

DECEMBER 2025 NEWSLETTER



ST DAVID'S
PREPARATORY SCHOOL



A MESSAGE FROM MRS SYRADD, OUR HEAD TEACHER

This half-term has been another busy one with new opportunities that continue to take St David's from strength to strength.

We were delighted to be awarded the ISA Award for Future Readiness. This was a national award which recognised the unique work we do to prepare our pupils for the future via the Dragory banking system and the classifieds job advertisements. As well as recognising curriculum initiatives such as Life Lab, Microsocieties, Debating and Philosophy. A big thank you to Mr Raffield who has driven the Dragory system from the start.

This term was the first time that younger children have had weekly swimming lessons. Form 2 have loved swimming at Royal Russell pool and they have amazed Mrs Hughes and Mrs Payne with their swimming ability.

Another first at St David's has been the introduction of Philosophy this term. As part of the Creative Curriculum KS2 pupils have been encouraged to ask questions and have an opinion. The topics discussed have ranged from bravery to friendship, from having a conscience to doing the right thing. I have been so impressed with the pupils' ability to think outside of the box and ask philosophical questions as well as being intrigued by their responses and reasoning. Ms Rogers has also been leading Philosophy for younger children where they are encouraged to ask 'Big Questions.'

As you know, pupil voice is a passion for me and it was wonderful to launch our new pupil ambassador role 'Unity Dragons.' They have led an assembly on anti-bullying alongside a range of activities and initiatives around school to promote kindness. Also, the School Council, led by the PLT, launched a successful playground poster

competition taking responsibility for judging it and sourcing prizes themselves. This initiative also aimed to remind pupils how to behave respectfully in the playground when playing with school equipment. Watch this space, as they have many exciting projects still to come.

We have continued to be active in our local community this half-term with a number of fixtures and sporting events with other local schools, participation in a Maths challenge at Royal Russell and singing at Tesco in Purley and Chestnut Care Home. Many thanks to those who generously supported Cygnus' chosen local charity 'Young Roots' alongside 'Crisis at Christmas' via our Christmas collections.

The last couple of weeks have seen the wonderful productions showcasing the talents of our pupils when it comes to singing and acting. Starting with 'Our First Nativity', EYFS got us well and truly into the Christmas spirit followed by the KS1 production of 'Lights, Camel, Action' which had us tapping our feet and laughing along as 'Strictly' fever hit St David's. This week it was wonderful to welcome so many of you to St Mark's Church where KS2 sang beautifully accompanied by talented musicians and confident speakers to deliver the Christmas story and remind us of the importance of being grateful of what we have at this time of year. As we go into the holidays, I wish you a wonderful break with your loved ones and a chance to rest and recharge your batteries. See you in 2026!

Mrs Sarah Syradd
Head Teacher

"Time together as a family is a gift" - Joanna Gaines



INDEPENDENT
SCHOOLS
ASSOCIATION

ISA Awards 2025

Winner

ISA Award for Future Readiness St David's Preparatory School

We are thrilled to announce we have received the ISA award for 'Future Readiness!'

Starting with an idea driven by Mr Raffield and supported by the whole school, our Dragory banking system, school shop and School jobs are just a few examples of what is in place to prepare our pupils for the future.

Dragorys & School shop: Children can earn Dragorys and either save them for 10% interest or spend them at the shop. Form 6 get to channel their maths skills as our bankers.

Employment System: Teachers create adverts for jobs around the school for which children can submit an application, in the hopes of being shortlisted for interview and being awarded the job. Jobs are paid using Dragorys.

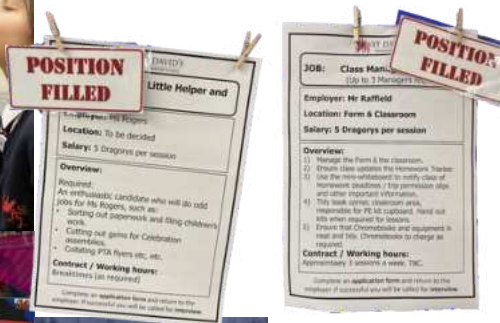
Oracy projects: Children take part in Philosophy discussions with Socrates the Dragon, debates, and participate in the English Speaking Board Exams.

Microsocieties: Pupils create their own Country with names, elected leaders, flags and explore the rules and governance of society.

Lifelab: Children decide upon their own business ideas with a budget and have to create, advertise and sell their products to the rest of the school.



