

Dear Parents

We have had another busy term, which I hope you enjoy reading about. There have been many school trips and activities and our Form 6 entrepreneurs have just completed their highly successful business project, which they presented to a panel of judges in a Dragon's Den style competition. The children had great fun selling their products to each year group in our 'Enterprise Afternoon', which was a huge success.



We are extremely proud of our Form 6 children, who have done exceptionally well this year by achieving 7 grammar school places, 38 independent school places with 21 academic scholarships and 17 scholarships/awards across Art, Drama Music, Sport and Chess.

If you are parents with siblings that you would like to start at St David's, we are currently full for Nursery and Reception 2024 and Reception 2025, but please do register if you are interested in Nursery 2025, Nursery 2026 or Reception 2026.

I hope you all enjoy the Easter break and look forward to seeing you all on Tuesday 16th April..

Miss Cressida Mardell, Head Teacher



St David's Day Celebrations

St David's Day was celebrated with a vibrant array of activities. The day kicked off with an assembly and our annual Eisteddfod competition, showcasing the talents of students, as they recited poems that they had learnt. Junior children read out poems that they had written themselves, all based around a particular form or style of poetry.

Throughout the morning, children got into their 'family' groups and engaged in crafts and fun activities. The excitement continued with playful games of "Pin the Tail on the Dragon", and the older pupils read Dragon stories to their younger family members. In the afternoon, students immersed themselves in various exciting activities, fostering a sense of community, teamwork and celebration throughout the school.



Pizza Express Trip

Reception class had an enjoyable trip to **Pizza Express** on 28th February, where they had the opportunity to make margherita pizzas. The children all seemed to thoroughly enjoy the experience and their behaviour was commendable, reflecting positively on the school. A big thank you to the parent helpers whose support made the trip possible.



A Perfect Pitch by Form 6

Perfect Pitch was an opportunity for the Form 6 businesses to present their plans to a panel of judges before premiering their adverts, fielding questions and showing a mock-up of their stalls. The Judges (aka "Dragons"!) were extremely impressed with the quality of the presentations, the children's ability to respond to questions and the variety of products and services on show.

This was followed by the **Enterprise Fair**, which was a huge success, with children from Forms 1 to 5 visiting the stalls, buying items and trying out some amazing games. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves and there was a real buzz throughout the school all afternoon.



Easter Egg Hunt

The EYFS **Easter egg hunt** was a joyous occasion, filled with laughter and excitement as children eagerly searched for hidden treats. Even the rain didn't dampen our spirits!

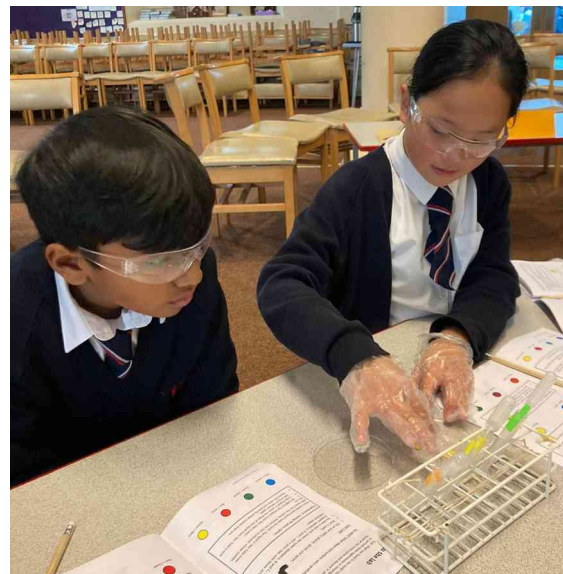


CSI Easter Trip

Form 4 visited **CSI Easter** at Christ Church, Purley on Thursday 21st March, where they became Detective Inspectors. They had 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'.

