

# OCTOBER '24 NEWSLETTER



ST DAVID'S  
PREPARATORY SCHOOL



## A WELCOME FROM MRS SYRADD, OUR NEW HEAD TEACHER

Welcome to our first newsletter of this academic year and my first as Head Teacher! It has been an exciting first half-term and been wonderful to enjoy the array of learning that has been happening across school, as this newsletter will showcase. It was wonderful to meet so many of you at the 'Meet the Head Teacher' coffee mornings at the start of term and again in our recent Parents' Evenings.

We have had two successful Open Mornings which provided an opportunity for prospective new parents to sign up to join our wonderful school as well as allowing a photographer to capture the school in action. We look forward to including some of these photographs in the future on our website and in our new school prospectus. Please ensure that you complete a registration form as soon as possible if you are looking for a Nursery or Reception place for 2025 or 2026, as there are limited places available.

At the start of the term, I led an assembly on the 'Art of Giving' and how treating others with kindness creates a chain event as people treated with respect, will in turn 'pay it forward' and treat others the same.

It has been a pleasure to see so many pupils be recognised for this over recent weeks through the Jigsaw Gems. This was also reinforced with the whole school commitment to 'Paint Purley Purple'

We are also delighted to have supported World Mental Health Day on 10th October by launching our new 'Wellbeing Room' on Google Classroom. Many thanks to Mrs Mitchell and Miss Obiri who will be using this space to promote the positive mental health of our pupils.

I wish you all a relaxing half-term and hope the weather is kind enough to allow you some time to go out and about and enjoy the fresh air. Check out the Wellbeing Room for some ideas of what you could be doing. I look forward to seeing you all again after the break.

Mrs Sarah Syradd  
Head Teacher



*"I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel," Maya Angelou*



# EARLY YEARS

## RECEPTION'S FIRST WEEK BACK

Our Reception children have settled into school brilliantly this half term. It was so lovely to see our returning children and a special welcome to all of our new starters and their families! We're excited for the year ahead and looking forward to supporting each child's journey.



## EYFS TO PURLEY LIBRARY

Our Nursery and Reception classes had a fantastic time on their first trip of the year to Purley Library. The children enjoyed listening to stories and exploring the various books available. Many of them became new library members and we are sure they will return for more visits in the near future with their friends and family.



## EARLY YEARS KITCHEN AREA DONATIONS

We are enhancing our Early Years kitchen area and are looking for a few key donations to help us complete the space. Specifically, we are in need of

- one gently used kettle,
- one toaster
- one microwave.

If you happen to have any of these items in good working condition that you no longer need, we would be very grateful for your contribution!

These appliances will play an important role in supporting various learning activities and promoting independence among our Early Years children.

Thank you for your continued support!

## COLOUR DAYS



Our Early Years children are thoroughly enjoying their weekly 'Colour Day' celebrations every Friday. They come dressed in clothing of the chosen colour, participate in fun, colour-themed activities and even get to enjoy some delicious, colour-matched snacks prepared by the kitchen!





## PEOPLE WHO HELP US

As part of our learning about Ourselves and People Who Help Us we invited parents to come and speak to Nursery and Reception about their professions, sharing their invaluable experiences with us.

We believe that learning directly from parents about their careers can be incredibly inspiring and eye-opening for children. Your insights helped our students understand the diverse world of work and the important roles people play in society. Thank you so much to all of you who came to visit us.



## SPORT U11 FOOTBALL

### SMALL SCHOOLS CUP MATCH V ELMHURST SCHOOL

Our U11 football team were excited to begin their season with a tough test against a strong opponent in Elmhurst. The game started superbly with a scorching strike from Miran, giving St David's the lead and settling some nerves. This sparked Elmhurst to life creating a challenging, fast paced and intense battle for supremacy. Elmhurst going in at half time in the lead having scored some fantastic goals. The team reacted brilliantly, focusing that disappointment and raising their levels of intensity and quality. This gave us the platform to compete with Elmhurst which ultimately came with fine reward, drawing the second half 2-2. The final score was 3-8 to Elmhurst and an

early exit from the Small Schools Cup, however, the boys reflected maturely and are looking forward to the Croydon League starting after half term.



