

NEWSLETTER

Dear Parents

It has been another very busy half-term which has been filled with a huge variety of events and activities which you will read about in this Newsletter. Many trips and sporting events have taken place and our special Coronation Celebration on Friday 5th May was thoroughly enjoyed by all the children and staff. The St David's Got Talent Competition in the afternoon was indeed a real treat for us all!



I hope you all have an enjoyable half-term term break and look forward to seeing you on Monday 5th June.

Miss Cressida Mardell, Head Teacher



Coronation Celebrations

As part of our **Coronation Celebrations** on Friday 5th May, we all met together for a special assembly. We learnt about some of the traditions behind the Coronation service and then the children sang two new songs they had learnt especially for the occasion. This was followed by the launch of our brand new St David's Families (all of which are named after dragons). The special picnic lunch in the playground later that day gave the children the opportunity to eat and play together in these new Families.



St David's Got Talent

What a wonderful afternoon the children had on Friday 5th May, when we held our very own St David's Got **Talent Show**. The judges had a very tough task to select the overall winners in each category, as all the performances were so wonderful and very entertaining. Thank you to all the children who took part and sent in audition videos, and for those who didn't, thank you for being such a fabulous and supportive audience to your friends.



School Notices

New Inset Day 2023/2024

Please be advised that on Monday 3rd June 2024, the school will be having an additional Inset Day and will be closed to pupils. Please make a note of this date in your diaries.

Forms 3-6 End of Year Celebration (previously called Prize-Giving) - 4th July

Please be advised that we are changing the name and format of what has been our traditional 'Prize-Giving' to an 'End of Year Celebration', where we will be celebrating all of the children's achievements over the last year. This will still include our usual speeches from the Head Boy and Head Girl and Heads of Houses, together with an array of music and other contributions from the children.

Uniform Reminder

Please can you ensure that your children have cagoules, sun hats and water bottles in school each day.

Swimming

Form 4 will be swimming from Wednesday 7th June and are reminded to bring in their kit.

Booster Groups

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

Tuesday 6th – Thursday 8th June

Tuesday 13th – Thursday 15th June

Tuesday 20th – Thursday 22nd June

Parking

Can I remind all parents to please park considerately and safely when visiting the school. I had an extremely serious incident reported to me this week where a parent and child were very nearly hurt when crossing the road, as their line of vision was blocked by parents parking on the yellow zigzag lines. Please can I ask that you all be particularly mindful of where you park when picking up and dropping your child to school to try to ensure that our whole school community stays safe.



Forest School

Reception Class had an amazing time at Royal Russell's **Forest School** on Thursday 27th April. The children learnt about boundaries, how to stay safe, use tools such as peelers and palm chisels and they even lit a fire and toasted marshmallows

Some children were busy making chocolate cake at the mud kitchen area, others made a den and some children were climbing trees. They had to think 'Is it safe?' before deciding whether or not they should do their chosen activity.

VR Workshop

Forms 3 & 4 had an immersive **workshop** on Thursday 4th May, using VR headsets to explore the topic of Climate Change. Real ecological problems were brought to life and issues such as pollution, overfishing, agriculture and plastic waste were examined. Following the workshop, the children were left with a positive message of empowerment and hope for the future of their planet.



ICT Skills

Form 4 have been working on their research skills in **ICT**. They have been looking at three different seaside resorts in England and next week they will use their research to produce posters persuading people to visit the resorts.



Royalty for the Day!

Form 1 had some very **regal guests** in the classroom on Monday 22nd May. The children looked fabulous in their fancy dress costumes, which ranged from knights, to Indian princesses, to soldiers. They had a wonderful day drawing portraits of King Charles III, ordering special events in Queen Victoria's life and, of course, enjoying home-made scones with jam and clotted cream for their tea party in the afternoon. Some children even tried a cup of English tea for the first time.



Form 1 Class Assembly

Form 1 performed their 'Royal Family' **assembly** to the school on Tuesday 23rd May. The children all spoke their words beautifully, sang their hearts out and enjoyed reciting rhyming pairs for their poem about kings. The highlight of the assembly was the catwalk, where the children modelled some individually designed underwear for our new King. Form 1 have thoroughly enjoyed learning about the Royal Family in their history lessons this term, especially as they were able to celebrate history in the making, with the recent coronation of Charles III.

Key Diary Dates

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 June
Form 5 Trip to Go Ape

Monday 19th – Friday 23rd June
Form 6 Trip to Isle of Wight

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

Friday 23rd June
Mufti Day (Bring a Bottle)

Saturday 24th June
PTA Summer Fair, 1pm - 4pm

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
Form 6 Trip to Mamma Mia!
Moving Up Time, 11am
U11 Cricket vs. Audley, 3.45pm
PTA New Parents' Drinks, 7.30pm

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

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

Tuesday 4th July
All Pupils Morning School Only
Forms 3-6 End of Year Celebration at St Mark's Church, 4pm

Wednesday 5th July
Last Day of Term, 12pm – 12.15pm

Korfball Competition

On 14th May, an U9 & U11 team from St David's represented the school at the annual Croydon **Korfball** competition. Having only trained a few times together leading up to the competition, they all played brilliantly. The U9 team finished in 2nd place overall, with the U11 team finishing in 3rd place. A really excellent achievement for all the children involved.



