

Dear Parents

The spring term has flown by and has been jam packed with visits, music and sporting events and various activities. I do hope you enjoy reading all about these in this Newsletter. We are extremely proud of our Form 6 children who have done exceptionally well this year with their secondary school offers by achieving 6 grammar school places, 44 independent school places with 19 academic scholarships and 21 scholarships/awards across Art, Drama, Music, Sport and Chess.



If you are parents with siblings that you would like to attend St David's, please do register as soon as possible. We already have children registering for 2025 and 2026 and places are limited.

I hope you all have a peaceful Easter and look forward to seeing you in the new term on Tuesday, 18th April.

Miss Cressida Mardell
Head Teacher



Nower Wood Trip

On Monday 27th March, Form 2 visited **Nower Wood** as part of their science topic – living things and their habitats. The day started with a sensory trail. The children were blind-folded and made their way through the woods, by following a rope and holding their arm out as their 'antenna' and learnt how mini-beasts feel their way around under dark logs.

The next activity was a mini-beast hunt. The children carefully collected mini-beasts from under logs using a pot and 'tickling stick'. They then viewed them in magnifying chambers and classified them by the number of legs they had.

After lunch the children went pond-dipping. They used nets to collect living organisms from the pond and transferred them into their own 'aquarium' and then used a classification key to try and identify each organism.

Finally, the children had a classroom session, where they took a closer look at the creatures they had found under the video microscope and took part in a question and answer session. It was a really fun day and the class came back full of interesting new facts.



Pizza Express Trip

Reception class visited **Pizza Express** in Purley on Wednesday 29th March. They enjoyed creating their pizzas and couldn't wait to get home to eat them! They thoroughly enjoyed their trip and there are many budding chefs in Reception!



Carrotty Wood Trip by Alice & Isla

On Wednesday 8th March, Form 4 went on their residential visit to **Carrotty Wood** for three days. We stayed in a small house called Chestnut Loft. We really enjoyed sharing bedrooms with our friends and playing games in the lounge.

During the three days, we did lots of fun activities, including pedal karting, the high ropes course, the low ropes course, geocaching, the maze, mission impossible and swimming. We spent the last evening singing songs, telling jokes and toasting marshmallows around the camp fire.

The food the caterers made for us was scrumptious and we enjoyed tasting Mr Mpasi's famous toast in the mornings!

The weather was unusually cold and wet. We got very muddy at times but it did not stop us from enjoying ourselves! We all had a fantastic time and we really hope that the current Form 3 children have as much fun as us when they go next year.

Hemsley Conservation

The Nursery class had a great day at **Hemsley Conservation Centre** on Friday 24th March. They saw lots of different animals, including monkeys, ocelots, meerkats, maned wolves, otters and much more!





Juniper Hall Trip

Form 3 had a fantastic day trip to **Juniper Hall** on Thursday 16th March, where they took part in a Great Plant and Animal Search. The class enjoyed some fantastically fun hands-on games and activities which helped to improve their knowledge of plants and their parts, plant reproduction, seed dispersal and animal groups, focussing particularly on invertebrates.

The children very much enjoyed their day of fresh air and made many minibeast friends – some of whom very nearly made their way onto the minibus home with them!



Form 5 Storytime

Form 5 read their **stories** about a dragon (which they wrote on St David's Day) to Reception and Nursery. Form 5 enjoyed having an enthusiastic audience for their writing and the Early Years children loved listening to the imaginative stories written by the older children.

Key Diary Dates Summer Term 1

Wednesday 26th April
UKMT Junior Challenge (Form 6)
Open Morning (Prospective Parents),
9.30am – 11.30am

Thursday 27th April
Reception Trip to Forest School, 8.45am
PTA Zoom Meeting, 8pm

Tuesday 2nd May
Forms 3 & 4 Cricket vs. Aberdour, 4pm

Thursday 4th May
Forms 3 & 4 Virtual Reality Workshop on
Climate Change, 9am

Friday 5th May
Coronation Lunch, 12pm
St David's Got Talent, 1.30pm

Wednesday 10th May
PTA Bags2School (AM)
Forms 5 & 6 Cricket vs. Aberdour, 4pm

Friday 12th May
Form 5 Maths Challenge, 12pm

Monday 15th May
Forms 5 & 6 Athletics Taster, 1pm
Form 5 Choices Meetings, 1.45pm – 5pm

