

Polygraph News

St Polycarp's Catholic Primary School, Waverley Lane, Farnham, Surrey,
Website: www.stpolycarps.surrey.sch.uk
Headteacher: Mrs P. Best B Ed MA NPQH

Dear Parents and Carers,

Over the past couple of weeks we have welcomed in the beauty of Autumn. In this Polygraph News we capture just a few of the wonderful things that have been happening in school and in this edition, I have shared some of the children's views of what they have enjoyed about school and what makes St Polycarp's a special place to learn.

Key Dates

- 24th -28th October Half term
- **31st October – closing date for applications to secondary school**
- 28th November school closed
- EYFS Nativity for parents – Date to be confirmed
- Wednesday 21st December school breaks up for Christmas holiday. Closure 1.30pm
- 9th January Spring term starts

Keeping Children Safe

Online safety

Please try to stay one step ahead of your children and keep yourself informed on how to keep them safe. Please see these websites if you haven't done so already.

Think U know: www.thinkuknow.co.uk

NSPCC: www.net-aware.org.uk and www.nspcc.org.uk/onlinesafety

ChildLine: www.childline.org.uk



Attendance and Punctuality

As part of my commitment to ensure maximum attendance and punctuality, our Surrey Inclusion Officer will be making visits to the school after half term. Our school timings provide a 15 minute window for punctual arrivals but I am seeing a significant number of children arriving after 8.45am. This is time consuming and disruptive to office staff and teachers and does not allow children to make a positive start to the day. Please be on time!

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October the month of the Rosary

During the month of October, we began our mornings by honouring Mary and saying the Rosary. After saying our prayers, we added a 'rosary bead' to make one giant rosary around our prayer altar to Mary.

Harvest Festival

On Wednesday, 12th October, Year 4 led us in celebrating our wonderful whole school Harvest Liturgy. It began by all children bringing up their harvest offering of non-perishable food and placing it at the foot of our prayer table. Owls and Jays then shared poems, prayers and songs to remind of us of the wonderful gifts God has given us this autumn. We especially enjoyed their Harvest Samba song.

Thank you to all families who contributed to the collection and the volunteers who helped to collect items on the day. Farnham Food Bank collected a staggering 445 kg of food.



The Spiritual Council members spent an enjoyable morning creating this Harvest Loaf as a centrepiece for our Harvest Liturgy this month. This involved them rolling and shaping the dough to resemble a sheaf of wheat. The final change was the Harvest mouse, made with the last piece of remaining dough. We would like to give special thanks to Beth McCulloch for the use of her large oven to bake the loaf!

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Farnham in Bloom



This Month, Mrs Walker took Edward, Thea and Felix to Squire's Garden Centre for the Farnham in Bloom School Awards. Earlier in the Summer the children (together with Momo and Mrs Davis) had planted some hanging baskets which have adorned our front entrance ever since. The Farnham in Bloom judges came to visit and inspect our gardening skills in July and were impressed with the enthusiasm and knowledge these children had shown. We received a commendation award. 😊

The Hive

Throughout the half term, The Hive has gone from strength to strength. I hope you are finding that the provision is meeting the needs of busy family life and that your children are happy.

As with all new ventures, we are problem solving as we go in our commitment to provide the very best service we can.

On our last day of term (21st Dec) we will be running The Hive 1.30-6pm. You will be able to book by 3rd November.

I am hoping to offer holiday provision (externally sourced) for February half term and will update once this has been confirmed.



Ideally I would like to run Active Club (late pick up) every day – I am currently looking to staff a Thursday session and will keep you updated as soon as this is available.

Next half term Mrs Hartley our Hive Manager will be sending out a brief survey to capture your views. In the meantime I would be grateful to receive any feedback. Here are some of the children's comments:

There are lovely teachers at the Hive

It's fun and there are lots of activities

Everything is really good I wouldn't change anything!

The food is yummy!

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Avantika Joe – Year 6:

This week, Year 6 and Year 2 accompanied one another to mass. We joined up and united with our buddies from when we were in Year 5. Year 6 led their partners, hand-in-hand, to the church. Year 2 sat alongside their Year 6 buddies. Time flew by as we sat engrossed by Fr Niven's thoughts and prayers. It was a beautiful mass which was very much enjoyed by all of us. We look forward to going again soon. Thank you Fr Niven for all that you do for us at St Polycarp's.



