



SUMMER TERM 2023

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St David's Prep

Introducing our new Deputy Heads

Miss Abigail Thackray

Miss Thackray has been teaching for over ten years, which makes her older than she feels! She started in Early Years initially, then worked in Year 1 and Year 2 before moving up to Key Stage 2. She has spent several years in Year 5 and loves working with this age group.

She is particularly passionate about teaching Maths. Having found it challenging herself in school, she wants every child to feel like a confident mathematician and enjoy Maths as much as she does now. She is passionate about the mastery approach to Maths and the way it has the potential to give every child a successful foundational understanding. She also loves reading and strongly believes that for those pupils who don't enjoy reading yet, there is the perfect book out there somewhere!

She says "I am so excited to join the team here at St David's. Everyone has been so friendly and welcoming, you can really feel the nurturing and positive ethos that is so important to me in a school. I'm thrilled to be joining the Senior Leadership Team and looking forward to this exciting new challenge."

In her spare time, Abigail enjoys running, trips to the theatre, cooking and eating delicious food and being an avid bookworm!

Miss Amber O'Sullivan

I feel very privileged to be one of the members of staff at St David's Prep. I am now in my 7th year of teaching here and have loved every second. Teaching Year 3, Reception and Year 2, I have gained a wealth of experience and feel like I know the school, children and parents very well.

I am excited to have been appointed as the new Pastoral Deputy Head and am looking forward to my career ahead of me. I absolutely love working with children and ensuring that they are all happy and safe. My other role of Safeguarding lead is of high importance to me and taking on the pastoral role will allow me to work closely with all of the children in the school to ensure that their wellbeing is of top priority.

I am excited to still be working in a class in September alongside an amazing team of teachers and assistants and am looking forward to the year ahead. Working with such amazing children and staff makes me feel like the luckiest person in the world and I thank everybody who has helped me on this special journey!

And we at St David's are lucky to have you both! – Mrs Foulger

Pre-Reception – On the Move!

This half term Robin's class topic was 'On the Move' where we have been learning about different types of transport and vehicles. We have explored buses, trains, boats and cars.

We even had Captain Harwood come in to talk about what it is like to be a pilot and fly planes. The children were inspired to go on lots of different trips using their imagination, encouraging good development of communication and language as well as storytelling.



We also celebrated the Coronation and learnt how the crown passes from one person to the next. The class made a throne and crown and we had our very own coronations.

As well as vehicles, Pre-reception are thinking about being 'on the move' to Reception.



We continue to develop our literacy skills through phonics and practising our letter formation in lots of different ways such as the sound /w/ where we 'wiggle along the worm' in paint. In numeracy we have been learning about 'more and less' leading onto addition and subtraction.

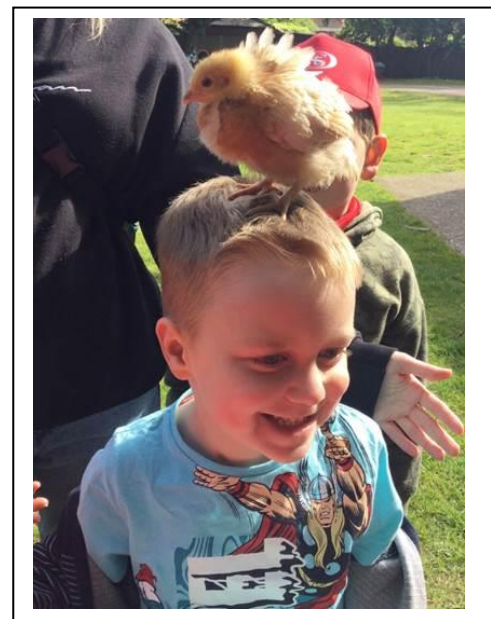
RECEPTION

WOW - What a half-term we have had in Reception!

From the children growing plants and nurturing our tadpoles to our current topic 'All Creatures Great and Small'. The children have learnt all about mini beasts, safari animals and farm animals. We have been learning about adjectives and the children have been writing sentences describing different animals. We even had an exciting visitor - Chestnut the hamster from one of our families! The children have become far more confident with their addition, subtraction and doubling facts. The children have all progressed so much in such a short space of time and we are so proud of how far they have come.



