

St Paul's Newsletter – 03.2.23



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Linda Edwards – Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead

Headteacher's Message

Dear St Paul's Families,

It is hard to believe that we are almost at half term – the last few weeks of learning have flown by! This morning, 4C taught us about our amazing bodies, showcasing their scientific knowledge about the digestive system. It was a fascinating presentation and the class should be very proud of their efforts!

Next week is Children's Mental Health Week 2023 and the theme, 'Let's Connect'. 'Let's Connect' is about making meaningful connections, something which is vital for wellbeing. Humans are social creatures who thrive in communities. Healthy connections – to family, friends and others – supports good mental health and emotional wellbeing and avoids feelings of loneliness and isolation – feelings that are not good for anyone. Parents and carers play a vital role in a child's mental health and you will find a range of free resources for families on the Place2Be's website <https://www.childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk/families/>



Friday 10th will be a non-uniform day when the staff and children are invited to 'Dress to Express' to raise awareness and vital funds to help more children and young people get the emotional support they need. Our target is to reach £500 - to make a donation to our Just Giving page, follow this [link](#).

Our Reading Information Evening will be next Tuesday, 7th February, 6.30 – 7.30pm in the hall. This is an opportunity to come along and hear about the importance of reading and how you can support your child to continue to develop their skills. The Murray Road gates will open at 6.15pm and entry to school will be via the link doors. The Oxford Road entrance will be closed.

Tuesday 7th is also Safer Internet Day. Established by the UK Safer Internet Centre, this event is celebrated around the world and the 2023 theme is: 'Want to talk about it? Making space for conversations about life online'. Safer Internet Day provides you with a great opportunity to have a conversation about your child's online activity, as well as brush up on your knowledge of their digital world. The following sites contain tips and advice you may find helpful:

- <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/talking-child-online-safety/>
- <https://saferinternet.org.uk/safer-internet-day/safer-internet-day-2023/parents-and-carers>

Finally, welcome to our newest pupil, Marc, who joined 4C last week and is being helped to settle in by Mrs Bryce and his new classmates.

Have a good weekend everyone!

Mrs Taylor

Punctuality

Whilst there has been a slight reduction in the number of pupils arriving late each day, can we just remind everyone again that the Murray Road gates close promptly at 8.40am - the time that school starts. Please do not get irritable or shout across the playground if when you arrive, the gates are locked and staff are already on their way into school. They need to start their working day promptly. Late arrivals must enter via the Oxford Road entrance to be marked present and have a lunch order taken.

Important reminder

We are tremendously proud of our school and our uniform lets everyone know who belongs to this very special community. We would be very grateful if all parents could support us in ensuring that their child is dressed appropriately for school at all times.

A growing number of pupils are coming to school wearing a range of items for PE & games which are not part of our uniform. Football shirts, t shirts with slogans, brightly coloured leggings, leggings with mesh panels etc. are not permitted school wear. We ask that these items and fashion Doc Martin style boots are saved for non-uniform days, where children can choose what

to wear for school. PE kit is a white T-shirt, navy blue joggers and a navy-blue sweat shirt or hoodie. If you do not have a navy-blue sweat shirt or hoodie, pupils may wear their school sweatshirt or cardigan.

Trainers can be worn to school on Thursday as this is the day all children arrive dressed for outdoor PE. On all other days, the children should wear black school shoes. If it is wet and your child wears wellingtons for the walk to school, they will need their shoes to change into upon arrival.

Celebrating Chinese New Year

To mark the new year celebrations, each class attended a Chinese Dance Workshop. It was fabulous to see the children develop their understanding of traditional dance movements and appreciate the significance of one of the biggest events of the year for many East and South East Asian people around the world. The hall was awash with beautiful paper fans, parasols and our very own Chinese Dragon. Everyone had an amazing time.



Music Enthusiasts - Junior Jam

Calling all 8-18 year old musicians! Would you like to play alongside a live band? Would you like to be a more confident performer?

If this is music to your ears, the monthly Junior Jam at The Outlook in Reading is the stage for you! To find out more, say hi to us on IG **@music.made.fearless** and check out when the next jam is happening'.



