

NEWSLETTER

Dear Parents

It is difficult to believe that, after all these years, I am writing my final introduction for the newsletter. However, I leave the school in good hands and have had a thorough handover to Mrs Syradd, who is looking forward to taking over and meeting with you all in September.



We have had yet another fabulous year. The school term has been jam-packed with trips, concerts, sports days and our End-of-Year Celebration.

It was lovely to see all the Form 6 children say their goodbyes earlier today; they will be sadly missed. They have left with many happy memories from the last 8 years, which they shared with us in their Leavers' Assembly – there was not a dry eye in the house! We wish them luck and success in their new schools.

I hope you all have an enjoyable Summer break. The first day of term is Tuesday 3rd September 2024.

Miss Cressida Mardell, Head Teacher



End-of-Year Celebration

From the rhythmic samba beats of the rhythm ensemble, through the serenity of the school song, to the rousing rendition of Zeus Rap by Form 6 and an emotional whole school performance of *Geronimo*, every aspect of the **End-of-Year Celebration** was a recognition of achievement and enjoyment across the board.

Congratulations to all the performers and prize winners and well done to everyone who made speeches and read poems.

Form 6 Leavers' Assembly

We said goodbye and good luck to our Form 6 children in a special Leavers' Assembly on Tuesday morning. It was a mixture of emotions as the children shared their memories from their time at St David's and from their recent trip to the Isle of Wight.

Each member of the class received a special certificate with a unique award before the school watched Mr Raffield's emotional Leavers' Video to end the assembly. We wish them all the best of luck!



Key Diary Dates (First Half - Term)

Wednesday 4th September

Meet the Head Teacher – Forms 1 & 2
Parents, 8.30am

Thursday 5th September

Meet the Head Teacher – Forms 3 & 4
Parents, 8.30am

Meet the Head Teacher – Nursery &
Reception Parents, 2pm

Friday 6th September

Meet the Head Teacher – Forms 5 & 6
Parents, 8.30am

Monday 9th September

First Week of Clubs

Wednesday 11th September

PTA AGM, 7pm – 8.30pm

Friday 13th September

Blue Day in EYFS

Friday 20th September

Red Day in EYFS

Friday 27th September

Yellow Day in EYFS

Friday 4th October

Green Day in EYFS

Thursday 10th October

Parents' Evening, 4.30pm - 7pm

Friday 11th October

Orange Day in EYFS

Monday 14th October

Parents' Evening, 4.30pm - 7pm

Wednesday 16th October

Form 5 Assembly & Book Share, 8.45am

Thursday 17th October

Harvest Assembly, 8.45am

Friday 18th October

Diwali Day in EYFS

Monday 21st October – Friday 1st

November

Half-Term (2 weeks)

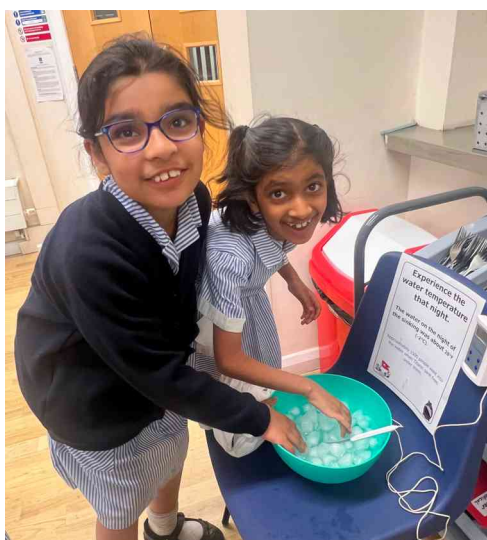


Titanic Day

On Friday 21st June, when the children in Form 1 to 6 arrived at school, they each received a ticket so that they could take on the persona of a real Titanic passenger at the start of our **Titanic Day**. Arriving in assembly, the children were directed to their seating area based on whether they were 1st, 2nd or 3rd class. The children then discovered where the Titanic was designed and built and how the White Star Line were competing to create the biggest, fastest and most luxurious ocean liners in the world.

Back in class, a range of activities took place exploring the three classes, Morse code, passengers onboard, the lifeboats and how they were filled. Throughout the day, children visited Mr Raffield's museum in the hall, where they got to see authentic White Star Line items from the early 1900s as well as original photos of Titanic, newspaper reports, deck plans, a brass model and the 9000 piece Lego Titanic, to name a few. Some brave children also had the chance to experience freezing water at the temperature it was when the Titanic sank.

The day ended with a second assembly, which looked at the numbers of people saved, who rescued them and where the blame fell when the enquiries began after the sinking. The children were enthusiastic, engaged and everyone had a fantastic day.





