you all a very peaceful half term with your families.

Georgina Morganti

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Safeguarding

Mrs G. Morganti

Safeguarding our pupils is a huge priority. We can only do this with your understanding and support. There are some important areas that we ask for your support and understanding on.

Firstly, children's unsupervised access to the internet, games, chat rooms and other apps that are not age appropriate. Please do make it a priority to attend the Online Safety Talk with Mr Coyle and Mrs Robbins on 11th February at 2.30pm.

Secondly, children's safety in the mornings before school and at school collection. We strongly encourage you to keep your children with you, supervised, at all times on school grounds. You may feel that your children know the school and are safe, but they can easily hurt themselves or find themselves separated from their parent/carer. In the last few weeks, **five** children have become separated from their carer, which you can imagine was a huge worry for all involved.

It is very busy outside on all playgrounds and children can easily become confused and follow the wrong parents out of the gate! In particular, the pathway outside of the school hall at times is very congested, please can we ask that you keep this pathway clear and keep your children close by.

Our Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSL's) are:				
				
Lead DSL: Mrs G Morganti <i>Headteacher</i>	Deputy DSL: Mr A Coyle <i>Assistant Headteacher</i>	Deputy DSL: Mrs H Robbins <i>Inclusion Leader</i>	Deputy DSL: Miss H Hughes <i>SENDCO</i>	Deputy DSL: Mrs M O'Riordan <i>Senior Office Assistant</i>

Online Safety

Next Tuesday 11th February, the children will have a particular focus on online safety (see curriculum section of the newsletter for more information). Below are some excellent resources for you as parents.



According to [The Internet Watch Foundation](#), in 2024 they had to remove 291,270 pages of abuse, which was a 5% increase on the previous year! We highlighted last year that there was a 66% increase in children under 10 being groomed online, and with AI technology, images of children are being used in a variety of scary ways.

These are shocking statistics so please do consider ways you can act to ensure your child has safe, supervised access to the internet and is taught how to recognise risks.



[The Safer Internet Centre](#) has a wide range of resources and advice for parents to help keep their child safe online.



Please do make use of the school's subscription to [National Online Safety](#) to access regular, bite size information relating to the latest platforms, games etc. that your child may be using. Do your homework before allowing them to download apps or games.



The National College have a page called Wake up Wednesday on X, which provides weekly advice and guides for parents and educators. @wake_up_weds



[Internet matters](#) can provide information and safety settings for your child's devices and apps, along with guidance to tackle online issues they may face.

Children and Screens



The Institute of Digital Media and Child Development have really important and useful information on their website. This includes tips for parents on giving your child a smartphone: from assessing your child's readiness, to preparing your child for healthy smart phone use and then tips for what to once your child has a smartphone.

The site also provides answers to common questions such as:

- How much screen time is too much?
- Is my child addicted to screens?
- How does technology affect children's social development?

What we have noticed, from comments made to us from parents and children, is that devices very easily become addictive. Please do read The Institute of Digital Media and Child Development's article on [digital addictions](#), if you feel your child is at risk of becoming addicted to their screen.

You can also go to the "[Learn and Explore](#)" section to see the range of topics covered, information for specific ages and where to find the parent tips:

Children and smart phones



At St. Dunstan's, the biggest concern we have regarding the children and their online use in our school is in relation to smartphones. There are children in the school who are messaging peers past 11pm at night, which suggest they have their phone in their bedrooms. This is a great concern not only due to the impact on sleep but also around the contact and content, the children could be having access to.

We would suggest:

- Not allowing phones in bedrooms
- Checking your child's online activity regularly – timings of messages, what are they sending, are their messages kind?
- Ensuring sufficient parental controls
- Talking to your child about what they do on their smartphones or device
- Using settings to restrict access to the internet after a certain time
- Teaching children to only ever write kind messages and to let an adult know immediately of anyone's unkindness via any chatting app (or via an online game)

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Activities and Events

Art Week & Exhibition – Mrs M. Weedon and Mrs K. Richmond



It has been a pleasure to walk around the school, watching the children create their patterns, using their design ideas and learning to use different printing techniques. We look forward to celebrating our learning with you at the art exhibition on Friday 7th February from 2.45pm to 4.15pm.

This year's theme is Unity in the Community; we will be gifting some of our artwork to members of our local community to help develop closer links with them.

