

NEWSLETTER

Dear Parents

The end of another busy year has arrived and what a busy term it has been! It has been filled with trips, concerts and sporting events, including our annual sports days.



As you are aware, our school regulatory inspection took place on Wednesday 14th June and Thursday 15th June. I would like to thank the pupils for their exemplary behaviour during these two days and thank you all for completing the questionnaire in such a positive way. The results will be posted on the website as soon as they are available.

Congratulations must go to our Form 6 children for gaining a total of 44 Independent School places and 7 Grammar School places, achieving an impressive 41 scholarships ranging from Academic, Music, Sports, Drama, Art and Chess. We will be sad to see them leave and wish them luck at their new schools.

On behalf of all the staff and myself, we hope you have an enjoyable and relaxing summer break. We look forward to seeing all the children return on Tuesday 5th September.

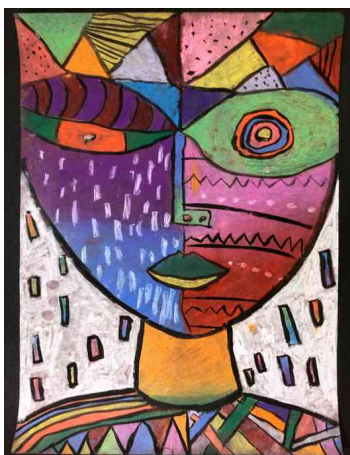
Miss Cressida Mardell, Head Teacher



End-of-Year Celebration

And what a **celebration** it was! After the traditional rousing start from the combined Rhythm Ensembles and an emotional rendition of *When A Knight Won His Spurs*, the award-giving and musical entertainment was enjoyed by everyone; particularly the Chamber Choir performance of *Africa* and the whole school finale of *Sing From Your Heart*. Congratulations to all the award winners and to the new Head Boy, Head Girl, Heads of Houses and Games Captains.

Thank you to Mr Chris Hutchinson, Head of Royal Russell School, who was our guest speaker.



ISA Art Winners!

Congratulations to Isla who won the Lower KS2 2D Art category and to Saanvi who won the KS2 Sketchbook category at the recent **Regional ISA Art Competition**. Both entries will now go through to the ISA National Art Competition finals in November.



School Notices

New Inset Day 2023/2024

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

Uniform

A reminder that children should return to school in their winter uniform (please check the [website](#) for uniform lists). Please can you ensure that every item is clearly named. Please note that up until the half-term break, children have the option of wearing either their blazer or their winter coat dependent on the weather conditions.

Mobile Phones

If it has been agreed with the school that your child walks home alone, please ensure that any mobile phones are handed in to the Office at the beginning of the school day.

Swimming

Form 3 will be swimming from Wednesday, 13th September and are reminded to bring in their kit (please refer to the uniform list on the [website](#)).

Booster Groups

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

Tuesday 26th – Thursday 28th September
 Tuesday 3rd – Thursday 5th October
 Tuesday 10th – Thursday 12th October
 Tuesday 31st – Thursday 2nd November
 Tuesday 7th – Thursday 9th November
 Tuesday 14th – Thursday 16th November



Form 6 Perform Hoodwinked!

The script refers to **Hoodwinked** as being a 'swashbuckling musical adventure which is great fun to perform' and this really was true! After starting to learn the songs in January after the O2, Form 6 threw themselves into two weeks of solid rehearsals with Mrs Izzard, and two incredible performances were the result of all their hard work. Form 5 were willing and able assistants to Form 6, who wowed the audiences with their comedic timing, their amazing singing and general brilliance. However, we cannot go without mentioning the guest appearances from Mr M'pasi, Mr Smith and Ms Jones who gave the show their own special erm... something. Well done everyone! A big Thank You to the parents for donating so kindly to the Monkey Haven on the Isle of Wight – we raised a total of £173.30



A Seaside-Themed Assembly

On Wednesday 7th June, Nursery performed a superb 'Seaside' **assembly** to the rest of the school and their parents. The children all remembered their lines and sang beautifully to the seaside-themed songs, which put a smile on everyone's faces. We hope the audience are now all in the holiday spirit!



Love Languages Competition

On Friday 9th June, ten of our Form 5 students took part in City of London Freeman's 'Love Languages' Competition. They had a wonderful time as always, watching all the entries and having a picnic lunch followed by a game of Pétanque. We are very proud of our students who worked hard to put together – in just a few lunch hours – a play about a group of celebrities arriving at an awards ceremony. It seems they were all the journalist's 'favourites'! Well done to Jacob, Yinglong, Samuel, Emma, Livvy, Ethan, Lakshmi, Varsha, Rahavan and Aimee for all your dedication and hard work!



Forms 3 & 4 Visit Leeds Castle

What a fantastic day out Forms 3 & 4 had at **Leeds Castle** on Thursday 22nd June! After taking the 'road train' to their first stop, the class were treated to an informative workshop where they were introduced to some of the previous owners of Leeds Castle. The children were fully immersed in the experience, dressing up and re-enacting important events in the castle's history and learning what life was like living there in the past. After a sunny lunch in the beautiful grounds, Form 3 had a tour of the castle, including Lady Baillie's private suite.