Dillon Condren – Year 6:

This week, Year 6 carried out a DT project designing and marketing some 'Sploosh' (spiced peaches) inspired by our year group book – Holes by Louis Sachar. We had to bring in a jar and a tin of peaches. We made Sploosh by opening our canned peaches and putting them into a bowl. We experimented by adding some spices like nutmeg, cinnamon, mint and other ingredients. Next, we poured our mixtures into our jars and added some cinnamon sticks to decorate. We also added our own labels, which we designed in the computing suite, and some fabric on the lids. On Friday, we are going to display our label designs and carry out some real-life market research with the other children in our school. We are also going to get some professional advice from a marketing and design specialist!

Inspiring others



Year Four absolutely loved learning about Mae Jemison during Black History Month. The children are extremely proud of the beautiful door display they made in her honour.



Year 2 have been learning about Marcus Rashford, the footballer, and the amazing work he has done in helping those children that need it, to get free school meals. We made collage portraits of him and wrote about why he is such an inspirational person.

Year 4 Vikings for the day

On Monday 17th October Year 4 took part in an exciting and informative Viking day. The children dressed up as Viking warriors and learnt about various aspects of Viking history and life.



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Going the Extra Mile Club

Making masks and having fun!

What do year 1 think of the year so far?

As we approach half term, we have been thinking about how we have settled in and what we have enjoyed doing in Skylarks and Swans.

I like Science and Maths because it is fun.

I can write lots now I am in Year 1.

I loved going to church with my Year 5 Buddy.

In RE we learnt about Jesus' family. I showed a picture of my family.

Playtime and lunch time are fun. I like playing with my friends.

St Polycarp's Walking Challenge

Thank you to those who have been taking part in our St Polycarp's Walking Challenge. Reminder that if you have been taking part, please bring your poster of your journey into school on Monday 31st October so we can congratulate our walking champions! If you are keen to get involved, please see the information below with information about how you can get walking the North Downs Way – a great October half term challenge!



What is it?

A stunning 153 mile walk, starting in Farnham and ending in Dover!

The challenge

How much of the North Downs Way can you walk during October? As a family, track your miles, send us updates on Twitter and create a poster of your walking!

What you actually have to do

Document your journey along the North Downs Way from Farnham, going as far as you can! At the end of the month, create a poster to show your progress, what you saw and any interesting statistics. What is your final mile count? What is your step count? Which was the most interesting section? Bring this into school so we can celebrate your success!

Use the mile tracker on the next page to tick off as you walk sections. You can break it down into smaller chunks, or go for longer stretches!

You can download a free 'map my walk' app, such as Strava, and take screen shots of your journeys.

Walking tracker—tick off as you go!

- Farnham to Guildford (11 miles)
- Guildford to Westhumble (13 miles)
- Westhumble to Merstham (10 miles)
- Merstham to Oxted (8 miles)
- Oxted to beyond!

Find out more here: https://www.nationaltrail.co.uk/en_GB/trails/north-downs-way/



Examples of what you could put onto your poster...



Keep us updated with your progress on Twitter by tagging us and using #Polyswalkingchallenge

St Polycarp's Careers Fair June 2023

Due to the success of last year's fair, we will be hosting a second Careers Fair in June 2023. While this is some way off, we are already in the process of organising some extremely exciting stalls to really showcase the varying careers children can pursue. The theme will be The Arts, although other professions will be displayed. If you know anyone who has a career in the arts, for example involved in music, dance, design, artistry or even show biz, we would love for them to host a stall and talk to the children about their experience in the industry. For more information, please contact Ms Murdoch via the school office.

Office Information

If your child is absent from school for illness, a medical appointment or any other reason including being late please leave a message on the absence line of the answer machine. This is to allow your child to be marked with the correct attendance code. Please do not email the office as the email may not be read in time for registration.

Admissions for Reception 2023

Access information regarding admissions via www.surreycc.gov.uk/admissions

Parents **MUST** apply to their Local Authority (either Surrey or Hampshire County Council). You can apply online from **2nd November 2022** via your Local Authority website. The closing date for **primary** level admissions is **15th January 2023**. Please note: to qualify for a place at 4 years of age, a child must have been born between 1 September 2017 and 31 August 2018.