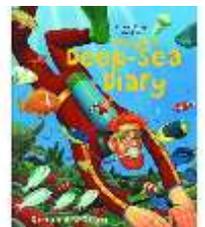
EYFS – Mrs H. Robbins: Head of Year and Senior Teacher

The children in Reception absolutely love their PE lessons! This term, we have been building on our independence skills in getting changed and organising our belongings. We are focusing on developing our hand-eye coordination and taking turns in a small group. Mrs King has been using balloons to help us with our throwing and catching. Next week, we will challenge ourselves by moving on to throwing and catching with bean bags!



Year 1 – Mrs G. Corsini: Head of Year and Senior Teacher

Year 1 has had a busy and exciting start to the New Year, filled with creativity and learning. The children have been thoroughly engaged in our English text, *Dougal's Deep Sea Diary* by Simon Bartram. We've been focusing on writing in the first person and using exclamation marks to show strong feelings or a raised voice. The children are excited to write their diary entries about a day spent in the magical world of Atlantis, just like Dougal!



We've had a fantastic time experimenting with various art techniques in preparation for Arts Week. We began by exploring warm and cool tones. The children discovered that warm tones include reds, oranges, and yellows, while cool tones are made up of greens, blues, and purples.



As Arts Week begins, we've switched gears to explore the skill of printing. The children have been experimenting with various materials, such as forks, toothbrushes, bubble wrap, and glue stick lids, to create fun, repeating patterns. We've also revisited the idea of warm vs. cool colours, focusing on 'close colours'—like different shades of green and blue. For the final project, Year 1 will collaborate to create a shared piece of art inspired by the book *The Dot*, which will be displayed for everyone in our school family to enjoy.

It's been an excellent start to the year, and we can't wait to share more of our learning and creations with you!

Year 2 – Mrs S. Bradshaw and Mrs J. Knowles: Heads of Year



We are really enjoying arts week in Year 2. We started our learning journey by exploring different flower shapes and improving our sketching skills. We have experimented with printing with different objects and have explored different colour themes. It was interesting to discover how warm and cool colours compliment each other. We are excited about producing our final pieces showcasing all our skills. Inspired by The Truth Pixie by

Matt Haig, we created our own dishonest pixies. We used wonderful adjectives to describe their appearance and character. Please come and enjoy reading these when you visit for Partners in Learning. The teachers are so proud to have such incredible artists and writers in Year 2!



Year 3 – Mrs C. Barrett: Head of Year

We have been so impressed at how Year 3 approached our new history topic about the Ancient Egyptians. The children have been enthusiastic and engaged and are looking forward to discovering more about Tutankhamun's tomb later in the unit. It is wonderful to see them so excited about their



learning. In art week, we have been designing and printing patterns based on the theme of God's wonderful creation. The children's ideas and creativity are endless, and we can't wait to show you our prints at the art exhibition. In maths, we are working on multiplication and division and have been delighted to welcome the Year 5 ambassadors to reinforce some of the concepts we have taught in class. We look forward to showing you our learning in the Partners in Learning in February.



Year 4 - Miss H. Fail: Head of Year and Assistant Headteacher and the Year 4 team



We are excited to share the wonderful experience Year 4 had on our recent trip to Chertsey Museum. The day was filled with engaging activities and fascinating discoveries about Viking history and culture.

Dressed in their tunics, the children enjoyed exploring the museum, examining artefacts, and writing in runes. For many, seeing a real Viking sword on display was a highlight of the trip.



The adventure continued with a visit to the historic site of Chertsey Abbey. As we toured the grounds, the children learned about its incredible history and its connections to the Vikings. Stories of the monks who lived there brought the site to life, sparking curiosity about what life was like in that era. One child summed up the day perfectly: *"If Chertsey Museum was this good, how good is Sayers Croft going to be?"*

Year 5 - Miss E. Roe: Head of Year and Assistant Headteacher

Year 5 have been getting creative this half term, with a special focus on their clay sculpting skills. Starting from basic shapes, the children have been honing their techniques and are now proud to unveil their very own unique sculptures representing themselves, all made from clay. These have been decorated with an individual pattern designed by the children.

We're excited to announce that these wonderful art pieces will be showcased at the upcoming arts week exhibition. This will be a fantastic opportunity for the children to share their artistic talents with the wider community.

In addition to their artistic endeavours, the class has also been actively engaged in other activities. We attended Parish Mass and the children have been relishing their singing lessons, as they prepare music for our upcoming Stations of The Cross Liturgy, set to take place in March.

Overall, Year 5 has had a fantastically creative start to the term.

Year 6 - Miss N Johnson: Head of Year



Year 6 has had an exciting return to school this month, with our focus being on science, particularly the topic of adaptation, where the children have shown great enthusiasm and research skills. Their work on Himalayan animals and their adaptations was impressive, and they've all demonstrated a strong understanding of key punctuation, particularly parenthesis and cohesion. They've written some excellent non-chronological reports all about their chosen animal!



