

MAY 2026 NEWSLETTER



ST DAVID'S
PREPARATORY SCHOOL



A MESSAGE FROM MRS SYRADD

Dear Parents,

Phew! What a busy half-term this has been with so many exciting events and so many achievements for our pupils across the school. Our Open Morning at the start of this half-term was such a proud event for me showcasing all the amazing things that happen every day at St David's and make us the special school that we are. Visitors were impressed by the academic progress pupils make across the school as well as their engagement and ability within the Sport, Music and Art on show. Feedback also centred around how confident and eloquent our pupils were.

Oracy is such an important skill and something we are so passionate about at St David's. In a world that is becoming increasingly constrained and governed by technology, the ability to speak to one another and articulate our thoughts and feelings matters more now than ever before.

Our curriculum carefully plans to provide our pupils with the confidence to have a voice. From engaging our youngest pupils in Nursery and Reception to be able to speak out to their peers and engage orally through play, to Forms 1 and 2 delivering dialogue through role play, presenting to their classes and working in pairs and groups to share ideas and opinions, through to Forms 3-6 being specifically taught the skills of debating, interview practice, public speaking and philosophising. The feedback from people outside of St David's is always one of amazement at the standard our pupils achieve within this area.

This in turn leads to the opportunity across school for pupil voice. Pupils at St David's know that this is their school and they play a part in making decisions and providing feedback on how it can be the best it can be. Responsibilities across school are wide and varied and allow pupils to develop skills of leadership.

This half-term our value of Knowledge was the focus across school. The careful consideration and awareness of the children's feedback in my launch assembly to share how they demonstrate knowledge every day and what they can do to further enhance knowledge was impressive. We were left with the one overriding message that we should always remain curious.

We hope that you will take the time to enjoy reading this newsletter about all the amazing events of the past 6 weeks and, WOW, do we really fit in a lot in a short space of time. Some highlights have been Sustainability Week, Form 6's residential to the Isle of Wight and this week's Sports Week to name but a few. What a wonderful day today was coming together for Sports' Day and a great way to end an exciting half-term.

Have a wonderful half-term break and we look forward to welcoming you back on Tuesday 2nd June.

Mrs Sarah Syradd
Head Teacher

"Speak, so that I may see you." Socrates

LONDON MINI MARATHON

On Saturday 25th April, we were thrilled to secure 15 places in the Mini Marathon, giving a group of our pupils the fantastic opportunity to run 2.6km through central London – finishing along the iconic Mall. Even the sun made an appearance to cheer them on.

The children had an unforgettable morning. They took part in a lively warm-up led by Joe Wicks, tackled the course with huge enthusiasm, and proudly received their medals at the finish line. We hope this experience inspires some of them to take on the full marathon one day.

If you were watching the BBC's marathon coverage, you may even have spotted our young runners in action.



CRICKET AT OAKHYRST GRANGE



Cricket season is officially underway, and the excitement among the children is sky-high. To celebrate the start of the season, pupils from Years 3-6 enjoyed a series of cricket workshops at Oakhyrst Grange. These sessions gave the children a wonderful opportunity to take part in friendly games, develop their skills and build confidence on the pitch.

Both afternoons were a great success. The children had a fantastic time, and we were thrilled to see some impressive skills on display—promising signs for our upcoming cricket fixtures.

FORM 5 CRICKET V ROYAL RUSSELL

Two teams of children from Years 5 and 6 travelled to Royal Russell School for an exciting cricket fixture. For some of the children, it was

their very first competitive match experience.

Not only did we witness some fantastic cricket, but it was also wonderful to see the strong “St David’s” team spirit shining through once again. One child, who had never bowled before, was feeling



nervous about taking part. However, with encouragement and support from her teammates, she surprised herself with her natural talent and quickly became one of our standout bowlers. Across the two matches, one of our teams secured a victory, while the other narrowly missed out after a brilliant effort. Overall, it was a fantastic afternoon of cricket, teamwork, and confidence-building for everyone involved.

ISA CRICKET TOURNAMENT

The ISA Cricket Tournament is one of the biggest sporting events in which we compete each year, and this year's competition was as exciting as ever. Eleven boys from Years 5 and 6 travelled to Rosemead Playing Fields to take part alongside seven other ISA schools.

As always, the standard of cricket was incredibly high, and the boys approached the day with great enthusiasm – not only for the cricket, but also for the much-anticipated free cookies! Throughout the tournament, the team demonstrated excellent sportsmanship, determination and teamwork. We were treated to some fantastic performances, including outstanding bowling, sharp fielding and confident batting.