CLASSIFIEDS



PHILOSOPHY
WITH
SOCRATES
THE DRAGON



'St David's Preparatory School's submission stood out as excellent, original, and innovative' highlighting a 'framework which enabled the school to move beyond good intentions to deliver real action and evidenced impact.'

EARLY YEARS

This half term we had a mix of different dress up days on a Friday. We had brown and pink day, Pyjama Day, Purple and Grey and Rainbow days.



“OUR FIRST NATIVITY”

A huge congratulations to our EYFS children for their wonderful performance of Our First Nativity! It was a joy to see their confidence shine as they shared the Christmas story through songs and smiles. Thank you to all the parents and families who joined us to celebrate this special moment, it made the occasion magical.

CHRISTMAS PARTY

Our EYFS children had an unforgettable Christmas party filled with laughter, fun games and festive cheer! The highlight of the day was a very special visit from Santa, who brought smiles (and a few surprises!) to all. Thank you to everyone who helped make this celebration magical, it was a perfect way to end the term and spread the fun of Christmas.



What a great first term we have had. It has been great fun getting to know the children whilst seeing them all push themselves and excel in different ways.

We have been fortunate enough to introduce swimming to our younger pupils this year, and it has been wonderful to begin with Year 2. Not only did they impress us with how sensibly they travelled to Royal Russell on the minibuses, but their quick and efficient changing on either side of the lesson was brilliant.

We were delighted by the standard of swimming they demonstrated. By the end of the half term, many were confidently swimming lengths and had begun learning life-saving skills. Treading water and performing mushroom floats were clear favourites!



U11 A&B GIRLS FOOTBALL V CROYDON HIGH

We kicked off the half-term with a friendly U11 girls' football fixture on our Astro. It was a pleasure to welcome Croydon High and to see so many of our girls showcasing their skills on the pitch. The team worked brilliantly together and demonstrated many of the techniques we have been practising in lessons. Despite their hard work and determination, the ball just did not want to find the back of the net this time.



SOUTH LONDON HARRIERS CROSS COUNTRY



U11 BOYS FOOTBALL V CUMNOR BOYS

On what proved to be one of the coldest weeks of the year, our U11 boys travelled to Cumnor House for two back-to-back football matches. With a bitter wind blowing and light fading fast, both teams were eager to get underway.

Despite the challenging conditions, the boys played some fantastic football, showcasing impressive skills, teamwork and determination. In the second match, the team truly came alive and fought hard right to the final whistle.



Although victory was not ours this time, the boys can be proud of the effort and resilience they displayed throughout. Well done, boys – a brilliant effort in tough conditions!

Nineteen dedicated pupils from Years 3–6 braved a cold and wet Saturday morning to compete in the first of three inter-school cross country races in Croydon. Despite the tough conditions, our runners showed incredible determination, cheering one another on and giving their absolute best.

Every child crossed the finish line with a well-deserved sense of pride. We are especially delighted to share that seven of our pupils placed in the top twenty – including one outstanding top-three finish!

A huge congratulations to all the children who took part. You represented our school brilliantly!

SPORT CONT...

SWIMMING

Our final fixture before Christmas was a relay swimming gala for a selection of our Year 5 and 6 pupils at Royal Russell. As always, these events are fast-paced, with little time for the swimmers to rest between races.

Our children showed incredible determination throughout the competition, giving their all in every race while enthusiastically cheering on their teammates.

The evening concluded with the squadron race, which involved every swimmer completing a length in relay formation. We took the lead from the very start and held it all the way to the finish! The cheer that erupted as we touched the wall was almost deafening.

With every single child contributing to this, it was a truly fantastic way to end the evening.

FORM 6 SWIMMING LESSONS

Did our Year 6 children forget to get dressed last week? Not at all! They were taking part in a life-saving lesson during their weekly swimming session.

The children experienced firsthand just how heavy wet clothes can feel, even for the strongest swimmers, and had the chance to practice basic rescue skills with each other. The session gave them valuable knowledge on how to respond in water-related emergencies and how to keep both themselves and others safe



U11 GIRLS FOOTBALL V THE HAYES

Not the best conditions for a football match and with a few of the girls being unwell, we had 2 last minute stand ins for the team that did not even have football boots so were sliding around in the mud like they were ice skating. It was dark, raining and incredibly muddy but what I am learning about the children here is if there is a challenge they commit to it and to each other. It really was lovely seeing them dig so deep and keep smiling. I am not sure the muddy shoes and clothing would have been appreciated so much when they got home!



BRICKIES LEGO

Form 1 had an exciting morning with Jamie from Brickies Lego Workshop. The children loved learning about the history of toys and Lego. They enthusiastically took on a series of challenges set by Jamie, including building their very own time machine!