We also had a fantastic time during our WW2 dress-up day, where we explored what life might have been like in the 1940s. A big thank you for helping with the costumes—they really brought the experience to life! This day marked the beginning of an inspiring new topic on evacuation and the Blitz, and an exciting trip to Henley Fort is scheduled for the next half-term.



This past week, we've been immersing ourselves in art, exploring the technique of mono printing. It has been wonderful to see the children's excitement and how hard they are working to produce some beautiful patterns. We're excited to showcase their work at the upcoming Art Exhibition.

i World Thinking Day is a celebration of 10 million girls worldwide to think of each other and celebrate all around the world.



Traditionally to honour this day, children who are members of Girlguiding and Scouting, are invited to wear their uniforms to school or wear their promise badges on their school uniform on the 22nd February. However, 22nd February is a Saturday this year!

Therefore, to support World Thinking Day, we invite children to wear their Girlguiding or Scouting uniforms or badges to school on Monday 24th February, the first day back after the half term break.

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Inclusion and Welfare

Mrs H. Robbins

Lip Balms



Sometimes, during the colder weather, children experience sore chapped lips. Please be aware that we can only apply plain Vaseline in school. Scented, coloured or perfumed lip balms are not permitted as this will affect children with allergies. The plain Vaseline must be given to your child's

class teacher, not stored in their blazer or book bag. It also must be clearly labelled with your child's name. The Vaseline will only be applied during break times to ensure no disruption to the children's learning. Your child must be able to apply it themselves to prevent the risk of infection. Thank you for your support.

Supporting your child's mental health and wellbeing

Woking Family Centre offers many expert tips and advice for supporting your child to talk about their thoughts and feelings. They also have lots of useful articles and resources for parents. For more information, please visit their [support page](#).



Get in touch

Woking Family Centre
The Bungalow
Sythwood
Woking
GU21 3AX

Tel: 01483 310419

Email: wokingfamilycentre@bamardos.org.uk

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Catholic Life and Mission

Mrs K. Willmott - Prayer and Liturgy Coordinator

St Dunstan's Bake Off – Mr A Coyle

This year, our annual bake-off will take place on Tuesday 25th February, the second day after half term.

Every child is invited to bring homemade cakes or biscuits to school on Tuesday morning. We will judge the cakes during the day, and then you can buy a slice or two after school finishes.

This year, we celebrate the Church's Jubilee. A Jubilee Year is celebrated by the Church every 25 years. We are invited to rediscover a spirituality of God's creation in which we understand ourselves as "pilgrims on the earth" rather than masters of the world.

We would therefore like to centre our bake-off on this. We would like you to create a masterpiece based on the natural world. The beautiful natural world is all around us and there are many things that you could base your idea on. It could be an animal like a squirrel, hedgehog or bird. It could be a place like the beach, forest or mountain—even a symbol like love, peace or friendship. We would love for you to share these with us as the bake-off is always a favourite memory for the children. We want your cake to remind us of God's wonderful creation, which we have all been tasked with guarding and protecting.

There will be a cake sale after school, where you can sample the delights. All proceeds go towards Mary's Meals, a registered charity serving nutritious school meals to children in some of the world's poorest countries. If you wish to buy back your cake, then this is, of course, fine. We would ask for a donation in this instance, as we can then raise more money for our fantastic charity.

Lenten Fundraising



As part of the Jubilee Year, Pope Francis asks us to be signs of hope for others by putting Catholic Social Teaching into action. We can do this by caring for our common home and supporting our sisters and brothers experiencing hunger, poverty, or war.

During Lent, we will support two charities, CAFOD and [Mission Together](#).

The children will bring home a Missio red box during the week beginning Monday, 10th March. Please encourage your child to put any spare change that they may have in the box. You may also want to encourage your children to do small jobs around the house to earn extra pennies to contribute to their red box, to encourage them to follow Jesus' example of helping others.



Please return the boxes via your child's book bag the first week after the Easter holidays. Thank you for all of your support and generosity.

CAFOD Fundraising – Mrs G. Corsini



As mentioned in the recent School Comms, I am thrilled to be running the London Marathon on 27th April to raise money for CAFOD, a charity we work closely with at St. Dunstan's. To get the children involved, we will hold a Sponsored Fun Run during the **week commencing Monday, 10th February**. Each child will have the chance to walk, skip, jog, or run for **26.2 minutes** during their PE lesson that week. I'm excited to take on this challenge alongside the children!

