

Governors' Page

In the Spotlight with Sue Gammerman

Four years ago I took up a new hobby - learning another language. My husband's family are from Estonia, and we visit very year. Previously I only learnt a few simple phrases in Estonian. But now, I spend several hours a week with Google Translate and my textbook. I must admit that so far my main achievement has been to read a few chapters of Harry Potter in Estonian with the aid of a dictionary (for all that witchcraft vocabulary!). It's been fun but not very useful.



Of course, that's because I don't actually live in Estonia, and I have very little opportunity to practice what I have been learning. Even so, I'm glad that I'm making the effort. At the very least, I provide much entertainment to family and friends as I try out my distinctly mediocre language skills.

The experience of learning Estonian from scratch has made me reflect on what it is like for children to learn a new subject at school. I can understand how frustrating it is when you don't immediately understand how things work. But it is a great feeling when everything finally clicks into place and you are ready for the next step.

I am envious of children who come from bi-lingual families. They can 'belong' to two different language worlds without even trying. But all children get the chance to learn another language at some point in their school career, and when you are young, it is relatively easy to learn complex and difficult things. At any rate, much easier than when you are older!

If I could advise a young person on how best to learn another language, I would say:

- The sooner you start learning, the easier it will be.
- Don't worry too much about grammar –
 just learn lots of words and string them all
 together.
- Don't worry about making mistakes no one cares.
- At some point, go and live in the country for a year – you will end up speaking fluently and you'll have a great time.



Reading at SAH

Welcome to our Autumn 1 Reading Newsletter!

This term, each year group have been immersed in their class book—*The Mummy Ate My Homework* (Year 3), *Boy with the Bronze Axe* (Year 4), Cosmic (Year 5) and *Letters from the Lighthouse* (Year 6). Thank you to the parents and carers who were able to get hold of a copy of these books—the children love following along with their books in class and using them during creative curriculum lessons.

Our reading leaders have been busy updating the non-fiction section of the school library which has involved removing many of the old out-of-date texts and reorganising the current books into a more user friendly system.

Little Wandle Update

Our new Little Wandle Fluency programme has now been running for a half term. Feedback from children has been very positive, with them commenting that they can't wait to read the next chapter of the book during their reading session to find out what happens next. It has created a lovely buzz about reading in classrooms and it is a delight to hear children talking positively about their reading experiences.

Our Little Wandle Rapid Catch Up programme has also been running this half and our latest round of assessment data shows the children on this scheme are progressing well. If you have any questions regarding Little Wandle, please contact your child's class teacher.

Birthday Books

LETTERS AND SOUNDS

REVISED

Thank you to the parents and carers who have taken part in this scheme—the children love receiving their books in assembly and proudly scanning them into our school library once they have read them. Your contributions have made such a difference to the books we can offer in our school library. We will be continuing this scheme next term, so please follow this link to purchase a birthday book for your child: https://amzn.eu/8cW44t0

What's coming up?

Next term, the children will be using the following texts in class:

Year 3: The Enchanted Wood by Enid Blyton

Year 4: The Lion the Witch and the Wardrobe by C.S Lewis

Year 5: Everest: The Remarkable Story of Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay (this is an expensive hardback book so there is no expectation to buy a copy for your child)

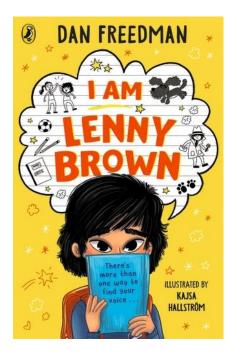
Year 6: The Final Year by Matt Goodfellow & Viking Boy by Tony Bradman

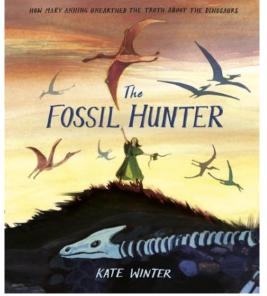
These texts may not begin in January, but will begin next half term.

