

OCTOBER '26 NEWSLETTER



ST DAVID'S
PREPARATORY SCHOOL



A WELCOME FROM MRS SYRADD, OUR HEAD TEACHER

It has been great to be back for the start of another academic year and it seems incredible that it is already half-term. We have been impressed with how the pupils have settled back in and are engaging so purposefully in their learning. Alongside this our new pupils have settled in so well it is as if they have always been here. We were particularly impressed with Nursery who joined us for their first ever assembly to celebrate Harvest.

Learning is a joy at St David's and this is strengthened by the creativity of the staff to make lessons engaging and to use trips and visitors to enhance further. In just 6 weeks we have experienced sports' fixtures, a visit to the Globe Theatre, Egyptian Day, a visit to and workshop from the Polka Theatre, Portals to the Past workshop, a Teddy Bears' Picnic and a rainbow of EYFS colour days to name just a few.

Our Pupil Leadership Team have begun their pupil leadership with purpose, collecting ideas for a new climbing frame, meeting with a local playground developer to discuss ideas and reviewing some generated designs for feedback. We are excited to see what they will achieve over the coming year.

We are always proud of the character of our St David's pupils and this has been evident in many ways across this half-term. Our Governors, Mrs Shirley Thompson and Mrs

Michelle Grant, conducted interviews with our Form 6 pupils ahead of their transition to secondary school and fed-back just how impressed they were with their aptitude to articulate themselves and engage so animatedly. We also saw this in action as pupils conducted tours as part of our recent Open Morning. These are skills we embed so carefully through our curriculum and the pupils' ability to demonstrate these should not be underestimated.

We have once again focused on our value of Strength this half-term and in particular reminded pupils that using their strengths, following their passions and believing in themselves will shape their future selves. As we considered this alongside some inspirational Black History figures such as Katherine Johnson, Benjamin Zephaniah, Maya Angelou, Mae Jemison, Frederick Douglass and Sheku Kanneh-Mason we reflected on what the future may hold for us all and we agreed that being a St David's pupil meant the future was very bright indeed!

Enjoy the break and we cannot wait to welcome you back on 2nd November.

Mrs Sarah Syradd
Head Teacher



"Every great dream begins with a dreamer. Always remember, you have within you the strength, the patience, and the passion to reach for the stars to change the world." Harriet Tubman

EARLY YEARS

START OF AUTUMN TERM

We were so excited to welcome our children back into school. Some graduated from Nursery to Reception and some were starting St David's for the first time. We hope they have all enjoyed their first half term as much as we have.



EYFS TO PURLEY LIBRARY

Nursery and Reception enjoyed a lovely visit to Purley Library. 📖 ✨ The children explored the wonderful selection of books, shared stories together and learned more about their local library. It was a fantastic opportunity to encourage our youngest learners' love of books and reading! 💖 📚



COLOUR DAYS



Our EYFS children have loved celebrating our special Colour Days! ❤️ 💙 💚 Each week, the children have enjoyed wearing the chosen colour and taking part in colourful themed activities across the curriculum. 🎨 ✨ These fun days have provided wonderful opportunities for creativity, conversation and learning together



TEDDY BEARS PICNIC

Our EYFS children had a wonderful time at our special Teddy Bear's Picnic! 🧸🌳 Nursery and Reception were delighted to welcome children from two local nurseries to join in the fun. Everyone brought along their favourite teddy and enjoyed a morning of exciting activities, outdoor learning and a picnic together. 🧺🍎 It was a lovely opportunity to make new friends, share our fantastic outdoor environment and give our visitors a taste of life at St David's. ✨



SPORT

What a lovely start to the year! We have had some wonderful sporting fixtures from Form 2 all the way through to Form 6.

U11 FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT AT RR

An early highlight of the year was the Year 5 & 6 Football Tournament at Royal Russell. Our squad included boys from both year groups, alongside a few talented Year 4 pupils, and they were outstanding from start to finish.