Tuesday 16th May
U10 & U11 Cricket vs. Royal Russell,
3.30pm

Monday 22nd May
Form 5 Choices Meetings, 3.15pm – 6.30pm

Tuesday 23rd May
Form 1 Class Assembly & Book Share,
8.45am
Forms 3 & 4 Athletics Taster, 1pm

Wednesday 24th May
Whole School Photo, 8.30am
KS2 Informal Concert, 6pm – 7pm

Thursday 25th May
Sports Day EYFS/F1-2, AM (timing TBC)
Sports Day F3-6, PM (timing TBC)
KS1 Informal Concert, 4pm – 5pm

Monday 29th May – Friday 2nd June
Half-Term (one week)



Reception Class Assembly

Reception performed their class assembly to the school and their parents on Thursday 23rd March. The class have been learning about space and the planets in our Solar System and wanted to share some of their knowledge with the rest of the school. They also explained that we have to look after our planet and recycle where we can. All of the children did really well and thoroughly enjoyed the performance!

CSI Easter Trip

Form 4 had a great time when they visited **CSI Easter** at Christ Church, Purley and became Detective Inspectors for the morning. They were there to try and solve 'The Case of the Missing Body'.

In their 'squads' they studied fingerprints, tried to break secret codes, investigated the crime scene, listened to witness statements and performed scientific experiments in the 'lab'. They each had a notebook to record their findings and at the end of their investigations, using the evidence they had gathered, they concluded that Jesus was dead when he was crucified and that he resurrected two days later (on the Sunday). They also discovered that the men dressed in white (whom Mary saw) were angels, and that an unknown substance left in the tomb was actually angel footprints. They thoroughly enjoyed this interactive way of learning about the Easter story.



Perfect Pitch & Enterprise Fair

Our **Form 6 businesses** presented their plans to a panel of judges before premiering their adverts, fielding questions and showing a mock-up of their stalls. The judges were extremely impressed with the quality of the presentations, the children's ability to respond to questions and the variety of products on show.

The **Enterprise Fair** followed on Monday 20th March and was a huge success, with children from Forms 1 to 5 visiting the stalls, buying items and trying out the amazing games. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves and there was a real buzz throughout the school all afternoon.





School Notices

Swimming

Form 3 will be swimming from Wednesday 19th April and are reminded to bring in their kit.

Booster Groups

Form 5 will have booster classes at 8am on the following days:

Tuesday 9th – Thursday 11th May
 Tuesday 16th – Thursday 18th May
 Tuesday 23rd – Thursday 25th May

Tuesday 6th – Thursday 8th June
 Tuesday 13th – Thursday 15th June
 Tuesday 20th – Thursday 22nd June

Summer Uniform

A reminder to parents that children all wear SUMMER uniform for the summer term, including boaters for girls and caps for boys. Full uniform lists for each year group are available on the website.

Start of the School Day

Please can we remind you that children should be in school to start their day at 8.30am.

Orchestral Day & Exam Success

St David's joined several other primary schools, as well as professional musicians, at Woldingham's **Orchestral Day** on Wednesday 1st March. Following an afternoon of rehearsals, a packed audience of family and friends were treated to a fantastic gala concert in the evening.

Congratulations to the following children who have taken music exams recently:

Gabriel	Form 6	Drums	Grade 2	Pass
Aimee	Form 5	Piano	Grade 2	Pass
Rahavan	Form 5	Piano	Grade 4	Merit
Isla	Form 4	Piano	Grade 3	Pass
Roshni	Form 3	Singing	Grade 2	Pass
Anaé	Form 2	Piano	Grade 2	Distinction
Audrey	Form 2	Piano	Grade 2	Merit
Lianna	Form 2	Piano	Initial	Pass

St David's Day Celebrations

Our **St David's Day** celebrations kicked off with the annual Eisteddfod poetry competition. Well done to all the children who presented their poems so confidently – it was really hard to select the overall winners. The celebrations continued in the afternoon with a variety of team-building activities, which saw the children working together across year groups and having lots of fun!





Sports Update

Rain has not stopped play this half-term, with plenty of **sporting action** on display from all of our St David's teams.

U9 Netball: Our Form 3 and 4 teams took part in a competition against Royal Russell School on 3rd March, which resulted in a Gold medal for our Form 4 team and 3rd place position for our Form 3 team. Well done to both teams – you played fantastically!



U11 Boys Football: The boys team have now finished both their League and Cup campaigns for the season. They played excellently in the small schools cup, losing 4-1 to Oakwood in the semi-final. The team won their league match against Oasis Byron 3-1, but their final match was a very tough game, which resulted in an 8-0 loss to the overall winners, The Hayes. The U11 boys team have had an enjoyable season and we have seen lots of improvements shown throughout – well done boys.