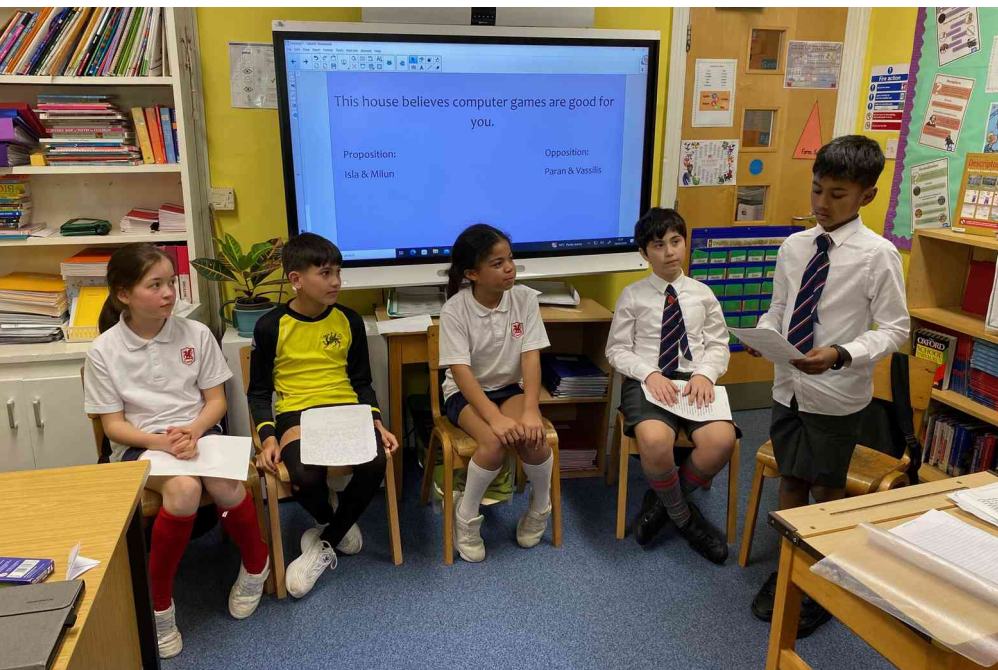
They each had a notebook to record their findings and at the end of their investigations, using the evidence they had gathered, they had to conclude what had happened to Jesus on the Friday, whether he had actually died, and what had happened to his body.

The class thoroughly enjoyed this interactive way of learning about the Easter story.



Stomping, Roaring Dinosaurs!

Reception class performed their **class assembly** to the school and their parents on Thursday 21st March. The class learnt about dinosaurs last half-term and absolutely loved the topic, so they wanted to share some of their knowledge with the rest of the school. They did really well and thoroughly enjoyed the performance!



Verbal Sparring Skills

Form 5 demonstrated their verbal sparring skills this half-term in their Creative Curriculum with an incredible series of debates. They each had the chance to give a speech presenting their persuasive argument, field questions from the floor and respond in their summing-up. They also showed impressive listening skills through their targeted questions from the floor, addressing specific points from the speeches. Well done Form 5 - it looks like we might have some barristers in the making here, or even a Prime Minister or two!

Key Diary Dates

Tuesday 16th April
First Day of Term

Thursday 18th April
Technology Day
Form 6 IOW Meeting, 4pm

Monday 22nd April
First Week of Clubs

Wednesday 24th April
Form 6 Trip to Wicked, 12pm

Friday 26th April
PTA Junior Movie Night, 5-7pm

Tuesday 7th May
U11 Cricket vs. RR, 3.45pm

Friday 10th May
Form 5 Trip to Tilgate Park

Monday 13th – Friday 17th May
Form 6 IOW Trip

Monday 13th May
Form 5 Choices Meeting with Parents,
1.45pm – 4.45pm

Monday 20th May
Form 5 Choices Meeting with Parents,
3.15pm – 6.15pm

Wednesday 22nd May
Form 1 Assembly & Book Share,
8.45am

Thursday 23rd May
Sports Day

Friday 24th May
Cricket Trip to Beckenham, 1pm

Monday 27th – Friday 31st May
Half-Term (one week)



National Young Writers Winners!

It was fantastic to hear that St David's won the Young Writers 'This is Me' national poetry competition. Our pupils in Forms 3-6 won the competition out of 600 schools who participated! St David's was awarded a glass plaque – the Young Writers Award of Excellence. We also won a bundle of poetry books worth £300. Congratulations to all our young poets.



Workshop takes Maths to the Stars

On Friday 22nd March, the whole school from Reception to Form 6 had a fantastic day attending a **workshop**, which took Maths to the stars. Children were challenged with various mathematical activities, which required them to help Major Tom select the best astronaut. Each group had a classroom-based activity and workshop with Major Tom.

Our Head Boy reported, "We had a great time, as the workshop was fun and informative! I learnt some amazing facts and I am really grateful for the experience", whilst our Head Girl reported, "I had a wonderful time. I learnt some extraordinary facts about space and particularly loved the team-building exercises". We would like to thank the PTA for funding the workshop.