Books we're bragging about!

As recommended by LoveReading4Kids and Puffin for readers aged 7+.

Lenny Brown is an eight-year-old boy who can't talk – except to his mum and his dog Rocky. When he has to move house and change schools, he feels very nervous about whether he'll be able to fit in. But Lenny soon learns that there's more than one way to find your voice. And there's a big surprise for everyone when they realise how amazing he really is.



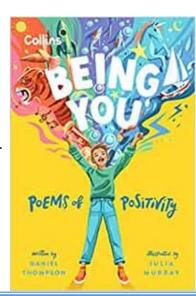


Mary Anning may not have received the recognition she deserved when she was alive 200 years ago but we are going to celebrate how her discoveries changed our understanding of the history of the earth. Born in Lyme Regis in Dorset, Mary started fossil hunting from a young age and her findings helped modern palaeontologists piece together a picture of how dinosaurs lived and evolved. With stunning panoramic fold-out pages and beautiful illustrations by brand-new talent Kate Winter, this is a book dinosaur fans and young explorers will return to again and again.

Sometimes we all need a bit of a positive boost, and this book of 50 poems packed with positivity and happiness is just the ticket.

Featuring poems about having purpose, keeping perspective, sharing your feelings, being resilient and ambitious, calm and curious (and so much more) this beautifully illustrated colourful book is a real pick-meup, and a great introduction to poetry for those who don't read it very much.

Most of the poems have regular rhyme schemes and use simple language, so there's no worry here about obscure poetry references or tricky layouts. Instead, this is an accessible go-to for motivational quotes and perhaps a daily poem to keep us on an even keel.



Books we're bragging about!

As recommended by LoveReading4Kids for readers aged 9+.

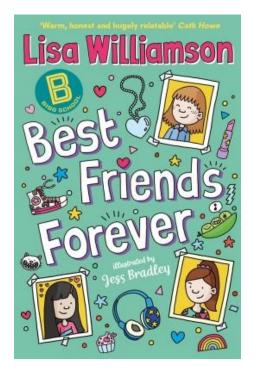
Exploring the struggles and exploitation faced by immigrants, the struggle to be seen, and the pressing issue of book banning, it's a poignant and powerfully pertinent novel that couldn't be more perfectly-pitched for 9+-year-olds.

Finally Seen shares the inspiring story of Lina. Five years after her parents went to America to lay foundations for a new life, Lina is about to join them from China. Ahead of this monumental move, she wonders how they could "take Millie, my baby sister, and not me? My sister got to grow up with my parents. Me? I grew up with postcards from my parents."

At the same time, Lina feels guilty about leaving her beloved grandma, and there are moving parallels between their situations. While Lina struggles to find her way in America, her grandma struggles to feel at home in her new retirement complex.

Despite being bullied at school, brave, resilient Lina finds supportive new friends. And, thanks to her adorable school librarian, she also finds fresh confidence and a strong voice through discovering the magic of books, most notably graphic novels.





Previously best-known for her award-winning YA novels, Lisa Williamson proves she is just as adept at writing contemporary stories for younger readers (10 – 12 years) in this new series.

Lola is moving into Year 7, big school, and the challenges and ordinary pressures of that step are exacerbated by her parents' recent divorce and mum's decision to sell their house. At least Evie, her so close they're two peas-in-a-pod friend from primary school, will be there with her. But, as many of us know, people change and even the oldest of friends can simply grow apart.

Williamson gives proper weight to Lola's confusion and disappointment as Evie finds a new best friend, and depicts with the same skill Lola's happiness and growing confidence as she finds her own new people.



Winter Mini Challenge

Join the Ready, Set, Read! Winter Mini Challenge

from 1 December 2023

WINTER READING CHALLENGE RUNNING UNTIL 19TH FEB

Ready, Set, Read! – We are excited this year to be running the Mini Winter Reading Challenge for the first time at Virginia Water Library!