Key Diary Dates (First Half-Term)

w/c Monday 11th September
Lunchtime & After-School clubs start

Wednesday 13th September
PTA AGM, 7pm

Friday 15th September
Blue Day in EYFS

Friday 22nd September
Red Day in EYFS

Tuesday 26th September
Forms 1-6 European Day of Languages
Dance Workshop, 9am

Friday 29th September
Yellow Day in EYFS

Wednesday 4th October
U11 Netball vs. Old Palace, 3.45pm (H)
Parents' Evening, 5pm – 7.30pm

Thursday 5th October
NHS Nasal Flu Vaccinations

Friday 6th October
Green Day in EYFS

Monday 9th October
Parents' Evening, 4.30pm - 7pm

Tuesday 10th October
Form 2 Assembly & Book Share,
8.45am

Wednesday 11th October
Form 1 Trip to Guildford Toy Museum,
9am

Thursday 12th October
Harvest Festival Assembly, 8.45am

Friday 13th October
Orange Day in EYFS

Monday 16th – Friday 27th October
Half-Term (Two Weeks)

Form 5 Go Ape!

On 12th June, Form 5 enjoyed climbing through the treetops at **Go Ape** in Tilgate Park. They had a wonderful day, navigating the high ropes and working as a team. In the afternoon, there were House games followed by ice-creams!



Isle of Wight Trip

Form 6 arrived in school full of excitement on Monday 19th June, ready for their trip to the **Isle of Wight**. Following a long drive to Lymington Ferry Port, they made a crossing to Yarmouth and began a busy week of visits and activities. The first stop was Alum Bay, where they witnessed glass being made, explored The Needles Old Battery and made sand shapes using multi-coloured sand. All this before they had even arrived at The Fernside, their home for the week.

On Tuesday, whilst enjoying wonderful weather, Form 6 tried some water sports at Wight Water before visiting Monkey Haven in the afternoon, where they saw some amazing animals! On Wednesday, they explored Carisbrooke Castle, before heading to Ryde for tree climbing, and then finished a very busy day at Sky Nets in Sandown. Thursday saw them visit Robin Hill, where they raced on the toboggan, swung on the pirate ship and watched a spectacular bird show. Friday, the final day on the IOW, saw Form 6 pack their bags before enjoying their last breakfast and heading out to play Dino Golf. Later in the day the ferry brought the class safely to Portsmouth and their coach journey home – it certainly was a quieter journey than the one they had made on Monday!

Horton Kirby Trip

On Tuesday 6th June, Form 6 visited **Horton Kirby**, an important village from the Victorian era. The children took on the persona of a real Victorian child who attended the school and went on to discover facts about their life. They visited some of the houses in the village where their child lived or worked and, in some cases, found the graves where their child was eventually buried.

The class also had the opportunity to handle some Victorian artefacts and objects that all gave a glimpse into what life would have been like living in Horton Kirby during the reign of Queen Victoria. Finally, the children experienced a range of Victorian lessons, taught by the Head Teacher Mr Kemp, and a number of unfortunate children were introduced to the dunce's cap and cane!





Hobbledown Trip

Nursery, Reception, Form 1, and Form 2 recently embarked on an exciting end-of-year school trip to **Hobbledown** Adventure Farm Park and Zoo. Packed with interactive animal encounters, explorations in the Imaginarium, and thrilling adventures in the playground, the day proved to be a delightful experience for everyone involved. The children exhibited excellent behaviour throughout the trip and had an abundance of fun and laughter.





Infant Sports Day

Our Nursery children participated in their first ever **Sports Day** on Thursday 25th May. In small teams, they competed in running races, throwing games and obstacle courses, all with a smile on their face. They finished with a presentation and the chance to receive their shiny gold medal. Well done to Nursery!

Reception, Form 1 & Form 2 formed 8 teams to compete in 8 different activity stations. These stations were run by our fabulous Form 6 students and comprised basketball shooting, obstacle courses, football shooting, over & under and many more! Points were scored at each activity giving us the overall top 3 teams. Teams Rhinos & Monkeys came in 3rd place, team Leopards in 2nd place and our 2023 Champions were the Giraffes team. It was a lovely morning and these celebrations were capped off with some fun sprint races for all.

Junior Sports Day

Aquila, Cygnus and Leo Houses battled it out again in a hard-fought **Sports Day**. With changes to proceedings this year, all children adapted brilliantly to the different running order. Children began in their classes, competing for their House in activities such as basketball shooting, obstacle course, throwing activities and team relays. These activities all accumulated points towards their overall House points.

The children then competed in year group races; skipping, egg & spoon and relays. After much anticipation, Leo House were once again crowned Champions, winning by just under 100 points! A big thank you to the staff for helping with the running of the activities, as well as students from Old Palace School who also assisted us on the day.