Leeds Castle Trip

Forms 3 and 4 had a wonderful outing to **Leeds Castle** on Wednesday 12th June. They took part in a fascinating drama/history workshop 'From Cave to Castle', which focussed on the history of Britain from the Hunter Gatherer period to 1066. The children were also treated to a tour of the castle, which included Lady Baillie's rooms, as well as the library, cellar and games room. The sun shone whilst the children had a train ride, played in the huge 'castle' play area and met the new cygnets and their swan parents. Thank you very much to the parent helpers and to the wonderful staff at Leeds Castle, who were extremely knowledgeable and gave us a fantastic day out.



Cygnus Wins House Trip!

By a close margin, Cygnus earned the most House Points this year, and were rewarded with a trip to **Oaks Park**. They spent the morning playing games, before finishing off with a big game of rounders. Luckily the weather held out and they had lovely sunshine all morning. Well done Cygnus for all your hard work this year!



Fire Engine Visit

On Monday 10th June, we were lucky enough to have a visit from our local fire fighters. Children from Form 2 and Early Years got to watch and try out the fire hose, sit in the **fire engine**, hear the siren and see the different equipment in the engine, including the giant scissors, which are used to cut through bars, and the huge ladders for reaching the tops of buildings. It was a great experience, very much enjoyed by all. Thank you to our Purley firefighters!





World Bee Day Celebration

On Friday 7th June we held celebrated World Bee Day. Children dressed up as bees and created environment-friendly projects, including bird feeders and bug hotels, which they shared with their classmates.

Horton Kirby Trip

On Friday 7th June, Form 6 visited **Horton Kirby**, an important village from the Victorian era, which still has a Victorian school. 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 one special case, found the grave where their child was eventually buried.

The class also had the opportunity to handle some real 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 highlight of the day was when 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 dunces cap and cane!

It was a fascinating day where history was brought to life before our eyes and the children enjoyed every minute!



Form 6 End-of-Year Play

In ancient lands where legends lie, beneath the vast and Grecian Sky, A tale unfolds from days of old, a saga grand – Go for Gold

Following 2 weeks of rehearsals, Form 6, supported by Form 5 and some special staff guests, blew their audiences away with their performances of **Go for Gold** by Gawen Robinson. From ancient Greek rapping Gods to modern day athletes, the children brought history and modern day to life as they sang and acted their hearts out. Well done to everyone involved and thank you for the donations, which has raised £100.56 for the WWF charity.



Godstone Farm Trip

Nursery, Reception, Form 1, and Form 2 enjoyed a fantastic day out today at **Godstone Farm** for their end-of-year school trip. The weather was perfect, and everyone had a wonderful time visiting the animals, participating in fun activities, and playing outside in the afternoon. The children behaved exceptionally well and had a truly memorable day.



New Pupil Leadership Team

On Wednesday 12th June, our Form 5 candidates presented their speeches in a hustings and explained why they should become a member of our **Pupil Leadership Team** next year. Each child in the school was given a ballot paper on which they selected their preferred candidate. They then visited our "polling station" and posted their votes. The staff have also held a private ballot, which was combined with the results of the student voice.

The winning candidates were announced at our end-of-year celebration and our congratulations go to: Viyan (Head Boy), Isla (Head Girl), Eva (Head of Aquila House), Zara (Head of Cygnus House) and Esme (Head of Leo House).

School Notices

Uniform Reminder

Children should return to school in their winter uniform. The updated uniform lists are on the website, so please be aware there may be some changes. Just a reminder, 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. All uniform items must be clearly named.

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 4 will be swimming from Wednesday 11th 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 1st – Thursday 3rd Oct
Tuesday 8th – Thursday 10th Oct
Tuesday 15th – Thursday 17th Oct

Tuesday 5th – Thursday 7th Nov
Tuesday 12th – Thursday 14th Nov
Tuesday 19th – Thursday 21st Nov

Nursery Graduation

We are immensely proud of the Nursery children and their achievements so far. On Monday, they performed their **assembly** confidently to the school and their families, leaving everyone feeling emotional and proud. We wish them all the best next year as they take their next steps in school life.



Summer Term Artwork

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

- Form 1 have been creating royal self-portraits using watercolours and oil pastels
- Form 2 have been making seaside-inspired landscapes
- Form 3 have designed and built pottery inspired by Ancient Greece
- Form 4 have created covers for a Sports brochure
- Form 5 have been building relief self-portraits using cardboard, which we will finish off in September
- Form 6 have been working hard on props, costumes and scenery for their production of *Go for Gold*
- Finally, in Art Club, we have been making clay monsters.