U11 Cricket

After some wet weather, the U10 & U11 cricketers finally got the chance to play a competitive match, this time against Royal Russell School. On a glorious sunny day, both teams showed some excellent batting, bowling and fielding skills and came out as winners against their opposition. They all improved throughout the match and showed some really good teamwork. Well done all.



Charity Triathlon

Many of our KS2 pupils took part in the annual Royal Russell **Triathlon** in April, which involved fundraising for the charity 'Restless Development'. Teams of 4 competed in swimming, cycling and running races, aiming to complete the tasks as quickly as possible. The rainy weather did not stop our children competing to the best of their ability. They all did St David's very proud.



Form 5 Sports Leadership Course

Since the start of the Summer term, Form 5 have been using their PE lessons to take part in a **sports leadership** course. During this, they have learnt how to design games, how to interact with younger children and understand how to create a safe environment within a sports setting. They have all worked brilliantly and were rewarded by delivering their own games to Reception & Form 1. The children loved Form 5's games and didn't want the morning to end! Well done Form 5!

Primary Maths Challenges

Congratulations to Ethan, Samuel, Emma & Varsha who represented St David's at the Royal Russell Maths Challenge on Friday 12th May. The team competed against 16 other schools and had to work extremely hard at a range of hands-on and open-ended problems. All of their mathematical and problem-solving skills were required and the result was a tremendous 2nd place overall.

Last term, eight children were selected for the Primary Maths Challenge Bonus Round and we are delighted to announce that five of the children have just received special awards: Ella – Bronze, Saashi, Shayan & Dylan – Silver and Ethan – Gold.



Informal Concerts & Music Exams

We were delighted to present two amazing informal concerts which saw 40 children performing a variety of ensemble and solo pieces to a fantastic standard. Very well done to all of those that took part over the two evenings. The next concerts will be in October.

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

Aarya	Form 6	Piano	Grade 5	Distinction
Jamal-Deen	Form 6	Guitar	Grade 2	Merit
Varsha	Form 5	Theory	Grade 3	Merit
Varsha	Form 5	Piano	Grade 3	Pass
Zara	Form 4	Violin	Grade 2	Merit
Kyra	Form 2	Piano	Grade 1	Pass



Staffing

We are sorry to say goodbye to the following members of staff at the end of this academic year:

Mrs Bethany Whybrow - As many of you will know, Mrs Whybrow has worked here for the last 10 years (since September 2012) and we would like to thank her for being such a fantastic teacher and for her significant contribution to school life, which has included responsibility for our Eco Reps and School Council.

Mrs Pippa Jones - Mrs Jones has been a valuable member of our Early Years Team since September 2017. She has contributed significantly in helping all new children settle well into Nursery life and has ensured they have adapted quickly.

Mrs Caroline Blok – Mrs Blok has worked with many of your children over the years, with creative writing and comprehension being a particular focus for her. After coming out of retirement on a couple of occasions, she is now looking forward to spending more time with her grandchildren.

They will all be missed and we wish them well for the future.



Summer-Term Artwork

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

- Form 1 have been creating Royal-inspired artwork
- Form 2 have been making different types of maps
- Form 3 are working on Ancient Greek pots
- Form 4 have studied different types of Art from various cultures around the world.
- Form 5 have nearly finished making their Tudor Houses!
- Form 6 have enjoyed drawing Manga characters
- And finally, Art Club made colourful surreal landscapes inspired by an Austrian artist called Friedensreich Hundertwasser.



PTA Update

It's been a slower half-term for the PTA but we've been beavering away putting the Summer Fair plans together and this time things will be a little different. We've listened to the feedback from last year and we've addressed the points raised!

1. It was felt there was not enough seating at the last fair. This year we'll be adding lots more tables and chairs for seating.
2. There were comments that there weren't enough options of 'proper' food. This year we have arranged for both meat and vegetarian hot food options for purchase.
3. The freezer is no longer available at the pavilion so this year we've booked an ice-cream truck.
4. There were calls for different sporting activities. This year we have booked mini-golf.
5. We're looking to change the stalls around too - More information will be shared as we confirm details of these.
6. The successes from last year were the bottle tombola, the bar, the inflatables, raffle and merchandise stalls - these will remain unchanged. (Don't worry - we're not changing everything!)

Now here comes the part when we ask for support! We're looking for any parents or family friends who can do henna or face painting at the fair. Please get in touch with your form reps or the PTA directly if you can help!



With the end of this half-term, we now enter the run-up to the end of our current Form 6's time at St David's. They have worked tremendously hard over the last few months preparing for entrance exams and we've had another brilliant year of achievements. Well done to them all! The PTA presented each child with a personalised leaver's hoody at a **Celebration Assembly** last week as a parting memento of their time at the school and a goodbye from us all before they move on to their new adventures.

Wishing you all sunshine and relaxation over the half-term and we look forward to seeing you all at the Summer Fair on 24th June!

Naureen & Nisha,
On behalf of the PTA Committee