



AUTUMN TERM 2023

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St David's Prep



Dear Parents,

First half term completed!

The weather, since our return to school has been kind and there have been many highlights. The staff have worked incredibly hard and the children have been amazing. I absolutely love the interaction with the pupils as they go about their school day; their enthusiasm for often the smallest things is infectious and staff love sharing the 'wow' moments together at the end of each day.

It was lovely to welcome so many of you to our information evenings at the start of term. Judging by feedback it seems these were well received and will certainly be repeated next September. We are working hard to streamline the way messages go out and trying to give as much notice as possible about forthcoming events. Just to clarify, whilst we finish with a half day at the end of each full term (December, March and July) this is not currently the case at the end of half terms (October, February and May).

Today is STEAM Day!





**Have a lovely half-term and enjoy
the last of the sun...
St David's Staff team**

PRE-RECEPTION – Having Fun!

What an exciting start to the year for our lovely Owl Class! This half term we have been focussing on settling into our new class, making friends and getting used to our class routines. We have been focussing on the story “The Colour Monster” where we have been talking about our feelings.



The children have loved our role play shed where they have pretended to be shop keepers and customers. More recently, they have loved playing doctors and nurses where they have been taking turns and playing in groups.



In owls’ class we are focussing on Independence where the children can choose their own activities in the classroom or garden. They also join in with some adult led activities. Lessons such as PE and Music have been very successful where the children are listening to instructions and participating in songs and games.

RECEPTION

Reception have had a great half-term!

Both classes have settled in well to the Reception class rules and routines. At the beginning of the term, we spent lots of time talking about our feelings and emotions using the story "The Colour Monster Goes to School". The children were fantastic at recognising and regulating their own emotions.

Our topic this half term has been "Me and My World". As part of this, we have been sharing stories about our families, where we come from and drawing self-portraits. The children have loved getting to know each other and how we are all different but special in our own way.



In class we have all been getting to know our 'Woodland Explorers Language of Learning' and have been exhibiting many of these characteristics in class. The children have been focusing on being "Friendly Frogs" and "Focussed Foxes" during our learning time. We have made the most of the great weather and been outside exploring and investigating Autumn and the children have embraced spending time in Forest School.



YEAR 1 Go on a Trip...

Year 1 visited The National Gallery to learn more about some of the paintings there. 'Surprised!' by Henri Rousseau was one of their favourites!



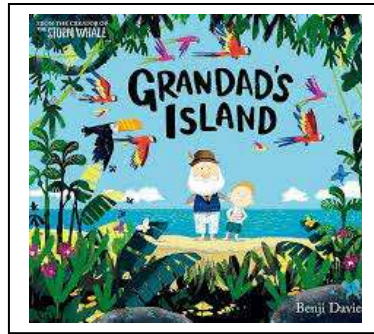
Traction Man is Here!

Meanwhile, back in the classroom, Year 1 have been reading 'Traction Man is Here! The story of a superhero and his unlikely sidekick – Scrubbing Brush. Traction Man has helped us to use adjectives in our writing and how to sequence a story.



YEAR 2 – Being Dramatic!

In Year 2 this half term, we have been incorporating drama into our English lessons. We clearly have some budding Daniel Craigs and Kiera Knightleys in Year 2! Inspired by our English Book, Grandpa's Island, we have used drama to build confidence and expand the children's vocabulary and planning progress. We spent time practising and then performing our group drama to each other. We look forward to putting these skills into action in the coming weeks as we prepare for our Christmas performances!



PSHEE

Regulating our emotions, understanding how to be a kind, trustworthy friend and thinking carefully about what we are good at have been our focus topics in PSHEE this half term. We have taken part in lots of practical and engaging lessons including several circle times with plenty of discussions and times for reflection.

