

DECEMBER 2024 NEWSLETTER



ST DAVID'S
PREPARATORY SCHOOL



A MESSAGE FROM MRS SYRADD, OUR HEAD TEACHER

It is the end of another busy half-term and this one has been filled with joy. The Christmas celebrations over the past couple of weeks have been fabulous and the confidence of the children when performing to an audience never ceases to amaze me. EYFS gave us a magical version of 'The Nativity' and Form 1 and Form 2's performance of 'The Inn-Spectors' showcased fabulous singing, with some enchanting soloists, as well as comedy and fun to retell the classic Christmas Story. The involvement of some of our older pupils as instrumentalists was also great to see. Please join me in saying a huge well done to all of the children and a thank you to all of the staff involved; who work together behind the scenes to bring the final performances together.

The Carol Concert was a great opportunity to showcase the high quality singing across KS2 and from the choir. It was wonderful to welcome so many of our families to join us for this event. My thanks to Ms Rogers for leading this event in my absence.

Also, a special mention to Mr Urie for his efforts over this term to co-ordinate and teach all of the music and the singing for all three Christmas performance events and a

Choir performance at Tesco, and all with a smile on his face!

As this newsletter will show, it has been another busy half-term with a variety of trips and events to enhance the curriculum here at St David's. It has been a huge success to take The Dragons After School Care in house this term and I thank you for all of the support you have given to this. We are delighted to be able to launch Breakfast Club in January. Please use the QR code at the end of The Dragon's article if you wish to book a space at any of our wrap around care.

On behalf of myself and all the staff, we would like to wish you a very Merry Christmas, a peaceful New Year and a relaxing break with your families. Please take time to rest and re-charge your batteries. We look forward to welcoming you all back on Thursday 9th January.

Mrs Sarah Syradd
Head Teacher



"The most important thing in the world is family and love." John R. Wooden

EARLY YEARS

THEMED FRIDAYS

This half term we had a mix of different dress up days on a Friday. We celebrated Diwali, had Pyjama Day, Purple and Grey, Black and White and Rainbow days.



“THE NATIVITY”

Early Years children delighted their audience with their heart-warming performance of “The Nativity” by Nikki Davies. Through beautiful songs, lively movements and heartfelt acting, they brought the Christmas story to life. From Mary and Joseph’s journey to Bethlehem to the shepherds’ angelic visit and the Wise Men’s star-led travels, the children reminded us all of the hope and joy of the season.

A special thank you goes to Mrs Haddad, Miss Abendroth, Mrs Payne and Miss Cortes for helping the children in rehearsals to learn their Nativity. Thank you to Mr Urie for his musical accompaniment, and to Esmee, Isla and Audrey on the violin and clarinet.

We were so proud of how well the children performed!



DIWALI DAY

Our EYFS children in Nursery and Reception had a fantastic time celebrating Diwali with a day full of creativity, learning and joy! They painted vibrant diya lamps, displaying their artistic talents and worked together to create stunning rangoli patterns using colourful rice or glitter, which brightened up the classrooms. Lunchtime was extra special with a delicious Diwali-themed meal that everyone enjoyed. The celebrations continued in the afternoon with the children making (and tasting!) mango lassi, which was a definite highlight. It was a wonderful celebration of colour, teamwork and festive fun. Happy Diwali!

CHRISTMAS PARTY

Early Years had their Christmas Party at school on the 12th December. A lot of fun was had playing party games and we even had a visit from Santa! We are well and truly in the Christmas spirit now!



BOYS' FOOTBALL: A SEASON OF GROWTH

Our boys' footballers have been fiercely challenged by some of the best teams in the Croydon League this half term. They have shown remarkable desire to fight and compete while also demonstrating consistent improvement in all areas. From technical skills such as passing accuracy to tactical understanding, including positional responsibility, the boys have embarked on an upward trajectory in their development. With a few more league games remaining, they should be looking ahead with anticipation to continuing this journey.

CROYDON INTERSCHOOL KORFBALL COMPETITION

St David's teams had a fantastic day at the Croydon Interschool Korfball Competition, Sunday 17th November.

U9s Teams: Both teams performed exceptionally well, showcasing passion and teamwork. Their efforts led to an exciting final match where they competed against each other, earning Gold and Silver medals.

U11s Teams: Hard work paid off as they reached the final and earned Silver medals, demonstrating brilliant fighting spirit.



