



10th February 2023

Dear Parents,

STAFF NEWS

The day has sadly come when I have to put in words what I have been aware of for some time but will now have to face! Mrs Page has decided that after over forty years of teaching, twenty-eight of them at St David's, the time has come for her to retire in July. Much more will be said before the end of the summer term but for me personally, she has been the one constant in school; her dedication, attention to detail and care for the whole school community is second to none and as a friend and colleague she will be hugely missed.

Therefore, we will be having a revamp of our leadership team, (SLT) as we endeavour to cover and take forward the many areas Mrs Page has so efficiently and effortlessly covered. She is currently 'mentoring' several members of staff and passing on her extensive knowledge and experience, particularly in the important area of safeguarding. Miss Amber O'Sullivan will become DSL (Designated Safeguarding Lead) from September with Miss Lauren Weaver being her deputy with special responsibility for Early Years.

Becoming safeguarding lead will form part of a larger role for Miss A O'Sullivan who is to become one of two new Deputy Heads. She will be DH (Pastoral) from September and DH designate from the start of the Summer term as she works alongside Mrs Page; this will not affect her Year 2 class role for the rest of this academic year. I am sure you will all wish to congratulate her on this promotion.

I am also delighted to announce a new member of staff who will be joining St David's in April. After interviewing some very strong applicants, an offer was made and accepted for the position of Deputy Head (academic). Miss Abigail Thackray is coming from another small Prep school where she has had a range of experience across all year groups and subjects. We are very excited for the summer term when she will have the opportunity to meet and get to know us all, staff, pupils and you parents.

Miss Weaver, as Early Years Lead and Mrs McHugh, as SENDCo will also be part of our school management team (SMT)

As I reflect once again at the end of a busy but somewhat grey and damp half term when there have been too many sad and challenging things affecting some of us, I want to reaffirm again the importance of positive relationships and the strong team I have around me here at St David's.

Without exception, every member of staff tries to give their best, every single day. Sometimes, 'our best' might not seem much but sometimes it is all we have, and that's ok. The beauty of being part of such a successful team is that there is always someone to lift us up, perhaps with the right word or the offer of help just when it is needed.

Thank you, team!

Julia Foulger

FIRST LEGO LEAGUE CHALLENGE

We are delighted to be taking a team of Year 6 children to Hayward's Heath for the day on Thursday 9th February to take part in the **FIRST LEGO League Challenge**.



The theme this year is 'Superpowered'. This is a research and robotics tournament for pupils up to 16 years old. Our team have been busy planning, constructing and programming robots, conducting research and preparing a presentation of their findings. The challenge's core values are respectful interaction, shared experience and critical thinking. After several weeks of preparation, the team are now looking forward to participating in the regional 'coopertition' (co-operative competition) and presenting findings in the categories of Research, Robot Game, Robot Design, and Core Values.



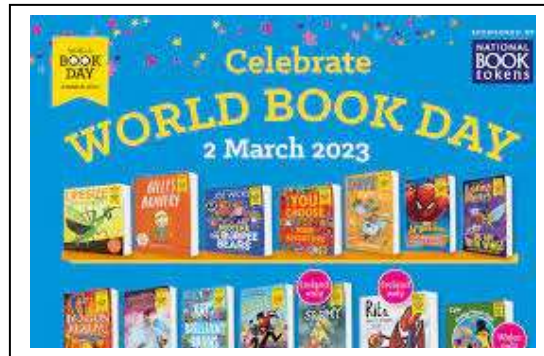
BREAKING NEWS!

We are pleased to announce that the team have won the Robot Design Award.

Great team work, collaboration and planning from every member of the team.
Thanks to Mrs Campbell for her encouragement, enthusiasm and support

WORLD BOOK DAY

On Thursday 2nd March we will be celebrating World Book Day. Our theme for this year is "Bedtime Stories from Around the World" and we are in the process of planning a fun day of events for all of the children. We would like to invite the children to wear their pyjamas to school on the day - although please make sure that they are wearing sensible footwear. I will be in touch after half term with further information about the different activities that will be taking place. [Mrs Bishop](#)



BIKEABILITY

We were delighted to welcome the Road Safety Team of the London Borough of Bromley to our school to deliver Level 1 & 2 Bikeability to some of our Year 6 pupils.

The course was delivered over one and a half days, starting in the playground (basic bike skills - Level 1) and quickly progressing to a local T junction (Level 2) - giving riders the opportunity to use their bicycles as a 'vehicle' in a road environment and gaining valuable 'hands on' experience.

All the participants were enthusiastic, very keen to gain this essential life skill and the instructors, Jo and Lindsey, were delighted with the progress made by all the trainees who participated.