Get rewards for your reading

The Reading Agency has once again teamed up with the **Youth Sports Trust** to bring 'Ready, Set, Read!' - a special winter
activity themed challenge. The winter challenge is completed
online and children can sign up through The Reading Agency's
free-to-access website, featuring rewards for reading and
reviewing books: **www.wintermini.org.uk** – You will need a
Library card number (free to join).

Once children have completed their challenge, they can unlock a limited-edition virtual badge and a special Winter Mini Challenge certificate to print off and keep.

A small **prize** is being given this year to children who bring in their digital or printed certificate to the Library to show us. So come along and let us know how you get on!

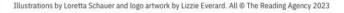












Health and Wellbeing

Did you know, we are one of less than 40 schools in Surrey to have developed a healthy schools approach? Here's what we've been up to this half term to support health and wellbeing.





DHL Road safety

As part of Road Safety Week, Year 3 had a visit from DHL to learn all about the dangers and blind spots of large vehicles.

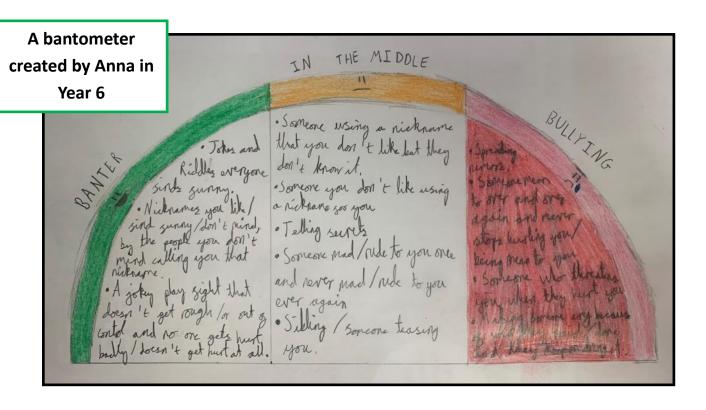


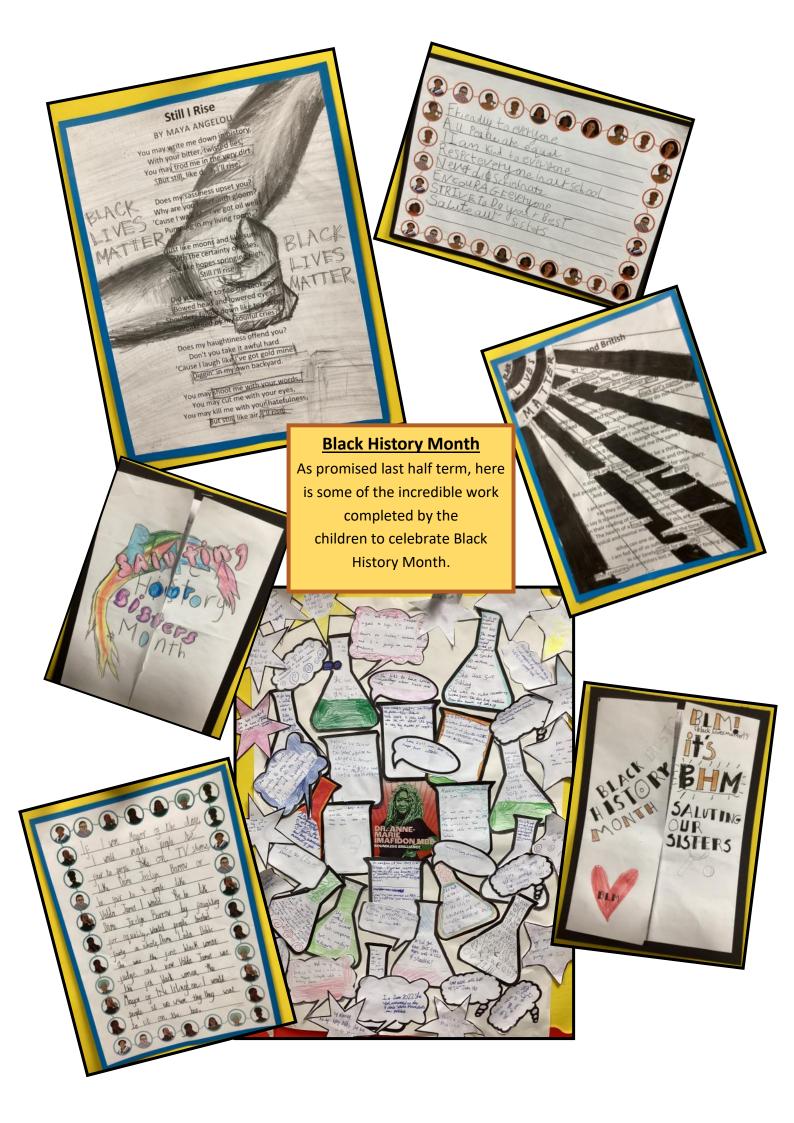
Anti-bullying week-

To begin the week, we celebrated our uniqueness buy wearing odd socks. The children really embraced this with some amazing patterns on show!

The focus theme for this year's Anti-bullying week was 'Make a Noise'. Each year group had lots of opportunities to discuss what bullying is and strategies that can help. Many classes also looked at the difference between 'banter' and bullying.







CHRISTMAS CONCERT 2023







Well done to all the children who took part in this year's concert. They performed to 3 great audiences and left everyone feeling very Christmassy. Thanks to Ms Allen & Mrs Fuller for all their hard work bringing it all together.



— Retirement living to the full —









On Tuesday, 12th December, 20 members of the Christmas Concert cast were invited to go to McCarthy & Stone Retirement Home in Virginia Water to sing and perform for the residents. It was a lovely occasion and the children got to chat and have a drink afterwards. The residents also gifted the children a little Christmas gnome each to hang on their Christmas trees at home.