For any queries or to pick up a Supplementary Form (faith applicants), please contact our Admissions Officer, Mrs Sarah Regan either via the school office or at admissions@stpolycarps.surrey.sch.uk.

Admissions for Secondary School 2023

Parents of Year 6 children moving to secondary school also need to apply online to their Local Authority (either Surrey or Hampshire County Council) at www.surreycc.gov.uk/admissions Online applications can be submitted from now until **31st October 2022** - early applications (by mid-October) are encouraged!

Catholic secondary schools (including All Hallows) and some other secondary schools will require you to complete their Supplementary Information Form (SIF). The SIF for All Hallows includes a requirement for the form to be signed by Mrs Best. Please drop these in to the school office for signing (before October half term). Please see individual school websites for information regarding open day arrangements this year.

As I have mentioned before we highly value our relationship with All Hallows and the success of our past St Polycarp's children. Please see the link below for All Hallows' Veritas update – a wonderful way to learn more about the school.

<https://sway.office.com/oqC7ZiqXGJYJ5fJd?ref=Link>

You will find below Mrs Trafford's Sports round up from what has been a busy October!

Thank you for your continued support and best wishes for a wonderful half term.

Mrs Paula Best



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ACTIVE, P.E. AND SPORTS REPORT OCTOBER 2022

Y6 District League football

Our football team have played three matches this month sadly they haven't won their matches against some very good opposition but what we have been pleased about is how they have developed as a team and their increasing resilience and skills.

Y6 District League Netball

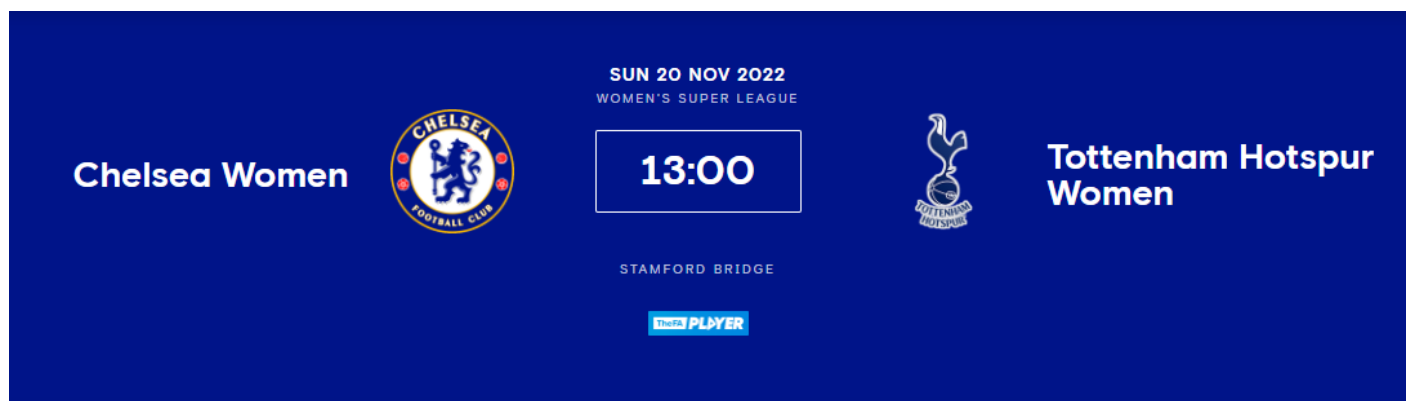
Due to weather and other schools pulling out of the league the netballers have had very few matches this month but they have been training hard and Mrs Ramsden has been pleased with their progress.

Y5/6 Fun Netball

There is a netball club run for any keen Y5/6 children who did not make the teams run by Mrs Hodgkin on a Wednesday morning at 8am. Mrs Hodgkin has been really impressed how the children have listened and learnt during these sessions. Mrs Trafford has observed the sessions and seen the children's netball competence really grow. There are still spaces if any other Y5/6 child would like to join. Just let Mrs Trafford know.

Information about Stamford Bridge Chelsea Tickets given out to families recently:

Due to the Queen's death the Chelsea women's v West Ham women's match was postponed. Chelsea have told us that the tickets issued to our families will be valid for:



If you no longer can use the tickets please return them to Mrs Trafford as she has a waiting list of other families who were in the draw for the original tickets.