RECEPTION'S VISIT TO BECKENHAM FIRE STATION

Reception had the best day last Friday visiting Beckenham Fire Station. The children loved sitting in the fire truck, seeing all the equipment and especially the demonstration of the water hose!

As part of their topic in class, the children had all written questions they wanted to ask. Having the opportunity to ask real firemen, in a real fire station their question was mega exciting for our young pupils.

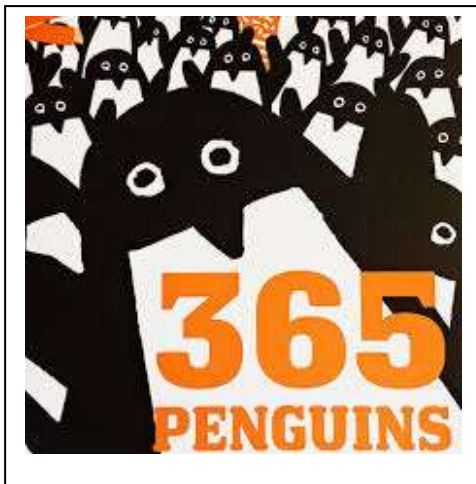
Hearing the siren go off as they left was the perfect end to a perfect trip!



NUMBER DAY

Once again, all of St David's pupils from Pre - Reception up to Year 6 took part in the annual NSPCC Number Day, raising an impressive £ 291.00 for a very worthy cause.

Some very cute penguins arrived at school and, with much excitement, "Happy Feet" filled the hall for our morning assembly. Mrs Kinnes read the story *365 Penguins*, in which a family received a penguin through the post every single day of the year. This inspired numerous different maths activities, based on the theme of penguins. The children sorted penguins into different sizes, divided them into groups, counted them in 2s 5s and 10s, measured time, added and subtracted penguins and generally had lots of number fun.



There was also a penguin hunt where the children had to follow mathematical clues hidden around the school in order to answer the question "How big is the current population of penguins in the world?" (see if they can remember the answer).

The day was rounded off with more fun estimation challenges in the hall: how long could Mr Hunter keep a soft toy penguin on his head? How far could Mrs Foulger throw a soft toy penguin? And how many penguin biscuits could Mr Mayes stack? It was lovely to see the children excited about numbers and enthusiastically solving mathematical problems.

A fun day was had by all!

Thank you Mrs Kinnes.



HEAD TEACHER'S AWARDS

Year 1	Alexia F	Amelia K	Grace W
	Eliza H	Astrid P	Aris S
	Jayrishan J	Eliza S	Luna T
	Thomas C	Annabel C	Lola A
	Ela A		Meera A
Year 2	Anna E	Aran McA (2)	Ariela R
	Arthur A	Henry M	Lara W
	Isla B	Kush K	
Year 3	Mayra C	William J	Aria P
	Anastasiia H	Roma O'R	Ziya T
Year 4	Felix C	Annabelle S	Vlad H
	Naima T (2)	Edie M	Thendral N
	Sahyuri B		Alissa A
Year 5	Ella T-G	Georgina W (2)	Holly H (2)
	Guhan K (2)	Esme J	Mia J
	Elliot N	Jayshaan J	Toby M
Year 6	Harriet H	Issac D	Esha R
	Evan McL	Sakthi K	Olivia K
		Isabella W	

BROMLEY FESTIVAL

We are very excited that 55 children from Year 2 upwards have been successfully entered into the Verse-Speaking categories of the [Bromley Festival of Speech and Drama](#). Soon all participating children will have a copy of their poem to bring home and increasingly, we will be practising in school. As soon as the organisers let us know dates and times for the classes, we will pass on the details. Thank you to all parents who got in touch to enter their child.

SPORT

Even the extreme weather this last half term hasn't stopped the children pushing themselves, learning new skills, and more importantly, having lots of fun in games and PE lessons as well as matches and their regular running sessions on our school field.

We held our annual Inter House dodge ball and football competitions for pupils from Yr 2 through to Yr 6. The children worked so well together in teams and we were delighted to see a huge improvement in their abilities in so many areas.

Each half term we time all the children, from Year 1 upwards, running either 2 or 3 laps of the cross-country course; this is proving to be a highlight for the pupils who are keen to beat their own, previous recorded time. Since Christmas, some of the staff have run the course and posted their best times, giving the children new targets to beat! Overall, seeing the determination, perseverance and pride all the children have in their running is a privilege to witness, hopefully just the process of being outside and exercising is improving both mental and physical fitness in all our pupils.

A group of our older pupils took part in the Schools Biathlon last October with three of them making the Nationals which take place in March. Massive congratulations and good luck to Jaxon, Harriet and Zac in Year 6!