A lovely festive afternoon was had by all!

Year 3

In Year 3, we are really enjoying learning about the Ancient Egyptians. At the heart of our learning is our class text, "A Mummy Ate My Homework", which is about a boy called Henry who gets whisked back in time to the year 1300BC! Using our prediction skills, we used the front cover of the book to answer some wondering questions about the text. In History lessons, we studied timelines to place the events of the Egyptian era in context, and looked at artefacts from Chertsey Museum in order to understand more about Egyptian lifestyle.





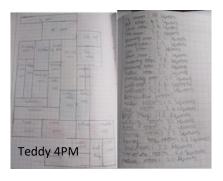
In Year 4 this half term, we've enjoyed our topic of the Stone Age to Iron Age. We have been studying primary and secondary sources of information, researching the Palaeolithic, Mesolithic and Neolithic eras, and so much more! We are LOVING the book "The Boy with the Bronze Axe", and re-enacted some of the scenes from the book.

We are also keen to show some of our maths work. In area, we designed our own dream houses—as you will see, there were some very inventive rooms!

Last, but not least, we had a great time in DT, designing and making a slingshot car. Many thanks to the parents who came in to help with sawing and gluing!



















Year 5





In Year 5, we have been learning all about space. We kicked off with a fantastic WOW day and the children came to school wearing their creative space helmets they made for homework. We had astronaut training, ate space food and created astronaut art. In class, we began by focusing on the Science knowledge. Our main topics included: the solar system; understanding why we have day, night and seasons; phases of the moon and timezones. Our writing was scientific and we explained one of the topics we had been learning about. Using this knowledge, we created videos in our computing lessons focusing on using different shots and editing. Please watch some of our space videos below using the QR codes. We then continued our learning to start fiction writing using the book 'Cosmic' by Frank-Cottrell Boyce and are looking forward to these stories being finished next week! In DT, we have made pop-up books based on nursery rhymes using sliders and levers. In maths this term we have learnt about multiplication and division facts and started our fractions learning.