MAN OF THE MATCH  
MIRAN (THE HATTRICK HERO)

## HOUSE SPORT

During the final week of the half term, we have started our House Sport competitions, where the Form 3-6 children get to compete against one another within their Houses. It has been wonderful to see so many of our pupils supporting one another and encouraging participation and competition. The results will be shared in our Celebration Assembly!

## KS1 CROSS COUNTRY



### U6/7 CROYDON SCHOOLS CROSS

### COUNTRY AT COOMBE WOOD SCHOOL

On a fortunately sunny afternoon, twelve of our Under 6's and 7's competed at Coombe Wood School in the Croydon Schools Cross Country event. It was a real pleasure to see them run their hearts out across a challenging course which involved undulating terrain, long laps of the football field and slaloming ramps. All twelve showed brilliant powers of perseverance and determination throughout the one-kilometre course and finished with smiles gleaming across their faces. We look forward to finding out the results in the coming weeks.



# ASSEMBLIES



## PAINT PURLEY PURPLE

The school raised money and awareness for the South East Cancer Help Centre on Wednesday 2nd October. In assembly, there was a sea of purple with staff and children alike, donning their purple attire. We also welcomed two special visitors from the Centre to lead the assembly. Furthermore, throughout the week the children nominated their favourite names for the 'Name the Paint Purley Purple Bear' competition! After a close race in the polls, the winning name was announced at the end of the assembly. 'Amethyst' is now the Centre's mascot. The Pupil Leadership Team went to the SECHC to return Amethyst and hand nearly £300 in raised funds!



## FORM 5 CLASS ASSEMBLY



On Wednesday 16th October, Form 5 enjoyed performing their class assembly to the rest of the school and their parents. They acted out their own version of Macbeth with fantastic expression and comic timing. They even included an alternative scene written by Anantha, which showed the witches' spell going disastrously wrong! Their song about the Three Witches was brilliant too! Afterwards they showed their parents all the fantastic work they have done so far this term.



## HARVEST ASSEMBLY & PURLEY FOOD HUB



On Thursday 17th October, we celebrated our Harvest Festival. Rev'd Fiona Weaver led an Assembly on the importance of doing something positive to

make other people's lives better. What a fantastic way to demonstrate our gratitude by giving to others in need. Thank you so much to all our parents for their overwhelming generosity in donations, which was gratefully received by the Purley Food Hub.





# PTA UPDATE

A warm welcome back to everyone after the Summer holidays, particularly those who are new to St David's. We hope all the children have settled nicely into school life so far.

Thank you to all those parents, guardians and staff who were able to join the PTA AGM at the start of term, it was lovely to see so many people in attendance. We are extremely excited to have some fresh faces and energy in the newly elected committee. Going forward for this year, your PTA committee looks as follows:

**Chairs** – Manolee Yadave, Deepa Pillai

**Secretaries** – Devina Wallbank, Robert Wallbank

**Social Secretaries** – Claire Parkinson, Hardeek Desai

**Treasurers** – Dimitris Perdikou, Shilpam Patel

We have already been busy planning some exciting events for the year ahead. Please save the PTA dates in your diary for the upcoming term.

As well as putting on events to provide fantastic experiences for the children and St David's community, it's wonderful to see what the PTA fundraising efforts can provide. Form 5 have bought a selection of books that the children chose, felt tips, fine liner pens, two games for wet play, a pineapple plant and a Venus fly trap plant!



We would love to hear from you regarding any suggestions or fundraising ideas, or if you are interested in volunteering your time for any upcoming events. Please do get in touch via your class rep or email the committee at [stdavidsschoolpta@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:stdavidsschoolpta@hotmail.co.uk).

We hope you have a wonderful and restful half-term with your loved ones.

Best wishes,

Manolee & Deepa, on behalf of the PTA committee



## PTA DATES

**Friday 15th November** – Children in Need Pyjama Day

**Wednesday 27th November** – Bags2School

**Friday 29th November** – Jingle & Mingle Bingo (8pm)

**Friday 6th December** – Mufti Day and Christmas Discos  
(Infant 3.30-4.30pm, Junior 4.45-6.15pm)

**Thursday 19th December** – “Snow White” Pantomime at Fairfield Halls, 1.30pm (tickets on Classlist)

## SAFER DRIVING

As you will be aware, we have been having a focus on parking and road safety outside of school over this half-term. We recently sent a request to all Parents and Carers to be mindful when parking and driving around the school. **Our children's safety is our priority**, as well as maintaining a good relationship with our neighbours.