INTER- HOUSE SPORT

Our inter-house sports competition was a resounding success, showcasing both skill and camaraderie. In Years 3 & 4, Aquila triumphed in football, while Leo claimed victory in korfball. For Years 5 & 6, Leo shone in tag rugby, and Cygnus excelled in hockey. Sportsmanship and kindness were celebrated, and everyone had a fantastic time.

CROYDON SCHOOLS' SPORTSHALL ATHLETICS:

One of the highlights of this half term was our visit to Archbishop Lanfranc to compete in the Croydon Schools' Sportshall Athletics events. These included a range of disciplines, from throwing and jumping to sprint and obstacle races. The photos captured during the event demonstrate not only the boys' and girls' focus but, most importantly, how much they enjoyed the experience.

They showed fantastic competitive spirit as well as a level of sporting humility beyond their years.



GIRLS' FOOTBALL: A PROMISING START

The girls have started their season exceptionally well, setting an impressive benchmark for the quality of play they can produce. Despite a closely fought loss in their opening game, the girls bounced back brilliantly, scoring a flurry of goals in their third and fourth league fixtures. Our greatest strength is our hunger to compete, which positions us perfectly to continue developing our technical proficiencies.

A DRAMATIC CONCLUSION TO THE HALF TERM

Our final football fixture of the term brought a dramatic end to this half term. In the Primary Schools Cup, our resilient boys sought to change the narrative of what has been a challenging season. In a thrilling game that featured wonder strikes, a tenacious comeback, and a goal-line clearance in the dying moments, we narrowly lost 5-4. Despite the result, the boys' drive and passion have been reignited, and they are now eagerly setting their sights on next term's league games.

PTA UPDATE

What a fantastic first term we have had!!

We had our first ever 'Jingle and Mingle' Bingo night. It show-cased the true spirit of St David's and brought together parents from all Forms across school. It was a great way to meet new parents and have fun playing bingo too. We added a twist of fun by creating a game of bluff between rounds. This really did bring a great sense of fun and laughter to evening.

Towards the end of term, the children brushed off their dancing shoes and took themselves to the disco floor, created a limbo competition, and started a conga line – need we say more? Father Christmas himself could hear the roars of excitement and made a quick stop at St David's to check out the fantastic dance moves. Thank you very much for your kind donations, the chocolate tombola, as always, was a great success.

Many thanks for your generous donations to Bag2School, this is certainly a great way to clear out some unused clothes and fabulous way to raise money.

Whilst we have been raising money, we have also spent it. Nursery used their £200 budget towards new books, Reception used theirs towards a kettle, toaster and microwave to help with cooking activities. Form 6 have opted to spend some of their money on new crafts kits coming in handy when making cards and decorations leading into the Christmas period. Form 3 has also used their budget on books which will support their writing next half term.

This term's chosen enrichment activity was an in-house pantomime 'Beauty and the Beast' which we are sure will prove to be exciting for the children. To top it off, we will look forward to seeing you all on Thursday 19th of December at Fairfield Halls, for our traditional St David's pantomime trip! 'It's behind you'

Please send all second-hand uniform enquires to stdaviduniform@gmail.com Completion of orders take approximately one month from enquiry.

As the Autumn term comes to a close, we want to take a moment to reflect on all that we've achieved together and look ahead to the exciting opportunities awaiting us in the new year. This term has been filled with wonderful activities, school spirit and collaboration, and it wouldn't have been possible without your support.

Best wishes,

Manolee and Deepa, On behalf of PTA committee

PTA DATES

Saturday 4th January - 2nd hand uniform sale, 10am-2pm

Friday 14th February - Break the Rules Day

Wednesday 12th March - Bag2School Collections

Friday 28th March - Adult Quiz Night

JINGLE AND MINGLE BINGO, DISCOS AND PANTOMIMES



SCHOOL TRIPS

CHRISTMAS UNWRAPPED



Form 2 had a great time visiting 'Christmas Unwrapped' at ChristChurch, Purley – an interactive presentation which has reminded them about the story of the first Christmas. 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 Jesus's, designed patterns on angels, made glow-in-the dark star decorations and decorated treasure chests containing gold coins. What a great way to begin the Advent season!

THE BRITISH FILM INSTITUTE



Form 5 had a fantastic trip to the British Film Institute this half term. They watched an animated film of 'Kensuke's Kingdom' by Michael Morpurgo, which is their whole class reading book. As a surprise, Michael Morpurgo attended the screening and answered the children's questions about the book. It was such a special, memorable experience!