Our most recent lesson, the children loved! We created our own 'friendship web' using a ball of wool. The children sat in a circle and threw the wool across to a friend, giving a compliment or special mention to them for something kind they had done. The result was a huge web of friendship created by making kind, thoughtful comments to one another. We then demonstrated what could happen when a friend says something hurtful or unkind... the trust and friendship web can break. This showed the importance of thinking before we speak. The wool was cut with scissors and the children could see visually how harmful words can be and how they can affect friendships.



Next half term we will be learning about 'our special people', acts of kindness, solving problems and what makes us who we are.

YEAR 3 – Being Archaeologists

This term, Year 3 have been exploring the Stone Age in History and have had great fun taking our learning out of the classroom. We started the topic with an “Archaeological Dig Day” where we took full advantage of our wonderful field area and turned it into our own Stone Age study site.

The sand pit was full of a range of arrow heads, and we had to use paintbrushes and magnifying glasses to excavate and explore the artefacts we found – just like real archaeologists! We then moved over to the bushes and woodland where we had to act as hunter-gatherers, foraging in the bushes for nuts and berries and even finding some forgotten Stone Age axes and fishing hooks! For our final outdoor activity, we moved into our Forest School and worked in teams to create dens, just like the Stone Age people would have done as they moved into a new area of hunting ground.

Our day finished with fossil making – very sticky and messy but great fun as the photos show!



YEAR 4 Being Scientists:

A definite highlight for Year 4 this half term was our Science Experiment. We worked together in our classes to plan, set up and carry out an investigation into the question 'Do sugary drinks cause tooth decay?'.
 'Do sugary drinks cause tooth decay?'

For our investigation we chose 4 liquids (water, vinegar, orange juice and coca-cola) and placed a hard-boiled egg into each one. The shell on the egg acted as the enamel on our teeth, which we had already learnt is there to protect us from tooth decay. We then made predictions about what we thought would happen after leaving the eggs in the liquids for a week. One prediction was that they wouldn't smell very nice- which turned out to be spot on! We then completed an initial observation, and finally looked at the results after one week and compared them.

Drink	Initial observation	Results after one week
Water	The egg looks wet and nothing has really changed since we put it in.	There are no bubbles, one nothing has changed!
Orange Juice	The egg looks smooth and a little bit similar to the egg we put in water.	The outside is lumpy, there has started to peel and it was movable.
Coca-cola	The egg looks the same as when we put it in apart from that it is wetter.	Bumpy, movable, it was peeling away and it was darker.
Vinegar	The egg has bubbles on it. <i> Lovely descriptions!</i>	The egg dark rubbing the side in peeling off, movable and it became



The children were so excited to complete this experiment and see the eggs in their next science lesson- they were actually quite disappointed when they noticed that we had removed them from the classrooms!

And enjoying Drama...



This term, Year 4 have all fully joined in drama lessons both indoors and out. There has been some wonderful acting, mime, character work and improvisation.

YEAR 5 @ Carroty Wood:

'It looks scary at first, but when you do it, it's amazing!' – Lale

The highlight of the term needs no introduction from Year 5.

The new school year started in great style, with the much-anticipated trip to Carroty Wood. I must say, that as a new teacher to the school, what a wonderful way it was, to get to know the children. Without Carroty Wood, I would never have known who struggles to pack a bag, who are great team leaders, who loves to dive in mud, and who will happily spend 20 minutes at the top of a tree. Many things that life in the classroom can't teach you.



A wonderful 3 days with a wonderful group of children!

'It's the best time!' – Naima

There were many highlights from our time away but these are some of the top quotes from the children:

'Accidentally' falling in whilst raft building – Nell

Staying up late and telling stories – Edie

Racing Nell down the abseiling wall – Michael

Going to the tuck shop and buying fizzy drinks and snacks to eat late at night – Annabelle

Falling in to the swamp at low ropes – Sahyuri

When I attached to Ashton on the abseiling wall – Vlad

Learning the Crazy Moose song at the campfire - Alisa



YEAR 6 – Are all heart...