Please can we remind you that **parking on zig zags** is illegal between the times stated, and **parking over drives** not only upsets our neighbours but limits the spaces to cross safely.

Recently, we have been working with **Police Safer Neighbourhood Team**. They undertook speed checks and are planning to visit again to support us further. Next half term we will be holding an assembly on road safety for pupils and the Police will support us with this.

The Pupil Leadership Team (PLT) and School Council have been considering how to encourage parents to park safely. We are hoping to launch a competition in Autumn Term 2 to create **safer driving signs** and have discussed issuing **pupil written parking tickets**.

Mrs Syradd has spoken with the PTA who are keen to support safety outside of school and have discussed the matter with our Health and Safety advisor. We are planning to discuss this further with Croydon Council.

Staff will continue to challenge anyone not parking safely and will follow up with calls to remind parents where necessary.

We would like to say a big **thank you** to the parents who are supporting our school with their considerate parking and driving. We really appreciate those setting a good example to the children and creating a safer, more respectful environment for everyone. It is so important to work together for the safety of our school community.





The Music Department has been thriving with activity since the Autumn term commenced.

We have many exciting musical ventures coming up: Forms 1 & 2 have started to learn the songs for their Nativity play, which is called 'The Inn Inspectors.' The children are all really excited to find out what parts they will get.



Form 6 have started to learn their songs for the Young Voices concert at the O2 in February.

The whole school also worked towards our Harvest Assembly, which this year incorporated some instrumentalists to accompany our singing.

Each year group have been focusing on a specific piece of music, or composer this half term. It would be great if you could encourage your child to listen to many different types of music outside of school as possible.

Form 1 – Vivaldi – The 4 Seasons

Form 2 – Grieg – Hall of the Mountain King

Form 3 – Tchaikovsky – Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy

Form 4 – Britten – A young person's guide to the Orchestra

Form 5 – John Adams – Short ride on a fast machine

Form 6 – Holst – Mars (from The Planets)

## Form 5 Booster Groups

**Maths: Mr Raffield**

5th, 12th, 19th November

**Verbal Reasoning: Mr Muringapasi**

6th, 13th, 20th November

**English: Miss Varndell**

7th, 14th, 21st November

## Swimming- Form 6

Wednesday afternoons

6th November-11th December

# DATE LIST (SECOND HALF TERM)

**Wednesday 6th November**

Lego Workshop

**Thursday 7th Nov**

U11 Boys Football v Margaret Roper (away)

**Monday 11th Nov**

Form 2 to Purley Fire Station

**Wednesday 13th Nov**

Nasal Flu Clinic

**Thursday 14th Nov**

Form 4 Class Assembly and Book share

U11 Girls Football v Margaret Roper (home)

**Friday 15th November**

Children in Need Pyjama Day

**Sunday 17th Nov**

U9-11 Korfbal Tournament at Royal Russell

**Monday 18th Nov**

Individual, Sibling and Class Photos

**Wednesday 20th Nov**

7pm Form 4&5 Transition to Secondary School Meeting

**Thursday 21st Nov**

U11 Girls Football v Kenley (away)

**Friday 22nd Nov**

Forms 3&4 to Polka Theatre

**Saturday 23rd Nov**

U9 Football at Royal Russell

U9-11 Cross Country at Woodcote High School

**Tuesday 26th November**

Form 5 to British Film Institute

**Wednesday 4th Dec**

Form 2 to "Christmas Unwrapped"

**Thursday 5th Dec**

9am EYFS Nativity

**Friday 6th December**

Mufti Day (PTA Discos in afternoon)