The excitement continued right to the very end, with the result decided on the final ball of the final game. In a dramatic finish, the boys secured victory and earned an impressive 3rd place overall. They were delighted to be presented with their ISA Bronze medals, a well-deserved reward for all their hard work and commitment.

The celebratory singing on the minibus journey home may not have matched the same high standard as the cricket – but it certainly reflected the team's joy and pride in their achievement!



RECEPTION SWIMMING

This term has been the first time we have taken our Reception children swimming, and we have been absolutely amazed by how well they have done. From travelling on the minibuses, to changing independently before and after swimming, and taking part in the lessons themselves, the children have been fantastic every step of the way.

Week by week, we have seen them consistently listening carefully, growing in confidence and making phenomenal progress. We couldn't be prouder of them.

SPORTS WEEK

On the last (very busy!) week of this half term we enjoyed a host of activities and workshops led by external organisations, Staff, Parents and children including Dance, Golf, Hockey, Rugby, Tennis, Multi Sports and Archery. KS2 enjoyed a thrilling Swimming Gala and the week culminated in our Sports Day. Thank you to everyone who helped run these sessions and for Mrs Hughes for organising an amazing week!



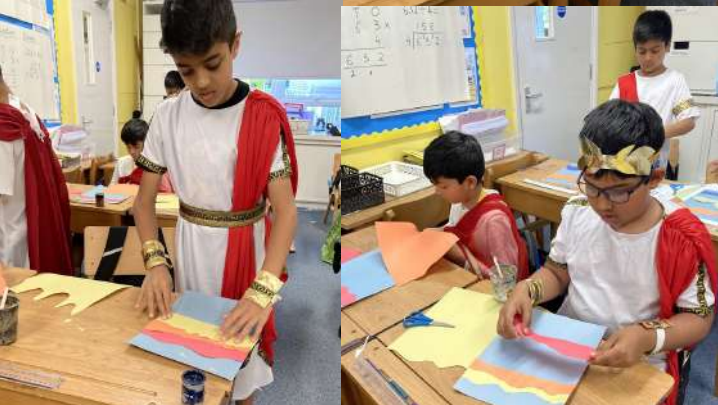
TRI-GOLF

This term has also brought some exciting firsts in PE. Thanks to partial funding from our PTA, all children have had the opportunity to take part in Tri Golf, where they have been learning and developing basic golfing skills. From Form 1 through to Form 6, the children have enjoyed practising their putting and chipping techniques, and their enthusiasm has been wonderful to see. It has been fantastic watching the children try a new sport, build confidence and develop new skills – every child has thoroughly enjoyed the experience.

SCHOOL EVENTS

ANCIENT GREECE DAY

Form 3 enjoyed a fantastic Greek Day filled with exciting activities across all their lessons. The children took part in their own Olympic Games during PE, created beautiful Greek pots in Art, and made collages of ancient Greek buildings in History. Their favourite activity was tasting a variety of delicious Greek foods! The children looked amazing in their creative costumes and thoroughly enjoyed the special day.



ST DAVID'S

PREPARATORY SCHOOL

23-25 Woodcote Valley Road, Purley, Surrey, CR8 3AL

CO-EDUCATIONAL SCHOOL IN PURLEY FOR AGES 3-11



BOOK A PLACE AT OUR UPCOMING
STAY AND PLAY

Thursday 4th June 2026
10-11am at our School Field



PARTNERED WITH THE ROYAL RUSSELL SCHOOL TRUST

DINKY DRAGONS

A Wonderful Half Term of Story

Adventures

This half-term we have enjoyed two wonderfully successful Dinky Dragons mornings, welcoming our 0-4-year-olds, prospective parents and local families for story-inspired fun.

Our first session centred around Goldilocks and the Three Bears, where children explored sensory activities and creative crafts linked to the much-loved tale. More recently, we embarked on an imaginative journey with We're Going on a Bear Hunt, bringing the story to life through movement, messy play and outdoor exploration.

Both sessions were full of curiosity, fun and busy hands as our youngest visitors immersed themselves in playful learning. It has been a joy to see families joining in and experiencing the warm, nurturing atmosphere at St David's. We look forward to welcoming more Dinky Dragons next academic year

STAY AND PLAY

A Morning of Sunshine, Smiles
and Shared Fun

This half term we were delighted to host our Stay and Play at the Field, welcoming Nursery and Reception parents as well as prospective families for a relaxed morning of outdoor learning and discovery.