One of the things I like most about being a teacher is that we are learning all the time; we never stop learning ourselves. It may be broadening our knowledge of a topic or immersing ourselves in a totally new area of expertise.

This is what happened when Year 6 were studying the circulatory system earlier this term. Their enthusiasm for the topic led me to think that we could take it further – into even more practical learning, urged on by the power of other Year 6 teachers on EduTwitter.



Having watched a video of a heart dissection, each group of three pupils began to investigate their own lamb's heart. Observing it closely first, before touching and discussing the muscle and fat they could see.



Of course, some pupils were wary at first. However, as the lesson progressed and more was discovered when cutting into the four chambers and arteries, they were all drawn in to the dissection and became amazed by how different the right and left ventricles were in size and thickness of muscle wall.

I was so privileged to be part of this amazing experiment and I have high hopes that it may be remembered for years to come; maybe sparking an interest in medical careers in some of our amazing St David's learners.

On Tuesday 10th October, Holly and Charlie met the Mayor of Bromley when they were invited to officially be 'crowned' JTAs for St David's!

**Our Year 6 JTAs
(Junior Travel Ambassadors)**



Mental Wellbeing @ St David's

At St David's the mental wellbeing of our children and staff is of the utmost importance. We have always prided ourselves on having a 'family feel' and being a nurturing place for all our pupils. Our previous initiative of Listening Ear continues. However, we are now working on developing this idea further with our Year 6 children by listening to them and allowing them to have their own thoughts and ideas.

New initiatives in place for our pupils

With the purple listening ear staff vests being such a success on the field, we decided to introduce a Year 6 team of pupils called our 'Mental Health Champions.' This is headed up by one of our year 6's with a small team working alongside her. The purple jackets are worn on a rota at morning and afternoon breaktimes, and all children know that they can speak to any of the children wearing them. We recently had a lunchtime meeting to discuss ideas for moving forward and the successes seen so far. The team are very committed and have got so many amazing ideas that we would like to implement even more going forward. **Watch this space!**



New initiatives in place for our staff

Staff wellbeing is also of huge importance at St David's. We hope all staff feel valued, welcomed and their hard work is appreciated. Our new 'Thanks a latte' staff room display demonstrates this as staff can thank someone for doing something above and beyond. This could be something they've done for a child, a way they've helped another member of staff or just something that they've done that makes someone smile. The feeling of entering the staff room and seeing your name on the board is a lovely experience.

Assemblies

Our assemblies across the school often have a key focus on our St David's language of learning as well as reflecting on key, topical themes. We have already covered a wide range of subjects this half term including Harvest, Mental Health Day, Black History, curiosity, hope, the story of Siddhartha Gautama, inner strength and European day of languages.



Children are often invited to answer questions, give their ideas and opinions and to reflect during our assembly times; all qualities which we like to instil in our children. These times for reflection help pupils to gather their thoughts and think about the questions and bigger concepts posed to them in an age appropriate way. These could be a thought for the day or a takeaway thought that requires deeper thinking and consideration.

SPORT at St DAVID's

We have been so lucky to have the sun shining on us for our first half term back. It has been fantastic seeing all the children getting back into all the exciting sports we have been working on at St David's plus seeing a lot more children trying new activities.

Year 4 have been **swimming** each week at West Wickham baths and each and everyone of the children has gained in both confidence and ability! It has been great seeing so many happy smiley faces walking back for lunch.

We recently held our annual "**St David's Mini Marathon**" week. The whole school ran 2 laps each day on our beautiful field before finishing with the last 2 laps run on Friday where relatives were also invited to come and join with the children. I think you witnessed for yourselves that 2 laps of our field is a challenge!! However, the children not only loved it but were begging us to do more. Every child, from Pre-Reception upwards, completed the 2.6 miles we challenged them with. Incredible!



On Friday 6th October, six Year 6 boys travelled to sunny Lingfield College for the **ISA Regional Football Tournament**. Playing in a tough competition, the boys played extremely well considering this was their first time playing together.