The team played some fantastic football throughout the competition, progressing confidently to the final and dropping just one point along the way. The final against Royal Russell was a tense, end-to-end match, with both teams creating chances. In a thrilling finish, our boys secured a 1-0 victory to be crowned tournament champions!

The players showed tremendous teamwork, determination, and skill throughout the day, making us incredibly proud. To say the boys, and their parents, were over the moon with the result would be an understatement. A huge congratulations to all involved on a brilliant achievement!



SPORTS ENRICHMENT

We were delighted to take a group of Year 5 and 6 children to Trinity School for a morning of fitness challenges and learning about sports psychology. The children were outstanding throughout and we were incredibly proud to receive compliments from other staff about both their ability and exemplary behaviour.



U9 NETBALL V CUMNOR

Form 3 and 4 girls played against Cumnor Girls school for a netball fixture. For a lot of them it was their first game; to say we were proud is an understatement! They listened, worked together and played some lovely netball, both teams walking away with 1-1 draws.



U11 GIRLS FOOTBALL V CHSG

At the end of a very busy week, our girls' football team travelled to Croydon High School. The girls more than held their own throughout the matches, and it was fantastic to see their confidence and improvement grow as the games progressed. This half term, we have been working hard on passing, dribbling, tackling and reading the game. It was wonderful to see the girls putting these skills into practice and demonstrating them so effectively on the pitch.

U9 CROSS COUNTRY

We took 10 children from Years 3 and 4 to Royal Russell School to compete in the Croydon Schools' Cross Country event. The challenging 1,300m course took runners across fields and through woodland, and for many of our pupils it was their very first race. Despite some pre-race nerves, every child represented the school brilliantly, crossing the finish line exhausted but smiling. With over 150 competitors in each race, our runners performed exceptionally well, with many finishing in the top half of the field.



U11 CROSS COUNTRY



14 children from Forms 5 and 6 travelled to Royal Russell School to take part in the Croydon Schools' Cross Country event. Despite the wet weather and a longer course, all our runners showed fantastic determination and resilience, finishing the race soaked but smiling! We are incredibly proud of how they represented St David's. A special congratulations to Kelechi, who achieved an outstanding 5th-place finish. Well done to all involved!

FORM 4 FOOTBALL V OAKHYRST GRANGE

Our Form 4 class enjoyed an exciting afternoon of football at Oakhyrst Grange as part of their Games lesson. The children had a fantastic time, demonstrating great enthusiasm, teamwork and skill throughout. It was wonderful to see their confidence grow as they played some excellent football and represented the school so positively.



FORM 2 FOOTBALL V OAKHYRST GRANGE

Ten children from Year 2 enjoyed their very first school football fixture at Oakhyrst. It was a wonderful afternoon filled with fun games. The children represented the school brilliantly, showing great enthusiasm, teamwork and sportsmanship throughout. They were a pleasure to take and a joy to watch.



U11 NETBALL V CUMNOR

Two teams of Form 5 and 6 girls headed to Cumnor School for a netball fixture. The umpiring was particularly strict, meaning every pass and footwork decision was closely monitored! Although the result did not go our way, it was a closely contested match, and the girls played some fantastic netball throughout. We were proud of the skill, teamwork and determination they showed from start to finish.



ISA SWIMMING GALA

Five of our Form 5 and 6 pupils represented the school at the ISA Swimming Gala, a prestigious competition held in an Olympic-sized pool. Competing in a 50-metre pool for the first time was a huge challenge, but the children rose to the occasion superbly.

As always, they demonstrated determination, resilience and excellent sportsmanship, producing some fantastic performances and impressive

finishing positions. We were incredibly proud of their achievements, and to top off a wonderful day, Kelechi came second with the backstroke and Sophia came third in the breaststroke!



PORTALS TO THE PAST

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 children 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 learnt how to defuse a bomb in a pressurised environment. It was an absolutely fantastic day and the whole class really enjoyed the experience.



HARVEST ASSEMBLY & PURLEY FOOD HUB

On Thursday 15th October, we celebrated our Harvest Festival. Rev Fiona Weaver led an Assembly complete with Harvest songs accompanied by our talented instrumental club. Thank you so much to all our parents for their overwhelming generosity in donations. These were taken by our PLT to the Purley Food Hub and were gratefully received.