The field came alive with activity as children experimented with magic potion-making in the mud kitchen, created inventive junk-model designs (complete with homemade binoculars), and navigated an energetic obstacle course along our newly painted running tracks.

There was also a strong mathematical buzz, with children exploring doubles using dominoes and through a vibrant butterfly-printing activity, folding the wings to reveal symmetrical patterns.

The atmosphere was filled with laughter, engagement and proud moments as families shared in the joy of early learning. We loved welcoming everyone to our outdoor space and look forward to more community events on the field. Our next Stay and Play will be Thursday 4th June.

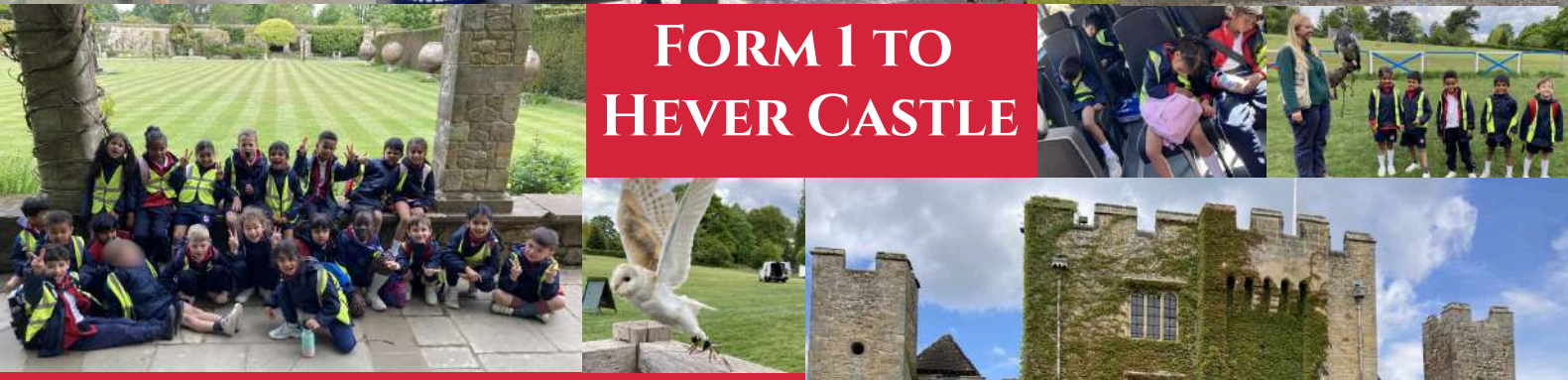
SCHOOL EVENTS

FORM 6 ISLE OF WIGHT TRIP

Form 6 arrived in school full of excitement on Monday 11th May, ready for their trip to the Isle of Wight. Following a long drive to Lymington Ferry Port, they made a crossing to Yarmouth and began a busy week of visits and activities. The first stop was Alum Bay, where they witnessed glass being made, explored The Needles Old Battery and made sand shapes using multi-coloured sand. Next stop was The Royson hotel in Shanklin, their home for the week. On Tuesday, Form 6 took on the sea on a giant 'tanker' at Wight Water before visiting Monkey Haven in the afternoon, where they saw some amazing animals! On Wednesday, they explored Carisbrooke Castle, before heading to Ryde for tree climbing - an exciting and exhausting experience! Thursday saw the class head to Robin Hill where they enjoyed a falconry display, explored squirrel tower and trampolines in the canopy as well as racing on the famous toboggan ride; the busy day was finished with a trip to Sky Nets in Sandown. Friday, the final day on the IOW, saw Form 6 pack their bags before enjoying their last breakfast and heading out to play Dino Golf. Later in the day the ferry brought the class safely to Portsmouth and their coach journey home - it certainly was a quieter journey than the one they had made on Monday!



FORM 1 TO HEVER CASTLE



Form 1 had so much fun at Hever Castle and Gardens. We explored the grounds, castle and maze. Mrs Hibberd was even chased by a goose! Form 1 thought it was very funny! We met four amazing birds of prey who we got to see fly and swoop through the air. Florence the eagle was stuck in a tree for a while but once she came out we were able to have our photos taken with her. We were so exhausted that we fell asleep on the way back to school.