The workshop was a fantastic opportunity for the children to spark their creativity and imagination



SCHOOL TRIPS

CHRISTMAS UNWRAPPED



The children in Form 2 had a great time visiting Christchurch to take part in an interactive presentation called 'Christmas Unwrapped'. They had to find and unpack presents hidden around the church containing clues to the Christmas story which they were then told. As a class they produced a book of the story which they were able to bring back to school with them. In addition to this they each made mangers for jelly-baby Jesuses, designed patterns on angels, made star decorations for their Christmas trees and treasure chests with representations of the gifts the wise men brought for Jesus.

TATE MODERN

Form 5 visited the Tate Modern on the 28th November. We caught the train from Purley and walked from London Bridge passing the Golden Hind and the Globe Theatre. In the Tate, we had tours from our guides and learnt about different artists such as Matisse, Rothko and Dali and explored their paintings and sculptures. We also created some fantastic sketches of their work. A fantastic day was enjoyed by all!



THE POLKA THEATRE

On 13th November, Forms 3 and 4 visited Polka Theatre in Wimbledon to watch the play Grandad Anansi. The children thoroughly enjoyed the performance, especially the authentic Jamaican accent used by the actors, which made the experience lively and culturally enriching. The trip supported learning in writing playscripts



SUTTON SYNAGOGUE

As part of our RE topic on Judaism Form 4 visited Sutton Synagogue. As we entered we were all excited to see what a real Synagogue looked like. As a sign of respect, the boys and Mr M'Pasi had to wear a kippah which is a flat hat. One of the first things we saw were lots of stained-glass windows showing pictures of all the Jewish festivals and celebrations throughout the year. In the middle of the synagogue there was a table covered with Jewish games, books and objects which we were allowed to pick up and look at. We were also able to have a close look at the special cupboard called the Ark, which contained 7 Torah scrolls with silver crowns and velvet covers. On the Bimah we looked at an open Torah scroll (the five Books of Moses) and a yad. As we left we were given some Matzah bread (which is eaten at Passover) and some Challah bread (which is eaten on Shabbat) to taste. The man was really impressed with how many questions we could answer, and we all really enjoyed the trip.

By Isabella (Form 4)



PTA UPDATE

Dear Parents, Carers, and Friends,

As we come to the end of a busy and joyful autumn term, we would like to share some highlights. Thank you to everyone who has supported the PTA through volunteering, attending events and donating. Your involvement makes a huge difference to our school community.

Term Highlights

Jingle and Mingle Bingo:

Line, two lines, full house, Bingo!

We loved seeing all the parents at our recent Bingo night. It is a great way to get to know other parents across the school, over a drink and pizza.

Christmas Disco:

A huge success! The children enjoyed dancing, playing games, hitting the chocolate tombola and buying tons of merchandise. We even had a brief visit from the man himself - Father Christmas.

Elfridges:

The Davridges shop put on their first ever Elfridges event. What a phenomenal experience for the children! They came to do their shopping for friends and family and in some cases, even treated themselves! We would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to all the parent elves who helped on the day and to those who supported with gift-wrapping beforehand. This magical event simply would not have been possible without you.

Enrichment Day:

As part of our PTA commitment, we aim to provide as many nurturing and diverse experiences for the children. This term, the PTA have been pleased to fund "Little Red Riding Hood". A whole school, in-house pantomime. We truly hope the children had a wonderful and memorable time.

Beauty and The Beast - Fairfield Halls Panto:

It's behind you! We are very excited for our annual Christmas trip on Wed 17th December. It is a wonderful way to connect with the wider school and enjoy a family tradition.

It has been a busy second half of the term and we have loved sharing all these festive moments with you and the children. We wish you all a restful and safe Christmas with your loved ones and a Happy New Year for 2026.

Best wishes

Manolee and Deepa

PTA DATES

Friday 13th February - Break the Rules Day

Tuesday 24th February- Happy School Bag Collections

Friday 27th February - Infant Movie Night (Junior event TBC)



ANTI-BULLYING WEEK

Anti-Bullying week was kick started by Odd Sock Day to celebrate our differences and uniqueness. Our Unity Dragons led an assembly, which included a "Wicked!" themed role play, showing the kindness Glinda showed Elphaba. The Unity Dragons hid affirmation cards around the school to brighten people's day, and led activities with the children in class, such as designing their own odd sock. Finally, they gave out Dragorys as rewards for those who displayed true kindness and respect to others throughout the week.