Last but not least, our amazing farm experience today which was absolutely fantastic! The children enjoyed a real hands-on experience feeding, grooming and petting different farm animals on the field. The farmer even commented on how well behaved and polite our children are.



YEAR 1 - On Safari!

Exploring the Rainforest

In Year 1 we have been enjoying our very own Rainforest Adventures!

We have learned about all kinds of creatures, written about the setting of a rainforest, explored where they are in the world and our grand finale was to have a Safari in the St. David's rainforest complete with camouflage hats and binoculars! The children are so knowledgeable about rainforest creatures-ask them for some facts if you dare!

As they are camouflaged it will be hard for you to see the children in this picture but this is the whole year on safari!



We have also been learning about what conditions plants need to grow. We have been having a bean growing race in our classroom, growing cress and sunflower seeds. The teachers' seeds are losing at the moment!



YEAR 2 – Enjoying outside learning

In year 2 this half term we have loved taking our learning outside!

In games we have started athletics in preparation for sports day. We have been taking our RIOT very seriously and have seen huge improvements in the children's running techniques and stamina which is also having a great impact on the children's focus in class.

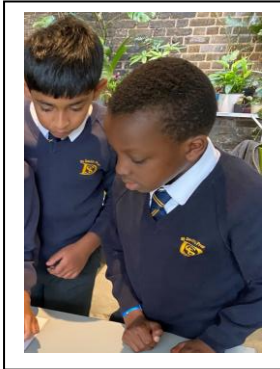
In Science we have been learning about habitats, so it has been a great reason to head outside and explore habitats and microhabitats. We absolutely loved sharing our habitat homework boxes that we made with each other and asked some fantastic questions linked to what we had created.

We are really looking forward to our last half term as a team where we will be doing lots of preparation for our transition into Year 3.



YEAR 3 – Visit the Garden Museum

Learning all about seeds in our science topic on plants was really brought to life during our trip to the Garden Museum last week. The plant scientist at the museum showed us lots of different shaped seeds and seed pods and we were able to dissect them and use a microscope to really look closely.



“I liked learning the big words like germination, photosynthesis” and pollination” and “I loved learning the plant names in Latin!”

These were two of the comments heard after the workshop.

We found out the different ways in which seeds are dispersed before they grow into new plants and then we had a chance to look around the museum and see lots of artefacts relating to gardening through the ages (which tied in nicely with our World War 2 history topic).

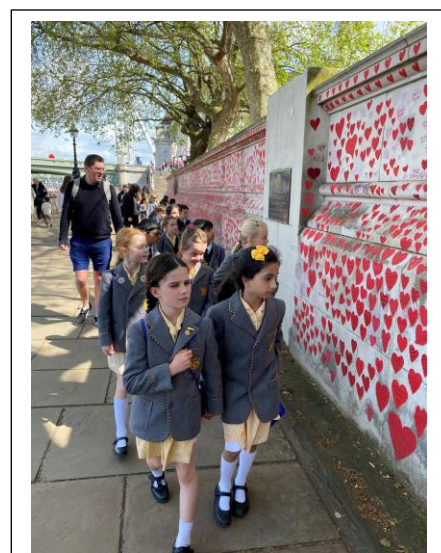
“My favourite part was looking around the museum because there was a model of a big garden with children and lots of tools and birds, but the best part was when we made a mini garden with blocks”



Not only did we visit the museum, but on the way, we were treated to the sights of London.

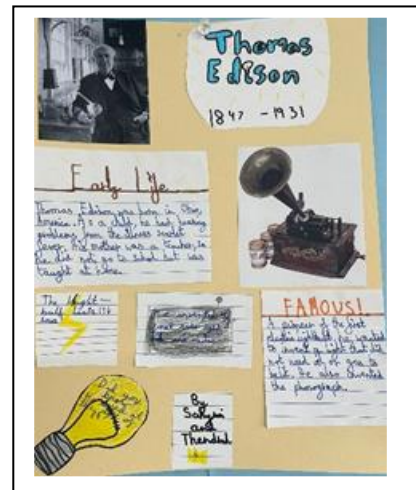
We saw the London Eye, Big Ben, Westminster Abbey, the Houses of Parliament and the Covid Memorial Wall.