In April this year, St. David's held a fantastic Sustainability Week that was thoroughly enjoyed by all. The aim of the week was to highlight the environmental challenges facing our world and to build awareness of how we can all play a part in protecting the planet for future generations. Throughout the week, pupils took part in a wide range of exciting and thought-provoking activities.

A peaceful "Drop Everything and Read" session was held outdoors, giving children and staff the opportunity to enjoy reading in nature and reflect on the importance of spending time outside.



We were delighted to welcome Drama Geezers, who used interactive sessions to explore ways of tackling environmental issues such as pollution and harm to wildlife, focusing on the importance of reducing, reusing and recycling.

Creativity was a key theme throughout the week. In art lessons, children enjoyed junk modelling, transforming everyday waste materials into imaginative creations. Pupils also made their own biodegradable plant pots and planted sunflower seeds, giving them the chance to nurture their plants and observe growth over the coming months.



Our catering partners, Thomas Franks, delivered engaging Earth Day workshops, sharing eye-opening statistics about food waste in Britain and encouraging pupils to think more carefully about consumption and waste. Form 3 pupils took part in a zero-waste cooking workshop with Thomas Franks caterers, where they made delicious Korean-style pancakes while learning how to minimise food waste in the kitchen.

Fashion met sustainability in our upcycling workshops led by Jenine Lee, where pupils designed and created new garments from old clothing. The week culminated in a lively fashion show, proudly showcasing their innovative designs. Additionally, Green Up Your Act led workshops where children crafted notebooks and fish using recycled materials, giving them practical ideas for reusing items at home.



Sustainability Week was not only enjoyable but also highly educational. Pupils developed a deeper understanding of environmental issues and gained practical skills that empower them to make more sustainable choices in their everyday lives. They learned that even small actions (such as reducing waste, reusing materials and caring for nature) can make a meaningful difference.

We would like to extend our thanks to everyone who helped make the week such a success, including our staff, visiting organisations, generous donations from parents and funding support from the PTA. Together, we are helping to inspire the next generation to care for and protect our planet

WALK TO SCHOOL WEEK

The children of St. David's recently designed badges for our upcoming Walk to School Week (18th-22nd May). Following a fantastic range of entries, 12 winning designs were selected by the Pupil Leadership Team and Eco Warriors.

Each time your child walked to school during the week, they were able to choose one of the winning badge designs to wear that day. We were delighted to see families walking from the designated points suggested.



FORM 3 AND 4 TRIP TO BOUGH BEECH



Forms 3 and 4 were delighted to visit Bough Beech, an education centre in Edenbridge run by the SES Water Team. As Purley's water is supplied by SES Water, this was a fantastic opportunity for the children to learn more about where our water comes from and how we can help to conserve it. The visit linked closely with Form 4's learning about the water cycle this year, as well as our wider focus on sustainability.

During the visit, the children took part in two engaging activities. The first included a trip to the impressive reservoir, which holds an incredible 10 billion litres of water. The children learned about the River Eden, how water travels from the river to the Bough Beech Reservoir, and the different activities that take place on the water. They also discovered more about the wildlife that lives in and around the reservoir.

The second activity focused on the treatment of water and the various processes it goes through before it is safe for us to drink. The children were fascinated to get up close to the water tanks and filtration systems, gaining a real insight into how clean drinking water is produced.

We explored how much water is used in everyday household activities. Did you know that 1 cubic metre of water can make approximately 3,300 cups of tea? The children also learned practical ways to save water and each child took home a four-minute shower timer to encourage shorter showers and reduce water waste.

The children were exceptionally well-behaved throughout the trip and were a wonderful representation of the pupils we have here at St. David's.

UKMT

The children in Form 6 and a number of our Form 5 and 4 children took part in the UK Mathematics Trust Junior Challenge this month. All took on the challenge with great enthusiasm to pit themselves against some of the most challenging maths questions out there! The challenge is open to children up to Year 8, so we are very proud that all the children were so enthusiastic and determined to get involved. Sivansh (Form 5) scored the highest mark in the school and also achieved the benchmark to receive a formal invitation to take part in the UKMT Kangaroo in June - an outstanding achievement.



Form 5 recently enjoyed a wonderful visit to Chestnut Gardens Care Home this half term, building on the success of previous visits and continuing to strengthen our links with the local community. During the afternoon, pupils spent time painting with the residents, bringing calm focus, patience and plenty of smiles to every interaction.

The pupils took great delight in helping the residents paint flowers and fruits, using the step-by-step guides we brought along. The care-home staff commented on how lovely it was to see residents, who are usually very quiet, chatting away to our pupils, and staff remarked on what lovely children they are.

