



NEWSLETTER

ST PAUL'S C of E JUNIOR SCHOOL NEWS & INFORMATION FOR PARENTS – Spring 1 2017

Welcome back and Happy New Year. I hope you had a lovely time celebrating with family and friends! The children have made a fantastic start to the term and the housepoint boxes are filling up rapidly. Selwyn were out in the lead on Monday but the other three houses are hot on their heels! Welcome back to Mrs Harding. She is returning to 3B after maternity leave and will be working alongside Ms Edwards. We'd also like to welcome Ella-Louise Weller, Bhavana Bobbili and Thisuni Elgiriya Pathirana who have joined us this term.

HOMEWORK

The internet offers a host of thrilling new possibilities for learning, creativity and fun and we are keen to support our children and their families to get the most out of digital technologies.

With this in mind, and having completed a review of homework across the school, we are keen to maximise the use of our learning platform and streamline the process of setting and completing home learning tasks. Research shows that some of the most effective learning takes place after an initial introduction of new knowledge and vocabulary and a change of approach will enable us to include good quality 'pre-learning' experiences as well.

From today, all homework will be posted on our Learning Platform. All your child will need to do to access the work is log in via the welcome page of our website. Here they will find a menu of tasks to be completed. In response to feedback from the children, we will also include a suggestion for a fun activity that families could spend time doing together e.g. following a new recipe, visiting the library, playing a board game or climbing a tree.

Homework will be set on Monday for completion by the following Monday.

Teachers will spend this week's computing lessons checking that every child has the correct username and password and that they are confident navigating to the Homework page. If your child does not have access to an internet enabled computer, laptop, tablet or smart device, please contact your child's class teacher straight away and they will provide your child with any hard copies necessary for the completion of the work.

We recognise that our children and families have very busy lives outside of school and publishing homework electronically will hopefully eradicate pupil's time being wasted in recording tasks and provide clarity for parents as to what is required. This new initiative should also eradicate the frustration of lost, forgotten and mislaid homework books/worksheets and help to lay the foundations for good quality learning in future lessons.

HEALTH NOTICE

In the last few days, we have had a number of cases of Slapped Cheek Syndrome. Although usually a mild disease, it is highly contagious and can make a child feel very unwell during the incubation period.

The symptoms are:

- a slightly high temperature (fever) or around 38C (100.4F)
- a runny nose
- a sore throat
- a headache
- an upset stomach
- feeling generally unwell

Further information is available at:

<http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/slapped-cheek-syndrome>

COLD WEATHER ALERT

Please ensure that your child brings a warm coat to school every day. The weather forecasters are predicting the possibility of snow.

In the event that school has to close, parents will be notified via SMS by 7.30am and work for pupils will be posted on the Learning Platform. BBC Radio Berkshire, Heart FM and Reading 107 will be notified too and asked to include St Paul's in the broadcast of schools that are closed. Closure would be our last resort and only if we are unable to accommodate the necessary ratio of adults to children in order for our children to be safe and secure. We will always put the safety of our children, their families and our staff above everything else.

CENSUS DAY

Thursday 19th January is census day. This is a very important day for us as it impacts on future funding

for our school. We have excellent attendance and would very much like this to be reflected on census day.

MENU CHANGE

Please note that there will be a menu change next week:

Thursday 19th January – Jumbo fish finger or cheese pasty; chips; beans; peas and a shortbread biscuit.

Friday 20th January – Turkey and leek pasta with garlic bread or jacket potato with cheese and baked beans.

NEW YEAR: NEW DETAILS

It is sometimes necessary for us to contact parents during the school day; please ensure that we have up to date mobile and landline phone numbers. We also require work place details and telephone numbers along with emergency contacts. If you have changed phone numbers, address or email recently please ensure that you notify us so that we are able to keep our records up to date.

If there has been a change of circumstances at home, this can sometimes impact significantly on a child. Changes such as bereavement, illness, redundancy or separation can affect how your child is feeling at school. Happy events, such as a new baby, new job, new partner or even a new pet can also sometimes affect a child's performance at school. Any events of this nature can impact on a child, even if only for a short while so please remember to 'keep us in the picture' so that we are able to support your child well. Any information shared with school staff will be handled with sensitivity and discretion.

SAFEGUARDING

Helping your child navigate the digital world can be a challenge as technology is evolving so rapidly, particularly in the area of social networking.

More and more often School is being drawn into situations where pupils have got themselves into difficulty using social media inappropriately, which then has a knock on effect in school.

We are regularly asked to comment on whether or not we believe certain platforms are suitable for pupils and always caution parents to follow the terms and conditions of each site. Age restrictions are set for good reason and primary aged children

are considered underage for most of those platforms that are readily available.

The only long term solution to e-safety is to build the child's own knowledge of what is safe. Parental monitoring and a filtered internet feed reinforce the e-safety messages from school and help to protect your child online. On our website you will find a wealth of advice and guidance documents.

MESSAGE FROM CATERLINK – JOB VACANCIES

Are you looking for work during school hours: term time only? If so, please visit the council offices in Wokingham on Friday 13th January between 12-2.30pm to find out more. Please bring a CV if you have one, a valid passport or birth certificate, and a utility bill. These are required for proof to work in the U.K. purposes. We are a school catering company with vacancies in central Wokingham, Crowthorne & Finchampstead. If you have any queries prior to the event please contact Katy Sandon on 07717 278 036.

Please see overleaf for dates for your diary.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Friday 13 th January – 9.15 am	Tour of the school for prospective parents
Thursday 26 th January – 6.00 pm	Maths Information workshop for parents
Tuesday 7 th February 3.50-7.30pm	Parents' Evening
Thursday 9 th February 3.50-6.30pm	Parents' Evening
Monday 13 th -Friday 17 th February	Half Term – SCHOOL CLOSED
Wednesday 22 nd February	Year 5 trip to Lincolnsfield
Friday 24 th February 2.15-3.15pm	Open Afternoon
Thursday 2 nd March	World Book Day – come to school dressed as your favourite storybook character
Tuesday 7 th March	4L trip to Reading Museum
Wednesday 8 th March	4B trip to Reading Museum
Thursday 9 th March	4H trip to Reading Museum
Friday 24 th March	Talents Assemblies
Thursday 30 th March	End of Term – 2.00PM FINISH
Friday 31 st March	Inset Day – SCHOOL CLOSED
Tuesday 18 th April	First day of the Summer Term – SCHOOL REOPENS
Monday 1 st May	May Bank Holiday – SCHOOL CLOSED
Monday 29 th May – Friday 2 nd June	Half Term – SCHOOL CLOSED
Monday 5 th June	Inset Day – SCHOOL CLOSED