All in all, it was an interesting but tiring day summed up perfectly by Aoife, *“I just liked the fact that we were in London with school, it made me feel really happy.”*

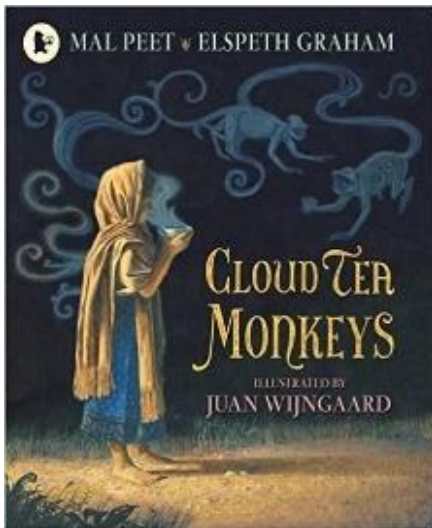


YEAR 4 Thinking about electricity:

This half term, Year 4 have been learning all about electricity in our Science lessons. Our topic started with thinking about the appliances we have in our homes, and why some are powered by the mains supply and others use batteries. Great fun was had considering the effectiveness of a battery powered toaster! We have been very fortunate to be able to use the brand-new circuit building kits that the school purchased recently, and the children have had great fun building their own circuits and experimenting with all of the different equipment available. The children have learnt how to build a series circuit of their own, comprising a range of components including bulbs, buzzers and motors. They can explain why a circuit may not work, and how to fix the problem. We have also looked at how circuit diagrams are drawn and the symbols used to represent the different components. We then drew some circuit diagrams of our own, remembering to use a ruler to keep our diagrams neat and tidy! Finally, we researched some scientists who are famous in the field of electricity, and made some beautiful posters to show our findings.



YEAR 5 Looking into Fairtrade:



In our English lessons this term, we have been reading a book called *Cloud Tea Monkeys* by Mal Peet and Elspeth Graham. The story is set in the Himalayan mountains where women work long hours picking tea leaves and are paid very little. We then researched Fairtrade and produced our own information leaflets.

Armed with our facts and figures, we presented an assembly to the whole school on Fairtrade. We told them that... 'by giving those who make and produce food, cotton and other products fair pay, the Fairtrade Foundation helps to protect people's lives and gives them a better future.

So, choosing a fairly traded banana or bar of chocolate might not seem to make much of a difference but it's actually a really good way of helping others.



Esme set the school a challenge: 'when you next go to the shops, see how many products you can find with the Fairtrade logo'.

We found bananas, chocolate, coffee, teabags, sugar, hot chocolate, rice and flowers – only some of over 4,500 certified Fairtrade products that exist!



Swapping to Fairtrade is a good choice – but also a really easy one!
And if we all do it, then we can help to make a difference.

YEAR 6 went on school journey... Here are their reflections:

‘School journey was a really fun and valuable trip, where I got to learn many life lessons and I had a blast with all the activities. The instructors were really nice - overall an amazing trip.’

‘Personally, I enjoyed the trip; I loved the safari because it had all kinds of animals not to mention a theme park. The activities included climbing, orienteering, caving and I liked canoeing plus the coach journey back.’

‘I loved the time spent with my friends in a tent.’

‘I enjoyed climbing & bouldering but especially the food and the tents.’

‘The evening entertainment activities were great fun.’

‘I really enjoyed the campfire, the songs, the safari and I loved the staff.’

‘One of the best weeks of my life. Axe-throwing was a new and fun experience.’

‘I loved staying in tents even though there were loads of bugs!’

‘I learnt a lot about both myself and my friends.’ - ‘Best trip!’

‘I loved staying in tents with my friends.’

‘It was fun though it felt quite quick; there was lots of stuff to do. A smooth drive both ways and fun experiences.’

‘My favourite activities were caving and nightline; the food was also delicious. The safari was great with cute animals & interesting facts.’

‘All the activities were brilliant; the instructors were kind and funny. My favourites were canoeing, evening Olympics & going to the safari park.’



SPORT at St DAVID's

It has certainly been a busy few weeks of sport, starting with the London Mini Marathon. This involved many of our budding runners from Reception right up to Year 6 running either 1 mile or 2.6k in London, finishing along the Mall – just like the real marathon runners did the following day!

The sun shone and the atmosphere was fantastic, it was lovely to see so many of our children involved in this event and many of their parents supporting too.

