

NEWSLETTER

Dear Parents

It was really good to see so many of you at the Parents' Evenings this half-term. The children have all had a great half-term with a variety of trips, workshops, sports and music events taking place across various year groups. If you are a parent with siblings that you would like to start at St David's in September 2025 and 2026 and have not yet done so, please could you complete a registration form as soon as possible as there are now only limited places available. We are full in Nursery and Reception for 2024.



We look forward to working closely with the two Chairs on the PTA, Mrs Ali and Mrs Merriman, on fundraising events this year. I know there are many exciting events being planned, which I am sure your children will enjoy.

Please can we remind you that all children should have their cagoules in school every day due to the inclement weather at this time of the year. The children's Games lessons and many after-school sports clubs take place at the field in all weathers and, therefore, your children need to be dressed appropriately.

On the subject of uniform, please can I ask you to make sure that your child has all the official uniform listed on our website (including correct PE kit) and that this is clearly named. We currently have a lot of unnamed items of clothing in school, which we are unable to return to their owners.

I hope you all have an enjoyable half-term break and that the weather remains sunny. I look forward to seeing you all on Monday 30th October.

Miss Cressida Mardell, Head Teacher



Guildford Toy Museum Trip

As part of their History topic, Form 1 visited a **Victorian playroom**, which is part of Guildford museum. The children had a great morning, classifying and comparing toys by age and material, making a Victorian paper hat and learning Victorian rhymes and games. The children finished their day with a picnic lunch in the castle grounds followed by a fascinating visit to the museum.



Ancient Egyptian Art

To end their topic on **Ancient Egyptians**, Form 3 had an Egyptian-themed arts and crafts afternoon. The children made and decorated canopic jars, made bookmarks from papyrus paper, which they decorated with hieroglyphics, and made jewellery from painted patterns on card.



Great Fire of London Day

On Friday 22nd September, Form 2 held a **Great Fire of London** Day. This involved acting out what happened and thinking about how they might feel and react during the fire. The children baked bread whilst imagining they were working in Thomas Farriner's bakery at the time, and created pictures of the Great Fire on the computers and made 3D houses in Art.

The class also dyed paper with tea to make it look old, which they will use in future lessons for quill writing, before ending the day singing songs about the Great Fire. It was a fantastic immersive experience which was informative and great fun! The class will be using what they learnt in future lessons to help them with writing diaries, non-chronological reports and sensory poetry.



School Notices

Swimming

Form 6 will be swimming from Wednesday 8th November and are reminded to bring in their kit.

Booster Groups

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

Tuesday 31st – Thursday 2nd November
Tuesday 7th – Thursday 9th November
Tuesday 14th – Thursday 16th November

Colour Day Fun in Early Years

Our Early Years children are loving their weekly '**Colour Day**' celebrations every Friday. They come dressed in clothing of the chosen colour, take part in fun colour-related activities and also get to savour some delicious snacks in matching hues from the kitchen!



Woldingham Choir Festival

The Chamber Choir participated in the Woldingham Choir Festival on Tuesday 10th October. Having had an exciting afternoon of workshops, including learning about a viola, doing body percussion and singing a song all about orchestras, they had a brief play in the Year 7 playground, before tucking into their eagerly-anticipated tea of burger, chips, salad (!), fruit, rocky road and ice cream. After eating, the choir headed back to the auditorium where they found out that they were first to perform. The children performed fantastically and whilst they didn't win the first prize, they really enjoyed taking part.



European Day of Languages

On 26th September, St David's celebrated European Day of Languages with a series of French dance workshops for Forms 1 to 6, conducted by a visiting French Dance company. The children had a lovely time learning traditional dances that were performed to live accordion music! In lessons, the children spent time researching other European languages, finding out lots of interesting facts about them and a selection of new words.

Key Diary Dates

Wednesday 1st November
Anti-bullying workshops (pm)

Thursday 2nd November
Anti-bullying workshops (all day)

Friday 3rd November
Brown & Pink Day in EYFS
PTA Infant Movie Night, 5-7pm

w/c Monday 6th November
Form 6 Primary Maths Challenge

Tuesday 7th November
Bag2School Collection (am)

Thursday 9th November
Forms 1 & 2 X-Country at Lloyd Park, am
Forms 3 & 4 X-Country at Lloyd Park, pm

Friday 10th November
Diwali Day in EYFS
Remembrance Day Assembly
U9 Netball vs. Royal Russell, 2pm

