JLY 2025

PREPARATORY SCHOOL



A MESSAGE FROM MRS SYRADD, **OUR HEAD TEACHER**

Dear Parents,

I cannot believe this is the final newsletter of the year and signals the completion of my first year as Headteacher. It has been an absolute privilege to lead St David's through the last academic year and what a fantastic year it has been. Thank you all, for your ongoing support.

Last Friday, we were delighted to invite the Russell Trust Board of Governors for St David's and Royal Russell to visit us for the morning as part of their termly Board meeting. The SLT and I presented on the key highlights of the year and this was a reminder to us of just what a fantastic year it has been. From integrating new staff to ESB and RWI, the growth of wrap around care to exam success, problem solving and outdoor learning to promoting wellbeing and the opening our new playground to championing pupil voice. So many exciting developments!

Staff, parents and pupils have been sharing feedback that has contributed to the creation of our new school values which we will be officially launching in September. In deciding these, we reflected on the qualities we aspire our St David's pupils to demonstrate.

Thank you for your support in attending the Summer Fair. The weather was glorious and the PTA worked so hard to bring us an afternoon of fun and excitement.

This half-term has been a whirlwind of trips and concerts. Last week saw the showstopping performance of 'Cinderella & Rockerfella' and another successful achievement by our wonderful Form 6 pupils-we are going to really miss you!

We were also delighted to welcome so many parents to our Nursery Graduation and our End of Year celebration. Events such as these remind us of just how wonderful our young people are and how far they have come.

Do not forget that our holiday club will be running from 21st July-15th August for anyone wanting to continue some St David's fun during the holidays.

For those of you leaving us for new schools at the end of your St David's journey, we wish you every happiness and success in your next adventure.

On behalf of myself and the staff, we would like to wish you all a wonderful Summer break and we can't wait to see what 2025-26 will bring us at St David's.

We look forward to welcoming you all back on Tuesday 2nd September.

Mrs Sarah Syradd

"Take pride in how far you've come. Have faith in how far you can go. But don't forget to enjoy the journey." - Michael Josephson

ST DAVID'S SCHOOL VALUES

We have worked hard this year to re-look at our school Vision and the Values and aims that accompany it. We sought feedback from parents, via a values survey, and pupils, through their school council representatives. Staff spent time on our January INSET day and subsequent staff meetings sharing their views and bringing everything together.

Our vision can be summarised as:

Inspiring Learning • Igniting Potential • Celebrating Success

Our values are summarised by:



Strength-We work hard to be the best version of ourselves.

Perseverance-We always keep trying to achieve our goals.

Ambition-We aim high and embrace challenge.

Respect-We are responsible and kind.

Knowledge-We are curious and ask questions.



Next year, we will be promoting these with the children and through our website and prospectus and on social media.

We are very excited and look forward to working together to ensure our Vision, values and aims are articulated by all.

NRICH AND THE PROBLEM-**SOLVING SCHOOLS** INITIATIVE

The school is delighted to be working closely with Nrich and we are officially registered as part of their Problem-Solving Schools Initiative. This fantastic initiative is aimed at raising the profile of mathematical problem-solving in school, encouraging children to be more successful problem solvers whilst developing key skills such as a collaboration, working systematically, reasoning and resilience. We also hope that the children will love exploring problems and investigating familiar as well as unfamiliar concepts and themes. Being part of the initiative provides the school with specialised resources and training opportunities for teachers. In September, the school will be introducing some new exciting based approaches for problem-solving in classroom mathematics which we are sure the children will enjoy exploring when they return after the summer break.

ENGLISH SPEAKING BOARD

On Monday 9th June, Form 5 sat the assessment for their English Speaking Board Entry Level Award in Speech. Each pupil delivered a presentation on a topic of their choice, recited a poem and read aloud from a book. The visiting examiner was clearly as impressed as we were and awarded an incredible set of results to the class, with all 19 pupils achieving a Merit, Merit Plus or Distinction. Five members of the class achieved Distinction in either 19 or 20 of the 20 categories which is a phenomenal achievement. These were Anaiya, Florence, Leyla, Roshni and Anantha.

Well done Form 5! We are looking forward to seeing where you take these public speaking skills in the future!