Last Friday we held the annual St David's Swimming gala at Trinity school pool for our Prep children. As usual, this turned out to be fantastic evening, with a huge number of children turning up to swim and support each other in the various races. Pride does not cover what it felt like for us to see everyone have a go, from those who swim for clubs through to those who 'dug deep', literally, as they started each race in the deep end! St David's values were there on that poolside - resilience, perseverance, as well as respect and kindness as they cheered and encouraged one another. Another Inter House event, after a close start, Justin pulled away and won the House Swimming Cup this year. **Well done, Justin!**

The traditional Year 6 raft race was also a huge amount of fun for all involved; the teams were randomly selected in assembly the previous week with the two teams led by our Games Captains, Evan and Harriet. Seeing the children work together on the raft was both amusing and fabulous to watch.

A big thank you to all the staff and parents that came along to support and help make the event run so smoothly; such a lovely experience.





The theme of this year's Children's Mental Health Week is Let's Connect.

Assemblies were held throughout the week and we reflected on being connected to others in school, in our neighbourhood, in our country and throughout the world.

Children were asked who they had connected with and reminded that connection is not just through words but can be through eye contact, facial expressions and gestures. Children were shown how to finger breathe and reminded about what they can do when they feel disconnected from others.

Children decorated paper chains to show who they felt connected to.



At St David's, we pride ourselves on getting to know all our pupils as the unique and complex individuals they are, to endeavour to meet their needs and support them at every point of their journey through the school. All staff have recently completed training to develop our understanding of children's mental health as well as more specific training, for example dyslexia and dyscalculia.

Mrs Foulger and Mrs Handy have been attending sessions to learn more about becoming trauma informed as a school. The deepening of knowledge and understanding has been immense and helped them both appreciate why children behave and react in certain situations as they do and how we can potentially change structures and policies within school to become even more inclusive and supportive.

Discipline – comes from the latin word disciplina, meaning teaching, learning, encouraging, walking alongside... and is in no way the same as **punishment**, meaning to penalise, castigate and humiliate.

I hope our behaviour management and school policy reflect this understanding and will continue to evolve to meet the needs of all our pupils.

PARKING and PLANNING APPLICATION

As you are aware, our planning application is currently with Bromley Council as they consider the proposals and make their decision. If you have been on the planning portal you will also be aware that there have been a number of objections raised with the vast majority commenting, in very strong terms, about the traffic and parking situation around the school.

I am aware that the majority of you are doing your absolute best to drive and park in a considerate manner or, even better, have taken up an alternative way of getting to and from school. Mr King, our site manager has been relentless in his drive (no pun intended...) to eliminate bad practices and is often outside monitoring and generally observing parking.

Please do not be the parent he has to speak to; he finds it embarrassing and I am sure you do too. The flimsy reasons he is sometimes given hold no sway and would certainly not stand up in court! Whilst we are particularly mindful at the moment, the underlying and key reason for parking properly is to keep everyone safe.

As we await the council decision it is still perfectly permissible to add a comment of a more favourable nature, as I am aware several of you have already done. Never let it be said I am leading the witness but... Thank you.

WISHFORD GROUP MEETING HUBS

Mr Mogul, Mr Styles and Mrs Jones travelled to Westonbirt school in Gloucester this week to represent St David's at two staff forum hub meetings. Mr Mogul and Mr Styles joined a group of staff from across all the Wishford schools to discuss EDI (equality, diversity and inclusivity) or DEI and B (diversity, equality, inclusivity and belonging) as it is now becoming known. I am very much looking forward to hearing what new insights, ideas and sharing of best practice they gleaned, with a view to incorporating and threading DEI and B throughout our curriculum and school life in its entirety.

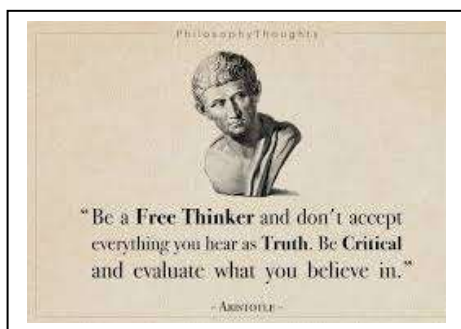


Mrs Jones went armed with all the information we have on recording assessment data and how we use it to inform our class teaching and you as parents. Again, she met with staff from our other schools and shared ideas and best practice.

These termly focus meetings are so valuable in making connections, seeing the other group schools and provide opportunities to learn from one another.

PHILOSOPHY CLUB

Every time we employ a new member of staff we gain a whole new set of skills, interests and knowledge!



Mr Mogul has been no exception. Having allowed him to settle in, at his suggestion, he has now started up a philosophy club for Prep pupils after school on a Thursday. The club has quickly gained in popularity and I love to see and hear the group coming up the stairs to go home, still discussing and enthusing about what they have been considering in their time together.

