

NEWSLETTER

Dear Parents

The first term has flown by and the children are all happy and settled.

The children have worked really hard on their Christmas productions. The Early Years Nativity play *Whoops-a-Daisy Angel*, the Forms I and 2 production of *Are We Nearly There Yet?* and the Junior Christmas Concert were thoroughly enjoyed by everyone taking part. It was good to see the children happy amongst the tinsel, glitter and laughter of Christmas. We hope you will all enjoy watching and sharing the performances with your families.

Thank you on behalf of myself and all the staff for the gifts and cards we have received.

I wish you a Merry Christmas and a peaceful New Year and look forward to seeing you all on Tuesday 9th January 2024.

Miss Cressida Mardell, Head Teacher



Whoops-a-Daisy Angel

Early Years performed **Whoops-A-Daisy Angel** to their parents on Friday 1st December. Dressed in adorable angelic costumes, the little ones delighted the audience with their heart-warming performance. Laughter and smiles filled the room as parents and grandparents enjoyed the festive atmosphere created by the children's enthusiastic singing and dancing. This rendition of the nativity story truly captured the essence of the holiday season, creating cherished moments for all in attendance.



School Notices

Jewellery

Please can we remind you that children are not allowed to wear jewellery in school. Plain gold or silver studs are allowed, but please can you arrange for these to be either left at home on Games and PE days, or send in some tape so that we can cover them up.

Hair

If your child's hair is shoulder length please ensure that it is tied back, off their face and out of harm's way.

Swimming

Form 5 will be swimming from Wednesday 10th January and are reminded to bring their kit.

Booster Groups

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

Tuesday 23rd - Thursday 25th January
Tuesday 30th - Thursday 1st February
Tuesday 6th - Thursday 8th February

Parking

Please continue to park courteously and ensure that you do not park on zigzag lines and double yellow lines.

Cakes/Sweets

If you wish to celebrate your child's birthday by bringing in cakes/sweets to share with children in your child's class, you are very welcome to do so. However, we ask that you bring these with you when you come to collect your child at the end of the day and hand them out to the other parents/children at this time. Please can we remind you that we are a nut free school and to be aware of any children with allergies to certain foods.



Are We Nearly There Yet?

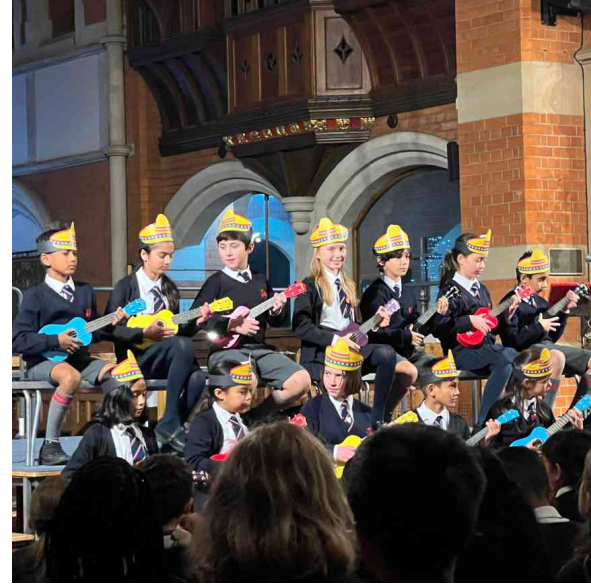
On Tuesday 5th December, Forms 1 and 2 performed **Are We Nearly There Yet?** to their parents. The children were so excited and couldn't wait to show their parents all their hard work. They said their words loudly and clearly and acted with great enthusiasm. The many songs, which included 'Travelling', 'Faster than a Rocket', 'Worship Him' and 'Rejoice with us this Christmas', were sung excitedly, with actions directed by Mrs Izzard.

All the children, dressed in beautiful outfits, saw the modern Walker family go on a walking holiday which ended in Bethlehem, where they discovered the baby Jesus being born, alongside the Kings and Shepherds. It was a funny and heart-warming story that was enjoyed by all. A big thanks to Mrs Smith and Mrs Izzard, alongside the Form 1 and Form 2 team, who worked hard to help the children produce such a beautiful play.



