

# St Paul's Newsletter – Spring 02.02.24

*'One body, every person, growing together.'*



Safeguarding Team: Julieanne Taylor – Headteacher and Designated Safeguarding Lead  
Linda Tritton – Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead

## Headteacher's Message

Dear St Paul's Families,

It is hard to believe that there is just a week to go before we break up for half term. Thank you to all those parents who have been making that extra effort to ensure that your child arrives at school on time. Today was the third time since September, where no children arrived late! This is a brilliant achievement and something we hope will continue. It makes a huge difference and this is something that we will be continuing to focus on as an area of improvement. If you are dropping your child off after 8.40am, you need to accompany them to the office to sign them in.

We travelled round the world, learning about the etymology of words in this morning's assembly from the children in 6T. It was a fascinating presentation and everyone in the hall, big and little people, left knowing more than when they arrived. Well done, 6T!

WASMA rehearsals are going well and we have everything crossed that some of our children will be chosen as soloists. Mr Donaghy and Miss Best are doing a fabulous job of leading our choir in preparation and we are really looking forward to the final concert.

We are pleased to announce that we will be holding a workshop on Supporting Children to Manage Anxiety on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> February 6.30pm - 8.30pm at a cost of £10. If this is something you would like to attend, look out for the flyer that will be sent out via ParentMail on Monday.

Plea - if you have any unwanted badminton rackets, we would be very happy to give them a new home by adding them to our stock of playground equipment. The same is true for tennis rackets and skipping ropes.

Next Tuesday is Online Safety Day and along with this Newsletter, we are sending out an extra Online Safety Bulletin for parents.

Mrs Taylor

## Congratulations Grace!



Last weekend Grace (5K) starred in her first musical show at the Witty Theatre. She was entrusted with the role of Wendy Darling in Peter Pan. She delivered all the lines perfectly - Well done Grace!

## Disability Living Allowance (DLA)

Disability Access Fund is available for all children regardless of age, who are in receipt of DLA. If this applies to your family then school is able to draw on funding to support your child in school. Previously, this money was only available to schools of pupils aged 3 and 4 years but this has been extended. If this applies to you, please contact us on [admin@stpauls.wokingham.sch.uk](mailto:admin@stpauls.wokingham.sch.uk).

## Children's Mental Health Week 5-11 February 2024



The theme for this year's Children's Mental Health Week is 'My Voice Matters' and is all about empowering children by providing them with the tools they need to express themselves. You play an important role in your child's mental health and there is a wealth of resources available for families to take part at home. They include tips for parents, including sentence starters, and an advice poster for children full of strategies to use if they are feeling worried [Resources](#)

## Home-Start – Recruiting Volunteers

Home-Start are looking to recruit new volunteers to join their wonderful home visiting team. If you'd be able to give a couple of hours a week to supporting a vulnerable family with young children, they would love to hear from you.

As a Home-Start volunteer you would be fully trained, supervised and supported, meet interesting and like-minded people in the community, have the opportunity to use your expertise to help others and experience the feel-good factor of knowing you are making a real difference to people's lives.

They will be running their next training course in April. It will be one day a week for three weeks and is fun, informal and interactive. It will give you the skills and confidence you need to support a family.

For more information, please go to [www.home-started.org.uk](http://www.home-started.org.uk), email [admin@home-startwd.org.uk](mailto:admin@home-startwd.org.uk) or see them at the Volunteer Recruitment Fair on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> February from 10 - 1 at Wokingham Town Hall.

## Half Term Activities at Wokingham Borough Libraries

### Character Drawing with Children's Illustrator – Rikin Parekh

Wednesday 14 February at 10:30 – 11:30am

LIVE at Wokingham Library

Join Rikin as he shows you how he draws human and animal characters from his books and have a go yourself.

Suitable for 5 – 8 years

£3 per ticket

Book your place through [ticketsource](https://www.ticketsource.co.uk)

<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/bookfest?fbclid=IwAR1xW1aE5HKVuPoylelfeDVqEmFrwQ0PGcMztcy3Up5SmGJITn4q-cHmfBM>

### Steve Antony Visit

In February Steve Antony will embark on a tour of UK libraries, both public libraries and school libraries, to celebrate 10 years of being an Author and Illustrator and the publication of his 23<sup>rd</sup> picture book, Rainbowsaurus!