Cost of Living Help Hub

Wokingham have pulled information, help and support together in one place to help families who are struggling to pay for food, energy bills and other essential household items. There is also additional support available in the school holidays for families who have children eligible for Free School Meals. To access any of the following areas, please use this link [cost of living help hub](#)

➤ Financial support Find out what financial support is available	➤ Food and fuel Find out how to get support with food or fuel	➤ Family and home Find out how to access support for you and your family	➤ Health support Find out how to get help with your physical and mental health
➤ Donate to Surviving Winter crowdfunder £2 from us and partners for every £1 you donate	➤ Tackling Poverty Strategy How we're reducing poverty in the area	➤ Household bills Help with getting discounts or reducing bills at home	➤ Household Support Fund Money and vouchers for essentials and feeding children
➤ Warm spaces Where you can go to stay warm near you during cold months	➤ Run a warm space Tell us if you're running or planning to run a warm space in your area	➤ Priority services Register for priority help during power cuts if you're vulnerable	➤ Help with essentials Services you can use to get food, clothes, furniture and more
➤ Period poverty partnership How we're helping people in period poverty	➤ Warmer winter project Items for free if you're struggling with energy costs at home	➤ How to help others Volunteering and other options if you want to help others with the cost of living crisis	➤ Employment Get support with finding a job and explore job opportunities

Families eligible for Free School Meals

More than 1,000 local children and their families who are entitled to free money to support them this winter are yet to apply for £120 to help with goods and bills. This is open to all families who have a child who receives means-tested free school meals.

Apply for the Household Support Fund if your child gets free school meals

If your child gets means-tested free school meals you are entitled to financial support this winter. Wokingham Borough Council and First Days Children's Charity are working together to provide payments to help during school holidays. We know this could be even more important as people struggle after the festive period.

[Apply through First Days Children's Charity.](#)

Note you do not need to apply again if you have already had a successful application since October.

You can get £15 per week, per eligible child, during school holidays. This applies for half terms, Christmas and Easter holidays. It will be back paid to October half-term if you've not already applied.

The amount you get in total depends on the number of children in your family who receive free school meals:

- One child - £120
- Two children - £210
- Three children - £315
- Four children - £420
- Five children - £525
- Six children - £630

New free after-school youth session for mental wellbeing delivered by Sport in Mind



There is a new free after-school youth session for mental wellbeing delivered by Sport in Mind. This session is to teach children and young people lots of ways to take care of themselves physically and mentally and build emotional resilience whilst improving their sporting ability. There will be a maximum of 10-12 children places available per session and to books a place please **please click here**, complete the form, and then email the team at youth@sportinmind.org

Sessions are free.

Healthy Snacks

We encourage the children to bring in a healthy snack for morning break – fruit, vegetable sticks, dried fruit and cereal bars are all suitable items. Crisps, chocolate, biscuits and other sugary snacks are not permitted. Could we also take this opportunity to ensure that children's water bottles contain water – no juice or other drinks, please.

Bikeability



If you're thinking of cycling as a family you might like to consider doing one of Avanti Cycling's FREE short sessions dedicated to riding as a group during February Half Term at various locations. These sessions are for parents and children who can already ride a bike confidently (not complete beginners.) The instructors will take a family for a ride and give them some tips to increase their confidence when cycling as a group. To take part, the minimum number is a group of 2 people (1 adult, 1 child) and the maximum group size is 6 people. At least 1 adult over 18 years must attend each group session.

Places are FREE of charge but MUST be booked in advance. Further information and link for booking can be found on our My Journey website at:

<https://myjourneywokingham.com/events/free-bikeability-family-cycle-sessions-during-february-half-term-2023/>

PE Timetables

On indoor PE days, pupils should come to school in uniform, bringing their kit with them to change into. All pupils should come to school in outdoor kit each Thursday.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Friday	Thursday
3H, 6D, 5D	3B, 3K, 5K	4R, 4P, 5S	4C, 6B, 6T	Outdoor PE – all classes

Forest School Sessions

The timetable for this term's sessions can be found below and pupils will need to bring suitable clothing with them on that day e.g. track suit bottoms, hoodie, T shirt and trainers. Shorts and skirts are unsuitable for the woodland area.