THE POLKA THEATRE

On Friday the 22nd November, Forms 3 and 4 went to the Polka Theatre to watch "The Nutcracker". The children enjoyed the magical performance which was told through storytelling and singing.

St David's children demonstrated their best behaviour on the trip and we, as staff, are always proud of them. We hope the performance put children in the Christmas spirit.



PURLEY FIRE STATION

In November, Form 2 had an exciting visit to Purley Fire Station. The trip was both fun and educational, as the children learnt crucial fire safety tips and had the chance to ask plenty of thoughtful questions. They explored the Fire Engine, discovering how the equipment is used, and watched the Firefighters demonstrate sliding down the fire pole. The most memorable part of the visit was when everyone got to spray the fire hose, experiencing what it felt like to be a firefighter. It was a fantastic day filled with valuable lessons.



ANTI-BULLYING WEEK

St David's spent a whole week focusing on how we can be kind and respectful to those around us. Our Pupil Leadership Team planned and led an assembly on "Choose Respect" and all the children got involved in classroom activities. We also had our Odd Sock Day to celebrate our differences. We made friendship wreaths, medals and badges.



To raise money for Children in Need, we wore pyjamas for the day and collected nearly £200 for the charity. Everyone got involved... including the Staff!



FORM 4 CLASS ASSEMBLY: VOLCANOES!

Form 4 gave a fabulous Class Assembly on Thursday 14th November. Having studied volcanoes in Geography, made 3D volcanoes in Art and written diaries about Pompeii in English, their assembly was an explosive exposition of their work this term. This was polished off with a delightful display of musical ability with their recorders.



REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY



On Sunday 10th November, our Head Pupils, Isla and Viyan, laid a Poppy Wreath donated by the PTA at the Woodcote Green War Memorial. We are so proud of them for representing our school so beautifully. We raised £250 through our Poppy sales, which will go to the Royal British Legion.



MUSIC EXAM SUCCESS THIS HALF TERM

Miran (6) Piano Grade 3 – Merit
Mitra (3) Singing Grade 1 – Distinction
Roshni (5) Singing Grade 4 – Merit
Alexa (4) Singing Grade 1 – Merit
Eve (4) Piano Grade 3 – Pass

If your child has any music/ performance exam successes, please let Mr Urie know so we can celebrate their achievements.



SPRING TERM NEWS LOOKING AHEAD

After school Informal Concerts:

The children will be able to sign up for an after school Informal Concert in the Music room on:

Wednesday 29th January 3:40pm – 4:10pm

Tuesday 25th March 3:40pm – 4:10pm

The sign-up sheet will be in the music room and once children have signed up, parents are cordially invited to come up to the music room and watch the performances of the children.

Form 5 Booster Groups

Maths: Mr Raffield

28th Jan, 4th Feb, 11th Feb

Verbal Reasoning: Mr Muringapasi

29th Jan, 5th Feb, 12th Feb

English: Miss Varndell

30th Jan, 6th Feb, 13th Feb

Form 6 Lifelab Sessions

Tuesday afternoons

14th January- 11th February

Clubs

Commence week beginning Monday 13th January

Swimming- Form 5

Wednesday afternoons

15th January -12th February

DATE LIST (FIRST HALF TERM)

Monday 13th January

U11 Girls football v St Cyprians (home)

Tuesday 14th January

U11 Boys Football v Laleham Lea (home)

Thursday 16th January

F5 Art workshop at Royal Russell

U11 Girls Football v the Hayes (away)

Saturday 18th January

U9+U11 Cross Country at Woodcote High

Monday 20th January

U10 Netball v Croydon High (away)

Wednesday 22nd January

Reception to Pizza Express

U11 Boys Hockey v Elmhurst (home)

Thursday 23rd January

Carrot Wood Meeting (F4)

Monday 27th January

U11 Netball v Oakhyrst Grange (Home)

Tuesday 28th January

U9 Mixed Hockey v Oakhyrst Grange (away)

Wednesday 29th January

Informal Concert

Monday 3rd February

U11 Mixed Hockey v RR (away)

Tuesday 4th February

Form 3 Class Assembly and Book Share

U11 Boys Football v Cumnor House (away)

Wednesday 5th February

Form 6 trip to Young Voices and the O2

Thursday 6th February

Parents Evening

Tuesday 11th March

U9 Boys Hockey v Elmhurst (home)

Wednesday 12th February

Parents Evening

Thursday 13th February

F5 trip to Love Languages

Monday 17th- Friday 21st February

Half term

STAFFING NEWS

A huge welcome to Mrs Aarti Patel who has joined the Office Team following Mrs Jo Dyson's retirement. Mrs Patel has settled in brilliantly and is providing much needed support with the day-to-day running of the school.