We are delighted to be representing "W" in his tour and Steve will be visiting Woodley, Winnersh and Wokingham Libraries on Friday 16 February for an interactive reading of his latest book Rainbowsaurus and a fun draw-along.

Woodley Library – 10.30am – 11am

To book visit: <https://wokingham.spydus.co.uk/cgi-bin/spydus.exe/ENQ/WPAC/EVSEENQ?SETLVL=&RNI=591731>

Winnersh Library – 1pm – 2pm

To book visit: <https://wokingham.spydus.co.uk/cgi-bin/spydus.exe/ENQ/WPAC/EVSESENO?SETLVL=&RNI=591734>

Wokingham Library – 3pm – 4pm

To book visit: <https://wokingham.spydus.co.uk/cgi-bin/spydus.exe/ENQ/WPAC/EVSESENO?SETLVL=&RNI=591735>

Places must be booked and children must be accompanied by an adult. This is a free event.

### **Meet the Guide Dogs at Wokingham Library**

Tuesday 13 Feb, 10am – 12 noon

Free of charge

No booking required

### **Love Dogs**

Monday 12 February at Lower Earley Library

- 1 – 2pm Get Arty – Dogs - £2 per child (Suitable for 4 – 10 years)
- 2:30 – 3:30pm Dogs Trust Workshop

Join the Dogs Trust for a Dog Smart program is dedicated to fostering secure, loving connections between children and their canine companions. The Dogs Trust mission is to empower children with the knowledge and skills to interact safely with dogs in both their personal lives and social settings.

Booking required

<https://wokingham.spydus.co.uk/cgi-bin/spydus.exe/MSGTRN/WPAC/EVENTS?HOMEPRMS=EVSESPARAMS>

### **Cats Protection & Crafts**

Wednesday 14 February, 2-3pm at Woodley Library

Cats Protection will be joining us at Woodley Library for a fun and interactive talk that will cover a range of different topics including how to keep a cat healthy and happy, cat body language and how, as a charity, we help cats across the UK.

The talk will be followed by an animal craft session. Donations apply.

Booking required

<https://wokingham.spydus.co.uk/cgi-bin/spydus.exe/MSGTRN/WPAC/EVENTS?HOMEPRMS=EVSESPARAMS>

### **Explore Learning – A Knights Journey Workshop**

All knights go through many quests and this journey to the king's throne is no different. We travel back to medieval times and children will joust their way through many grammar tournaments.

Wokingham Library

Thursday 15 February, 10 – 11am

Suitable for 5 – 7 years

Free Explore Learning workshop.

Booking required

<https://wokingham.spydus.co.uk/cgi-bin/spydus.exe/MSGTRN/WPAC/EVENTS?HOMEPRMS=EVSESPARAMS>

### **Get Arty**

Join us for animal crafts this half term.

Suitable for children 4 – 10 years

£2 per child

- Finchampstead Library Thursday 15 February 2 – 3pm
- Wokingham Library Friday 16 February 10:30 – 11:30am

Booking required

## Forest School News



It was a treat to have some warmer weather and even some sunshine this week as we welcomed 4P to the woodland. They were full of enthusiasm as they explored habitats and shared their findings with their peers.

We have been lighting fires again this week with our afternoon groups, copious amounts of determination and resilience was shown by the children.

The children have also been practicing the art of Stilling. This mindfulness activity allows us to take time to stop, acknowledge our feelings and any distractions, then put them to one side, giving us the ability to focus on the task in front of us and see more clearly.

05/02	19/02	26/02	04/03	11/03	18/03	25/03	26/03
6T	5K	3D	4B	6B	5D	3H	4R



## Free School Meals

Across the UK more than 10 per cent of pupils who are eligible for free school meals do not register to get them. We want to make sure 100 per cent of our pupils claim when they can in Wokingham Borough. Importantly, it also means schools can get additional funding to support pupils.