ISA Regional Art Competition

Mr MacGregor recently attended the **ISA Regional Art Competition** in Brighton, to which he took a fantastic selection of pieces, which showcased the hard work and skill of the many artists throughout the school. Special congratulations go to:

Hannah & Esme – Highly Commended for their Jellies sculpture
Roshni – Highly Commended for her chalk portrait
Livvy – 2nd place for her “Cloudy Day” photo.



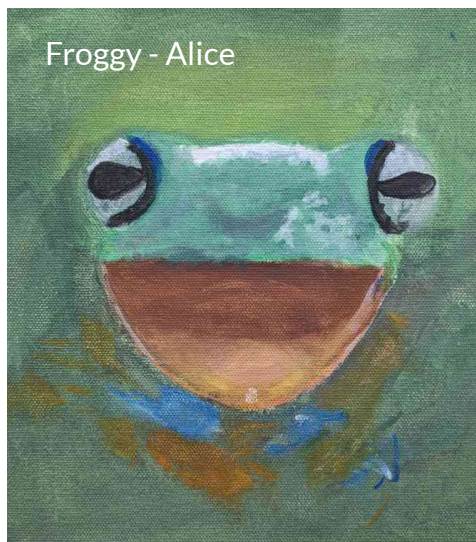
Jellies – Hannah & Esme



Chalk Portrait - Roshni



Cloudy Day - Livvy



Froggy - Alice

Music Exam Success

Congratulations to everyone who took part in the informal concert on 20th June. It was a varied programme, including the Infant and Come and Sing Choirs, which was enjoyed by all.

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

Zara	Form 5	Violin	Grade 4	Merit
Eve	Form 3	Piano	Grade 2	Pass
Esmee	Form 3	Violin	Grade 2	Pass

Cricket Update

Well done to our U11 Cricket team, who came out on top in a closely-contested match against Royal Russell on 4th June!

Key Diary Dates (Second Half-Term)

Wednesday 13th November
Nasal Flu Clinic

Thursday 14th November
Form 4 Class Assembly & Book Share,
8.45am

Friday 15th November
Children in Need Pyjama Day

Monday 18th November
Individual & Class Photos

Friday 22nd November
Black & White Day in EYFS

Friday 29th November
Purple & Grey Day in EYFS

Thursday 5th December
EYFS Nativity, 9am

Friday 6th December
Pink & Brown Day in EYFS

Monday 9th December
Last week of Clubs

Wednesday 11th December
KS1 Nativity, 9am

Thursday 12th December
Forms 3-6 Rehearsals at St Mark's,
8.30am

EYFS Christmas Party, 9.30am
Forms 3-6 Christmas Celebration at St
Marks, 6pm

Friday 13th December
Rainbow Day in EYFS
Whole School Panto, 9.30am

Tuesday 17th December
Christmas Activity Day
Christmas Lunch

Wednesday 18th December
Last Day of Term, 12pm – 12.15pm

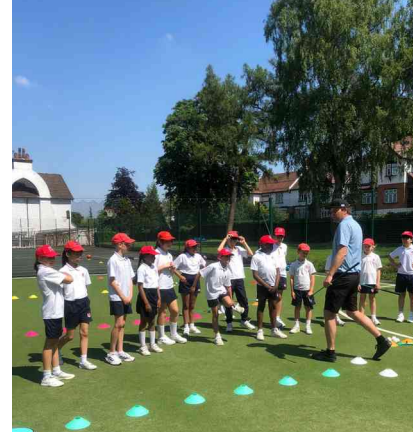
Sports Week 2024

In May, St David's held its first '**Sports Week**', which was greeted with much excitement by all children and staff. The week included the organisation of guests to deliver sport-specific workshops, assemblies, a sports trip, in-class sports activities, as well as the running of our annual sports day. Below is a brief summary of what went on each day.

Monday 20th May

St David's welcomed Samuel from Boom Arts Dance Academy, who delivered an amazing Street Dance assembly to the whole school, before Forms 3 to 6 got to show off their moves in his dance workshops, which ran all morning.

In the afternoon, we welcomed Alex MacGregor (Golf) and Monte Polycarp (Basketball), who both delivered workshops to Forms 5 and 6, based on their specific sports.



Tuesday 21st May

Sixth-form students from The BRIT School attended and performed their award-winning contemporary dance piece to the whole school. They performed and answered questions from the children before providing workshops to Reception, Form 1 and Form 2.