SPORT

SUMMER TERM UPDATE

It's been a thrilling term of sport, with our pupils showing fantastic energy, teamwork and talent. Here's a quick look at what they've achieved:

CRICKET

Croydon Dynamo's: The boys made it to the semi-finals, playing with great spirit and teamwork. A strong finish and plenty of promise for next year!

Royal Russell Tournament: Both boys' and girls' teams placed 3rd, narrowly missing out on higher spots. Competitive throughout and a credit to the school.

Across all year groups, our general fixtures this term have revealed a wealth of talent and enthusiasm. There's a strong sense of excitement for what is possible next year!

SWIMMING GALA VS ROYAL RUSSELL

Our Year 3 and 4 swimmers gained great experience in this friendly gala. Plenty of effort and enthusiasm in the pool. Well done to all involved, especially in the famed paddle board relays!

CROYDON PRIMARY ATHLETICS QUALIFIERS

A determined showing from our athletes:

Viyan just missed the finals with 9th place in the ball throw.

Miran tackled the 800m with grit and resilience.

and Zak threw Kaylan themselves wholeheartedly into their events.

Milun impressed with a 3.73m long jump, earning a spot at Finals Day!



Milun represented the school brilliantly at Finals showing outstanding focus determination. He refined both his approach and take-off, pushing himself to a new Personal Best of 3.79m, earning a well-deserved Bronze Medal! A fantastic achievement and a perfect way to round off an incredible year of sport. Well done Milun!







SCHOOL TRIPS LOWER SCHOOL TRIP TO **BOCKETTS FARM**



As part of our end-of-year adventures, Nursery, Reception, Form 1 and Form 2 enjoyed a wonderful trip to Bocketts Farm. The day was packed with fun and learning, from meeting a wide variety of animals including rabbits, goats and alpacas — to cheering on the pigs in the ever-popular pig race!

The children were thrilled by the tractor ride around the farm, which offered beautiful views of the countryside and the chance to spot even more animals along the way. After a shared packed lunch, everyone had a brilliant time in the outdoor play area, burning off energy and enjoying the sunshine.

A huge thank you to all the parents for your continued support throughout the year — days like this wouldn't be possible without you. It was a truly memorable day and a lovely way to celebrate the end of another fantastic year of learning and growth

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FORMS 3 AND 4 TO BEECHE AT HIGH ELMS

On Thursday 19th June Forms 3 and 4 enjoyed an exciting trip to BEECHE High Elms. The day was packed with hands-on activities, including a minibeast hunt, butterfly catching in the meadow and pond dipping. During the hunt, children worked in teams to discover a variety of creatures such as millipedes, snails, spiders, ants and beetles. While butterflies proved elusive, they managed to catch moths, caterpillars and crickets.

Pond dipping was a particular highlight, with children discovering pond skaters, tadpoles, leeches and damselfly nymphs. Form 3 even witnessed a damselfly nymph feeding on a tadpole, sparking a lively discussion about predators, prey and the circle of life. It was a fun and educational day full of discovery and adventure!



AQUILA HOUSE TRIP TO OAKS PARK

Aquila earned the most Dragorys in the school. As a reward, they enjoyed a morning at Oaks Park, playing games and, most importantly, enjoying ice cream. Thank you Mr M'Pasi, Mrs. P and Mr. MacGregor!



EYFS

RECEPTION **ASSEMBLY**

Reception wowed us all in their assembly this term which focused on the theme of "Reduce, Reuse, Recycle". They shared songs, facts and artwork that showed how we can all play a part in protecting the planet. The children spoke clearly and confidently and it was wonderful to see how much they had learned. Their enthusiasm was infectious and their performance was a lovely reminder of the power of teamwork and creativity. Well done, Reception-you

NURSERY GRADUATION

We are so proud of our Nursery children and all they have achieved this year. They marked the end of their Nursery journey with a special Graduation Assembly, and it was wonderful to see so many parents joining us to celebrate this important milestone. Thank you to everyone who was able to take the time to come and share the morning with us, your support means so much. We wish our Nursery graduates all the very best as they take their next steps in school life. They have made a fantastic start, and we couldn't be prouder.