Love Languages Competition

On Friday 23rd February, our Form 5 students took part in City of London Freeman's annual 'Love Languages' Competition. We had a wonderful time as always, watching all the entries in both the Years 5-6 and Years 7-8 categories. We are very proud of our students, who worked hard to put together a play about two families heading off on holiday... one family was on the correct flight (to cold Kaliningrad) whilst the other, on the same flight, was meant to be heading to hot and sunny Kefalonia. Well done to all of Form 5 for all your dedication and hard work!



Form 1 Investigations

This half-term, **Form 1** have been focusing on measuring and capacity. They used different jugs and pots to investigate volumes of water. The class also joined together with Form 5, who proudly shared their English books with them. Form 1 thoroughly enjoyed listening to the amazing work Form 5 have been up to.



Brooklands Museum

On Monday 11th March, Form 2 visited **Brooklands Museum**. As it was Science Week, we had the chance to take part in a number of exciting activities including firing water-powered rockets and making parachutes. The children were enthusiastic and thoroughly enjoyed taking part. Alongside this, we visited the aeroplane hangars to see (and even get in) a number of aeroplanes and learn about the history of flying machines!

On our return, in our History lessons, we learnt in detail about the Wright brothers who were some of the first to get a glider with attached engine off the ground for any length of time. Before we left Brooklands, we also had the chance to look around the bus museum and see the evolution of this mode of transport right from the days of a horse-drawn cart.



School Notices

Summer Term Fee Invoices

The Summer Term 2024 fee invoices will be sent out in the end-of-term envelope as usual. We are hoping to send out the Autumn Term 2024 fee invoices by email, but we will confirm this nearer the time.

Please note we will never email asking you to make a direct payment to a bank account. All payments should be made via Flywire. If you have any concerns or queries please contact Claire Wells at cwells@royalrussell.co.uk or on 020 8657 4433 (ext. 228).

Swimming

Form 3 will be swimming from Wednesday 17th April and are reminded to bring in their kit. Form 4 will be swimming after half-term.

Booster Groups

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

Tuesday 7th – Thursday 9th May
Tuesday 14th – Thursday 16th May
Tuesday 21st – Thursday 23rd May

Tuesday 4th – Thursday 6th June
Tuesday 11th – Thursday 13th June
Tuesday 18th – Thursday 20th June

Summer Uniform

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

Start of the School Day

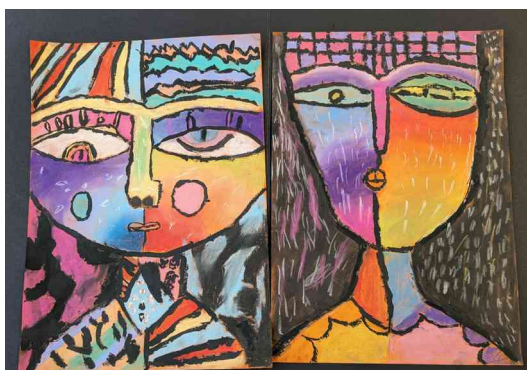
Please can we remind you that children should be in school to start their day between 8:10am and 8:30am.



Spring Term Artwork

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

- Form 1 have been creating artwork inspired by nature, including Kandinsky Flowers.
- Form 2 have been looking at different artists from around the world, finishing up with self portraits inspired by Pablo Picasso.
- Form 3 have been studying landscapes and have tried to create their own version of David Hockney's iconic Garrowby Hill.
- Form 4 are putting the finishing touches on their Sandra Silberzweig chalk portraits.
- Form 5 have worked incredibly hard to pull off some stunning Great Wave watercolour illustrations.
- Form 6 have put a huge amount of work into their LifeLab projects this half-term, but also managed to sneak in a chance to do some nature photography.
- Finally, Art Club have worked together to create a colourful block print poster called Make Art Now.





World Book Day

We had a fantastic **World Book Day** celebration on Thursday 14th March. All of the children (and the teachers!) looked amazing in their costumes. There were activities such as making bookmarks in Nursery as well as a story-themed assembly where each class shared what they had been working on in their English lessons.