Patrick Walsh from Riddlesdown Martial Arts delivered some self-defence workshops to Forms 5 and 6, where they learnt how to deal with potential life-threatening situations in order to keep themselves safe. A brilliant experience for them all!

During Games, Forms 3 and 4 experienced both Basketball & Tennis workshops, which were thoroughly enjoyed despite the pouring rain!

Nursery & Reception (also in the pouring rain!) got to take part in some football sessions run by BB Soccer, which they all really enjoyed doing.





Wednesday 22nd May

Forms 3 to 6 experienced some Mini Squash sessions, which were run by David Lloyd Purley. A new experience for a lot of the children, but they certainly enjoyed learning a new skill.

Form 3 enjoyed a special water polo experience at Old Palace School! There was lots of splashing, goals and competitiveness on show!

Thursday 23rd May

Infant sports day was run in the morning, with eight teams battling it out for Bronze, Silver & Gold medals:

- Gold – Elephants
- Silver – Rhinos
- Bronze – Monkeys

In the afternoon, **Junior sports day** took place, with houses competing across four activity stations, followed by individual races. Leo house triumphed again! We were very lucky to have students from Old Palace School help us run the afternoon.

- Leo 1st
- Cygnus 2nd
- Aquila 3rd

EYFS & KS1 still got to do some extra sporty things in the afternoon, as Playball attended and ran a workshop with each class. The children loved learning new skills and being taught by such fabulous coaches!



Friday 24th May

The last day of Sports Week proved as exciting as the start of the week! EYFS & KS1 were treated to a dance performance and workshop by Old Palace students, who choreographed and taught their own dance piece to the children.

BB Soccer attended once again and ran sessions for Forms 3 to 6, which were thoroughly enjoyable.

Finally, in the afternoon, the Form 5 and 6 girls attended Kent County Cricket Ground, where they watched South East Stars v Lancashire Thunder in a Women's T20 cricket match. They formed a guard of honour for the players, got signatures and photographs after the game and, most importantly, managed to have an ice-pop!

It was such a brilliant week for the school and we hope that it is something that can occur each year moving forward. A huge thank you to everyone to who made it possible.





Staff vs. Form 6 Rounders

It reached that time of year, when the staff do their very best to beat Form 6 in the annual **rounders** match. Both teams played exceptionally well, showcasing impressive teamwork and skill. The competition was fierce, but the staff managed to secure a victory by a couple of rounders. Great fun was had by all, making it a memorable event for both players and spectators alike.



Athletics Championships

St David's recently took part in the Croydon Athletics Championships with over 40 other primary schools at the Croydon Arena. Across two qualifying days, fourteen St David's pupils attended and competed in events including Sprints, Long Distance, Long Jump, Ball-Throwing and Relays. They all did magnificently and gave it their all, with 4 children progressing through to Friday's final. Many congratulations to:

Alice (F5, Long Jump) – 2nd in Croydon!
 Eva (F5, 75m Sprint) – 8th fastest athlete in Croydon
 Emma (F6, Ball-Throw) – finished in the top 5
 Milun (F5, Long Jump) – finished in the top 10

PTA Update

Here we are, at the end of the Summer term, and what a term it has been! For the Summer fair we always hope for sunny skies to brighten and add to the excitement of the day. This year, we were greeted with rain and wind, which wasn't ideal, but in true St David's spirit we went ahead and put on the best day possible. We had so many new additions this year, including a wonderful circus performer doing giant bubbles and stilt walking, fair games for the children to enjoy and the inflatable dartboard football. It was a joy to see everyone having fun, even when they were dodging the rain clouds! We had a delicious BBQ provided by Crown and Pepper, which proved a huge hit with parents and children alike. We are so happy that it turned out to be a success. But the day wouldn't have been possible without your support, whether it was in helping set up, volunteering on a stall or just turning up and supporting the fair - so a massive thank you to all! We appreciate it so much.

As the academic year comes to a close, we'd like to also 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.

As many of you're aware, this is the end of my journey at St David's and I would like to say it has been a pleasure being your PTA chair this last year. I am going to miss the school and parents very much. I am passing over to two members of the existing PTA team: Manolee and Deepa, who will be your Co-Chairs from September 2024. They've been a part of the PTA team for a few years and done so much already, whether it be organising events or arranging fundraising. I know they will do an excellent job going forward.

We are always looking for parents to support the PTA in any way, shape or form, whether it is helping at an event or offering services or suggestions. Please do reach out via your class rep or email stdavidsschoolpta@hotmail.co.uk. All support is very welcome and appreciated!

I wish you all a wonderful Summer filled with sunshine and happiness.

Kate Merriman, on behalf of the PTA Team