Parent Forums

We are delighted to launch our termly Parent Forums this year. These meetings are designed to provide a regular opportunity for parents to raise questions, suggestions or feedback through their class representatives. They will also give us the chance to share new initiatives, seek your views on recent developments and strengthen the partnership between home and school.

Our first Parent Forum will take place on **Tuesday 17th November** at 8.30am in the Pavilion.

Class representatives are invited to attend, or they may nominate another parent from their class to attend on their behalf. To help us make the most of the meeting, we will send out a Google Form during the preceding week, giving all parents the opportunity to submit questions or topics they would like discussed in advance.

We look forward to hearing your views and working together to continue enhancing the experience of all children and families within our school community.

FORM 5 SCIENCE

Form 5 have been investigating the effect of air resistance by designing and making their own parachutes. They each created three square parachutes of different sizes and recorded the speed of their descent when they were dropped from a height. They wrote up their investigation and analysed their results to draw a conclusion about the effect of the size of the parachute linking it to air resistance



FORM 3 ANCIENT EGYPTIAN DAY

Form 3 had a fantastic time celebrating Egyptian Day, taking part in a range of exciting activities, including decorating their own sarcophagi and creating mummies out of clay. They also enjoyed trying their hand at archery during PE and tasting delicious Egyptian food at lunchtime!



FORM 5 TRIP TO THE GLOBE AND TATE MODERN

Form 5 had a fantastic trip to London this half term to visit the Globe Theatre and Tate Modern. They learnt about the history of the Globe Theatre and tested their acting skills in a brilliant drama workshop based on 'The Tempest' led by a professional actor. After lunch, there was a visit to the Tate Modern where they saw some interesting sculptures and explored the installations. A fantastic day was enjoyed by

FORM 1 TRIP TO THE POLKA THEATRE

Form 1 have been enjoying reading Toto, the story of a donkey who dreams of becoming an astronaut. They loved their visit to Polka Theatre in Wimbledon, where they enjoyed an amazing interactive show full of singing and dancing. They then took part in a special theatre workshop in school, learning that we should never give up on our dreams!



FORM 6 PRACTICE INTERVIEWS AND NEXT STEPS

This half term, our Governors conducted practice interviews with Form 6 to prepare them for their secondary school applications. The children had to prepare a summary of one of their main interests and talk about why they would be a great addition to their next school. The Governors were incredibly impressed by the wide array of knowledge and skills demonstrated by Form 6 and were so complimentary of the confident, eloquent and accomplished children we have here at St David's. We wish all of Form 6 the best of luck as they begin their assessment and interview period as they look towards their next big step of applying for Secondary Schools!

HALLOWEEN BREAKFAST CLUB

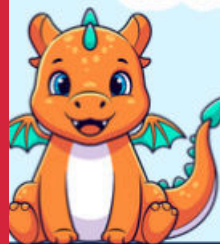


We enjoyed our first themed breakfast club of the year; Halloween! Children could choose boo-nana milk, ghost toast, pancakes and hot chocolate as well as the usual cereal and fruit options. This was all finished off with craft and games.

Book now for the Christmas Breakfast Club on Wednesday 16th December by emailing us.

We are delighted to invite you to

Dinky Dragons



CHILDREN UP TO
AGE 4 WELCOME

Join us for playtime, activities,
stories and snacks



BOOK HERE

Thursday 12th November 10am - 11.00am

Thursday 26th November 10am - 11.00am



BOOK A PLACE AT
OUR UPCOMING STAY
AND PLAY

Thursday 19th November
10-11am at our School Field

PTA UPDATE



Dear Parents and Carers,

The PTA has been busy working on things behind the scenes, and we're excited to share what's coming up this term.

Volunteers needed

We're looking for helpers for Eldridge's. If you can volunteer, please get in contact with us.

Christmas cards

Please remember to submit your Christmas card order by 12pm on Wednesday 21st October 2026.