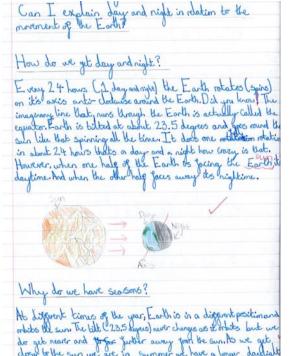


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Zayn 5G Isabella 5A



Evangeline 5D





Shanaya 5A



Bella and Lara 5A



Jessica 5D



Caleb 5D



Della-Rose 5G

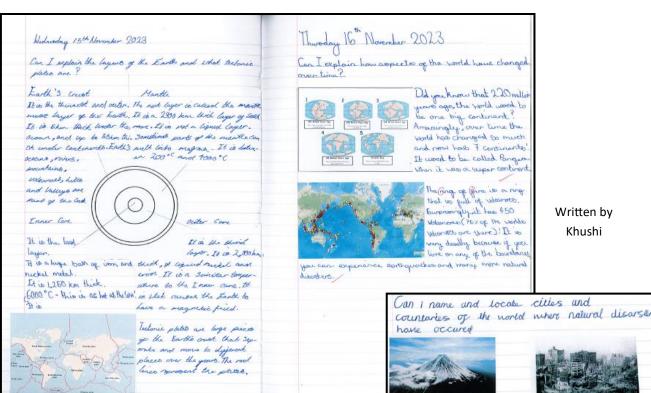


Ethan 5G





In Year 6, we have been learning about Planet Earth. We started by understanding what a natural disaster is, then thought about the layers of Earth and the plate tectonics. Further into the unit, we learnt about how aspects of the world have changed over time and used atlases to locate different natural disasters. We brought all of our learning together in a nonchronological report. As part of our science learning, we have been continuing to think about electricity and planned our own investigations around how the length or width of wire affects the electrical current. In maths, we started this term learning about fractions and have later learnt about converting measures and position and direction.



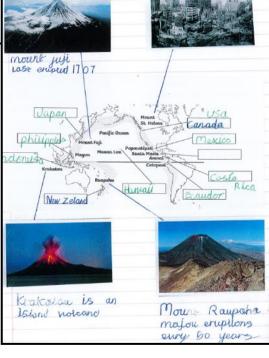
Written by Khushi

In DT, we have been using our electricity knowledge to make steady hand games. Below are some pictures of what we created. Written by Luis









Year 6 Leadership

It has been a busy first term for our Year 6 leadership team. Our Head Boy and Head Girl have met with the governors, spoken at prospective parent tours and led a whole school assembly, while our House Captains have given prospective parent tours and have been busy preparing their ideas for a range of inter-house competitions. Our Safeguarding Leaders played a pivotal role in the organisation of 'Feeling Good Week' and our Reading Leaders hosted the inter-house poetry competition. Our Sports Leaders have been busy organising playground games while our Office Admin Leaders have been busy distributing Christmas cards. Indoor and Outdoor Site Leaders have taken part in health and safety inspections; Computing Leaders have been busy setting up a Crumble Club which will start next term and Subject Leaders have hosted multiple pupil voice sessions.

Meet the Sports Leaders



Harry, Jensen, Steven, Rocky, George, Freddie, Leyla, Amelia, Ellie and Emilia

Name: Freddie

What do you enjoy most about your role as a Sports Leader?

I like doing the different sports and teaching Year 4 how to play the different games.

What would you like to achieve this year in your role as a Sports Leader?

I would like to help out at Sports Day.

Name: Harry

What do you enjoy most about your role as a Sports Leader?

I enjoy teaching the other children how to play the different sports.

What would you like to achieve this year in your role as a Sports Leader?

I would like to hold the ribbon on Sports Day.

Name: Emilia

What do you enjoy most about your role as a Sports Leader?

I enjoy helping other children socialise and seeing them smile when they win a game.

What qualities do you have that make you a good Sports Leader?