MATHS IN FORM 5

Form 5 explored the concept of 'super structures' in maths and considered the mathematical concepts required to design and build structures such as The Shard, Petronas Towers or Burj Khalifa. They then had the opportunity to design and construct their own structures in small teams using 1kg of multilink cubes; the structures needed to be of a certain height, support increasing weight and also look appealing in appearance.

Form 6 completed a Brilliant Bridges lesson. The children explored famous bridges from around the world: their bridges needed to meet a number of criteria including a set width to span a river and height to accommodate a boat and passenger.

The children had great fun becoming engineers for the lesson and their constructions displayed a range of cunning ideas, clever building techniques and teamwork.



"THE INN-SPECTORS"

The Inn-spectors are in Bethlehem and they are not pleased. A stable is no place for visitors and their newborn baby, and, it really is a health and safety nightmare! Can the Inn-spectors be convinced that the stable really is fit for a King?

Forms 1 and 2 did a fantastic performance of their Nativity, we were all so impressed at how well they all learnt their lines and songs. We clearly have a few budding performers amongst our Key Stage 1 children! Thank you to Mr Urie, Viyan, Zara and Abi for their musical accompaniments.



LEGO WORKSHOP



Brickies Lego workshop visited us on Wednesday 6th November with Form 1 and 2. This immersive workshop took the children on a journey through time, exploring the fascinating evolution of toys from the Victorian Age to the present day. Through engaging activities and hands-on LEGO building challenges, the children were able to develop critical thinking and collaborative skills. Key Stage 1 loved the workshop and we are hoping Brickies will be back!

ROYAL RUSSELL MATHS COMPETITION



On Thursday 14th November, a team of four Form 6 children travelled to Royal Russell to take part in a House Maths Competition. Teams from Year 6 up to Year 8 were invited to take part and there were 15 teams in all. Our team was one of only a couple of Year 6 teams that entered. The children were tasked with solving hands-on puzzles and problems that required out-of-the-box thinking whilst trying to use and apply skills that have developed in maths lessons over the years. The children had a fantastic time and persevered throughout all the tricky challenges ending up with a very respectable 9th place finish. Well done to Alice, Hannah, Ayaan and Paran for their mathematical thinking and problem solving skills!

DRAGONS WRAPAROUND CARE

Since the launch of our After School Club in September, it has been a huge success, with the children enjoying a wide range of activities that have sparked their creativity and enthusiasm. From arts and crafts to games, along with plenty of outdoor play, the children have had a fantastic time exploring new skills, engaging in sports and games, alongside spending time with friends. As the Christmas season approaches, the children have been busy creating festive cards and decorations, adding to the holiday spirit. Looking ahead, we're excited to continue the momentum with the start of our Breakfast Club in January 2025, providing a wonderful opportunity for children to begin their day in a fun and friendly environment. We look forward to what the new year will bring!

BREAKFAST CLUB



AFTER SCHOOL



ART

Form 1 have been experimenting with chalk this half term, as well as making snow globe collages.

Form 2 have looked at several colourful artists this term, including Graciela Hasper and Jen Aranyi.

Form 3 have been creating various landscape drawings and paintings.

Form 4 finished their fantastic volcano sculptures and then studied the work of Wassily Kandinsky.

Form 5 have enjoyed looking at Manga artwork from Japan and also had a go at recreating the cover of Kensuke's Kingdom.

Form 6 finished off their Manga artwork project and then created Pop Art word collages.



ROAD SAFETY UPDATE AND POSTER COMPETITION

Pupils celebrated Road Safety week with an assembly from Mrs Haddad and the launch of our Road Safety Competition. Thank you to all of the pupils who entered; the PLT were delighted to announce the following winners for their year groups: **Anayra** (Reception), **Rohan** (F2), **Micòl & Nathan** (F3), **Audrey** (F4), **Aryan & Arjunan** (F5), **Alice** (F6).

Mrs Thompson and Mrs Grant, our Governors, have selected 2 pupils from the winners to have their posters made into banners to be displayed outside school. These will be announced after the break once the banners are ready.