CINDERELLA AND ROCKERFELLA- BY ALEX, FORM 6

Months of blood, sweat and tears came down to two nights for all that were involved in the production. We started off rehearsals with learning the script as well as practicing many exciting dance routines choreographed by Miss Best. Each note of the music was taken care of by Mr Urie, Mrs Mitchell assisted with stage direction and Mr Mac prepared some amazing props and scenery. Soon, the stage was up and the hectic chaos of cues, dark narrow corridors backstage, speedy microphone changeovers, entrances on stage with (or without) our amazing props and some of the fastest costume changes known to mankind - became a reality! Both performances were incredible, and parents were left stunned to silence with the talent they had witnessed. So....'applaud to the rafters, happy ever afters, nothing could be swella, than Cinders and Rockafella.'







FORM 6

SECONDARY PRESENTATIONS

Year 6 worked hard in English on creating presentations and information leaflets about the secondary schools they applied for and their assessments and interviews. Year 5 enjoyed listening to them and found their guidance and tips very helpful!

WWII PORTALS TO THE PAST WORKSHOP



STAFF V FORM 6 ROUNDERS

Our much-anticipated annual Staff vs Form 6 rounders match took place on Thursday 19 June, with a great turnout of enthusiastic supporters, including parents and staff who weren't playing.

Form 6 came into the game brimming with confidence, determined to claim victory over the staff. A classic game of rock-paper-scissors decided the batting order, with the pupils stepping up to bat first.

They got off to a strong start, hitting some excellent balls racking up several rounders. However, their eagerness to keep the scoreboard ticking saw a few players caught out in their attempts to score even more.

Then it was the staff's turn to bat. Some impressive hits kept the fielders on their toes, and although Form 6 made some sharp catches, the staff managed to keep pace.

In the end, the final score was incredibly close - but the staff managed to edge ahead, winning by just two rounders.

Well done to all players for a fantastic game, and thank you to everyone who came to support.



Portals to the Past visited Form 6 this half term to explore WW2. The children learned about the causes of the war and the impact that the war had on Britain, Europe and the world. As part of the experience, the children were able to handle artefacts from the time including a working (but fully decommissioned!) Enfield rifle. The explored the key events from the war, the impact of the Blitz and took part in drill. Other highlights of the day included decoding authentic messages about major operations during the war, using morse code, taking part in a stretcher bearer race and even learning how to defuse a bomb in a pressurised environment. It was a fantastic day and the whole class really enjoyed the experience.

PUPIL LEADERSHIP TEAM 2024/2025

PUPIL LEADERSHIP TEAM 2025/2026 POLLING



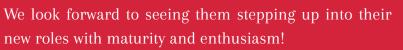
We would like to say a big "Thank you" to our amazing Pupil Leadership Team for all their work this year. They have been a part of the following:

- Organising anti-bullying assembly and activities
- Choosing playground equipment (small on both playgrounds, large equipment on top playground)
- Road safety and traffic meeting with local councillors
- Organising the road safety poster competition
- Traffic wardens for a day
- **Introduced Secret Spies**
- Discussed role and name of Unity Dragons starting in September.

Thank you to Zara, Eva, Isla, Esme and Viyan!

We are so proud of Form 5 for presenting their Hustings so well. They spoke with confidence and kickstarted the voting for our Pupil Leadership Team 2025-2026. Our polling station was open for a few days during voting and we are proud to announce our next Pupil Leadership Team will be...

Head Pupils- Roshni & Anantha **Head of Aquila**- Rohan Head of Leo- Arjunan **Head of Cygnus**- Florence



FORM 6 LEAVERS ASSEMBLY



Form 6 led a heart warming assembly this week as they prepared for their St David's journey to come to a close. The class shared their favourite moments here their time and presented with amusing certificates that best described their personal experiences at the Isle of Wight trip. Mr Raffield created a wonderful Leavers' video which beautifully encapsulated their time at St David's and truly showed how much they have all matured and grown. There were many tears! We can't wait to see what adventures you all get up to next. Here's to our Form 6 Class of 2025!

PROSPECTUS PHOTOGRAPHY



This term we had a professional photographer in to capture the essence of our school and children to be used in our new prospectus. Thank you to all the children who came into school dressed impeccably, and for being so helpful in enabling us to get the perfect shots to best promote our school. Stay tuned for our prospectus release, hopefully in Autumn 2025.