Early Years Christmas Festivities

Early Years had their **Christmas Party** on the 11th December. A lot of fun was had playing party games and they even had a visit from Santa. This was followed by a lovely **Christmas Lunch** on the 12th December. The children are all well and truly in the Christmas spirit now!



Junior Christmas Concert

This year's **Christmas Concert** was a varied mix of traditional and modern items. Congratulations to our soloists who started the concert so beautifully. Each class performed fantastically, Form 3 were very co-ordinated with their sign language and the Form 4 recorder players and Form 5 ukulele players showed how much hard work they have been putting in during their music lessons. It was fabulous to welcome the Infant Choir to our celebrations for the first time this year and they, along with the Come and Sing Choir, sang with enthusiasm. The Chamber Choir rendition of Carol of the Bells was superb. Form 6 performed their challenging Ragtime Carol with confidence and all of the whole-school items were really enjoyed by the congregation.



A Swashbuckling Adventure!

Our Nursery, Reception, Form 1 and Form 2 children had an exciting visit from Chaplins Panto, who treated everyone to a delightful performance of **Treasure Island** on 13th December. The atmosphere was filled with joy as the children actively participated, enthusiastically shouting classic panto phrases such as "He's behind you!" and "Boooo!" The interactive experience added an extra layer of fun to the event, making it a memorable treat for all involved.

Key Diary Dates (First Half-Term)

Monday 15th January
First week of clubs
Form 6 Trip to O2 Arena, 12pm

Friday 19th January
PTA After-School Treat Day

Saturday 20th January
KS2 Cross Country, 9.30am

Wednesday 24th January
U11 Netball vs. Old Palace, 3.45pm

Thursday 25th January
Form 4 Carrotty Wood Meeting, 3.50pm

Tuesday 30th January
U8 & U9 Hockey with RR, 3.30pm

Thursday 1st February
U11 Football vs. Harris Kenley, 3.30pm
Parents' Evening, 4.30pm - 7pm

Monday 5th February
Form 6 TFL Workshop, 9am
Parents' Evening, 4.30pm - 7pm

Tuesday 6th February
Forms 3-6 French Theatre, 1.30pm

Thursday 8th February
Form 3 Assembly & Book Share, 8.45am
Forms 1 & 2 Sports Festival, 1.45pm

Friday 9th February
PTA Break the Rules Day

Monday 12th - Friday 16th February
Half-Term Week



Hindu Mandir Trip

Form 3's visit to the **Hindu Mandir** in Coulsdon really helped to consolidate all they have learnt about Hinduism this term. In the Mandir they saw the shrine which had many brightly coloured pictures of deities (Hindu gods) including Krishna, Vishnu, Parvati and Rama. They learnt that most deities have a special animal associated with them and a day of the week when they are specifically worshipped. The significance of the different items on the puja tray was explained to the class and they were told about the Hindu belief in reincarnation. As staff, we were really impressed with how much the children already knew and the deep philosophical questions they were asking. Well done Form 3!



Form 2 Unwrap Christmas

Form 2 had a great time taking part in an interactive presentation called '**Christmas Unwrapped**' at Christchurch, Purley. Jude Barber led the session and encouraged the children to find and unpack presents hidden around the church containing clues to the Christmas story. As a class they produced a book of the Christmas story, which they were able to bring back to school with them. In addition to this, they each made mangers for jelly-baby Jesuses, designed patterns on angels, made glow-in-the dark star decorations and decorated treasure chests containing gold coins. What a great way to re-learn the story of the first Christmas in this Advent season.



Globe Theatre and Tate Modern Trip

On Thursday 30th November, Form 5 had a fantastic trip to visit **The Globe and Tate Modern**. At the Globe, they had a tour of the theatre and learnt about its history. They also had a drama workshop where they used their acting skills very enthusiastically! At Tate Modern, they explored the huge sculptural installation 'Behind the Red Moon' and they copied sections of it using pencils and crayons in their sketchbooks, focusing on colour and texture.