COMING UP...

Sunday 1st November: Grand Firework Display at Woodcote.

We've been invited by our friends at Woodcote Primary and Woodcote High to share in their wonderful Bonfire Night event, and they are kindly donating a percentage of ticket sales to our PTA. More details to follow.

Entry from 5:00pm, fireworks at 6:30pm. Entry is via Woodcote Primary School.

Tickets: Adults £7.50, Children £5.00, Under 2s free.

Book [HERE](#)

Monday 16th November: Happy School Bags

A great opportunity to go through any unused clothes. Our team will happily take them off your hands.

Friday 20th November: Parents' Quiz Night

By popular demand, it's back! With great thanks to some lovely parents who are helping to run the event.

Friday 27th November: Christmas Disco

Please watch out for comms regarding ticket sales.

Friday 4th December: Elfridges

Please watch out for comms regarding ticket sales.

Monday 14th December: Chaplins Mini Panto "Goldilocks"

Our in-house Christmas panto.

Wednesday 16th December: Christmas Panto at Fairfield Halls.

Thank you, as always, for your support. We hope you all have a lovely half term break!

Warm wishes,

Manolee and Deepa, PTA Co-Chairs, St David's Prep

MEET THE SLT

A big thank you to everyone who was able to join us for the Meet the SLT Coffee Mornings at the start of term. It was a great opportunity for us to provide some feedback following last year's parents survey. We really do value all feedback and use this to review our current practice and explore new ideas to ensure St David's continues to be the best we can be.

We hope that you have found our new 'Roadmap' useful in showcasing the highlights planned within each year group to support their journey to secondary school. If you would like a copy of this, please email the Office.



ISI

Independent
Schools
Inspectorate

We were delighted to receive our ISI Inspection Report earlier this half-term. The report confirmed that St David's is fully compliant meeting all standards in full. Our identified strengths were:

- Strong leadership and Governance
- Recognition of a broad, ambitious and enriching curriculum
- Excellent Early Years provision creating a nurturing environment for pupils to thrive and make progress
- Positive attitudes to learning, good behaviour and strong progress from starting points
- A culture of pastoral care and wellbeing enabling pupils to build confident, resilient, positive relationships
- Extensive opportunities for pupil leadership, responsibility and community engagement
- Strong promotion of equality, diversity and British values resulting in respectful and considerate pupils
- Robust safeguarding arrangements

Our recommended next step was to provide opportunities for pupils to reflect on, evaluate and assess their own learning consistently across all subjects. This is something we have been focusing on since the Summer Term.

If you have not yet had a chance, please read the report in full [here](#).

NOTICES

We are looking forward to hosting our first informal concert of this academic year after half term. If your child wishes to perform in one of these, please speak to Mr Urie.

Also, if your child has passed any recent music exams, please pass this on to Mr Urie so we can celebrate your child's achievement



MUSIC LESSONS AT ST DAVID'S

We currently have lessons offered by Visiting Music Teachers for drums, piano, flute, guitar, clarinet, saxophone, violin, trumpet and trombone. If you would like to find out more information about having lessons, please contact Mr Urie. Some of our children who play the trumpet, clarinet and violin regularly perform in assemblies, the Nativity plays and even the Christmas Celebration in the church this year. If you would like to join in with our amazing playing, start having lessons as soon as possible!



We really encourage parents to follow our Social Media Accounts. You can get a full view of all the amazing activities our children are getting up to including reminders and updates. Follow us now on Instagram and Facebook.

ISA COMPETITION

Earlier this term Mr MacGregor attended the yearly ISA Regional Art Competition, held in Brighton. The standard of work was exceptionally high but we are pleased to congratulate the following children on some incredible results:

2D Art Lower KS2



2nd Place Jaden Pillai "Mask"

2D Art Upper KS2

Highly Commended Enxi Liu "Over the Road"

2D Group KS1



1st Place Form 2 (now Form 3) "Beach Huts"

2D Group KS2

Highly Commended Art Club "Diamonds"

3D Group KS2

Highly Commended Art Club "Circles"

Drawing KS2



1st Place Ethan Man "London Underground"

Sketchbook KS2



1st Place Enxi Liu

Photography KS2



2nd Place Rohan Parmar "Light Coils"

Enxi, Ethan and Form 3's winning pieces will now be travelling to the National Competition in November where we wish them further success!