Your child should already have received a sponsorship envelope containing a form for friends and family to record their donations. Please place any donations into the envelope and return them to school before Friday 14th, **February**. Every donation, big or small, will go directly to CAFOD as part of my marathon fundraising.



If any parents or carers would like to directly support my marathon fundraising efforts, you can donate via my [JustGiving](#) page. Your support means the world—thank you!

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Clubs

Mr A. Coyle – Assistant Headteacher

Bookings for the summer term will open in early March. Once again, we will review initial bookings, and there will be an opportunity to book a second teacher-led club if spaces are available. Parents can book as many clubs as they are eligible for external clubs, if spaces are available.

All external and teacher-led clubs for this forthcoming term can be booked from Wednesday, 12th March, at 6:00pm. At the beginning of March, further information and the summer term timetable will be sent to parents via school comms.

****Please note**** that if you have missed both booking windows for teacher-led clubs, you should contact the school office for the summer term. Your request will be noted, and you will be notified of a 'one-off/final' booking window. We cannot continue to accept late bookings throughout the term.

Thank you for your understanding.

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Information from Subject Leaders

Eco Committee – Mrs J. Knowles and Mrs C. Allen



The bird feeders look wonderful in our outside areas, and the children are enjoying spotting birds while taking part in the Big School Birdwatch. Thank you so much for your support in making so many bird feeders. We hope the birds in your gardens are enjoying them, too.

The next thing the Eco Committee would like you to support is 'Walk to School Day' after half term. We want to encourage you to leave your car behind or at least park further away from school. You will be helping to protect the environment as well as keeping yourself healthy. We will also be holding a peaceful protest - anti-engine idling, reducing carbon, and protecting the environment!



Library – Miss L. Turner

World Book Day is fast approaching and will be celebrated on Thursday 6th March. In the lead-up to the day, we encourage you to join in the excitement by exploring classic children's literature with your child. This is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the joy of reading as a family and immerse yourselves in this year's theme.

I would also like to take this opportunity to extend a heartfelt thank you to our parent volunteers who have generously given their time to help in the main school library. Thanks to their support, we can now open the library to children in Years 2-6 on Tuesdays and Thursdays, providing even more opportunities for our children to explore new books and develop their love of reading.

RE Learning - Mrs R. O'Neill and Mrs K. Willmott - R.E. Team

This half-term, EYFS students in Years 1, 2, 5, and 6 will continue to build on their learning in the unit titled Galilee to Jerusalem. (Details about RE learning for EYFS students in Years 1 and 6 were shared in the September newsletter.)



In **EYFS**, the children explore the message that Jesus came for everyone. They learn about his mission to demonstrate God's love and welcome everyone. Through their words and deeds, they strive to be like Jesus by showing love and extending a helping hand to those in need.

Year 1 is delving deeper into Jesus' life, focusing on how he grew up to reveal God the Father's love. The children will learn about the significance of Candlemas, a celebration where Christians commemorate this important event. They will also learn how to spread the Good News, take care of those in need, and follow Jesus' example.

Year 2 will explore Jesus' life through a series of Miracles and Parables. They learn about saying sorry and look at how Christians say sorry as part of the Mass. Children will learn that when we sin, we are separated from God, but if we are truly sorry, God is always waiting for us to return with open arms.

Year 5 will delve deeper into the Transfiguration through Artistic representation and how different artists interpret this message. They will continue to explore the meaning of the Our Father and understand that Jesus wants us to call God 'Our Father'. The children will reflect on how the communities we are part of could be transformed if everyone chose to love their neighbour as themselves.

Year 6 is exploring John's Gospel, both its literal and spiritual meanings. Within our church community, including the Parish priest and the congregation, we ensure that Jesus' teachings are passed on through the sacraments. These sacraments serve as visible signs, embodying God's presence and purpose in the life of a Catholic.

An overview of this topic was shared in last month's newsletter. Do look at ways in which you might explore this learning with your child at home and at Mass.

SUGGESTIONS

FOR HOME ACTIVITIES

When you are at Church explain when the Penitential Rite comes in. Point out prayers like the 'Our Father' and Hail Mary and when they take place in a Mass. Invite children to talk about where they can see God's love in their community.

Safer Internet Day 2025 – Mr A. Coyle



We're thrilled to announce that Safer Internet Day 2024 will be taking place on 11th February. This exciting event will be filled with celebrations and engaging activities, all centred around the thought-provoking theme of 'Inspiring change? **Making a difference, managing influence and navigating change online**'.

