

Friday 16th December

Dear Parents,

Mrs Foulger writes...

Well, this Christmas end of term has felt so much better! With five live performances in the hall, our carol service last week at St John's church and yesterday's Christmas lunch, we feel back on track. The school has felt wrapped in warmth and joy as the children have each performed and given their all. One of my favourite things is sitting in the audience and watching the faces of proud parents and grandparents; 'bursting with pride' certainly sums it up, and some...

My huge thanks to all the staff. None of these events just happen on the day. Weeks are spent reviewing scripts, choosing songs, fighting over hall space, arranging staging and lighting, sorting costumes, practising to the sweet point of perfection between under rehearsing and keeping the children's interest. Somehow, they managed to pull it off once again. Each year group from our very little pre-reception sheep, right through to our Year 6 readers and soloists, all demonstrated the confidence and pride we have come to expect from our St David's children.

Amidst all the excitement of what is going on, on the stage, it can be easy to forget the messages being told through words, acting and songs. I am not sure I should have favourites but one song really stood out for me this year. Year 5 sang at the carol service, 'Beautiful Christmas', with the words;

'Christmas is for sharing, for caring'. I immediately thought of our entrance hall, filled with your generous donations for Living Well foodbank and the many other ways you have each helped and supported families throughout the year. Thank you.

And later in the song, 'And if we all pray, maybe for one day we could have peace on earth.' Powerful words at this time when there seems to be so much conflict and unrest around us.

May we all play our part in bringing peace and joy to others this Christmas and may we all keep 'sharing and caring'.

On behalf of all the staff, I wish you the very best of breaks. Enjoy time with family and friends and keep well,

Love and peace be with you all,

Julia Foulger







BOOK FAIR UPDATE

Mrs Bishop writes...

We would like to say a massive thank you to all of the children and parents who supported our Book Fair this year. Your generosity has resulted in an amazing £750 for us to spend on books for the school. We have picked a few of the most popular books off the shelf to put in the library as shown in the photos below, but the vast majority of the funds will be spent in the New Year. Mrs McInerney and I will be purchasing some sets of guided reading books for years 2 - 5, as well as restocking the library with some current titles.

Thank you again for your support!





PTA CHRISTMAS FAIR

What a super Christmas Fair! But then most of you know as you were there winning chocolate, visiting Santa, making crafts or enjoying a mulled wine...

We all know that events as successful as that do not happen without a great deal of hard work and planning, both ahead of the date and on the day itself. We have now heard that around £3,250 was raised at the fair and will be topped up by another £1,000 of matched funding. Super job, PTA team!



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ECO COMMITTEE:

After being awarded the prestigious Green Flag with distinction by Eco-Schools in the Autumn term, the new Committee will start the new year with the exciting task of planting 30 trees gifted to us by The Woodland Trust.

We have 15 Silver birches and 15 Wild Cherries which we plan to space out around the Eco Garden and the Forest School area.

There is also lots of work to be done in school to continue the important work started by the previous committee.

Please keep sending in your dental recycling and do your little bit at home!

NEW COMMITTEE

YEAR 1 - Rohan P and Meadow B

YEAR 2 - Beau W and Anna O-E

YEAR 3 - Alex W and Emily M

YEAR 4 - Emily R

YEAR 5 - Mabel B-S



In addition, Flossie I, Olivia K and Kairav P are the school appointed ECO champions and will head up the committee

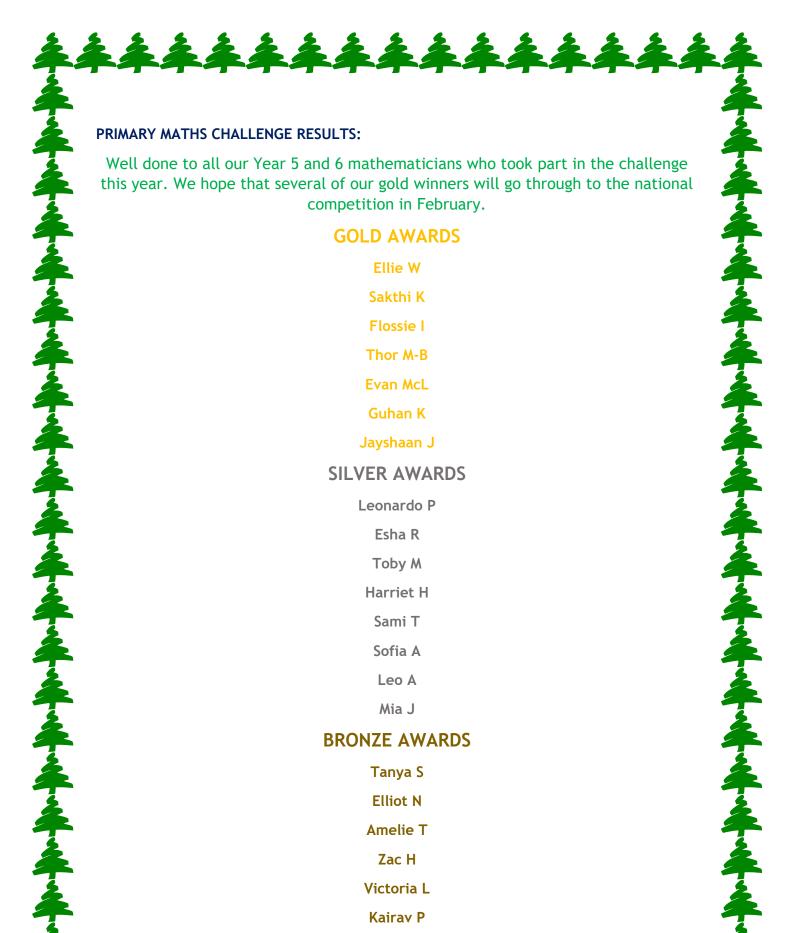
Watch out for the date of the first meeting in the New Year

THE TIMES TOP PREP SCHOOLS



The keen eyes among you may have spotted this in The Times last Sunday.