Artwork Autumn Term

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

- Form 1 have been experimenting with different techniques, including chalk printing
- Form 2 have created beautiful snow globe collages
- Form 3 have been working on vibrant block-printed cityscapes
- Form 4 worked hard to finish their dramatic volcanic paintings
- Form 5 have been experimenting with brush techniques and using a limited colour palette
- Form 6 have designed and begun crafting their 3D Pop Art work
- Finally, in Creative Curriculum on Wednesday afternoons, Form 5 have used their modelling skills to create Winter ornaments, which they have just started to 3D print.



Persuasive Presentations

In English, Form 6 have enjoyed presenting the gadgets they designed for the character Alex Rider to Form 5. They used lots of persuasive, scientific and technical language to describe and explain their gadget in detail. Form 5 voted for which gadgets they liked the most and the winners were Jacob, Jackson and Samuel for their 'Boom Boom Bubble Gum', which came in a multitude of flavours such as Painful Pomegranate and Tropical Punch!



Polka Theatre Trip

Forms 3 and 4 had a wonderful wintery Wednesday trip to the **Polka Theatre** on 29th November to see *The Snow Queen*. It was a truly magical morning and a super start to the festive season. The children were exceptionally well behaved throughout too!



Key Diary Dates (Second Half-Term)

Tuesday 20th February
U11 Tag Rugby vs. Elmhurst, 3.45pm

Wednesday 21st February
PTA Bag2School Collection

Friday 23rd February
Form 5 Love Languages, 9am

Wednesday 28th February
Reception Pizza Express Trip, 9.30am

Thursday 29th February
U11 Netball vs. RR, 3.15pm

Friday 1st March
St David's Day Celebrations

Wednesday 6th – Friday 8th March
From 4 Carroty Wood Trip, 11am

Friday 8th March
U8 Netball tournament, 1.30pm

Saturday 9th March
KS2 Cross Country, 9.30am

Monday 11th March
Basketball competition, 1.30pm

Tuesday 12th March
U8 & U9 Hockey with RR, 3.30pm

Thursday 14th March
U11 Football vs. Audley, 3.45pm

Saturday 16th March
KS2 Cross Country, 9.30am

Monday 18th March
Last week of Clubs
Form 1-6 Enterprise Fair, 1.30pm

Wednesday 20th March
U11 Football vs. Royal Russell, 4pm

Thursday 21st March
Reception Assembly & Book
Share, 8.45am
Form 4 CSI Easter Trip, 10.15am

Tuesday 26th March
U11 Badminton vs. Elmhurst, 3.45pm

Wednesday 27th March
Form 4 Assembly & Book Share,
8.45am

Thursday 28th March
Last Day of Term, 12pm – 12.15pm



A Roald Dahl-Inspired Assembly

Form 5 performed a fantastic **assembly** based on their work in English this term. They acted out 'The Great Mouse Plot' from Roald Dahl's autobiography *Boy* and drew links between the people he encountered in his life and the characters in his books, like the Trunchbull from *Matilda*. The class also sang 'Pure Imagination' and read out diary extracts and setting descriptions of the Great Hall in *Harry Potter*.



Music Exam Success

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

Emma	Form 6	Violin	Grade 4	Merit
Varsha	Form 6	Violin	Grade 4	Merit
Alex	Form 5	Piano	Grade 2	Pass
Miran	Form 5	Piano	Grade 2	Distinction
Paran	Form 5	Violin	Grade 3	Pass
Zara	Form 5	Violin	Grade 3	Merit
Arjunan	Form 4	Piano	Grade 1	Pass
Elena	Form 4	Piano	Grade 3	Merit
Roshni	Form 4	Singing	Grade 3	Pass
Audrey	Form 3	Piano	Grade 2	Merit
Isla	Form 3	Violin	Grade 1	Pass



Terrific Tales in Nursery

Nursery have been learning about '**Terrific Tales**' this term and have based their activities on a different book each week. One of their favourites was *The Gingerbread Man*. During the week, the class read and watched the story, made and decorated gingerbread people biscuits and, after drawing around one of their classmates, they worked together to turn them into a gingerbread person!