Last Monday evening, 5 of our pupils from years 5 and 6, took part in trials to represent the Bromley team at the **London Youth Games Cross Country** in November. The top twelve finishers qualify. They ran one lap of Norman Park track, competing against a huge number of other children from a range of other Bromley Schools.



As always, our children dug deep and finished with astonishing results:

Girls 5th and 11th and Boys 5th, 9th and 14th.

The training has paid off and we couldn't be prouder of Chidera, Alisa, Michael, Charlie and Toby and can't wait to support them at Parliament Hill on 18th November.

See more on next page...

Yesterday we took 11 children from years 3-6 to Guildford to compete in a **biathlon**, this consists of a swim then a run! For nearly all the children it was the first time entering a competition like this, so nerves were definitely high!! There was absolutely no need for this as every child amazed both themselves and us not only during the races but also the way they supported each other! Not sure how some of them came home with voices left!!! A parting quote from one child was "sport is so much fun!"

Obviously, we couldn't agree more!



Finally, and very much "hot off the press". Today saw our very first **lacrosse** festival held at St David's! The children only started playing lacrosse in September but the enthusiasm towards it has been phenomenal. Today over 25 children from year 3-6 took part, in the damp conditions and have never looked happier. Definitely a theme in this write up but it wasn't only the skills and level of lacrosse that impressed us but the "team work".

We talk about St David's values a lot but seeing them in action is a real treat!



ECO NEWS

An exciting start to our Eco work in 2023 began with the introduction of our new Year 6 Eco Leaders, **Toby and Leonardo**.

Their first task was to read through the many applications across the year groups from children who wanted to represent their class as an Eco Committee member. It was a tough job for the boys and they took it very seriously, discussing with each other the applications and making their choices together.

They were very pleased to reveal the Eco Committee representatives to the whole school in this week's assembly. **They are:**

Yr 1 Rabbits	Sophie B
Yr 1 Badgers	Silas
Yr 2 Woodpeckers	Jayrishan
Yr 2 Parakeets	Gianluca
Yr 3 M	Edie
Yr 3 B	Saskia
Yr 4 Butterflies	Mayra
Yr 4 Dragonflies	Anoushka
Yr 5	Sahyuri



Congratulations to all our new committee members.

Cut Your Carbon!

Our first initiative this year will be the Cut your carbon campaign. After half term every pupil will receive a take away homework which we will be working on across the whole of November.

So, lots to think about and watch out for the information coming your way



HALF TERM AWARDS

The following children were chosen by their class teachers to receive awards this term. The comments were a joy to hear with many words used from our 'language of learning'

The children have all been presented with a gold star badge to wear on their blazers.

Pre	Laurenne T	For settling so well into school life, for always keeping busy with different activities and being so kind to her new friends
Rec	Summer B	For a fantastic start to Reception and always having a smile on her face. She has already shown many of our language of learning characteristics such as a friendly frog to her friends and a focused fox in class
Rec	Amalie D	Amalie has had a great start to school. She is always enthusiastic, helpful, kind and follows the class rules. She is a "curious cat" and loves asking questions, exploring at Forest School and challenging herself
Yr 1R	Sophie B	For always having a positive attitude towards learning at school
Yr 1B	Deniz S	For approaching every task with determination, enthusiasm and a willingness to challenge himself
Yr 2W	Logan B	For working extremely hard and showing exemplary behaviour. He values our stamp cards, star of the day and behaviour charts and works to ensure he is always on track. His mathematical knowledge and hard work in maths have been fantastic. I am really pleased to have Logan in my class
Yr 2P	Meera A	For always trying her best no matter what the challenge and for being a friendly, caring member of the Parakeets class
Yr 3M	Thomas H	For being fantastic all half term, he never backs down from a challenge and always faces tasks with enthusiasm. He has been especially good in English and Maths. In English, particularly, he has impressed me with his aptitude and his willingness to learn
Yr 3B	Kush K	For his consistently positive attitude and for always trying his best with all he is asked to do
Yr 4	Alex W	For his super attitude to learning, showing resilience and independence
Yr 4	Aisha C	For always doing the right thing and being a creative, curious learner
Yr 5	Naima T	For throwing herself fully in to Year 5 life. She has enthusiasm in her academic work as well as her play – particularly at Carrot Wood
Year 6	Georgina W	For her diligence and amazing attitude to the whole of school life, in and out of lessons

WELL DONE EVERYONE!