6/2	20/2	27/2	6/3	13/3	20/3	27/3	28/3
6D	5D	3B	6B	3K	4P	4C	4R

Class Assemblies

Each class will deliver two assemblies per school year. The majority of which will take place on Friday morning. Assemblies last approximately 15 minutes and start at 9.00 am. Parents of the class are welcome to join us for these occasions. Entrance to the school, is via the Oxford Road entrance and this is the timetable for this term.

10/2	10/3	17/3	24/3
5S	5K	3B	3H

Diary Dates	
Next Week:	
6 th – 10 th February	Children's Mental Health Week
Tues 7 th February	Reading Information Evening 6.30pm – 7.30pm
Tues 7 th February	Safer Internet Day
Fri 10 th February	Dress to Express – Non Uniform Day – donations to our Just Giving page
Upcoming	
13 th -17 th February	HALF TERM
Mon 20 th February	New Summer Caterlink Menu starts
22 nd -24 th February	Book Fair
Thurs 2 nd March	World Book Day Celebration – may be subject to change due to strike action
Tues 21 st March	Curriculum Celebration 3.30-4.30pm
Thurs 30 th March	End of Term – 2pm finish
30 th March- 16 th April	EASTER HOLIDAY
Mon 1 st May	BANK HOLIDAY
Mon 8 th May	Bank Holiday – The King's Coronation
Tues 9 th May- Fri 12 th May	SATS week – NO MORNING CLUBS
29 th May – 2 nd June	HALF TERM
Mon 5 th June	Inset Day – school closed
Tues 6 th June	Start of the Summer Term
Sat 17 th June	PTA Summer Fair 11.30am-2.30pm
Wed 19 th July	PTA Year 6 Leavers' Disco – 7.00pm -9.30pm
Thursday 20 th July	End of Term – 2pm finish

Half Term Activities

Reading Sparks

Head over to Wokingham Library from 11th February to borrow a [Reading Sparks](https://readingsparks.org.uk/) activity boxes and explore the experiments the Reading Agency have put together for you. Reading Sparks brings together science, technology, engineering, and Maths (STEM) themes with creative arts and reading.

<https://readingsparks.org.uk/>

Sand Art

Monday 13 th Feb- 10-12	Lower Earley
Tuesday 14 th Feb- 10-12	Woodley
Wed 15 th Feb- 10-12	Wokingham
Thursday 16 th Feb- 10-12	Spencers Wood

No booking required. Payment of £4 on the day

Crafts

Monday 6 th Feb- 10-11am	Valentines craft	Woodley Library- £1 per child. Booking required
Monday Feb 6 th Feb- 3:45-4:30pm	Valentine's craft	Wargrave Library- £1 per child. Booking required
Tuesday 14 th Feb- 1am1-12	Valentine's craft	Lower Earley- £1 per child. Booking required
Friday 17 th Feb- 10:30-11:30am	Get Arty	Wokingham- £1 per child. Booking required

Online booking form:

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

Storytime- Free of charge

Tuesday 14 th Feb- 4pm	Storytime	Wokingham- no booking required.
Friday 17 February- 10:30-11am	Storytime	Finchampstead- booking required.

Children's author visit- Gemma Stone

Friday 17 th Feb- 2:30pm	Children's author visit	Wokingham- free of charge. Booking is required.
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Online booking form:

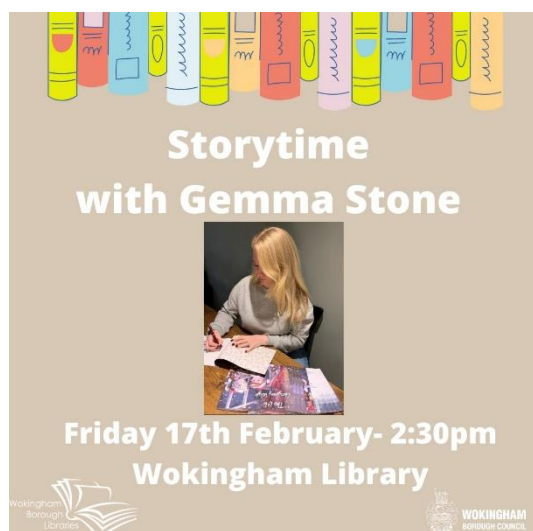
<https://wokingham.spydus.co.uk/cgi-bin/spydus.exe/MSGTRN/WPAC/EVENTS?HOMEPRMS=EVSESPARAMS>

<https://www.wokingham-tc.gov.uk/tabletoptakeover/>

Wokingham table top takeover- Board games

We are back! Wokingham Town Council is again inviting Eclectic Games of Reading to join us in a day of tabletop board gaming. The adventure takes place on **Sunday 19th February 2023**. It doesn't matter if you are already a fan of tabletop gaming or just curious, there will be something for all.