To qualify, your child must be in school and you must be receiving one of the following benefits:

- [Income support](#)
- Income based [Job Seekers Allowance](#)
- Income related [Employment and Support Allowance](#)
- [NASS support](#)
- Guarantee element of [State Pension](#)
- [Child Tax Credit](#), provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190
- [Working Tax Credit](#) for the four weeks after employment ends
- [Universal Credit](#), provided you have an annual net earned income of no more than £7,400

If this applies to you but your child isn't registered for free school meals, complete a form and return it to your child school.

[Download the form and apply for Free School Meals](#) on Wokingham Borough Council's website.

## Book News!

### DESIGN A BOOK COVER COMPETITION

We are running a competition for your child to win a £5 voucher! Children are invited to recreate a book cover in an artistic way. Entries should be given to Mrs Tustin by Friday, 9<sup>th</sup> February.

## **BOOK FAIR**

Celebrate reading at St. Paul's Book Fair! The Book Fair will be arriving in school after half term, with hundreds of new children's books to browse and buy. Come and join us in 4R (accessed from the playground) from **Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> – Monday 26<sup>th</sup> February from 3.30-4pm** each day.

There are over 200 titles for you and your child to choose from, and with prices starting from only £2.99, there's sure to be a book for everyone. Each child will be given a £1 book token which may be used at the fair which will be cashless again this year.

If you can't make it to our Book Fair, try our Gift Vouchers available at [www.travellingbooks.co.uk/parents](http://www.travellingbooks.co.uk/parents). They're a great way to ensure your child doesn't miss out.

## **WORLD BOOK DAY**

We will be celebrating World Book Day on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March. The Reading Ambassadors invite children to dress up as book characters for the day.

## **Absence Reporting**

If your child is not able to attend school due to illness, parents are asked to email

[absence@stpauls.wokingham.sch.uk](mailto:absence@stpauls.wokingham.sch.uk)

by 8.15am each day of the absence. Please ensure your child's name, class and symptoms; stating that your child is 'unwell' is not sufficient information for our records.

## **Next Week**

Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> February	Online Booking for Parents' Consultations closes 7pm
Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> – Friday 11 <sup>th</sup> February	Children's Mental Health Week
Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup> February	Safer Internet Day
Wednesday 7 <sup>th</sup> February	6S Assembly
Friday 9 <sup>th</sup> February	Break up for Half Term – 3.30pm finish

## **Diary Dates**

Tuesday 20 <sup>th</sup> / Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup> February	3.50pm-7.00pm Parents' Consultations
Tuesday 20 <sup>th</sup> – Monday 26 <sup>th</sup> February	Book Fair in School
Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> March 9am	4B Class Assembly
Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> March	World Book Day – Dress up as a book character
Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> March 9am	5K Class Assembly
Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup> March	Y5 Winchester Science Museum Trip
Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> March	3D Class Assembly
Monday 18 <sup>th</sup> March - 5.30pm	SATs Information Evening for Year 6 parents

# Attend a Get Into Teaching event.



## What?

Whether you're ready to start your career in teaching or just curious, we can answer your questions.

## When?

29 February 2024, 5pm - 8pm.

## Where?

The Great Hall, University of Reading.

**Register now.**

Limited places available.

Teaching



## Volunteer for Home-Start Wokingham District

### Our Scheme

Our volunteers come from all walks of life but they all have one thing in common - the desire to give children the best start in life. Our next Volunteer Preparation Training course runs over 3 days on 17th April, 24th April & 2nd May 2024.

Home-Start offers a unique home-visiting support service to vulnerable, disadvantaged and isolated families with at least one pre-school child. We are currently the only organisation offering this type of family support in the area. Volunteers help parents to grow in confidence, improve their parenting skills & strengthen their relationships with their children.

Contact us today to find out more.

[admin@home-startwd.org.uk](mailto:admin@home-startwd.org.uk)  
[www.home-startwd.org.uk](http://www.home-startwd.org.uk)

Charity no. 1109629

**HOME  
START**  
Wokingham District

# Celebrate the Lunar New Year

Sunday 18th February 2024

11am to 3pm

Market Place, Wokingham

Free Entry

