



# St Lawrence Headlines

December 2024

“Glory to God in the highest heaven and on earth  
peace, good will toward men” Luke 2:14

How wonderful it was to all gather together in the church for our Carol Services this morning. We were all reminded of the true meaning of Christmas as the Worship Ambassadors read and acted out the Nativity beautifully. The angelic voices of the choir filled the church and the whole school sounded wonderful as they joined in with gusto. A special mention to Noah L who opened the service with his skilful performance on the trumpet. What a fabulous way to end what has been a very successful 2 terms of learning.



Music builds from strength to strength at the school with impressive Year 5 flute recitals earlier in the term and the ever-popular Rocksteady bands performing to a huge parent turnout on Monday afternoon. One to one singing, flute, clarinet and recorder lessons continue and the children all love the lively singing assemblies that takes place every week at school with Mr Noble and the Pais Team.

Our Pupil Leaders continue to make a real difference to our school. Thank you to our PALS, Worship Ambassadors, House Captains, Sports Captains and School Council in particular who have taken their prominent roles very seriously. As our [12 Before 12 Guarantee](#) promises, pupil leadership is available to all children at St Lawrence and is a key part in them developing independence and maturity.

Thank you, as always, for your supportive words and messages of encouragement about the direction the school is going in. I feel very blessed to have such a fantastic team of hardworking and passionate staff and look forward to building on the successes we have already made over the past year and a half.

So after 15 long weeks, with every type of weather thrown in, I wish you all a brilliant festive period with your families. I will be celebrating Christmas day with ten adults and twelve children so am looking forward to a bit of peace and quiet after that!

We look forward to welcoming your children back with us on Tuesday 7th January 2025 and hope to launch the new website at some point in the new year.

With best wishes,

*C. Muth*



## Recent Events



### Year 3 Hampton Court Palace trip

On the 4th of December, Year 3 went to Hampton Court Palace to experience Christmas like the royals. We had a wonderful day exploring the palace as well as learning about the festive traditions of years gone by. We're so lucky to have such a historically significant building so close by. It was amazing to see the children's excitement when experiencing things that we had taught - through a screen at school - come to life. Thank you very much to all of our parent volunteers for helping to make the trip possible.

"Hampton Court Palace was amazing. I loved it! It was so cool. My favourite part was King Henry's kitchens. It was the best trip ever - I loved the workshop." Molly C – Robins

"I liked the chocolate kitchens with the videos inside. I didn't like the Haunted Gallery because it's meant to be really haunted! It was really fun when we made the crown. I really enjoyed the trip!" Jenson W – Swifts

"On the 4th of December the whole of Year 3 went on a school trip to Hampton Court Palace. We saw the Great Kitchen, the Boiling House, the Great Chambers and the bedrooms. They did a workshop about Christmas over the years and the difference about what we use now for Christmas and what they used for Christmas then. They also learnt that there was a man called Oliver Cromwell who, when Henry VIII died, banned Christmas. Apparently, if Oliver saw or heard you do something Christmassy, he'd arrest you! Then we played a game where someone was Oliver Cromwell. When Oliver's back was

turned you had to dance, but when he turned around you have to FREEZE! After that, we had a workshop. In the workshop, we made a crown design. Everyone was a bit sad when we had to leave, but we were very tired and wanted to

sit down. We went back to school and then it was home time so everyone left and probably had a lay down. We had fun!!!!!"

Amber C - Wrens



## Year 4 Christmas Production



I was again privileged to be invited to the Year 4 Christmas production which reverted to a traditional Nativity and Christmas story. The production I attended was the matinee on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> which was, as usual, played to a full house of children, parents and relatives.

The afternoon passed almost too quickly with the journey of Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem, along with other travellers being highlighted. We had a visit from the stars before the appearance of the Christmas Star, guiding the wise men, with their gifts, and their camels to the court of the evil King Herod. The wise men demonstrated their wisdom by not returning to see Herod. We also were treated to a stage full of stars, the celestial kind, with the Star of Bethlehem shining most brightly. The shepherds and their sheep made an appearance followed of course by the visit of the angels, encouraging them to visit Bethlehem to welcome the new baby, which of course they did. Bethlehem was portrayed as a busy town, where all visitors were welcomed to the extent that the accommodation left for Mary and Joseph was, as we all know, a stable. The baby Jesus was born and all gathered on stage to receive the baby Jesus and celebrate his birth.