Monday 13th November
Individual Photographs

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

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

Friday 17th November
Children in Need Pyjama Day

Tuesday 21st November
U9 Hockey vs. Royal Russell, 3.15pm

Thursday 23rd November
Secondary School Transition Evening for
Parents of Forms 4 & 5, 7pm - 8pm

Friday 24th November
Black & White Day in EYFS

Saturday 25th November
KS2 SLH Cross Country Competition

Wednesday 29th November
Forms 3 & 4 Polka Theatre Trip, 9.30am
Athletics Competition at RR, 4pm - 6pm

Thursday 30th November
Form 5 Globe Theatre Trip
PTA Adult Wreath-Making, 7.30pm

Reception First Day

Our **Reception** children have settled in to school brilliantly. A very warm welcome to all of our new starters and their families!



Purley Fire Station Trip

On Friday 29th September, Form 2 went to **Purley Fire Station** to see the fire engines, hear about how firefighters tackle fires, what they wear and how they know where to go in an emergency. The class heard about the variety of work firefighters do and when they are needed in other emergencies.

The children climbed up inside the building that the firefighters practice lifting the ladders up to and visited their lunch hall, gym, and saw the uniforms all ready for a sudden call out.

The children were very knowledgeable about the Great Fire of London and shared their learning excitedly with the firemen. We look forward to having the fire engines visit the school soon so the children can sit inside!



Form 2 Assembly

On 10th October, Form 2 presented their **class assembly**, where they shared all their recent experiences about the Great Fire of London with the school.



Harvest Festival Assembly

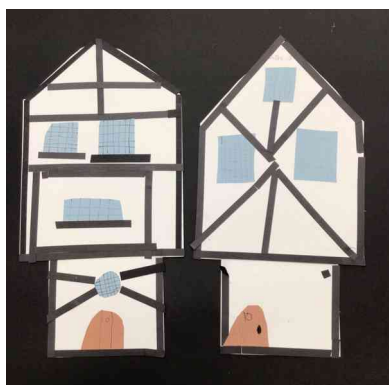
On Thursday 12th October, we celebrated our **Harvest Festival**. Rev'd Fiona Weaver reminded us that Harvest is an excellent time for us to demonstrate our 'gratitude attitude' by doing something positive to make other people's lives better. Thank you so much to all our parents for their generous donations, which will be gratefully received by Purley Food Hub.



Autumn-Term Artwork

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

- Form 1 have been creating line monsters to show off their understanding of colours and lines
- Form 2 are working on Tudor house collages
- Form 3 have started a project on Ancient Egyptian art
- Form 4 are working on a large volcano painting
- Form 5 have started learning about traditional illustration techniques
- Form 6 are creating Pop-art donuts
- And finally, our Art Club have been making colourful pattern landscapes.



Music Exam Success

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

Jacob	Form 6	Piano	Grade 3	Merit
Rahavan	Form 6	Piano	Grade 5	Pass
Rahavan	Form 6	Theory	Grade 4	Pass
Rahavan	Form 6	Trumpet	Grade 3	Distinction
Varsha	Form 6	Theory	Grade 5	Distinction
Paran	Form 5	Violin	Grade 2	Pass
Viyan	Form 5	Violin	Grade 1	Pass
Janvi	Form 3	Piano	Initial	Merit

Key Diary Dates

Friday 1st December

EYFS Nativity, 9am

Form 3 Coulsdon Hindu Mandir Trip, 9.40am

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

Wednesday 6th December

Form 2 Christmas Unwrapped Trip, 9.10am

Friday 8th December

Rainbow Day in EYFS

PTA Infant Disco, 4.30pm – 5.30pm

PTA Junior Disco, 6pm – 7.30pm

Monday 11th December

No Clubs this Week

EYFS Christmas Party, 9.30am

Tuesday 12th December

Christmas Activity Day & Lunch

Wednesday 13th December

Lower School Panto in Hall, 8.30am

Forms 3-6 Concert Rehearsals at St Mark's Church, 8.30am – 3.30pm

Christmas Concert at St Mark's Church, 6pm

Thursday 14th December

PTA Mufti/Christmas Jumper Day

Last Day of Term

11.30am – PTA Panto Ticket Holders Finish

12pm – Nursery & Reception Finish

12.05pm – Forms 1 & 2 Finish

12.10pm – Forms 3 & 4 Finish

12.15pm – Forms 5 & 6 Finish

Purley Library Trip

Our Nursery and Reception classes thoroughly enjoyed their first trip of the year, to **Purley Library**, on Thursday 13th October. They listened to stories and looked at the books. Many children became members of the library and we are sure that they will visit again soon.