Mamma Mia! Trip

On Thursday 29th June, after an already busy week, Form 6 had a lovely day in London, navigating public transport with their Oyster cards and enjoying a delicious meal at Frankie & Benny's, followed by watching the West End production of *Mamma Mia!*



School Councillors' Roundup

As ever, it has been another eventful year. We have witnessed the passing of our longest reigning monarch, and watched eagerly as our new king was crowned. All very memorable events in our history, we're sure you'll agree. It has been a busy year for the school council team. In the Autumn term the school council were so moved by Queen Elizabeth's passing, particularly as it came so soon after her Platinum Jubilee, that it was decided we would create a book of celebration for her, where we received some lovely contributions.

In the Spring term, the council wanted a fun event for all the school to enjoy and after much discussion, it was decided that we would like to hold our very own talent show. This took a lot of careful planning and preparation, but St David's Got Talent was born! Teachers received some wonderful audition videos and it was very hard to choose the contestants. Which now brings us to the Summer term, and the long-awaited Talent Show was held on Friday 5th May. The performances selected by the teachers, plus the pupils' choice, were outstanding and the afternoon proved to be very entertaining. We would like to thank everybody, staff and pupils, who helped to make the talent show a success.

We would like to also extend our thanks to all those children who wrote or prepared speeches this year to apply for being part of the School Council team. A final thank you to all the successful school councillors this year, who have represented the school so well and demonstrated to others what it is like to be part of a school community and have a pupil voice.

See you next year!
Your School Council Committee

Form 5 Cricket

On Thursday 29th June, some of our Form 5 cricketers took part in a friendly match against Audley Primary School. It was a great occasion with lots of runs being scored, great catches taken and balls bowled. St David's came out as winners in what was a lovely afternoon! Earlier in the week, the team took part in a Croydon **cricket** competition at Addiscombe CC. For some of them, it was their first ever cricket match. St David's finished with 1 Win and 2 Losses but improvements were seen throughout!





Key Diary Dates (Second Half-Term)

Friday 3rd November
Brown & Pink Day in EYFS

Friday 10th November
Diwali Day in EYFS

Monday 13th November
Individual Photographs

Wednesday 15th November
U11 Netball vs. Old Palace, 3.45pm (H)

Thursday 16th November
Form 5 Assembly & Book Share, 8.45am

Friday 17th November
Children in Need Pyjama Day (TBC)

Friday 24th November
Black & White Day in EYFS

Friday 1st December
EYFS Nativity, 9am

w/c Monday 4th December
Last Week of Clubs

Tuesday 5th December
Forms 1 & 2 Nativity, 9am
U9 Girls Football vs. Oakhyrst Grange,
1.30pm (A)

Friday 8th December
Rainbow Day in EYFS

Wednesday 13th December
Christmas Activity Day & Lunch

Thursday 14th December
Last Day of Term, 12pm – 12.15pm



Summer-Term Artwork

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

- Form 1 have created 3D beetles using oil pastels and pipe cleaners
- Form 2 have been working on seaside pictures
- Form 3 have created Earth-inspired mixed media collages
- Form 4 have been working on fantasy map illustrations
- And Form 5 have been studying photography using the iPads.



Form 4's Roman Mosaics

Form 4 have been making mosaics coasters as part of their History topic this term on the Romans. They practised their designs on squared paper and stuck small tiles onto their wooden coaster, they found the activity very fiddly but persevered and produced some lovely work.

Music Exam Success

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

Aarya	Form 6	Violin	Grade 4	Merit
Aarya	Form 6	Theory	Grade 5	Pass
Ethan	Form 5	Piano	Grade 3	Distinction
Emma	Form 5	Violin	Grade 4	Merit
Zara	Form 4	Piano	Grade 4	Merit



PTA Update

Well the **Summer Fair** was quite the affair! The sun was shining, the burgers were sizzling, the bar was buzzing and laughter could be heard all around! This year was an absolute success, if we say so ourselves, and the proof is in the pudding - we sold 325 tickets, which is phenomenal! But none of this would have been possible without the support of all the volunteers who ran stalls, helped with the set up and dismantle and all the planning hours put in by the core PTA team. A massive thank you to you all!! And a great big thank you to everyone who came and supported the fair! The drogens will be put away safely and will return again next year for an encore!



As the academic year comes to a close, we'd like to thank the Class Reps for their support and we look forward to working with the new reps next year. Please put your name forward to your current class reps if you'd like to take on the role.



Finally, a heartfelt goodbye to our Co-Chair, Nisha Patel, and our Co-Treasurer, Dipesh Patel, who have supported the PTA for a number of years. They have been a backbone to the team and we'll be sad to see them go. Stepping up in Nisha's shoes will be Kate Merriman. The rest of the core team remains the same and you'll meet us all again at the AGM in September, where we'll share our plans for the upcoming year.

We are looking for new members for the core team! If you're savvy with numbers, perhaps consider being our co-treasurer? We're also looking for support with Second-Hand Uniform and support with the Social Team too. Even if you're not looking for a formal role - come forward with any time you can share. We'll appreciate any help offered!



Wishing you all a Summer filled with sunshine and happiness. See you at the start of next term!

Naureen & Kate
On behalf of the PTA Team