Next up was the "Restless Triathlon". 31 children from Years 3 – 6 pushed themselves to take part in this Triathlon in Sevenoaks. The children formed teams for the event, a first for many of our children, some of whom had only learnt to ride their bikes a few weeks before!

Proud is an understatement! To see all the children cross the finish line with such huge smiles was special and I am sure the day will be cemented in their memories for some time to come.



Last week saw some of our pupils taking part in the London South ISI athletics competition, which took place in Walton on Thames. We took 10 children from Year 4 and 5 to participate in this event. The children, as always, were a total credit to the school, from their behaviour to their enthusiasm and determination. By the end of the day we had a gold medal, 2 silvers and a bronze.

This means that 2 of our Year 4 pupils are through to the national finals – amazing!

A huge well done to all of our athletes.



Breaking News...

St David's pupils raised a total of £2830.45 at the Restless Triathlon event with £670.00 of it going to our chosen charity – St Christopher's Hospice.

Thank you to every family who took part, fundraised and generally supported.

YEAR 5 JOBS

During our celebration assembly this week, our current Year 5 pupils were awarded their roles and responsibilities for next year. They will have the opportunity over the next half term to discuss these roles with the present Year 6 post holders and with members of staff as they prepare to be 'top of the school'.

HEADS of SCHOOL

Mia J and Guhan K



PREFECTS

*Mia J, Esme J, Guhan K, Victoria L,
Leonardo P, Mabel S-B, Tanya S and Ella T-G*

HOUSE CAPTAINS

Mabel S-B and Mia J - JUSTIN

Toby M and Rory T - WAGSTAFF

Tanya S and Guhan K - SCHOVE

Charlie C and Holly H - OAK

GAMES CAPTAINS

Georgina W and Leonardo P

LIBRARY MONITORS

Victoria L and Ella T-G

YEAR 6 FORM CAPTAIN

Mabel S-B

HEADS of ECO COMMITTEE

Leonardo P and Toby M

JUNIOR TRAVEL AMBASSADORS

Charlie C and Holly H

HEADS of SCHOOL COUNCIL

Ella T-G and Esme J

MUSIC MONITORS

Elliot N and Victoria L

TECHNOLOGY and COMPUTING MONITORS

Rory T and Elliot N

CHARITY MONITORS

Georgina W and Esme J

HAPPY PLACE CHAMPION

Tanya S

CONGRATULATIONS YEAR 5!

HALF TERM AWARDS

The following children were chosen by their class teachers to receive awards this term. The comments made to each one of them by staff were a joy to hear, with many words from our 'language of learning' being used, particularly perseverance, respect and kindness

Reception	Isabella C	For showing so many of the school values. She never gives up just like resilient rabbit. She is always creative and working during choosing time just like busy bee and creative caterpillar and during learning time she concentrates just like focused fox.
Reception	Dillan J	For following many of our woodland explorers language of learning. He is always helpful and polite to other children. He always gives 100% and enjoys challenging himself to do more!
Year 1R	Grace W	Not only for her brilliant, positive working attitude but also her much improved perseverance in all areas of the curriculum and for her happy, kind and caring ways in Rabbit class.
Year 1B	Eliza S	For growing independence and being a helpful member of the class
Year 2	Kai H	For always trying his best in class and taking great pride in his work.
Year 2	Adam Y	For always doing the right thing and being a great member of the class
Year 3	Anoushka P	For showing perseverance, independence and curiosity in abundance!
Year 3	Roma O'R-O	Always kind and helpful in class without being distracted and produces super work in class.
Year 4	Emily R	For consistent and dedicated approach in the classroom and embracing every opportunity
Year 5	Leonardo P	For stepping up this term and displaying independence, reliability, self-motivation, respect and kindness.
Year 6	Isabella W	For perseverance and embracing every school opportunity.

FEEL PROUD EVERYONE!

OTHER EVENTS

Maths Quiz

Pupils from Years 5 and 6 recently took part in the annual Maths Quiz Competition. They worked together in 2 teams of four against over 100 other schools. Both teams did really well, drawing on all their maths knowledge and skills whilst Mrs Sowter monitored the scoreline with bated breathe!

Team 1: Srisakthi K, Flossie I, Mia J and Tanya S

Team 2: Zac H, Evan McL, Jayshaan J and Leonardo P

Team 1's score means they will be competing in the semi-final round in June – we wish them the best of luck!