The residents thoroughly enjoyed both the painting and the opportunity to talk with the pupils, and they were especially touched when the children chose to leave their artwork behind for them to keep and enjoy.

Experiences like this are invaluable in helping our pupils develop a strong sense of community, empathy and connection with others. We are already looking forward to our next visit after half term, when Form 6 will be heading to Chestnut Gardens.

PTA SPENDING

Form 2 bought games, a class camera, colouring pencils and books using their PTA money. The class camera has been a fantastic addition.



Many lessons are hands-on or in small groups, so it has been really helpful to capture work and include it in their books.

We are incredibly grateful for the PTA's generous Form Fund support. So far this year, Form 3 have been able to purchase a range of resources to enrich the children's learning experiences, including puzzles to develop problem-solving and spatial reasoning skills, pens to inspire creativity, and a selection of books chosen by the children themselves to broaden their opportunities for reading for pleasure. These resources have already had a positive impact in the classroom and are thoroughly enjoyed by the children - thank you.



Form 4 are delighted with the new additions to their classroom which will facilitate their creative output! Several beautiful new sets of coloured pencils and pens, an impressive array of colouring and 'how to draw' books for those quiet moments (and for the more noisy 'wet play' lunchtimes!) and some mini whiteboards and pens to spice up their lesson time. A huge 'thank you' to the PTA for their generosity - as always, it is greatly appreciated





INFORMAL CONCERT

The final informal concert of the year in the Music Room included a variety of performances from children from Form 2 to Form 6. Well done to all the children who performed in all of our informal concerts throughout the year and we look forward to hosting many more in the next academic year.



The Chamber Choir had another exciting visit to Chestnut Gardens Care Home, where they sang a selection of familiar songs for the resident who enjoyed joining in immensely. This was a great opportunity to integrate with the community and the residents said how much they are already looking forward to our next visit!

SAFEGUARDING PRACTICES

Safety of pupils is always our number one priority and we regularly carry out safety practices.

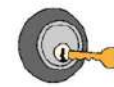
On 21st April we undertook an after school fire drill to evacuate pupils from after school club and extra-curricular activities. We were super impressed at how quickly we exited and were accounted for.

On 5th May we undertook a whole school lockdown practice securing the site and ensuring every single pupil and staff member hid out of sight in silence.

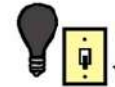
We are so proud of our pupils and how responsible they are in supporting us to keep them safe.



Lockdown Drill



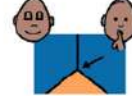
door locked



lights off



blinds closed



safe corner

PENCIL BOLLARDS

We were delighted to see the installation of the new pencil bollards and painting of the railings outside of school during the Easter holidays. This was the result of last year's PLT working with Councillor Samir Dwesar and Croydon Council to seek a zebra crossing for Woodcote Valley Road. Although we were not successful in our bid for this, as a measure to support us and make us more visible to the passing traffic they agreed to install these bollards and paint our safety rails. Well done to our pupils for using their voice to achieve positive outcomes.



Dear St David's Prep Families,

What a wonderful and busy half term it has been! We have lots of exciting news to share, from class fund updates to upcoming events. Thank you as always for your incredible support of the PTA.

☀️ Summer Fair 2026

Mark your calendars – the Summer Fair is almost here!

 Date: Saturday 27th June 2026

 Time: 1:00pm – 4:00pm

We need YOUR help to make this year's fair a fantastic success! Volunteers are needed throughout the afternoon and there is something for everyone to get involved with.

👉 **Volunteers Needed!** A volunteer sign-up form will be shared via your class reps. Please sign up to help – every pair of hands makes a real difference!

🌍 This Term's Enrichment Activity

Mission Save Our Planet

This term's enrichment activity was the brilliant Mission Save Our Planet, held on Earth Day, 22nd April 2026. The session was hosted by the fantastic Drama Geezers – what an inspiring and fun experience for the children!

Thank you for all your wonderful support.

Best wishes

Manolee and Deepa

PTA Chairs

STAFFING NEWS

We are very sad to say goodbye to two members of staff at the end of the Summer Term. Mrs Hibberd in Form 1 will be leaving us to continue her Phonics tutoring and Mr Muringapasi is retiring after working at St David's for 16 years! He plans to return to Zimbabwe and start a chicken farm!