There was considerable activity on stage on what appeared to be a cast of thousands, such was the speed at which participants came and went from the stage, but in truth was only our 71 children, all working very hard to ensure the production ran smoothly. Those children not actually on stage contributed from the wings as part of the choir, the songs being delivered with skill and enthusiasm. The performance ran very smoothly thanks to the efforts of the Tech Team, who did not make it onto the stage, but none the less played a vital part in its delivery.

As always, the production benefited from the substantial input from parents, relatives and particularly, the Year 4 teaching team headed by Mrs Rey, with considerable support from all the school's staff. My Wholehearted thanks to everyone and particularly the children for a brilliant performance, which retold the Christmas story in a traditional and enthusiastic way.

George Cameron

December 2024

## Scholastic Book Fair



Thank you for all of your support during our Scholastic Book Fair earlier this half term. There was a real buzz around the school about reading and all things books which was great! This buzz has continued with three of our children progressing to the next stages of the BBC 500 word story competition! Our reading ambassadors were a great help in organising the book fair as their first job so I'd like to express a huge 'thank you' to them!

# Curriculum News



## Year 3

Year 3 have had a productive Autumn Term. It has been wonderful to see the children's confidence develop and grow since they walked through our doors just fifteen weeks ago! We have had many adventures so far, from exploring the geography of Molesey to the grandeur of Henry VIII's famous home. In January, we will be learning about The Stone Age in History, as well as enjoying Fantastic Mr. Fox in English and Whole Class Reading.

## Year 4

To mark the end of a fun and engaging term, Year 4 had an Egyptian Day where they learned more about Egyptian maths, music, mummification and even made their own replica of a mummified cat using junk modelling and water colours/paint. The children loved the day and are certainly now ready for the Christmas break. After Christmas, Year 4 will be studying all about life in Ancient Rome- including what it was like to be a soldier in Roman times and there will be a chance for them to dress up.

## Year 5

Year 5 have had a very busy term, which has all been centered on our topic of the Americas. We have written some interesting and informative non chronological reports about South America. We have used some advanced grammatical features to make our reports more cohesive and have also used topic specific vocabulary. However, the highlight of the learning around this topic has, without doubt, been making the Tex-Mex food! Try as we might, our children are now completely unable to imagine a world without chocolate! In science we have investigated the forces of friction, water resistance and air resistance, and in all of these we backed up our new knowledge with practical work. In maths, we have continued to fine tune our accuracy in arithmetic and have ended the term looking at mixed numbers and improper fractions. Phew! We are now all really ready for the Christmas holidays.

## Year 6

### The Royal Courts of Justice trip

On Wednesday 13th November, Year 6 headed to the Royal Courts of Justice to take part in their very own trial! Apart from a hectic journey back for Owls and Kites on the trains, it was a fun-filled day with many children saying they would love to do it all over again!

'I loved the Royal Courts of Justice because it showed us what court really looked like and how crime was dealt with. I also really liked the architecture that was on the building. To conclude, The Royal Courts of Justice was a great experience!' - Emily S, Eagles

'What I liked about the Royal Courts of Justice was getting a chance to enter a court room where real cases were solved. Also, acting out different roles in a real court room was amazing!' - Conrad D, Eagles

### Paper Chain

Last week, each Year 6 class was challenged to make the longest paper chain they could using scrap paper in 15 minutes. Each class brought out their chains to the field and combined it together with the aim to see if we could make it from the end of the field to the school building. The paper chain easily made it so we decided to see if would measure the perimeter of the football field too. Unfortunately, it just came short but it was still a whopping 176 meters long!

## Sports News by Miss Saunders



This term has been full of footballing successes; our highly talented players in Years 5 and 6 having had many home and away matches. Both boys' teams, and our girls' team, have played really well against some talented players from other local schools, and some of our children will continue to play into the next round of matches. The boys A team played an exceptional game last week, winning 8-0 against Hinchley Wood, taking them through to the next round after Christmas. Likewise, our girls team ended the term on a high, winning their match against Claygate, with one qualifying match to play in the New Year, against St Albans. Watch this space! (see photos below)

A big thank you to Mr Barrington Brown who has trained and supported our boys, as well as refereeing several matches. All of your hard work and dedication is really appreciated and we couldn't have done it without you! An equally big thank you to Ms Raymonde and Mr Weeks for their support with the girls' football.