Mrs Syrradd, Ms Rogers, School Council and the PLT met with Chris Philp MP, Councillor Samir Dwesar and Mr Rebeiro on Friday 13th December to discuss possible support from the Council to slow traffic and improve road safety outside of school. A huge thank you to Mr Rebeiro for all of his support with the campaign. Once we have a plan for what we want to ask the Council to do, we will be in touch to seek further parental support.

CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE



Forms 3-6 sang some absolutely beautiful Carols at our Christmas Service on 12th December. Form 5 wrote their own Christmas poems and we even had some very talented soloists and descants. A big thank you to all the staff who were involved in the rehearsals, and a special thank you to Mr Urie for all his hard work in planning and preparing the service. We raised £460 for Crisis from the Carol service and both Nativities! Thank you for your donations.

PRIMARY MATHS CHALLENGE



The Primary Maths Challenge took place around the UK at the beginning of November and once again lived up to its reputation of being one of the toughest challenges around! All the children in Form 6 took part alongside a number of children from Form 5 and Form 4. The challenge comprised of 25 tricky questions that required the children to use and apply their maths skills whilst often having to think outside of the box to solve the problems. All of the children should be proud of themselves for taking part and a number of them achieved bronze, silver and gold certificates (Photos taken on pyjama day!). We are hopeful that a number of the silver/gold certificate winners will be invited to take part in the Bonus Round that will take place in February.

PLAYGROUND UPDATES

This term, School Council consulted with their classes to create wish lists of new playground toys which they then shared with the Pupil Leadership Team (PLT).

The PLT then prioritised and created a shorter list of common equipment which they presented to Mrs Syradd. This was then ordered and has been enjoyed in both playgrounds.

Thank you to the PTA for providing the funding for this. In addition, the PTA have also agreed to further funding for larger climbing equipment and playground markings for the newly refurbished top playground.

At the start of next term, the views of pupils and staff will be sought before this will be ordered and installed. Watch this space!

SCHOOL NOTICES

A message from Mrs Wells

- For Flywire bank transfers , please always create a **new payment ID** in flywire and then use this ID as the reference and the bank details given for that transaction when making payment. Do not use stored bank details.
- After School Club fees for the Autumn term will be included on your **Spring Term invoice** . If you wish to pay by childcare vouchers for this, please email Mrs Wells on cwells@royalrussell.co.uk stating the amount you wish to pay via this method.

Wellbeing Room

Google Classroom is regularly updated with posts relating to PSHE topics and awareness themes, such as 'Celebrating Difference' and 'World Kindness Day'. The Wellbeing Room gives our pupils advice about keeping themselves mentally and physically healthy. There are lots of related activities to keep your children engaged and calm, especially over the holiday period! Your child can also leave us a comment to let us know what they think of the activity or information. Please encourage your child to check it out!

CHRISTMAS ACTIVITY DAY

In the last week of the Autumn Term, we had our Christmas Activity Day and the children were invited to wear mufti/ Christmas Party wear.

It kicked off with an assembly, where our Musical Theatre Club performed a few fantastic numbers to the school. The children worked hard, with Mr Urie, to write an entertaining script with songs to share.

Then we split into our Dragon Families and enjoyed lots of fun activities. The older children read a Christmas story to the younger ones and we did Christmas games and crafts. After break, the Children made Christmas party hats and other craft to wear at our lunch.

Mrs Saba and the Kitchen team made a super-yummy Christmas roast dinner! In the afternoon, we all watched movies.



SCHOOL SHOP

On Monday 16th December the children were able to bank their Dragorys and either spend or save them. Our school currency is awarded for good behaviour, achievements and as payment for jobs around the school.

Once a term, these Dragorys can be used to buy toys, games, fidget items and stationery. If the children choose to save, they get 10% interest! Thank you to our Form 6 for being such brilliant Shop Keepers and Bankers



ST DAVID'S DRAGON FAMILIES

At St David's, every child is placed into their own Dragon Family. There are 15 families in total, each having at least one child from every year group. They have all been named after famous Dragons like Puff, Zog, Sisu, Charizard etc.

We normally get into our Dragon families during times like our Christmas Activity Day, St David's Day and Jubilee celebrations.

We have found these vertical age groups solidify the friendships between the Forms and increases interaction amongst children throughout the school.



**WE HOPE EVERYONE HAS A
WONDERFUL CHRISTMAS BREAK.
WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING
YOU ALL BACK ON THURSDAY
9TH JANUARY 2025**