DATE LIST- AUTUMN 2

Tuesday 3rd November

Informal Concert

Thursday 5th November

Look at Learning (all Forms except for 5)

Perform 4 All Workshops Reception- Form 3

Thursday 12th November

Form 5 Class Assembly and Bookshare

10am - 11am Dinky Dragons

Friday 13th November

Children in Need/ Pyjama Day/ Chocolate tombola donations

Monday 16th November

Happy School Bags collection

Tuesday 17th November

8.30am Parent Forum in the Pavillion

Wednesday 18th November

7pm - 8pm Transition Meeting for Forms 4 and 5 Parents

Thursday 19th November

10am - 11am Stay and Play

Friday 20th November

Forms 3 and 4 to Polka Theatre

Saturday 21st November

South London Harriers Cross Country

ISEB for Form 6

Wednesday 25th November

8.45am EYFS Nativity

Thursday 26th November

10am - 11am Dinky Dragons

Friday 27th November

Mufti Day

PTA Infant and Junior Discos

Wednesday 2nd December

8.45am KS1 Nativity

Thursday 3rd December

Form 2 to "Christmas Unwrapped"

Chamber Choir to Purley Gardens Care Home

Friday 4th December

Forms 3 and 4 Polka Workshop

13.30-15.40 PTA "Elfridges" in Hall

Wednesday 9th December

Chamber Choir singing at Tesco

Thursday 10th December

F3-6 Christmas Rehearsals at St Mark's Church

EYFS Christmas Party with Santa

6pm Christmas Celebration at St Mark's Church

Monday 14th December

Whole School Pantomime- Goldilocks

Tuesday 15th December

Christmas Lunch and Activity Day

Wednesday 16th December

Christmas Breakfast Club

Last Day of Term

**Advance notice: Half day on Thursday 1st July 2027
for the End of Year Celebration**

Form 5 Booster Groups

Maths: Mr Raffield 3rd, 10th and 17th November

Verbal Reasoning: Mrs Barr 4th, 11th and 18th November

English: Miss Varndell 5th, 12th and 19th November

Swimming

Form 2 on Monday mornings

3rd November - 1st December

Form 3 on Wednesday afternoons

5th November - 3rd December



ST DAVID'S
PREPARATORY SCHOOL

THE DRAGONS
HOLIDAY CLUBS 2026-2027

NURSERY TO FORM 6
9-5PM
OPTIONAL EXTRA 8AM-9AM AND 5PM-6PM

BOOKINGS AVAILABLE VIA OUR WEBSITE OR BY EMAILING US.

PROPOSED DATES

OCTOBER HALF TERM	W/C 26 TH OCTOBER
CHRISTMAS BREAK	17 TH & 18 TH AND 21 ST -23 RD DECEMBER
FEBRUARY HALF TERM	W/C 15 TH FEBRUARY
EASTER BREAK	30 TH MARCH - 2 ND APRIL, W/C 5 TH APRIL
MAY HALF TERM	1 ST - 4 TH JUNE
SUMMER HOLIDAYS	W/C 26 TH JULY (FIVE WEEKS)

EASTER AND MAY HOLIDAY CLUBS DO NOT INCLUDE THE BANK HOLIDAYS

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



We are excited to announce that BB Soccer have now opened up their Tuesday after school session to Nursery class. If you wish to enroll or do a free trial, please refer to the email sent to parents before the half term break.

**WE HOPE EVERYONE HAS A
WONDERFUL HALF TERM. WE LOOK
FORWARD TO SEEING YOU ALL BACK
ON MONDAY 2ND NOVEMBER**

**ALL CHILDREN SHOULD RETURN IN
WINTER UNIFORM**