Little Street Trip

Nursery had a brilliant time exploring the different role-play areas and using their imagination at **Little Street** on Friday 22nd March. They enjoyed shopping in the supermarket, helping animals at the vets, dressing up and performing, having a BBQ/picnic, building houses and walls, putting out fires, going to the hairdresser, driving cars on roads, washing clothes in the launderette and making pizzas and ice creams. The class showed exemplary behaviour both travelling to and from school and at the venue.

Informal Concert & Exam Success

The first of two informal concerts took place last week, with 29 children playing to an appreciative audience of parents and fellow performers. As ever, the standard was high and all of the performers enjoyed themselves. Congratulations to the following children who have taken music exams recently:

Rahavan	Form 6	Piano	Grade 6	Pass
Varsha	Form 6	Piano	Grade 4	Merit
Yinglong	Form 6	Piano	Grade 5	Pass
Yinglong	Form 6	Cello	Grade 5	Merit
Esme	Form 5	Singing	Grade 3	Distinction
Isla	Form 5	Piano	Grade 4	Merit
Zara	Form 5	Piano	Grade 5	Merit
Liyanna	Form 4	Piano	Grade 1	Pass
Alexa	Form 3	Piano	Grade 1	Merit





Beckenham Place Park Trip

On Monday 26th February, Form 3 visited **Beckenham Place Park** as part of their Science topic on Rocks and Soils. They completed an investigation into the rocks around the park, looking at features of rock types and how different types of rocks can be used. In the afternoon, the children became detectives and investigated the various different soil samples around the park, using the soils as evidence to find a guilty cake thief! Everyone had lots of fun and got incredibly muddy!



Tonbridge Castle

On Monday 25th March, Form 1 travelled back over 700 years in time to experience what life was like at 13th-century **Tonbridge Castle**. The class visited the armoury, joined the garrison for supper and learnt about the defensive features of the castle. The staff were incredibly impressed by how knowledgeable the children were about castles!

After the tour, the children had the chance to play with a range of medieval toys. They built arches and bridges, catapulted sand bags to knock down parts of a toy castle and dressed up in costume. It was a fantastic trip, enjoyed by all.



Discovering the Tudors a Knole House

Form 5 visited Knole House on the Thursday 29th February. They enjoyed learning about the Tudors and the history of Knole as they had a tour of the house. They even dressed up in costumes as servants and rich Tudors, such as Lord and Lady Sackville.



Carrotty Wood Report by Florence & Roshni

On Wednesday 6th March, Form 4 set off to **Carrotty Wood** for our first residential trip. For some of us it was the first time spending the night away from our parents. We stayed in Hornbeam House for 3 days and 2 nights and we really enjoyed the opportunity of sharing rooms with our friends.

We spent our days outside doing fun activities such as geocaching, orienteering, swimming, pedal karting, den building and rock climbing. Sadly, due to recent storms we could not do the maze, high ropes or low ropes course. But on the last morning all the teachers surprised us by saying we could go rock climbing on the 9-metre tower. Some of us found it hard, but others of us discovered we had hidden talents!

The food was amazing, but unfortunately we didn't get to try Mr M's famous burnt toast as he didn't burn it! On our last night at Carrotty Wood we had the campfire. We toasted marshmallows and sang silly songs around the scorching fire, which changed colour when we threw special chemicals on it.

We all had a great time and came home happy but tired! We are now all looking forward to the trip to the Isle of Wight in Form 6.



Key Diary Dates

Monday 3rd June
Inset Day

Tuesday 4th June
U11 Cricket vs. RR, 3.45pm

Thursday 6th June
Teams & Leavers Photos, 8.30am

Friday 7th June
Form 6 Horton Kirby Trip, 9am

Friday 14th June
Mufti Day

Saturday 15th June
PTA Summer Fair, 1-4pm

Monday 17th June
New Nursery Stay & Play, 1.30pm

Wednesday 19th June
PTA New Parents Drinks Evening

Thursday 20th June
Informal Concert, 4pm

Monday 24th June
Last Week of Clubs
Staff vs. Form 6 Rounders, 3.45pm

Wednesday 26th June
Form 6 Play, 6pm

Thursday 27th June
Infants Trip to Godstone Farm, 8am
Form 6 Play, 6pm

Friday 28th June
House Winners' Trip to Oaks Park,
9.30am

Monday 1st July
Nursery Assembly & Work Share,
8.45am

Tuesday 2nd July
Form 6 Leavers' Assembly, 8.45am

Wednesday 3rd July
Normal School for Infants, AM
F3-6 Rehearsal at St Mark's, 8.30am
F3-6 Prize-Giving at St Mark's, 4pm