Safer Internet Day is the UK's biggest celebration of online safety. Each year the day covers an online issue or theme that speaks about the things young people are seeing and experiencing online. Created in consultation with young people across the UK, this year, Safer Internet Day will be focusing on the issue of scams online and, for young people, how to protect themselves and others, as well as what support is available to them.

Coordinated in the UK by the UK Safer Internet Centre, the celebration sees thousands of organisations get involved to promote the safe, responsible and positive use of digital technology for children and young people.

Safer Internet Day 2025 promises to be an informative and empowering occasion, enabling our children to navigate the online world with confidence and resilience. Together, let's inspire change, make a difference, manage influence, and navigate change online!

SEND: (Special Education Needs and Disabilities)

Miss H. Hughes - SENDCo

At the beginning of this term, Mrs Robbins and I delivered a talk to parents titled 'Supporting Your Child at Home'. It included some really useful tips and approaches that are used in school to support emotional regulation and task planning. As they are so successfully used in school, we hope that they will also be helpful at home. To view the presentation, please go to the [school website](#).



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Lost Property

Since returning to school after Christmas, our lost property box has already overflowed with blazers, coats, shoes, hats, gloves and more - many unnamed!

We know how frustrating it can be when things go missing. The best way to ensure items return to their owners is to label them clearly. Named belongings are much easier to return, and we always do our best to reunite them with the right child.

If you haven't already, please take a moment to check that your child's clothes, shoes, and accessories are labelled, it really does make a difference.

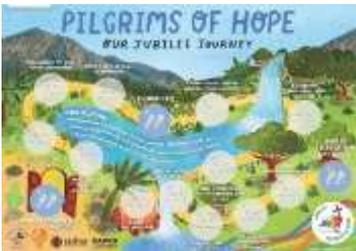
Thank you for your support in helping us keep lost property to a minimum.

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Liturgy and Worship

Catholic Life and Mission Mrs R. O'Neill and Mrs K. Willmott - R.E. Team

Jubilee 2025 – Pilgrims of Hope



2025 is a Year of Jubilee! The word 'Jubilee' comes from the Hebrew word for a ram's horn, which was blown to announce the start of a Jubilee Year in the Bible.

In the Old Testament, the Jubilee Year was a time of renewal and celebration. Debts were cancelled, people could rest, and because crops weren't planted, even the land was able to rest. It was also a time of freedom: prisoners and slaves were freed, and land was given to those who didn't have any. It was known as the year of the Lord's favour.

Now we celebrate a Jubilee every 25 years. It's still a very special, holy year of forgiveness and mercy, a time to reset and renew our relationship with God, with one another and with all of creation.

Pope Francis has called this Jubilee Year 'Pilgrims of Hope.' It is an invitation to renew our hope, a hope which comes from knowing God loves each one of us, whoever we are. As Pilgrims of Hope at St Dunstan's, we will all be going on a journey. The Jubilee for schools started on 24th January, and we started our journey with a special Celebration of the Word. We will be exploring what it means to be a Pilgrim of Hope with the children over the next few weeks and are very much looking forward to the celebrations, worship and activities we have planned for our journey as a school.



A lovely reflection guide to the Jubilee and prayers that you may like to use as a family can be found [here](#)

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Our Partnership with Local Schools

Online Safety Talk – Greenfield School

Mr Robinson the Headteacher at Greenfield School would like to invite parents to an Online Safety Talk on Tuesday 11th February, 7.30pm-9pm at Greenfield School, Old Woking Road, Surrey GU22 8HY for an educational talk.



The talk will be from Jennifer Powers from PAPAYA (Parents Against Phone Addiction in Young Adolescents), in partnership with Smartphone Free Childhood, and the Friends of Greenfield School.

Whether your child has a smartphone or not, please consider attending to learn tips for managing smartphones in your family. You will also learn more about the impact smartphones and social media have on children and what we can do to delay or limit their exposure.

To book please contact Greenfield school office on 01483 772525 or [book online](#). Please note, that this event is not suitable for children.

Finance Assistant Position at St John the Baptist

SJB is currently recruiting a Finance Assistant to join its busy Finance Team. The assistant will work closely with the Finance Manager to ensure the smooth running of all financial operations. Please [click here](#) for more details.

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Parent Teacher Meetings

Parent-teacher meetings will take place on **Wednesday 26th and Thursday 27th February**. These meetings are to discuss your child's progress and any next steps they may have with their learning. Teachers will also provide ideas for parents to support their children at home.

Miss Hughes will be available for any parent who wishes to speak with her after their appointment with their child's class teacher.