I am fair and encouraging.

Name: Rocky

What do you enjoy most about your role as a Sports Leader?

I enjoy setting up games and teaching them.

What would you like to achieve this year in your role as a Sports Leader?

I would like to help set up the equipment at Sports Day.

Name: Jensen

What do you enjoy most about your role as a Sports Leader?

I like making all of the people that play feel included.

What qualities do you have that make you a good Sports Leader?

I am patient and like helping people.

Name: George

What do you enjoy most about your role as a Sports Leader?

I like making the children feel included.

What would you like to achieve this year in your role as a Sports Leader?

I would like to help with inter-house competitions.

Name: Leyla

What do you enjoy most about your role as a Sports Leader?

I enjoy teaching the children new activities and seeing their emotions,

What qualities do you have that make you a good Sports Leader? I am a good listener, careful explainer and show good sportsmanship.

Name: Steven

What do you enjoy most about your role as a Sports Leader?

I enjoy seeing the children feeling happy and included.

What would you like to achieve this year in your role as a Sports Leader? I would like to help out at interhouse competitions.

Name: Mimi

What do you enjoy most about your role as a Sports Leader?

Lots of things—mostly teaching the different year groups new skills.

What would you like to achieve this year in your role as a Sports Leader? Teaching even more games and skills to other year groups.

Name: Ellie

What do you enjoy most about your role as a Sports Leader? I enjoy playing with the younger year groups, teaching them new games and seeing them smile.

What would you like to achieve this year in your role as a Sports Leader? I would like to encourage more people to do things that are beyond what they think they're good at.

Meet the Reading Leaders



Harrison, Daniel, Mya, Ayah

Name: Harrison

What is your favourite book?

My Brother is a Superhero

What book would you recommend to a child in upper school?

Any of the Alex Rider series.

Name: Daniel

Why do you enjoy reading?

I like getting into the character's heads.

What book would you recommend to a child in lower school? I would recommend Tom Gates because it's about his life.

Name: Mya

Why do you enjoy reading?

I like to escape from everyone and everything that's going on around me.

What book would you recommend to a child in upper school? The Harry Potter series as they are so well written that you feel you're actually in Hogwarts with the characters

Name: Ayah

Why do you enjoy reading?

I love reading as it helps my imagination and creativity.

What is your favourite book?

A Room Full of Chocolate.



currently running SEABOARD

Match Funding schemes

Dixons M&S

Fundraising for St Ann's Heath



Did you know that we're registered with easyfundraising and you could help us to raise funds for the school at no extra cost to yourself? This is a great opportunity to raise much needed funds for the school! When you shop online, with over 7,500 of your favourite brands, including John Lewis & Partners, Amazon, eBay, notonthehighstreet, you will raise FREE donations for Friends of St Anns Heath - Virginia Water. If you're not already signed up, it only takes a few minutes, then you can begin using the easyfundraising website or app straightaway. Visit our easyfundraising page to get started: https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/fosah/?

<u>utm_campaign=pmc&utm_source=email&utm_medium=social&utm_content=raisingforaschoolemail1_</u>

Does your employer offer any matched fundraising schemes?

United Utilities

Hundreds of organisations in the UK like Microsoft, Vodafone, Thames Water, Sky will boost fundraising when their employees volunteer for charities like ours. If you're not sure if your employer offers a match funding scheme please contact your HR department. If your company does offer it, please get in touch with us to see if we can work together to unlock that extra fundraising potential for St Ann's Heath.

If you work for a company that match funds, please contact FOSAH via email on fosahstanns@gmail.com as this is an easy and fantastic way to raise funds.