Cross Country Update

It was great to see lots of St David's pupils embrace the cold weather at the first **South London Harriers** race of the year. There were some excellent performances on show from all the children, with one top 10 finish and plenty of top 20 finishers across the four races. Well done to everyone involved and we look forward to the next race in January. Earlier this term, we saw some brilliant performances at a very muddy **Lloyd Park**. In the Year 2 girls race, congratulations go to Kelechi and Alicia, who came 1st and 3rd respectively, to Isaac who came 3rd in the Year 1 boys race and to James who finished 7th in the Year 3 boys race. Well done also to everyone who kept going, despite the grim weather conditions!

Swimming Gala

A group of KS2 students attended a friendly swimming gala at Royal Russell. It was a great occasion, with children swimming in individual and relay races within their year groups. Overall, Royal Russell came out on top, but a big shout out to our Form 3 & 4 girls, who won their respective categories – well done girls!



U9 Football

Although their friendly **match** against Collingwood resulted in a 10-1 loss, it was a fun event and St David's restored some pride at the end by winning the penalty shoot-out! All the players enjoyed themselves and it was a great experience for the many who were new to the game.



U11 Boys Football

Commiserations to the team who lost 6-1 to St James the Great School in the **Croydon Cup League**. However, with the promising skills on display, we look forward to their next match.



Remembrance Service

Our Head Boy and Head Girl laid a wreath at the Woodcote Green War Memorial on behalf of St David's on Sunday 12th November. They were joined by many fellow students and their families in this act of remembrance.

Staffing News

We are sorry to say good-bye to Mrs Natasha Watts, who is leaving us at the end of this term after 10 years. We would like to thank her for being such a fantastic teacher and for her significant contribution to school life and to send her every success in her future ventures.

We are delighted to share the lovely news that Miss Adam has had a baby girl called Lola. We wish her and her partner huge congratulations and we are all looking forward to meeting baby Lola soon.



Early Years Celebrate Diwali

Our Early Years classes spent a lovely day on Friday 10th November celebrating **Diwali**. They learnt all about the festival and took part in many activities including creating Rangoli patterns, making delicious mango lassis and celebrating with a special Diwali lunch.



Children in Need Thanks

On Friday 17th November, the children and staff came to school dressed in their pyjamas in support of **BBC Children in Need**. Many thanks to the parents for all their donations, which raised a total of £141.60 for the charity.

PTA Update



Well, it's certainly beginning to look a lot like Christmas! We've had a festive half-term at the PTA, hosting our first ever 'Wreath-Making' workshop. It was an enjoyable evening with bubbles and nibbles, chit chat and learning (or perfecting!) the skill of making a Christmas Wreath and the results were fantastic, with each wreath looking beautiful, festive and unique. We're always looking for new ideas and this was a first-time event – we'd like to hear from you about your ideas for future events, so get in touch if you think we're missing a trick!



On the last Friday before the end-of-term, we hosted our **Christmas Discos**. The children danced the evening away, whilst munching on the kindly-donated sweet baked goods. The chocolate tombola caused quite the commotion at both discos, with some lucky winners taking home a shocking amount of chocolate! Thank you to all those who donated so generously.



Earlier this term, we held an Infant Movie Night. The PTA cinema experience included freshly-made popcorn, an entertaining film and a pizza dinner, which was followed by sweet cones: the children returned home after the event buzzing on a sugar rush – a job well done if we say so ourselves!



Whilst raising money for the school, we've also been spending it! Form 6 used their £200 budget to purchase a class DVD player, riddle and quiz books, some art supplies and some mini USB mice to use with their Chromebooks. Form 5 spent their £200 budget on books, stationery and plants – two of which are Venus fly traps which they eagerly await to see some action from!



In the New Year, we'll be running our first PTA Treat Day (further details to follow), the ever-popular Quiz Night and, is it too early to start plugging the Summer Fair?!!

Wishing you love, warmth and happiness over the festive period with a New Year filled with welcome surprises!

Naureen & Katy
On behalf of the PTA Committee