Thursday 4th July
Last Day of Term
Nursery & Reception depart 12pm
Forms 1 & 2 depart 12.05pm
Forms 3 & 4 depart 12.10pm
Forms 5 & 6 depart 12.15pm

U11 Basketball

St David's hosted a local friendly **basketball** competition on Monday 11th March, where they were joined by pupils from Royal Russell, St Peter's and Gresham Primary. The eight teams competed in group fixtures, followed by play-offs, developing their tactics as they went along and showing great determination throughout. We are delighted to say that our Form 6 team came first in the competition.

Following their triumphs, the team attended a Croydon 3v3 competition on Tuesday 26th March. They performed brilliantly, winning 2 games and losing 2 games, which resulted in a third place finish overall. It was a great experience for them all, with Rahavan being named as 'Player of the tournament' by the organisers.



KS2 Cross Country

It was the last in this season's series of South London Harriers races on Saturday 16th March. We've consistently had children turn up for **races** and would like to thank them and their parents' commitment for making this happen! We had some excellent results in the final race, with almost all the children beating their previous best finishing positions. A great achievement! Special mention goes to Emma (5th) and Anae (10th) for gaining top 10 positions.

KS2 Swimming

Some of our KS2 girls were invited over to Old Palace School for a fun-filled afternoon of **swimming**. The event involved a variety of races, including ones with noodles and floats. But the most popular game of all was definitely that of "spoons"!





U9 Hockey

Our **U9 Hockey** team travelled to Royal Russell on Tuesday 12th March for some friendly matches. It was such a lovely afternoon and a great learning experience for our teams. Playing 5-a-side, one St David's team drew 2-2 and the other lost 6-1.



U11 Netball

Well done to our A and B **U11 netball** teams who won their matches against Forestdale on 7th March. All of the players have shown great progression throughout the season and were rewarded by a well-deserved victory.



U11 Football

Our **U11 boys and girls** took part in some friendly matches vs. Audley School on Thursday 14th March. There were two very exciting matches, which resulted in a 9-0 win for the Boys and a 4-3 win for the Girls.



U11 Badminton

After the excitement at the basketball competition on 26th March, it was straight back on the bus for the players, who were heading off for some **badminton** fun. Elmhurst School had kindly invited us to their session, where we learnt new skills, played some games and had a great time enjoying a different sport. Thank you Elmhurst!



U9 Netball

Our **U9 team** spent a lovely afternoon at Banstead Prep playing in some netball friendlies. Overall, St David's came out on top as winners, with lots of our children scoring goals and all playing excellent netball.



U11 Boys Football

Our team's last match of the season was a friendly vs. Royal Russell's B team. It was such a lovely afternoon with the sunshine out! The boys put on a really good performance, winning 3-1. It was a great way to end a hard-fought season. Well done to all the players!

PTA Update

The sun's been out recently a little more than last term, so as far as we're concerned, it's almost Summer and we all know what that means... the PTA will now only talk about the Summer Fair! We will advertise it ALL the time, we'll ask for lots of support to put it all together, we'll have a fabulous fair and talk about how wonderful it was probably until about Christmas! We know we do it, so we're owning it from the get-go and this time will be no different! Book your diaries for Saturday 15th June. We are actively looking for a parent who will be attending the fair who has a food licence in their name to get in touch with us, as we want to explore the idea of having a BBQ at the fair this year. Watch this space because there will be lots more fair talk on the WhatsApp groups soon!

In other news, the PTA had a stellar turnout for the quiz night. Mr Smith put on a brilliant quiz as always and it was an excellent evening, raising funds for the school PTA, and for all those who won and all those who learnt!



We tried a first-time-ever PTA treat day event last month. We sold almost 130 sweet cones, which the children devoured! We look forward to putting on another treat day in the coming months. We'd welcome ideas for upcoming treat days - just get in touch! After the success of the Infant Movie Night last term, we wanted to put on an event for the Juniors and asked them what they would like. They came up with some excellent suggestions, but the event most voted for was a movie night! Please book your diaries for Friday 26th April. More details to follow.

Finally, all that's left to say is: have a restful Easter break and we look forward to seeing you all in the Summer term.

Warmest Wishes, The PTA Team