Cross-Country: Well done to the runners who attended the races at Farthing Downs and Woodcote High this half-term. They all performed brilliantly, on what were two very cold and muddy days. Our best finishers in the Farthing Downs race were Michael (5th place in the Form 5/6 boys race) and Emma (9th place in the Form 5/6 girls race).



U11 Netball: Our netballers attended an ISA competition at Bishop Challoner School on Tuesday 14th March. The girls won their first round of pool matches, which placed them in the top half of the competition. Overall, they finished a very respectable 3rd place. Well done girls!

U9 Hockey: Our U9 hockey team travelled to Royal Russell School on Thursday 2nd March to take part in some friendly matches. Lots of goals were scored and there was some excellent play on show.



U9 Football: Our U9 footballers also played some friendly matches against Royal Russell School on Tuesday 21st February. There were some great skills on display and it was great to see the team developing their skills.

Swimming: Our Form 3 and 4 children took part in a friendly swimming gala at Banstead Prep School, whilst our Key Stage 2 girls took part in a friendly gala at Old Palace. There was a range of sprints, relays and fun races at both events and the swimmers had a great time and gave it their all.



Spring-Term Artwork

In the **Art Department**, this half-term:

- Form 1 have been creating plants and flowers using a variety of media
- Form 2 drew cubist portraits of Florence Nightingale
- Form 3 have been learning about negative space by creating Notans
- Form 4 have nearly finished their abstract chalk portraits inspired by Sandra Silbersweig
- Form 5 finished their Great Wave monoprints by outlining with indian ink and have now started a DT project on Tudor Houses
- Form 6 have started a photography project which we will share after Easter
- And finally, KS2 Art Club have been working on some stunning radial block prints.



Key Diary Dates Summer Term 2

Tuesday 6th June
Form 6 Trip to Horton Kirby, 9am

Wednesday 7th June
Nursery Assembly & Book Share, 8.45am

Thursday 8th June
Teams & Leavers Photos, 8.30am

Friday 9th June
Form 5 Love Languages

Monday 12th – Friday 16th June
Form 6 Trip to Isle of Wight

Tuesday 20th June
Backup Sports Day

Thursday 22nd June
Forms 3 & 4 Trip to Leeds Castle, 9am

Friday 23rd June
Mufti Day (Bring a Bottle)
Form 6 Play Tech Rehearsal (AM)

Saturday 24th June
PTA Summer Fair

Monday 26th June
Form 6 Play Dress Rehearsal

Tuesday 27th June
Form 6 Play, 6.30pm

Wednesday 28th June
Form 6 Play, 6.30pm

Thursday 29th June
Moving Up Time, 11am
U11 Cricket vs. Audley, 3.45pm

Friday 30th June
EYFS/KS1 Trip to Hobbledown, 9.15am

Monday 3rd July
Form 6 Leavers' Assembly, 8.45am

Tuesday 4th July
EYFS/KS1 Normal School (AM Only)
Forms 3-6 Rehearsal at St Mark's, 8.30am
Forms 3-6 Prize-Giving at St Mark's
(timing TBC)

Wednesday 5th July
Last Day of Term



PTA Update

Spring has most definitely sprung! We've had a little sunshine since the first day of spring and the PTA are hopeful for a magnificent summer so the Summer Fair is an enjoyable success! We've been working on changing things around for this year and we'll be sharing details of what to expect in the weeks to come. A little sneak share of what to expect, though: we've arranged for hot food and an ice cream truck this year along with some new stalls to change things around a little! Watch this space!

This month, we had our biggest ever turnout for the PTA Quiz Night. Mr Smith was the quizmaster for all the material prepared by Mrs Smith! An open bar, Dominos, friends competing for prosecco and questions that made you think (whilst in a very tipsy state) was always going to culminate in a night of laughter and great memories! Thank you to all those that supported the event.

Whilst activities to raise funds are good fun, seeing the funds spent and the enrichment it brings can be so rewarding. Reception class have purchased a few new toys, courtesy of the PTA this term, that the children have thoroughly enjoyed. Colouring club have benefitted from a whole new range of stationery which has been put to good use. Creative sparks have been flying and some real masterpieces have been made!

Next term we have the Summer Fair to look forward to. Please book your diaries for 24th June.

Wishing you all a restful and happy Easter break.

Naureen & Nisha,
On behalf of the PTA Committee