FORM 5 CLASS ASSEMBLY

On Thursday 13th November, Form 5 performed a very entertaining version of Shakespeare's Twelfth Night which was based on their work in English. The children delivered their lines with confidence, expression and brilliant comic timing. Audrey played Greensleeves on the piano and Esmee played her violin skilfully to accompany the play. Form 5 particularly enjoyed performing the Twelfth Night Rap which was extremely fast-paced! Well done to all the children in Form 5 for their enthusiasm and a wonderful performance!



REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY



We were so proud of our Head Pupils, Anantha and Roshni, for attending the Remembrance Sunday Service at Woodcote Green on behalf of our School. They laid a Poppy wreath donated by our PTA and spoke confidently as they read a poem to the gathered crowd. Thank you for representing our School in such a mature and respectful way. As we remember the sacrifice of those who gave their lives during WWII, we reflect on how we can make our world a better place through our behaviour and actions.

SCHOOL SHOP

On Thursday 4th 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.





MUSIC EXAM SUCCESS THIS HALF TERM

- Sivansh (5)** Drum Grade 4 - Distinction
- Hannah (4)** Singing Grade 1 - Distinction
- Mitra (4)** Violin Grade 1 - Merit
- Mitra (4)** Singing Grades 1&2 - Merit
- Leyla (6)** Piano Grade 1 - Distinction
- Jaiden (3)** Piano Grade 1 - Distinction
- Audrey (5)** Piano Grade 5 - Unknown as yet

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

This term, the music department has been really busy! Instrumental club have been working hard towards playing in both the EYFS and KS1 Nativity performances. The children did incredibly well learning all the music and have the fantastic experience of performing as a 'show band', being prepared for any eventuality that happens on stage, as well as spontaneous encores. The choir have been working hard too, joyfully singing at Tesco Purley and Chestnut Gardens Care home, both of which the audiences were wowed with their singing ability and dedication to learning lots of different festive songs. Well done to all!



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 28th January 3:40pm – 4:10pm

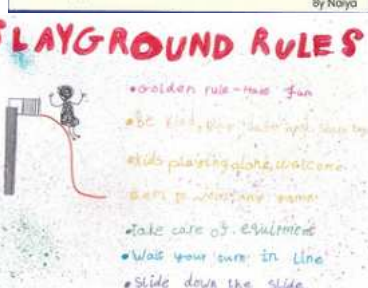
Tuesday 24th March 3:40pm – 4:10pm

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.



POSTER COMPETITION

We recently held a poster competition to design something that would encourage children to take respect and take pride in our new playground. Congratulations to Aaran, Anayra, Shay and Naiya for their designs, which were selected as winners by our School Council. These will be displayed around school for all to see



CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION



One of the highlights of the lead up to Christmas is our KS2 Christmas Celebration. Parents, family members, friends and Governors are invited to St Mark's Church to watch our wonderful children perform songs, play instruments and give readings about the Christmas story. This year we had a fabulous solo from Roshni (who had to step up to the task with only a few hours notice!), readings from our Form 6 (who had to learn extra lines due to class sickness) and instrumental skills from James on trumpet, Anaiya on violin and our Bell ringers; Ethan, Rohan, Kaylan, Shayan. All children sang beautifully, performing their parts to perfection. We are so proud of how well everyone conducted themselves; a true representation of the well rounded and accomplished pupils of St David's! A huge "Thank You" to Mr Urie for organising, coordinating and orchestrating the musical composition and rehearsals and for everyone's help during the rehearsal and event.

ROYAL RUSSELL MATHS COMPETITION

On Thursday 13th 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 10 teams in all. Our team was the only one comprised of solely Year 6 children and they 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 6th place finish. Well done to Aaran, Arjunan, Anantha and Elena for their mathematical thinking and problem-solving skills!



LIGHTS, CAMEL, ACTION!

Forms 1 and 2 dazzled on stage with their sparkling performance of Lights, Camel, Action! The children sang, danced, and acted with wonderful confidence as they retold the Nativity story with a joyful, showbiz twist. From enthusiastic judges to groovy shepherds and star-struck camels, every child shone brightly. A huge well done to all the children for their hard work and energy. What a fantastic way to end the term! A special thank you goes to Mr Urie and the musicians for providing the music, and to all the teachers and staff who spent their time and effort helping the children practise and perform



STAFFING NEWS

We wish Miss Abendroth good luck for Spring term 1 as she will be undertaking a placement at Woodcote Primary as part of her QTS qualification. Many thanks in advance to Miss Adam and Mr Legg who will be leading Nursery in her absence until after the February half term.