INTER-HOUSE QUIZ



On Monday 23 June, the school hall was buzzing with excitement pupils gathered for our much-loved Interhouse Quiz. Seated in their

House teams, the competition was set to be fierce.

The Heads of Houses - Eva (Aquila), Zara (Cygnus), and Esmee (Leo) - each had a score sheet and the task of selecting team members to answer on behalf of their House.

Thanks to questions submitted by teachers across the school, pupils faced a broad range of topics from Year 1 to Year 6, including History, Science, Music, Art, and more. A special "Heads Round" from Mrs Syradd added an exciting twist!

Every pupil had the opportunity to shine, with their House leaders selecting them for questions, making it a true team effort from start to finish.

Cygnus and Leo were neck and neck, finishing in a draw, which meant Aquila claimed victory by just 1 point!

A huge well done to all our pupils for their teamwork and enthusiasm - and thank you to everyone who made the event such a success.

GOVERNORS VISIT

We were delighted to welcome the Full Governing Body to St David's on Friday 20th June.

Following a presentation by SLT on the key successes this year at St David's, they saw the new playground equipment before being taken on a mini tour around the school by Form 6 pupils.

Andrew Merriman, Chair of Governors, commented after the event, "Many thanks to you and your team for the time taken on Friday to present the school to the Governors. Done perfectly, truly flying the St David's flag and a joy.'





NSPCC ONLINE SAFETY WORKSHOP

Many thanks to all of you that were able to attend the online safety webinar on 12th June. It was a really useful insight into some of the issues our children face online providing some helpful and supportive tips for parents in keeping children safe.

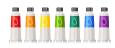
For those who were unable to join us, a version of the webinar can be accessed here.

As always, the school safeguarding team are here for you to discuss any concerns you may have around online safety.





ART



Form 1 have been creating colourful abstract animals.

Form 2 have been making vivid patterned landscapes.

Form 3 have completed their clay Greek pots.

Form 4 have been designing stained glass windows.

Form 5 have been working on Surrealist bedrooms inspired by Rene Magritte.

Form 6 have been animating the story "I want my hat back".

In June, Mr MacGregor attended the annual ISA Regional Art Competition in Bromley. Schools from all over South London and the South of England attend the event, which is a celebration of children's artwork from Nursery up to A-Level. St David's School was able to enter a number of categories including 2D Art, 3D Art, Drawing and Photography. We are very pleased to announce the following successes:



Photography Alice & Eva (Form 6) Eye! - FIRST PLACE





2D Art Isla (Lower KS2) Abstract Portrait – 2nd Place



2D Art Sasha (EYFS) Dinosaur - Highly Commended



Huge congratulations to these children and well done to everyone who worked hard this year to produce fantastic artwork for the competition. The winners will be heading off to the National Competition in November, so watch this space!



MUSIC

FORM 6 PLAY

The Form 6 production took performing at St David's to a new level this year, with a new lighting setup, smoke machine, microphones and a huge variety of costumes, which we were able to borrow from the Royal Russell Drama department costume store. Our performances of Cinderella & Rockerfella were truly spectacular.

INFORMAL CONCERT

This final informal concert of the year was truly amazing. A number of children performed, some to their first audience ever! It was wonderful to hear such a range of styles of music and see the confidence of the performers. Congratulations and well done to all who took part.

NEW PLAYGROUND

The children have LOVED the new playground climbing frame and track. Once again, a huge 'Thank you' to the PTA for providing us with this wonderful equipment.



Form 5 Booster Groups

Maths: Mr Raffield 30th Sept, 7th and 14th Oct **Verbal Reasoning: Mr Muringapasi** 1st, 8th and 15th Oct English: Miss Varndell 2nd, 9th and 16th Oct

Swimming

To be confirmed



MUSIC EXAM SUCCESS

Clarinet Grade 3 - Distinction Abi (6)

Audrey (4) Piano Grade 4 - Merit

Clarinet Grade 1 - Merit

Piano Grade 2 - Pass Arjunan (5)

Piano Grade 1 - Pass Isla (4)