YEAR 4 TRIP TO SOUTHWARK CATHEDRAL



Last Wednesday, Year 4 visited Southwark Cathedral to consolidate this term's work on the Romans. We enjoyed two activities; firstly, dressing up and acting out scenes to explain how religion in England changed during the Roman Era. Our second activity took us to the depths of the cathedral

where we were able to explore different mosaic patterns, eventually creating two beautiful designs of our own. We were also fortunate enough to be able to tour the beautiful cathedral, and to see the Roman artefacts that archaeologists have discovered in the surrounding area.



OXFORD UNIVERSITY COMPUTING CHALLENGE

Mrs Campbell says, I was so proud of the four pupils from Year 6 who took part in the Oxford University Computing Challenge this week.

They all did incredibly well with Sakthi gaining a merit!

HALF TERM SPECIAL AWARDS

Siya P	Reception Hedgehogs	For her positive attitude to learning and always being a 'resilient rabbit' when facing a challenge
Zach R	Reception Robins	For being so resilient, always with a smile. For being kind, thoughtful and helpful and displaying our St David's values
Ela A	Year 1B	For showing self-motivation and a love of learning
Lola A	Year 1R	For a fantastic attitude towards learning and everything that we do in school
Aran McA	Year 2P	For a huge improvement in attitude towards learning and always being kind
Anna E	Year 2W	For consistently being a responsible member of the class and always showing a passion for learning
Freya C	Year 3K	For bringing fun into the classroom whilst maintaining a sensible and hard-working attitude to all areas of school life
Ziya T	Year 3M	For a superb improvement in focus and conscientiousness towards work. And for being such a positive presence in the classroom!
Annabelle S	Year 4	For her determination and perseverance in the classroom, especially in maths lessons
Georgina W	Year 5	For being such an excellent all-rounder in sport and her efforts across the curriculum
Sakthi K	Year 6	For all round excellence at school
Well Done Everyone!		

ATTENDANCE

The latest St David's Attendance policy has now been posted on the website. Please make yourself familiar with the contents and be aware that the following attendance percentages are set by the government and therefore we are obliged to contact you should your child's attendance not meet the required thresholds.

	Rate of attendance	Action	Responsibility
GREEN	96% and above	No action	N/A
AMBER	90%-95%	Form Tutor/SLT to monitor and to inform parents	Form Tutor/DSL
RED	Below 90%	Ask parents to attend a meeting to discuss	Form Tutor/DSL/Deputy Head

COMING UP:

- Monday 20th February: School resumes
- Tuesday 21st February: ISA London South, Cross Country at Radnor House
- Friday 24th February: Y2 trip to Science Museum
- Tuesday 28th February: Year 1 and 2, Safari Pete visit to school
- Thursday 2nd March: World Book Day (Pyjama day)
- Saturday 11th March: Bromley Festival (Week 1)
- Monday 13th March: Science Week
- Wednesday 15th March: Parents' Evening
- Thursday 16th March: Year 2 Scootsure
- Saturday 18th March: Year 3 and 4 - Bromley Cross Country at Crystal Palace
- Bromley Festival (Week 2)
- Monday 20th March: Year 5 and 6 - St David's Dash
- Wednesday 22nd March: Y5 - Trip to Globe Theatre, London
- Saturday 25th March: OPEN MORNING 9.30 to 11.30AM
- Monday 27th March: PTA Easter Egg Hunt (NO LATE ROOM)
- Tuesday 28th March: 11 Plus Meeting for Year 5 Parents @ 7.45 am
- FRIDAY 31ST MARCH: TERM ENDS @ 12.30pm for all pupils**

RAINBOW CLUB

- Tuesday 4th, Wednesday 5th, Thursday 6th April
- Tuesday 11th, Wednesday 12th, Thursday 13th April
- Tuesday 18th, Wednesday 19th, Thursday 20th April

SUMMER TERM BEGINS MONDAY 24TH APRIL 2023

- Monday 1st May: Bank Holiday
- Tuesday 2nd May: Y6 School Journey Meeting @ 7.45 am
- Monday 8th May: Bank Holiday
- Tuesday 9th May: Start of SATs week (Year 6)
- Friday 12th May: PTA Prep Disco
- Monday 15th May to Friday 19th May: Y6 School Journey
- Thursday 18th May: ISA London South Athletics
- Monday 29th May - Friday 2nd June: **Half Term**
- Saturday 17th June: PTA Summer Fair
- Thursday 29th and Friday 30th June: Year 6 Production with Year 5 supporting
- Friday 7th July - Term Ends @ 12.30**