U11 Football Update

The **Croydon Football League** kicked off on Thursday 28th September with a match against last season's winners: The Hayes School. St David's played two matches, losing both 3-0 and 5-2 respectively. However, the team showed great determination and fight against a very tough opposition. The League continued with a double-header against Kenley on Thursday 12th October, which resulted in a 1-0 win to St David's, followed by a 0-2 loss. Well done team on your efforts so far this season!



KS1 Archery Competition

On Thursday 12th October, we welcomed Banstead Prep School to join in with an **Archery competition** with our lunchtime group. The children all did brilliantly, scoring points in different target practice games. Congratulations to St David's 'orange' team, who finished as overall winners with 117 points!



U9 Football

Our **U9 football** team played their first game of the season against Royal Russell on Thursday 5th October. The game didn't go St David's way, but all of the team had great fun!



Cross Country Championships

After lots of trials and practice during Games, 13 children from Forms 5 and 6 attended the annual **Croydon Schools X-Country** Championships, held at Lloyd Park. With over 150 runners per age group/race, competition was fierce and the uphill course was always going to be tricky. But our St David's team dug deep and gave it their all, crossing the line with a look of joy & relief! A big mention to Emma (Form 6), who finished 6th in the girls race and who qualifies to represent Croydon at the London Youth Games. An amazing result – well done!

U10 Netball

On Tuesday 26th September, 10 children took part in a series of friendly **netball** matches against Royal Russell. Split into A and B teams, our St David's pupils competed brilliantly in two closely-fought matches. The A team lost 4-2 and the B team lost 6-5, but there were some excellent performances all round and the girls had the opportunity to play in every netball position, which was great experience.



U11 Netball vs. Old Palace

Our Form 6 and Form 5 **netball** teams hosted Old Palace on Wednesday 4th October. Our Form 5 team fought brilliantly but neither side could quite find the net, with the game finishing 0-0! Our Form 6 team scored 3 goals but, unfortunately, came up short against a strong (and tall!) Old Palace team. All the girls played with a smile on their face, which is the most important thing.



Staffing News

We wish Miss Adam in Nursery all the best as she goes on Maternity Leave and look forward to hearing the tiny patter of feet soon. Miss Robinson, who currently supports Mrs Mitchell in her SENDCo role, will be moving into the Nursery class for 4 days a week. She has been a member of the Early Years team for several years at St David's and we know the children will be in safe hands. We welcome Mrs Opoku who will be working in Nursery for 1 day a week and then supporting Mrs Mitchell throughout the school for the remainder of the week.



PTA Update

A warm welcome back to everyone, especially our new starters at St David's. We hope you're all settling in nicely to your new classes and enjoying the Autumn term so far.

After the tremendous success of the Summer Fair, the PTA decided to get busy over the holidays, planning ahead for the year's events, which will include some popular favourites, like Break the Rule Day, as well as new ones, like the Adult Wreath-Making Workshop.

We hosted a second-hand uniform sale at the end of July, which was very popular, and we plan on making this an annual event in the Summer holidays. At the AGM in September, the PTA core team spoke about events and we hope everyone is as excited as we are, about the forthcoming year's activities. A reminder of dates for the diary:

Friday 3rd November - Infant Movie Night, 5-7pm (tickets going live on Classlist soon!)

Tuesday 7th November - Bag2School Collection, am

Friday 17th November - Children in Need PJ Day

Thursday 30th November - Adult Wreath-Making Workshop, 7.30pm (tickets now available on Classlist)

Friday 8th December - Infant & Junior Christmas Discos, 4.30pm-5.30pm & 6pm-7.30pm

Thursday 14th December - Beauty and the Beast Panto at the Harlequin Theatre, Redhill, 1pm (tickets now available on Classlist)

The Reception class have bought some new toys with PTA funds, including a fuzzy-felt hospital and magna tiles. The children have been excitedly creating fun scenarios with the felt characters and building ramps for the cars. It's great to see what the PTA money-raising efforts can provide for the children.

As always, the PTA welcomes all fundraising ideas and suggestions. We would also be most grateful for all your help and support with the forthcoming events. Get in touch with us via your class reps or email us at stdavidsschoolpta@hotmail.co.uk if you're able to give any time or suggestions.

Wishing you all a wonderful half-term!

Naureen & Kate, on behalf of the PTA committee