Please note:

We hope the Year 6 children will attend the appointment with their parent/s and teacher/s. For other school children, please be mindful that staff will not be available to supervise them while parents attend the meeting. If possible, please make childcare arrangements for your children.

Please remember that children may not bring or use mobile phones or devices with an internet connection to school, even at these evenings.

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Parish Links

CARITAS ACADEMY: Caritas Social Action Network is launching Catholic Social Teaching: An Introduction, an online course for staff and volunteers in parishes. The programme will be spread over five one-hour Zoom sessions on each Tuesday in March and on 01 April 2025. The course is aimed at parishioners who are not so familiar with Catholic Social Teaching, or who would welcome a refresh. We will also be hearing from CSAN members who work on the front line of poverty and exclusion, bringing our theoretical discussions to life.

The course fee is £95 for all five sessions, which includes a copy of Raymond Friel's book, Catholic Social Teaching: An Introduction for Schools, Parishes, and Charities. To find out more, visit <https://www.csan.org.uk/> or get in touch with course administrator bernadette.durcan@csan.org.uk

DIACONATE INFORMATION EVENING: There will be an open evening at St John the Evangelist, Horsham, RH12 2PJ on Friday 14th March 2025, beginning at 7.00pm. This will provide an opportunity for men who are keen to understand more about the Permanent Diaconate, the discernment process and an exploration of a possible vocation to the Ministry. If this is something that you may be interested in learning more about, please email tim.murrill@abdiocese.org.uk for more information and to register to attend.

LOURDES – A RETREAT - SEPTEMBER 22nd-26th 2025, SPIRITUAL LEADER – FR PETER

ANDREWS: This retreat is an opportunity to spend a few quiet days in Lourdes with time for prayer alone or as a pilgrim group. Those who wish can join the Torchlight and Blessed Sacrament Processions, visit the Grotto and the Baths. However, those who prefer can spend time alone or with others as they feel called to do. There will be the opportunity to join a visit to Bartres, where

Bernadette lived for a time. If you would like more details about travel, accommodation, cost and the itinerary, then please speak to Mary Smith and ask for a brochure.

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Parking and Traffic

A huge thank you to all our wonderful parents who are making a real effort to park more considerately and prioritise our children's safety. We're really starting to notice a calmer and safer atmosphere along Onslow Crescent, which makes such a difference!



This is just a little reminder that while our one-way system along Onslow Crescent is voluntary for parents, local residents and visitors may not follow it. So please do stay mindful of this as you drive.

With the days getting longer and the promise of warmer, sunnier weather ahead, it could be a great opportunity to park a little further away, maybe a mile and enjoy a lovely walk to school.

Unsafe parking:

Please support the safety on our local roads and report dangerous or illegal parking to Surrey via email SurreyParkingEnforcement@nlsservices.co.uk or call the police on 101 if the parking is dangerous e.g. on bends or junctions, blocked driveways, or blocked pavements, grass verges, or cycle lanes.

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School Office

Wraparound Care

After School Club and Breakfast Club – Mrs N Hammond

Our ever-popular Early Birds and Stay and Play Clubs continue to thrive. However, we do currently have limited availability on Mondays and Fridays for both the Early Birds Breakfast Club and the Stay and Play after-school club. Please email Mrs Hammond in the school office for further details or complete the [registration form](#) on the school website to apply for a place on the waiting list.

****INFORMATION FOR PARENTS OF CHILDREN IN YEAR 2****

We will be sending a school comms to the parents of children in Year 2 prior to half term asking you to register your interest in applying for your child to join the waiting list for Early Birds breakfast club and/or Stay and Play after school club from September. **NB** both clubs are for children in Year 3 upwards.

During the week commencing Monday 24th February, we will then send out registration forms to all parents who have registered their interest to complete and submit within 14 days.

If you have any questions, please contact Mrs Hammond in the School Office telephone no: 01483 715190 or email wraparound@stdunstans.surrey.sch.uk

May we remind parents, please, that a half-term notice is required should you wish to cancel a regular booking. However, if you already know that you will definitely not need space in September 2025, it would be very helpful if you could make us aware as soon as possible to allow us to allocate places to those families on the waiting list. Thank you.

HM Government Childcare Choices –Tax-Free Childcare- Mrs L. Mason

We are registered with the above scheme to accept payments for childcare for Early Bird's Breakfast Club and Stay and Play After School Club.

If eligible, for every £8 a parent pays into their Childcare account, the government will add an extra £2, up to a maximum of £2,000 per child per year (or £4,000 for disabled children). To find out more about Tax-Free Childcare please visit <http://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk/>

If you choose to use this method of payment, please notify Mrs Hammond in the School Office at wraparound@stdunstans.surrey.sch.uk of the date, full amount, and reference number of your payment. This will enable us to allocate the payment to your account.