Esmee (4) Violin Grade 3 - Pass

James (4) Trumpet Grade 1 - Distinction

Esme (6) Trombone Grade 1 - Distinction

Singing Grade 5 - Distinction

Piano Grade 4 - Merit

Zara (6) Violin Grade 5 - Merit

DATE LIST

Friday 29th August and Monday 1st September **INSET Days**

Tuesday 2nd September

Start of Autumn Term

Wednesday 10th September

PTA AGM/ Meet the Teacher Meeting

Monday 15th - Thursday 18th September

SLT and Parent Coffee mornings 8.45am- 9.30am

Friday 25th September

WWII Portals to the Past Workshop- Form 6

Thursday 8th October

Informal Concert

Friday 9th October

EYFS to Purley Library

Tuesday 14th October

Woldingham Choir Festival

Monday 20th - Friday 21st October

Half Term

Wednesday 12th November

Reception- Form 6 Nasal Flu Clinic

Monday 8th December

Whole School Pantomime-Little Red Riding Hood

Wednesday 10th December

Christmas Celebration at St Mark's Church 6pm

Forms 3-6

Friday 12th December

End of Autumn Term





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Dear St David's Families,

As we close out another amazing school year, the PTA would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to our entire school community—parents, teachers, staff, and students—for your support, involvement and enthusiasm throughout the year.

It's been a busy and exciting year! Here are just a few of the incredible moments we shared:

Summer Fair: We were blessed with incredible weather and the event was a huge success! With a variety of games, yummy food and fun for the whole family. It truly was a wonderful way to end the year.

Movie night: The children roared with laughter at their films and tucked into their snacks and hotdogs.

Easter Parade: The children proudly showcased their bonnets and tried their luck at the delicious chocolate egg raffle.

Bingo and Quiz nights: We have loved watching all the parents and teachers getting involved in PTA events, especially when there is a chance to win.

Break the rules: There is nothing quite like it, the children love taking part with everything from painted nails and temporary tattoos to the craziest hairstyles!

Discos: The children came with their best moves and hit the dance floor.

Bags to school: Thank you for taking the time to clear out your wardrobes.

Panto Trip: Children, parents, and grandparents all enjoyed a magical trip to see Snow White—a festive and fun treat that brought holiday cheer to all ages.

Christmas Cards Fundraiser: The children designed their own beautiful Christmas cards, which were turned into keepsakes and helped raise funds for the school.

As a result of these amazing efforts, we have been able to fund a selection of Enrichments days.

From a festive pantomime in the Autumn term to a hands-on STEM workshop in the Spring and a calming wellbeing session just last week, we've aimed to provide the children with a rich, well-rounded experience that nurtures both their curiosity and wellbeing.

Teacher Bids for Funding

This year, we provided each form group with £200 to spend on classroom resources, which have included everything from books to games - new goal posts, a wide selection of phonics books, further reading materials to support the school's new reading scheme and much more. One of the most exciting additions has been the brand-new playground, which has already proven to be a huge hit with the children!

Thank You to Our Volunteers

None of this would be possible without our incredible volunteers and amazing class reps! Whether you joined a Zoom call, helped set up an event, ran a stall, or gave your time in any way—thank you. Your support, energy, and generosity truly make a difference to our school community.

Farewell and Best Wishes to the families who are moving on—we wish you all the very best for the next chapter of your journey. And to our wonderful Form 6 students—congratulations! We're so proud of everything you've achieved and can't wait to see all the exciting adventures that lie ahead.

Wishing you a safe, relaxing, and joyful summer! See you all in September.



Best wishes, Manolee and Deepa



ATTENDANCE

You will recall at the start of the year, that we sent information from the Government regarding the increased focus on schools regarding attendance. Here at St David's we regularly review attendance and we are grateful for the support parents have provided this year at reducing time taken off school unnecessarily and for holidays.

As a school we expect a minimum attendance of 95% with an aspiration to be at 97%. When attendance drops below 90%, we will work with families to discover the cause and support in order for attendance to improve. With 170 school days across the year, this table shows how the percentages equate to days off:

% Attendance	Number of days missed in a year	Number of school weeks missed in a year	
95%	8.45- 9.30am	Nearly two school weeks	
90%	8.45- 9.30am	2 ½ school weeks	
85%	8.45- 9.30am	5 school weeks	
80%	8.45- 9.30am	nearly 7 school weeks	

This year, we made the decision to include attendance figures on the end of year report so that parents have some transparency as to how their child's attendance compares to our expectations.