We always feel proud of how our children do and whilst these sort of league tables are just a snapshot in time and part of the much bigger picture, it's always rewarding to do well!



Isabella W



Friday 31st March - TERM ENDS
RAINBOW CLUB

Tuesday 4th - Thursday 6th April

Tuesday 11th - Thursday 13th April

Tuesday 18th - Thursday 20th April



Summer Term begins - Monday 24th April



Well done to all these children who have received Head Teacher awards this half term.

It has been lovely to present awards to so many pupils and for such varied reasons, including academic, sport and musical achievements.

Year 1	Lola A	Zac C	Iona D
	Eliza H	Rohan P	Aris S
	Ela A	Meadow B	Mayven D
		Eva K	
Year 2	Sam S	Amber S	Adriana A
	Arthur A	Saskia A	Thomas C
	Thomas H		Livia M
Year 3	Alex W	Charlotte B	Sofia B
	Darcey D	Samuel I	Emily M
Year 4	Alisa A	Charlotte E	Naima T
	Wilfred A (3)	Chidera N	Lex L
	Edie M	Vlad H	Michael W
	Lale C		Thendral N
Year 5	Tanya S (2)	Georgina W (3)	Holly H
	Guhan K	Victoria L	Leonardo P
	Rory T (3)	Charlie C (2)	Toby M
	Esme J		Emily M
Year 6	George C	Megan McG	Zac H
	Flossie I (2)	Sakthi K	Olivia K (2)
	Evan McL	Amelie T	Kairav P
	Sofia A	Leo A	Harriet H



JUNIOR TRANSPORT NEWS



Miss Saunders - JTA Co-ordinator writes...

Our new Junior Travel Ambassadors (JTA's) Leo A and Sami T have been busy this term. They organised their first competition and were pleased to receive lots of colourful entries. The overall school winner was Thor M-B (Y6)





We are delighted by the number of pupils who are trying to travel to school without using the car each day, or at least for part of their journey.

Our JTAs gave out 67 Smart Movers badges for November; they would love to get to over 100 by the summer!

Well done to our JTA's and thank you to all the families who have supported in any way.

HANDWRITING COMPETITION

All classes in Prep were set a handwriting challenge. They all had a Christmas poem or carol to copy and decorate as they wished. The results were judged and these are the worthy winners:

AOIFA O'H		Year 3
THENDRAL N	he are a hand of carollers; but earn not for the weather as an our way we go.	Year 4
TANYA S	that atomic upon our vary, best wisher for the people best wisher for the people	Year 5
SAKTHI K	ma fray a merry (hristman made bright by Christman cheer, with peace and hope and gladners and all they may hold do	Year 6
	And, for all those that happen to pass us on our way, we have a smile and wish them	





SPORTS NEWS

Well the days may be dark, cold and wet but the sport at St David's certainly hasn't slowed down. The children throughout the school have been taking part, competing and loving many different activities.

Starting with swimming. We organised the ISA London South gala and took 11 of our swimmers along to compete against pupils from over 10 other schools. Our children swam fabulously, with several of them winning their heats. Georgina (Yr 5) and Michael (Yr 4) managed to qualify and gain places in the relay teams. This took them to the National Gala which was held in the Olympic Pool at the beginning of December. We were so proud of them both; Georgina got her team off to a terrific start but they just missed out on a medal, coming in a respectable 4th. Michael's team finished in bronze medal position – amazing!

Since September we have been trying to encourage football for the girls and have introduced a training session for those in years 5 and 6 one lunchtime. This has proved to be a great success with the number of girls rushing to come out and train growing each week! The smiles on their faces and the eagerness for these sessions has been such a positive response. We have now played our first match and have a few more booked in the New Year. The girls are very excited! Watch this space for more news ...

The Cross-Country season has also taken off and we see constant improvement in all the children; a real credit to them and the amount of effort they put in each week. Our Year 5 and 6 runners turned up on a bright Saturday morning to join in with the hundreds of other happy children to run the course at Crystal Palace Cross Country on 12th November. As always, our children pushed themselves hard and finished with huge smiles and pride in the positions they achieved. Our Year 6 boys took home the Gold team prize for their joint performance. Some very happy and proud staff were glad they had gone along to support! A special thank you to Mrs McLeish and Mrs Patel for volunteering to help on the finish line; we couldn't do these things without parent helpers.

The Crystal Palace meet was closely followed by the St David's Dash for Years 3 and 4. Held on our school field, there were a lot of "nervcited" feelings amongst our own runners. However, all of our children rose to the occasion and were fantastic. We even got a 1st place from Michael in year 4! Well done to all that took part and to the Year 6 children who helped around the course and made sure the afternoon ran smoothly.

Year 4 have been loving their term of swimming lessons at West Wickham pool. The improvement in both their skills and overall confidence in the water has been great to see. We are looking forward to starting with Year 3 next term.



MISS BONNER BECOMES MRS McINERNEY!

CONGRATULATIONS!!