CHARITIES

This year we asked the pupils in each of our three Houses to nominate local charities to support. The pupils then voted for one charity to be their House's focus for one term. Each house will hold one fundraising event and one collection for their charity. The chosen charities were:



Cygnus- Autumn Term



Leo - Spring Term



Aquila-Summer Term

Form 5 Booster Groups

Maths: Mr Raffield

27th Jan, 3rd Feb, 10th Feb

Verbal Reasoning: Mr Muringapasi

28th Jan, 4th Feb, 11th Feb

English: Miss Varndell

29th Jan, 5th Feb, 12th Feb

Form 6 Lifelab Sessions

First session Thursday 15th January

Then Tuesday afternoons

20th January- 10th February

Clubs

Commence week beginning Monday 12th January

Swimming

Form 1 Monday mornings

Commencing 12th January

Form 4 Wednesday afternoons

Commencing 7th January -11th February

DATE LIST

Wednesday 7th January

Form 4 begin weekly swimming lessons

Friday 9th January

Cygnus sale for Young Roots Charity

Thursday 15th January

EYFS/ KS1 Midnight in the Toyshop workshops

Thursday 22nd January

Form 3 Class Assembly and Bookshare
Form 3 to Chestnut Gardens Care Home
Carrot Wood Meeting for Parents and Children

Wednesday 28th January

Informal Concert

Tuesday 3rd February

Forms 3-6 Visiting French Theatre Company

Wednesday 4th February

Parents Evening

Friday 6th February

Form 5 to Love Languages

Thursday 12th February

Parents Evening

Friday 13th February

PTA Break the Rules Day

Monday 16th- Friday 20th February

Half term

Tuesday 24th February

Happy School Bags

Wednesday 25th February

Young Voices at the O2

Friday 27th February

St David's Day

Infant Movie night (Junior event tbc)

Thursday 5th March

Nursery trip to "Get Fired"

Monday 9th - 11th March

Form 4 to Carrot Wood

Tuesday 10th March

Form 6 Perfect Pitch

Thursday 12th March

Form 3 trip to BEECHE

Form 1 Class Assembly and Bookshare

Monday 16th March

Form 6 running Enterprise Fair (for F1-5)

Wednesday 18th March

Reception to Pizza Express

Thursday 19th March

Form 4 to Chestnut Gardens Care Home

Friday 20th March

School Shop

Tuesday 24th March

Reception Class Assembly and Workshare

Informal Concert

Thursday 26th March

International Day and Food Festival

Friday 27th March- End of Spring Term

PROPOSED HOLIDAY CLUB DATES FOR 2025/2026

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS	W/C 15 TH DECEMBER
FEBRUARY HALF TERM	W/C 16 TH FEBRUARY
EASTER BREAK	W/C 30 TH MARCH/ 6 TH APRIL
MAY HALF TERM	W/C 26 TH MAY
SUMMER HOLIDAYS	W/C 20 TH JULY (FOUR WEEKS)

DRAMA CLUB

This term, the pupils in Drama Club decided to put on an ambitious Christmas production. They came up with a range of inventive and exciting ideas, which we then shaped into a short play.

Their story followed Santa's mischievous older brother, who tampered with the A.I.-programmed elves and switched them to "naughty mode." Chaos quickly ensued as the elves set out to ruin Christmas! Fortunately, the Chief Elf and her tech-savvy sidekick stepped in and saved the day through the power of song, bringing everything to a joyful conclusion.

The pupils loved being involved in every stage of the mini-production, and the rest of the school thoroughly enjoyed the final performance, pulled off brilliantly after only one rehearsal in the Hall! A recording of the show is available in the Parent login area of our website for anyone who would like to watch it.

ART

- Form 1** have been creating winter scenes.
- Form 2** have been recreating Vincent Van Gogh's Starry Night using oil pastels.
- Form 3** have been creating landscape compositions.
- Form 4** have made Norman Shields in DT.
- Form 5** have been studying Pablo Picasso.
- Form 6** have created stunning pop-art donuts.
- Art Club** painted winter lamps



CHRISTMAS ACTIVITY DAY AND LUNCH

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

It kicked off with an assembly, where we enjoyed a medley of Christmassy Popo culture songs finished by a whole school rendition on the 12 Days of Christmas. Head Teacher Commendations were handed out to children who totally wowed us this half term.

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 in our classes

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. On the last day of term, children enjoyed doing games and stories in their families.



WE HOPE EVERYONE HAS A WONDERFUL CHRISTMAS BREAK. WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU ALL BACK ON WEDNESDAY 7TH JANUARY 2026