HEAD TEACHER AWARDS

YEAR 1					
Sophie B	Silas D	Frederick L	Rosa M-B	Amara N	Reuben B
Partho B-R	Mia Y	Freddie J	Dillan J		
YEAR 2					
Alexie F	Eleana N	Rohan P	Millie K	Lola A	Eliza S
YEAR 3					
Alex B	Isla B	Tuyanji F	Derin S	Saskia A	Samuel S
Hannah M	Adam Y	Jenna K	Aaron D	Samuel R	Lara W
YEAR 4					
Nastya H	Sofia B	Emily M (2)	Roma O'R	Anoushka P	Vikram A
Charlotte B	Amelie B	Mayra C	Gozde C	Adeline F	William J
Aoife O'H	Aria P	Magnus S			
YEAR 5					
Felix C	Michael W	Emily R			
YEAR 6					
Guhan K	Toby M	Elliot N			

UNIFORM UPDATE

In response to a recent plea from a parent who finds keeping the white sports socks looking pristine a challenge, we are happy for the children to wear plain navy sports socks as an alternative in the Autumn and Spring terms. Whether white or navy, the socks should not be sporting a logo! Thank you.

CHARITY



Our **Macmillan Coffee Morning** events raised **£1,030.00**. This is a record total for us, so huge thanks to Mrs Sowter and her Year 6 helpers for hosting the event, to those who donated the amazing array of cakes and to everyone who contributed so generously.

This event was followed quickly by our **Harvest Festival Appeal**. This year we welcomed a visitor from **Living Well Foodbank** who explained to the children why we support foodbanks, the difference our gifts will make, as well as shocking us with the huge increase in need in our locality. Mrs Sowter filled her car up to the gunnels with your donations and dropped them off at Living Well where they have helped to replenish the shelves there before being distributed to local families and individuals. **THANK YOU**



HELP!

Bromley Brighter Beginnings

HELP!

Several of our parents are involved with this charity and have asked us to appeal to our school families for help. We are conscious that many of you have given generously already this term but I also know St David's generosity knows no bounds!!

They would like the following:

Chocolate coins, Advent Calendars, Selection packs and other Christmas chocolate treats. They would also appreciate supermarket vouchers that can be used to buy food.

Any donations need to be in school by Wednesday 15th November

COMPUTING @ ST DAVID'S

It has been a super start for computing and robotics this year. Reception have discussed the 'Chicken Clicking' story and enjoyed the BeeBots. Year 1 have made some wonderful Paint pictures on Purple Mash and Year 3 have been working hard both in class and after school in the two coding clubs. Here are some images from the other year groups.

As ever, we are emphasising online safety in all we do.



EXCITING BREAKING NEWS!

The Year 6 robotics team are off to compete in the 'First Lego League' in February 2024 and watch this space for more new robots appearing at the school. Thank you so much to the wonderful PTA for your support.



PARENT ENGAGEMENT

SURVEY:

Thank you to everyone who has taken the time to respond to the recent parent survey sent out. The survey closes on Tuesday 31st October, so you still have plenty of time to complete. Once all the responses are in, we will analyse and inform you of the overall results, as well as taking time to consider the comments and suggestions made by some parents and respond and react accordingly.