READING CHALLENGE



As May is 'Get caught reading' month we are setting a reading challenge for St David's pupils to find the most interesting reading place and have someone photograph them in it. Please upload the photograph

to your child's Google Classroom for the Reading Leaders to choose the winners. Good luck!

10 Before 10

How is your child doing with their reading challenge?

We have carefully chosen a list of books to read by a certain age. These have been chosen to showcase a range of genres and develop reading skills. Once each pupil reads a book they should ask for the comprehension questions for that book to tick it off on their list. Prizes are up for grabs for being half-way through the list and for completing their list before they turn 8/9/10/11 years old.

Form 5 Booster Groups

Maths: Mr Raffield

2nd, 9th and 16th June

Verbal Reasoning: Mr Muringapasi

3rd, 10th and 17th June

English: Miss Varndell

4th, 11th and 18th June

Swimming

Reception

Monday mornings commencing 8th June

Form 5

Wednesdays 3rd and 24th June and 1st July

Form 3

Wednesday 10th and 17th June

DATE LIST

Thursday 4th June

EYFS Stay and Play 10-11am

Friday 5th June

Parent Forum 2-3pm

Monday 8th June

ESB Assessments

Form 5&6 Leo House Sponsored Walk/ Run

Tuesday 9th June

Drama4All Workshops Nursery- Form 2
Form 3&4 Leo House Sponsored Walk/ Run

Thursday 11th June

EYFS Teddy Bear's Picnic 10-11am
Form 1&2 Leo House Sponsored Walk/ Run

Friday 12th June

Titanic Day

EYFS Leo House Sponsored Walk/ Run

Monday 15th June

Form 5 Debating Competition

Tuesday 16th June

Lower School Trip to Hobbledown

Wednesday 17th June

PTA New Parents Drinks 6.30-8pm

Thursday 18th June

Form 6 trip to the British Library

Friday 19th June

Form 5 trip to British Library

Tuesday 23rd June

Happy School Bags Collection

Wednesday 24th and Thursday 25th June

Form 6 Production

Thursday 25th June

EYFS Teddy Bear's Picnic 10-11am

Friday 26th June

Mufti Day and Bottle Tombola Donations

Saturday 27th June

Summer Fair

Tuesday 30th June

Nursery Graduation Assembly and Workshare

Wednesday 1st July

Moving up time

Staff v Form 6 Rounders

Thursday 2nd July

End of Year Celebration at St Mark's (F3-6)

Friday 3rd July

Winning House Trip to Oaks Park

Monday 6th July

Form 6 Leavers Assembly

Tuesday 7th July

End of Summer Term

ST DAVID'S
PREPARATORY SCHOOL

DATES CAN BE
BOOKED FOR THE
WHOLE WEEK OR
INDIVIDUAL DAYS!

THE DRAGONS

MAY HOLIDAY CLUB

TUESDAY 26TH - FRIDAY 29TH
MAY

£43 PER DAY, £5 FOR EARLY DROP OFF AND LATE COLLECTION

JOIN US FOR CRAFTS,
COMPETITIONS, GAMES AND
LOTS MORE!

NURSERY TO FORM 6
9-5PM

OPTIONAL EXTRA 8AM-9AM AND 5PM-6PM

BOOKINGS AVAILABLE BY EMAILING
US, VISITING OUR LINKTREE OR
SCANNING THE QR CODE.



ANY QUESTIONS PLEASE EMAIL:
STDAVIDSAFTERSCHOOL@ROYALRUSSELL.CO.UK

ST DAVID'S
PREPARATORY SCHOOL

MORE
DETAILS
COMING
SOON

THE DRAGONS

SUMMER HOLIDAY CLUB

COMMENCING 20TH JULY
MONDAY- FRIDAY FOR FOUR
WEEKS

£43 PER DAY, £5 FOR EARLY DROP OFF AND LATE COLLECTION

JOIN US FOR CRAFTS, COMPETITIONS, GAMES AND LOTS MORE!



NURSERY TO FORM 6
9-5PM



OPTIONAL EXTRA 8AM-9AM AND 5PM-6PM

BOOKINGS AVAILABLE SOON

ANY QUESTIONS PLEASE EMAIL:
STDAVIDSAFTERSCHOOL@ROYALRUSSELL.CO.UK



Hello
Summer!



PLEASE BE REMINDED MONDAY 1ST

JUNE IS AN INSET DAY.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU
ALL AGAIN ON TUESDAY 2ND JUNE FOR
SUMMER TERM 2.