Y5 Trip to Chelsea's training ground at Cobham for Premier League 30th Anniversary Tour.

Mrs Trafford has been awarded the Premier League Community Captain for Chelsea. As part of Mrs Trafford's prize she was able to take fifteen Y5 children. (Note children who were interested in going had their names put into a hat) to the Chelsea Cobham Training Ground for a football training session.

On arrival we were surprised to find that the children were to be part of the award giving ceremony. As part of the ceremony the Premier League brought the Premier League Cup to Cobham and the children were able to have their photos taken with the famous trophy. The press also took photos of the ceremony and the children's photos can be found on the Chelsea FC website.

<https://www.chelseafc.com/en/news/article/chelsea-foundation-names-community-captain>

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The Premier League officials liked out mascot so much they wanted Poly the Mascot to have her own photo with the cup:



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District Hockey Tournament

We entered our Y5 hockey team into the Y6 hockey district tournament to build a hockey team going forward. For most of them it was the first time they had played a hockey match. The children did very well against Y6 opposition. They played many matches and although lost their first few matches they managed to draw and win several matches by the end of the tournament. It was a pleasure to see their skills develop throughout the afternoon. We hope to arrange some friendlies against other local schools to build on this later in the year.

Autumn KS2 District Cross Country Race:

We were delighted at how well our KS2 children did at the recent District Cross Country Race. Both the boys and girls teams did really well for a two form entry school. The next races will be on Saturday 13th May and we would love to see even more of our children participate at that event.



CROSS COUNTRY SUMMARY OF RESULTS – October 2022

| OVERALL TEAM PLACES: | |
|----------------------|--|
| POSITION | NAME OF SCHOOL |
| 1 st | South Farnham |
| 2 nd | St Peters |
| 3 rd | St Polycarps |
| 4 th | Waverley Abbey |
| 5 th | William Cobbett |
| 6 th | Rowledge |
| 7 th | Potters Gate |
| 8 th | Wyke |
| 9 th | Holly Lodge |
| 10 th | Highfield |
| 11 th | Hale (NFT) |
| 12 th | Shawfield (NFT) |
| Key: | NFT = NOT A FULL TEAM (less than 6 runners for a race) |

| PLACE | OVERALL BELL CUP | GIRLS TEAM TROPHY | BOYS TEAM TROPHY |
|-----------------|------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| 1 st | South Farnham | South Farnham | South Farnham |
| 2 nd | St Peters | St Peters | St Polycarps |
| 3 rd | St Polycarps | St Polycarps | St Peters |

| | | | |
|------------------------|------------|-----------|--------------|
| Numbers participating: | GIRLS: 242 | BOYS: 300 | OVERALL: 542 |
|------------------------|------------|-----------|--------------|

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Swimming:

Requirements to pass the National Curriculum Swimming:

Swim 25 metres on their back using a recognised stroke and then without stopping 25 metres on their back of a recognised stroke.

Tread water for ½ a minute and spin around whilst treading water.

Submerge under the water to test their water confidence.

Please note this is different from 'Stage' swimming at outside swimming classes. National Curriculum swimming is all about keeping children safe in water where Stage swimming outside will work on initially teaching the children to swim and then improving the children's swimming strokes.

Y5 Curriculum Swimming

Group 1 of Year 5 have started their swimming lessons and we can already see progress, some already managing to pass their National Curriculum swimming. Further Y5 and Y4 swimming groups will take place later in the academic year.

KS2 Elite Swim Squad

Swim squad training has resumed at the crack of dawn on a Monday morning. Thank-you to the parents for getting their children out of bed and down to the pool for their training sessions. So far we have been working on race starts for the different strokes in preparation for the District Gala on Thursday 9th February 2023.

Y5 PhysiFun leaders

Our PhysiFun leaders have been working with small groups of children looking at participation and enjoyment of physical fundamentals.

Y5/6 Sports Crew

We would like to thank our sports crew for assisting in re-organising our P.E. resources. We look forward to them utilising their roles around the school encouraging active play and teamwork with younger children going forward.

Disco Fridays

The children have been thoroughly enjoying disco Fridays and it is lovely seeing them joyfully moving.



Mrs Trafford