Lunch money for spring term 2025 – Mrs M. O’Riordan

If you have yet to pay for this half term’s school dinners, payment is now overdue. The amount for the next half term will be £84.00.

We would appreciate payments made online, in cash, or by cheque (payable to Surrey County Council). Please remember to write your child’s name and class on the reverse of any cheques sent to the school.

If you wish to change your child’s meal choice from hot to cold or vice versa, you must give one week’s notice in writing (starting on a Monday). Thank you.

Reporting your child’s absence

i For safeguarding reasons, it is very important that we know who is absent and who is at school as soon after 8.55 am as possible. We also need to be sure *why* a child is absent so that we can accurately record this on each child’s attendance register and notify the UK Health Security Agency and any vulnerable staff/pupils of any symptoms or infections of concern. The Inclusion Officer from Surrey County Council visits the school once a term and looks at the school’s attendance information. If a child’s absence is for more than three days, we may also need to receive medical evidence for the extended absence from school.

We ask parents to use our [online absence form](#) to record their child’s absence from school due to illness or other medical reasons. It can also be found on the Attendance page of our school website or under useful forms.

Any other absence (non-illness/medical) should continue to be applied for as per current procedures.

This form will be saved directly onto your child’s attendance register. Please complete a new form for every day your child is absent.

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Sports & P.E.

Mr A. Coyle – Competition update

Multiskills festival



This month, the school has hosted two multi skills festivals for children in Year 3. On consecutive Tuesdays, our wonderful Year 5 sports leaders led activity stations allowing children from WASPs to come and challenge themselves.

The stations focused on the fundamental movement skills, and the children’s agility, balance and coordination. They included hockey, netball, football, golf and basketball skills. Each afternoon was a fun and friendly affair and the children competing had smiles on their faces throughout. Although there were no medals or final placings on offer, all the children taking part tried their hardest and learnt some new skills with the wonderful directions from the sports leaders.



Huge thanks and well done to our sports leaders, who led fantastically well. All the attending schools were full of praise for the way they explained the activity and the positive praise they gave those taking part. True role models and ambassadors for the school

Girls' football



Our Year 5 and 6 girls took part in a friendly match at Pyrford School on Thursday 16th January. In a close game that saw end-to-end action, the girls played well as a team and worked hard for each other.

Pyrford scored a very late goal, in a game that would definitely have suited a draw. However, it was still a game with lots of positives for our girls and a great opportunity to play together. With the football league fixtures approaching, the girls are looking good to pick up some great results.

Surrey Schools Cross Country Races



Some of our Year 5 and 6 children took part in cross-country races on Saturday 18th January. Taking place in Reigate, with the weather chilly and fresh to say the least, the course was set over a very undulating route. Every single runner from our school gave it their all, with their faces showing the level of effort at the end.

Although winning races is always incredibly rewarding, when it comes to longer-distance running, the children are challenging themselves individually. It was safe to say from the smiles on their faces that when the children had their breath back, they had a sense of pride and happiness at their performances.



A huge well done to William, in Year 5 who came 8th overall and has now been invited to train and represent Surrey. Superb effort!



Year 2 Football

On Monday 20th January, some of our Year 2 boys travelled to Sythwood School to take part in a football competition. We played four games in the group stages, winning three and drawing one. These results meant the boys bypassed the quarterfinal stage and went straight into the semis.

In the semi-final, we faced Hermitage. After a 0-0 draw the game went straight to penalties. After three penalties each, the scores were still level, so it was sudden death. With Freddie saving the next Hermitage penalty, Thomas stepped up and scored sending the boys through to the final.



In the final, the boys played a strong Halstead St. Andrew's team. Going toe to toe with the HSA, the boys were unlucky to come away with a 4-2 defeat. A runners-up medal to come back to school with showed the incredible performances and was just reward. Well done boys!

Year 5 boys' county cup



Our Year 5 boys continued their county cup campaign on Thursday 23rd January. Travelling to Cheam Park Farm School in Sutton, the boys were met with a barrage of rain on arrival.

As the games kicked off the rain relented, but the cold wind continued to blow and affect the game. The boys played incredibly well against a very strong opposition and went in at half time goalless.

Coming out strong in the second half, the boy's reward was a finely worked goal. However, after increasing pressure, Cheam Park Farm scored a deserved equaliser. The boys responded incredibly well and started to knock on the door again. Their efforts paid off and close to the end of the game, they scored a second to lead again.