Thank you in advance for all of your support to maximise your child's attendance.

MEET THE SENIOR LEADERSHIP TEAM (SLT)

Many thanks to those of you who completed the parent survey as we always value your feedback. We were delighted that 100% of the feedback tells us that pupils are happy at this school.

In September, we would like to invite parents to a coffee morning to meet the SLT. We plan to give some feedback on the findings from the survey, share information on the work undertaken on the new school Vision, Values and Aims and have a chance to chat to us and ask us any questions as well as enjoy a cup of coffee and a cake!

Please put the date in your diary, as we'd love to see you there.

If you are unable to come along to your class' session, feel free to come to an alternative session.

DATE	TIME	FORM
Monday 15 th September	8.45- 9.30am	Forms 5 & 6
Tuesday 16 th September	8.45- 9.30am	Forms 3 & 4
Wednesday 17 th September	8.45- 9.30am	Forms 1 & 2
Thursday 18 th September	8.45- 9.30am	Nursery and Reception

PUPIL VOICE-UNITY DRAGONS

This year the PLT and School Council have undertaken work on deciding on a new pupil ambassador role for next year. The role is intended to focus on Equality, Diversity, Inclusion and Wellbeing. After much discussion, the PLT finally decided that these pupils would be called 'Unity Dragons.' They will be led by two nominated Form 6 pupils and two pupils will be chosen by pupils in Forms 3, 4 and 5 to also take on the title and support the role. This will be overseen by Mrs Mitchell as Pastoral Assistant Head.

We are excited to see what events they will lead next year and how they will champion E,D, I & W across St David's.







DRAGONS WRAPAROUND CARE

BREAKFAST CLUB



AFTER SCHOOL



Following the success of the Easter Holiday Club, we're excited to announce that The Dragons Holiday Club will be running for four weeks during the summer Holidays. With a fantastic response from children and families, this promises even more fun-filled activities, including cooking, arts and crafts and sports. We're looking forward to building on the success of the Easter programme and offering children enriching experiences that encourage creativity, teamwork and active play throughout the holidays. You can book your child's space by website emailing visiting by stdavidsafterschool@royalrussell.co.uk



THIS YEAR, OUR 14 CHILDREN IN FORM 6, RECEIVED...

6 GRAMMAR
SCHOOL PLACES

38 INDEPENDENT SCHOOL PLACES

MUSIC EXHIBITION AWARD HEADMASTER'S SCHOLARSHIP 5 HEADS AWARDS

14 ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIPS

5 SPORTS SCHOLARSHIPS

O DRAMA SCHOLARSHIPS

PERFORMING ARTS AWARDS

4 Art scholarships

STAFFING

We are sad to say goodbye to Mr Dobson at the end of this term as he is relocating out of the area. I am sure that you will join with all the staff here at St David's on wishing him every success in the future and thanking him for everything he has done to promote sport this year. We are pleased to announce that we have appointed Mrs Hughes as our new Head of PE and Sport. She joins us from St David's in West Wickham where she has been leading Sport.

We are also sad to say goodbye to Miss Colyer, who has been running our After Schol Club this year, as she is going to be undertaking her ECT year as a qualified teacher. We know that she will be a brilliant teacher and I am sure you join us in congratulating her. We are delighted that Connor Smith will be taking over as the After School Club manager. Connor has been part of the successful team at Royal Russell and has supported us on many occasions since launching our wrap around care in September.

Miss Marshall

Over the past few months, I've been taking part in some exciting Forest School training! I've really enjoyed learning lots of new outdoor skills, especially around keeping everyone safe when exploring nature. So far, I've learned how to safely use tools like loppers, peelers, knives and saws, and how to be safe around fire and in the forest.

Some of the fun activities I've practised include making a pyramid campfire, whittling sticks, felling small trees, creating wooden disks, and even making charcoal from scratch! I also visited Royal Russell to explore the woodland area where we'll eventually be taking the children from St. David's for Forest School sessions.

I'll be continuing my training in the Autumn term and I can't wait to bring even more exciting outdoor learning opportunities to our school!

WE HOPE EVERYONE HAS A FABULOUS SUMMER HOLIDAY BREAK. WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU ALL BACK ON TUESDAY 2ND SEPTEMBER 2025