Royal Russell Maths Challenge

Mr Hunter took 4 Year 5 pupils to Royal Russell for their annual maths challenge invitation event. 17 schools took part with our team coming a credible 5th overall.

This time our team was made up of Guhan K, Mia J, Tanya S and Toby M.

Great job, team and thanks to Mr Hunter for supporting and Royal Russell for inviting us.

ISI Essay Competition

Congratulations to Flossie I and Zac H - their essays were selected by a group of staff to be forwarded to the ISA competition as our St David's entries.

DROP-OFF AND PICK-UP

Firstly, a plea...

We have tried to increase the number of morning clubs and they have proved to be very popular. However, it is important that the children arrive at the correct time, especially when the club involves going down to the field. The growing number of pupils that arrive late for clubs means that staff are required to escort them down which may mean leaving a meeting or them setting up activities for the day. Please also note that they should not arrive more than five minutes before the start time. Thank you.

Secondly... Following a number of comments and concerns from a variety of staff over the past few weeks, today I spoke to all the children in assembly about behaviour on the car park or at the front of school at drop-off and pick-up times. They have been informed that we expect the same standard of behaviour outside as we do when they are in school. Obviously, we need your support in this and all the staff will be carefully monitoring these areas after half-term and will have no hesitation in giving children warnings or moving them down, in line with our behaviour policy. We appreciate and anticipate your support in this area.

SEPTEMBER STAFFING AND CLASSES

Since I last wrote to you in March, there are a few more changes/ additions to record. Mr Styles will be leaving us at the end of term but we are delighted to say that Miss Saunders will be taking over in Pre-Reception and will carry on his fun-filled, child-centered learning in her 'own style'! We therefore have two new class teachers starting at St David's which is very exciting; each new member of staff brings with them their own experiences, interests and passions from which we all benefit. Mr Chris House will be taking Year 5 and Mrs Bev Haffenden will join the Year 2 team. Mr Hunter will be teaching alongside Miss A O'Sullivan in Year 2 and Miss B O'Sullivan forming part of the Year 4 team. As we grow as a school and now have 2 classes in most year groups, we do think very much in terms of teams which allows for individual expertise and skills to be maximised with the best learning outcomes for all our pupils.

SEPTEMBER 2023

Current Class	Year group	Teacher/s
	Pre-Rec	Miss Saunders
	Reception S	Mrs Burden
	Reception H	Miss Weaver
Rec - Hedgehogs	Year 1 R	Mrs Hills/ Mrs Jones
Rec - Squirrels	Year 1 B	Miss Clark
Year 1 - Rabbits	Year 2 P	Miss A O'Sullivan/ Mr Hunter
Year 1 - Badgers	Year 2 W	Mrs Haffenden
Year 2 - Woodpeckers	Year 3 M	Mr Mogul
Year 2 – Parakeets	Year 3 B	Mrs Bishop
Year 3 M	Year 4 A	Miss Thackray/ Miss B O'Sullivan
Year 3 K	Year 4 B	Mrs Skelton/ Mrs Campbell
Year 4	Year 5	Mr House
Year 5	Year 6	Mrs Sowter

Pre - Reception to Reception will be confirmed after half-term

COMING UP

JUNE

Wednesday 14 th	ECO Workshops
Thursday 15 th	Small Schools Athletics meet @ Norman Park
Friday 16 th	Parent Council Mtg. 8.45am
Saturday 17 th	PTA Summer Fair 1.00 - 4.00 pm
Monday 19 th	ISA Athletics National Competition in Birmingham
Friday 23 rd	Sports Morning - Pre-Rec/ Rec and Yrs 1 and 2 Sports Afternoon - Prep
Thursday 29 th	Year 1 Trip
Thursday 29 th and Friday 30 th	Years 5 and 6 Production: @ 6.00
Friday 30 th	Spotlights Show @4.30

JULY

Monday 3 rd	Moving Up Day in school Musical Showcase @ 1.45pm
Tuesday 4 th	Years 3, 4 and 5 Trip Year 2 Trip Spotlights Show @4.30
Wednesday 5 th	Beach Day in school
Thursday 6 th	Year 6 Prizegiving: 5.30pm Year 6 Disco: 7.00 - 10.00pm

Friday 7th July: TERM ENDS @ 12.30pm (Year 6 @ 11.45am)