However, in the cruellest of fashions, the boys conceded a last-moment equaliser when a speculative shot deceived everyone and crept into the corner of the net via the post.

Reeling from that the boys then had to pick themselves up and play 5 minutes of extra time. Despite never giving up and pushing throughout the team, again, was undone by a very last-minute winner. Again, finding a way through and creeping in.

The boys were understandably devastated to lose in this manner, with the victory in sight for a large part. They should hold their heads high and the future is looking bright for Year 5 football.

Girls' football festival



We hosted a WASPs football festival on Friday 24th January for five other schools. Each team had the opportunity to play each other, with the results based on the table standings.

Our girls huffed and puffed throughout their opening four fixtures and created some excellent opportunities. They were unfortunate not to take chances and drew each game. Going into the last match, the girls knew a victory by two or more goals would be enough for a top three finish. Scoring early in the match, the girls continued to press the goal, and the reward close to full-time was a deserved second.

That result meant the girls finished joint second and showed their joy at receiving their runners-up medals. Great performance girls!

Our thanks to our wonderful Year 5 boys for refereeing the afternoon with such professionalism and encouragement.



Sportshall Athletics



On Wednesday 29th January, our Year 5 and 6 athletes travelled to Guildford Spectrum for a fast, fun and frenetic morning of indoor athletics. Taking part in field and track events the team were constantly on the goal. The field events consisted of; chest push, javelin, triple jump, long jump, vertical and speed bounce. Whilst the track looked at variety of relays, including; obstacle, up and over and team relays.

Not fully knowing how well the boys and girls had scored meant as the results were announced, we had no idea where out of the 10 schools our final place would be. As our name was announced in 3rd place, the children let out a happy roar and should be rightly proud of their efforts throughout the morning. Well done to all the girls and boys involved. Our thanks to Mrs King and Mrs Bates for supporting us in this event.

Girls football

Some of our Year 5 and 6 girls travelled to Pyrford School on Thursday 30th January, for a friendly match against Pyrford.

For several of the team it was not only their first time representing St. Dunstan's, but also playing a competitive match. Led by Mr Trerise the girls applied themselves amazingly well and showed all they had been learning at football club.



Despite being under pressure in defence at times, the girls battled until the final whistle and showed really great teamwork and determination. Well done girls, we look forward to more matches.

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Dates for your Diary



- Partners in Learning – Monday 10th February
- Safer Internet Talk – Tuesday 11th February
- Spring half-term break – Monday 17th to Friday 21st February (inclusive)
- St Dunstan's Bake Off and cake sale – Tuesday 25th February
- Parent-Teacher evening - Wednesday 26th and Thursday 27th February
- World Book Day – Thursday 6th March

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

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

We hope everyone has settled back into school and ready for the half term break. We wanted to share with you what a fantastic, and a very busy winter term we had. With events like the fireworks, winter ball, winter wonderland, school disco and not forgetting pre-loved uniform sales, bake sales and happy school bag. I think we can all agree we did exceptionally well.

These events wouldn't have been possible without your dedicated help, and we want to extend a heartfelt thank you to each and every one of you. We appreciate everyone is very busy so anything you give to FoSD it really does make a difference.

In honour of World Book Day, FOSD will be holding a book sale after school on Thursday 6th March. We will be selling Preloved books for £1. If you would like to make a donation to the book sale, please bring any unwanted books on the morning of Wednesday 26th February.

Last term FOSD raised an outstanding amount **of £18,784.55**; we would like to share with you the funds raised for each event:

1. Fireworks £5,613.24
2. Winter wonderland £4,249.98
3. School Discos £2,918.10
4. Christmas Hamper Raffle £1,821.00
5. Winter Ball £1,279.76
6. Swap Shop £1,226.67
7. School Jackpot £619.00
8. Cake sales £596.88
9. Happy Bags £460

All of the funds raised goes directly back into our school and helps pay towards our school resources. For example: educational materials, pool maintenance, class refurbishments, annual subscriptions - like the Reception living eggs of which the children love seeing, and lots more too. We are extremely lucky to have these funds so the children of our school can benefit greatly from them. In our next FOSD meeting we will be talking to Mrs Morganti about the school wish list for this next term.

FoSD have decided that we would like to send out a questionnaire to everyone to complete regarding the events for this Autumn/Winter term. We would really appreciate your feedback and what you would like FoSD to run this year and into 2026!!

We would also like to congratulate **Mrs Alison Blackman** our December Jackpot winner.

Thank you as always for your continued support.
FoSD Committee

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