We have had so much sport going on at St Lawrence this term. The *priceless* Mr Paddington has continued to run a wide range of clubs before and after school, as well as teaching in every year group. Finally, Old Cranleigh Hockey Club will be returning in the new year, to give Year 4 children, this time, the opportunity to enjoy the sport. What an exciting term lies ahead! All of us are really looking forward to all that it brings!



## Music News by Mr Noble

We have continued with the incredible music provision that we offer at St. Lawrence. Musical clubs continue to thrive and we have all enjoyed learning music with our new music scheme – Charanga – that was introduced after half term.

It's been an incredibly busy Autumn term for the choir, which is now nearly 70 children strong! It's absolutely incredible how fast the children – especially the new Year 3s – have learned to sing and enjoy ensemble music, together.



We have performed at multiple events over the Autumn Term. The choir have entertained the public at St. Peter's Church Fair and Magical Molesey, alongside several Parent Tours at school. They have done themselves proud on every occasion.

I would like to use this opportunity to say a huge thank you to the R C Sherriff Trust, who have kindly offered St. Lawrence a grant of £500.00 to go towards a class set of African percussion. These will be used by the whole school as part of our music lessons, with the aim to have Year 4 learning the Djembe as a specific area of musical focus. Without the support of the R C Sherriff Trust, opportunities like this for the children would not be possible – we are all very excited to get started with our new set of percussion instruments in the Spring.

On a personal note, I'd like to say a big thank you to all of the children and parents for their enthusiasm for music at St. Lawrence. There is a lot of hard work that goes on behind the scenes to provide these opportunities for our children. The overwhelming enthusiasm and kind messages I receive make that work that little bit easier.

### Rocksteady Concert

Last week we were very excited to host the first ever Rock Steady Concert at St Lawrence. We watched four bands, one from each year group, play an array of popular songs using a variety of instruments. Considering the short amount of time that the children have had with Sam, their Rock Steady band leader, they absolutely blew us away. It once again demonstrates the skills and benefits music can bring, alongside the actual learning of the instrument. The children displayed amazing confidence, teamwork and perseverance, all with the focus and presence needed to perform. Happy Christmas, everyone! Mr Noble



# Community News



## Food Bank festive opening hours

**East Elmbridge Food Bank will be closed from Saturday 21st December and will reopen on Monday 6th January.** They will be running 2 sessions during this time where clients will be able to collect a larger parcel.

**Tuesday 24th December: 9.30am-12pm - St Nicholas Church in Thames Ditton**

**Thursday 2nd January: 9.30am-11.30am - St Peter's Youth & Community Hub, Ray road, West Molesey.**

## School Information

### Upcoming Dates

Monday 6th January	Inset Day
Friday 10th January	Swimming starts for Kingfishers and Parrots
Friday 17th January	Swifts Assembly
Friday 24th January	Owls Assembly
Friday 31st January	Hérons Assembly

### School Lunches

Please make sure your child's lunches are paid before the start of term

### Meal Costs

Per day	£2.80
Per week	£14.00
7 Jan-14 Feb	£81.20
24 Feb- 4 April	£78.30
Whole Term	£153.90

### Uniform

Please ensure that children wear their ties every day to school and hair is tied back. Any ties that your child borrows from the office must be returned at the end of the day.

Ties, school bags and PE bags are now available to order on Parentmail shop..

**A reminder that all items must be labelled.**

# Thank You

Our school community would like to extend our thanks to all of our wonderful volunteers whose participation helps us to go above and beyond for all of our children.

We appreciate the time that parents and carers have dedicated to reading to our children, accompanying them on school visits, helping with PTA events and volunteering in our library. All of this makes a huge difference and shows what a caring school community we are all proud to be a part of.

Thank you for your continued support.



**Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a  
Happy and Prosperous New Year**

We look forward to seeing the children on

**Tuesday 7th January 2025**