Before/After School Clubs 2024

DAY	TIME	CLUB	WHO RUNS IT?	WHERE DOES IT TAKE PLACE?	START DATE
MONDAY	3.10-4.20pm	FOOTBALL	PS Sports Coaching Ltd	SCHOOL FIELD	08.01.24 until 25.03.24 (last one)
TUESDAY	BEFORE SCHOOL 8.00-8.30am	SCHOOL NETBALL - Yrs 5 & 6	Mrs Fuller	BACK PLAYGROUND	09.01.24 until 26.03.24 (last one)
	3.10-4.20pm	TENNIS	PS Sports Coaching Ltd	PLAYGROUND	09.01.24 until 26.03.24 (last one)
WEDNESDAY	3.20-4.20PM	REDZ DANCE	NOVA (Redz)	SCHOOL HALL	Nova will contact you directly
THURSDAY	BEFORE SCHOOL 8.10-8.40am	DODGEBALL - Yrs 5 & 6	PS Sports Coaching Ltd	SCHOOL HALL	04.01.24until 27.03.24 (last one)
	3.10-4.15pm	NETBALL	INITIAL NETBALL	BACK PLAYGROUND	11.01.24 until 28.03.24 (last one)
	3.20pm - 4.05pm	CHESS	CHESS 4 ALL Emma Jane Billington Phillips	Y4 classroom	11.01.24 until 21.03.24 (last one)
FRIDAY	BEFORE SCHOOL 8.10-8.40am	CROSS COUNTRY	PS Sports Coaching Ltd	SCHOOL FIELD	05.01.24 until 22.03.24 (last one)
	3.10-4.20pm	FUN & FITNESS	PS Sports Coaching Ltd	SCHOOL FIELD	05.01.24 until 22.03.24 (last one)
	3.10-4.20pm	CORE JUDO	Core Judo coaching	SCHOOL HALL	12.01.24 until 22.03.24 (last one)
	3.10-4.30pm	ART CLUB	Art Club Surrey	CLASS 5G	05.01.24 until 22.03.24 (last one)

How to book a place

To book For PS Sports Coaching Clubs - please visit - www.pssportscoaching.com/school-clubs and scroll down to St Ann's Heath Junior School or email info@pssportscoaching.com

For <u>Initial Sports Netball club</u> - please visit - <u>www.initialsports.co.uk</u> or contact Niki on—niki@initialsports.co.uk or Tel: 0790 5725974

For School Netball (on Tuesday mornings) - please contact Mrs Eales in the school office.

For Art Club - please email artclub.surrey@gmail.com

For <u>Core Judo—please visit https://core-judo-schools.classforkids.io/info/30</u>

For <u>Chess Club</u> please visit - <u>https://chessentriesforall.com/school-chess-club-membership/st-anns-heath-chess-club/</u>

Information about all our clubs can be found on our website - www.stannsheath.org

School Year 2023-2024

Just to remind parents/carers that if they take their children out of school without authority, they will be liable to receive a penalty notice. Currently, the amount payable under a penalty notice is £60.00 per parent/carer per child if paid within 21 days.

Thereafter, the amount increases to £120.00 if paid between 21 and 28 days. If the penalty notice remains unpaid after 28 days, the Local Authority will consider a prosecution in the Magistrates Court. Please note that penalty notices are issued per parent/carer per child so a family of two parents and two children will receive 4 penalty notices.

SPRING TERM 2024				
Tuesday 2 nd January	INSET DAY			
	(Children not in school)			
Wednesday 3 rd January	Spring Term begins			
Monday 12 th February - Fri-	Half Term			
day 16 th February				
Thursday 28 th March	End of Term			
SUMMER TERM 2024				
Monday 15 th April	INSET DAY			
	(Children not in school)			
Tuesday 16 th April	Summer Term begins			
Friday 24 th May	INSET DAY			
	(Children not in school)			
Monday 27 th May - Friday	Half Term			
31 st May				
Tuesday 23 rd July	End of Term			

Please don't forget to keep an eye on our **Facebook and Twitter pages – just put** 'stannsheathsch' into the search bars. We try to update these pages with things we think you might find useful.

Please also keep an eye on our website - <u>www.stannsheath.org</u> which has everything you need to know about school life at St Ann's Heath.