**Wednesday 11th Dec**

9am KS1 Nativity

**Thursday 12th Dec**

F3-6 Christmas Rehearsals at St Mark's Church

EYFS Christmas Party with Santa

6pm Christmas Celebration at St Mark's Church

**Friday 13th December**

Beauty and the Beast Pantomime

**Tuesday 17th Dec**

Christmas Lunch and Activity Day

**Wednesday 18th Dec**

Last Day of Term





## AFTER SCHOOL CLUB

During this half term, the children in the Dragons After School Club have engaged in a variety of activities. They explored the wonders of space through themed arts and crafts, worked on challenging animal puzzles and created beautiful autumn wreaths to celebrate the season. Additionally, the children participated in vibrant Diwali colouring activities and produced impressive firework illustrations, fostering both creativity and cultural appreciation. We would like to extend our sincere gratitude for your support of the new After School Club and we look forward to the exciting opportunities that the next half term will bring.

## OPEN MORNINGS

It has been wonderful to host two busy open mornings this half-term and welcome some prospective new pupils and their families to our St David's community.

Form 6 took the lead showing our guests around and were an absolute credit to us, with many visitors commenting on how confident and personable they were.

We are so proud of how articulate our pupils become over



their time here and we know that developing these kind of life skills, alongside academic success, is just as important in ensuring that they are prepared for the future.

Well done, Form 6.

## ART THIS TERM

- Form 1 have been learning all about lines and colours.
- Form 2 have created artworks inspired by the Great Fire of London.
- Form 3 are working on Ancient Egyptian selfies.
- Form 4 have been creating volcanoes.
- Form 5 are creating illustrations in the style of Quentin Blake.
- Form 6 have built and painted cardboard self portraits, which is now an interactive display!

## SCHOOL NOTICES

### Watches

Please may we remind all parents and students that Smart watches are NOT allowed in school. Forms 5 and 6 ONLY are allowed to wear watches in school and these should be clearly named.

### Uniform

Please can we remind you that pupils should return after half-term in their Winter Uniform. The uniform list is available to refer to on the school website to ensure that they have all of the correct items needed. Please also name all items. We ask that you also make sure that your child has their cagoule in school every day. The weather at this time of year is unpredictable and having this ensures that all pupils can take part in Games lessons and sports' clubs which will take place at the field in all weathers.

We are also encouraging pupils to be smart at all times (shirts and blouses tucked in, ties straight and wearing hats into and out of school) and would be grateful for your support to reinforce this.





To celebrate Black History Month, Form 1 have learnt about Rosa Parks, best known for her key role in the Montgomery bus boycott.

The children took part in some role play, acting out the scene on the bus and contemplating Rosa's thoughts.

Students also had the option to borrow a book from our Black History Month Library about historical figures, who have done amazing things in the name of seeking equality.

Mrs Syradd led an assembly focusing on Ruby Bridges, the first black girl to attend a completely white school. After a whole year of facing angry protestors on her way into school, more black children started to attend. We learnt the important lesson of standing up for your beliefs and being the example you want to set for your world.

## POETRY DAY



On Thursday 5th October the children had an assembly led by Kate Bodell – Creative Writer and Illustrator, as part of National poetry day. Kate explained what poetry is and then a little about the poems she writes for other people. The whole school wrote a rhyming poem! She also came into KS1 to lead a workshop. The children thoroughly enjoyed the morning and produced some lovely work.



## WORLD MENTAL HEALTH DAY

A group of Year 6 pupils helped to explain the importance of mental health and wellbeing during our Mental Health Day assembly on Thursday 10th October. The pupils acted out a scene to demonstrate signs and symptoms that might indicate that someone is feeling worried or stressed. They then acted out some ways you can help yourself to feel better, such as going outside, seeing friends, eating healthily or even singing! The pupils in assembly were also told about the new Wellbeing Room on Google Classroom, which has lots of ways and ideas to help you keep mentally healthy. The Wellbeing Room will be regularly updated with ideas and tips for good mental health and wellbeing.

## STAFFING NEWS

We would like to wish Mrs Dyson all our very best as she leaves us after over 17 years of working in our school. She has been an extremely reliable and trusted member of our Office team and will be greatly missed!

She is relocating to Warwickshire to begin retirement near her family.

**WE HOPE EVERYONE HAS A  
WONDERFUL HALF TERM.  
WE LOOK FORWARD TO  
SEEING YOU ALL BACK ON  
MONDAY 4TH NOVEMBER**