PARENT FORUM:

Last Friday morning, Miss O'Sullivan and Mrs Foulger met with a group of parents in the music cabin. These meetings are open to any parents to attend; the next one will be on Friday 9th February. A number of issues were raised and discussed, including -

- Consistent messaging across year groups where parallel classes - **staff aware**
- Consistency of sticker awards in EYs - **staff already actioned**
- Website updating - **Mrs King being employed extra hours to do this**
- Wearing of navy socks for PE - **agreed**
- Request for summer reports to be earlier - **discussed with staff**
- First names to be on school photos - **will happen from next year**
- Devices to be used for homework in Sunset club - **JF to speak to staff**
- Parent survey to go out - **actioned**
- Lunch menus to go out each week - **Office to send out on a Friday**
- Discussion on lunches, portion sizes and snacks - **Mrs Handy to talk with chef**
- Timings of meetings for Yr 4/5 parents re secondary transfer - **Mrs Foulger arranging meetings with current Yr 5 parents**

RECEPTION PHONICS:

Miss Weaver and Mrs Burden recently put on a 'training' session for Reception parents on the teaching of phonics and their approach in reception throughout the year. Parents left well informed and with their own homework...

EDI FORUM:

Next meeting to be held in school on Thursday 16th November @ 7.30pm

DATES

November

Thursday 2nd - Parents Evening

Friday 3rd - PTA 'Jolly Jars' drop off and non-uniform day for pupils

Yrs 5 and 6 Netball Tournament @ Farrington's School

Tuesday 7th - Advanced Tap Class Performance @ 8.00am

Wednesday 8th - PTA Chocolate tombola drop off

Thursday 9th - Girl's Football Tournament @ Rosemead School

Friday 10th - Remembrance Assembly

W/C 13th - Anti-Bullying week

Tuesday 14th - Small Schools Swimming Gala

Wednesday 15th - Primary Maths Challenge for Yrs 5 and 6

Wednesday 15th - Odd Socks Day (for anti-bullying wk)

Thursday 16th - EDI Parent/Staff Forum @ 7.30pm

Friday 17th - PTA Bottle drop off and non-uniform day for pupils

Saturday 18th - Bromley Schools Cross-Country @ Crystal Palace (Yrs 5/6)

Monday 20th - St David's Dash (Yrs 3/4)

Saturday 25th - PTA Christmas Fair 1.00 - 4.00pm

Tuesday 28th - Little Stars Spotlights Show @ 4.00pm

Thursday 30th - Yrs 1 and 2 Open Tap Class @ 8.00am

December

Friday 1st - Spotlights Show @ 8.00am

Friday 1st - Little Stars Spotlights Show @ 4.00pm

Monday 11th - EYs Nativity @ 2.00pm

Tuesday 12th - EYs Nativity @ 9.30am

Tuesday 12th - Yrs 1/2 Nativity @ 2.00pm

Tuesday 12th - CAROL SERVICE @ St John's Church (Yrs 3 to 6) @ 6.30 pm

Wednesday 13th - Yrs 1/2 Nativity @ 9.30am

Wednesday 13th - Christmas Lunch and Christmas Jumper Day

Wednesday 13th - Pantomime Production in school

Friday 15th - TERM ENDS @ 12.30

Tuesday 19th / Wednesday 20th / Thursday 21st - Rainbow Club

January

Wednesday 3rd - Staff Inset Training

Thursday 4th - Term Starts

Friday 19th - Young Voices Concert @ O2

February

Friday 2nd - Prep Inter-House Swimming Gala @ Trinity School 6.00pm

Friday 9th - Parent Forum @8.45am

Monday 12th - Monday 19th (Inclusive) Half Term

Tuesday 13th / Wednesday 14th / Thursday 15th - Rainbow Club

Monday 19th - Staff Inset Training

March

Thursday 21st - Open Dance classes pm

Monday 25th - Musical Showcase Concert @ 1.45pm

Monday 25th - PTA Easter Egg Hunt (after school)

Wednesday 27th - Term Ends @ 12.30pm

All holiday dates for 24/25 can be found on the website