A great social occasion to meet like-minded people, we will have a selection of easy to pick up but very re-playable modern board games running all day. Including a selection of demonstrator led games that will appeal to adults and teens alike, and even some suitable for the younger family members



Town Hall Tabletop Takeover



Sunday 19th February 2023

9:30am to 12:30pm or 2pm to 5pm

Join us in a day of tabletop board gaming. It doesn't matter if you are already a fan or just curious, there will be something for all.

A great social occasion to meet like-minded people, we will have a selection of easy to pick up but very re-playable modern board games being demonstrated for you to play during the day. As well as open play tables and a small games library courtesy of Eclectic Games.

www.wokingham-tc.gov.uk/tabletoptakeover



Tickets: £3 early bird price for a half day session (£4 usually and group rates available)

Venue: Wokingham Town Hall, Market Place, RG40 1AS

Queries: 0118 974 0889 / gcumming@wokingham-tc.gov.uk



Demo Games

Abandon All Artichokes - A bumper-crop of prickly produce has overtaken your patch, and there's only one choice: abandon all artichokes! **Ages 10+**

Drop It - is about letting go, with the pieces you drop landing in the vertical game board, ideally where they'll score the most points. **Ages 8+**

Aqualin - An oceanic tile placement game. The larger swarm, the more points it's worth, and whoever scores the most points wins! **Ages 10+**

Paris: La Cite De La Lumiere - set during the World's Fair where public electricity was a hot topic. Aim to create the most well lit place. **Ages 8+**

Qwirkle - Match colours and shapes together to score points. A simple but very replayable tile placement game for those who love patterns. **Ages 6+**

King of Tokyo - play mutant monsters, gigantic robots, and strange aliens to become the one and only King of Tokyo. **Ages 8+**

Photosynthesis - Sow your crops wisely and the shadows of your growing trees could slow your opponents down. **Ages 10+**

Colt Express - Play as a bandit robbing a train, your goal is to become the richest outlaw of the Old West. Played on a 3D train. **Ages 10+**

Living Forest - The forest is on fire and the Sacred Tree is in danger! Plant protective trees, fend off flames, win the title of Grand Protector. **Ages 8+**

Imhotep - become builders in Egypt who want to emulate the first and best-known architect there, namely Imhotep. **Ages 10+**

Ingenious - Players take turns placing coloured domino-style tiles on a game board, scoring for each line of coloured symbols that they enlarge. **Ages 8+**

www.wokingham-tc.gov.uk/tabletoptakeover

www.ticketsource.co.uk/wokingham

Getting There

Nearest public car park Cockpit Path RG40 2HD (others available). Train station 10 min walk from venue. Buses stop 3 min walk from venue.



Brought to you in association with **Eclectic Games** who are providing all of the games for the day.

There will be opportunities to purchase your own copy of the demo games at the event.

For game advice don't hesitate to get in touch.

They also run board gaming and similar events all year from their shop.

5 Union Street, Reading, RG1 1EU www.eclecticgames.co.uk 0118 959 8250

Energy Kidz



We're evolving! Welcome to your new Junior Adventures Group Club! That's right - from February 20th, we have a bright new look and a new name across all our clubs - Junior Adventures Group or JAG. Our existing registered families will be informed about the change next week, where we will commence a sequence of communications to keep them informed about essential information and booking updates.



FUN^{tastic} February

Save 10% off your booking!

Use code:
EBFEB23

Amazing Club Experiences!

Energy Kidz are bringing an explosion of play and activity this February half term! Our holiday clubs are the perfect solution to ensure your child enjoys an unforgettable school holiday like no other, as we invite your child to us on a jam-packed holiday. Our whole of child philosophy powers our programme with an amazing mix of skills for sports, energising activities to get children moving, creative sessions that encourage children to express themselves and much more - ensure your child doesn't miss a moment by securing their place today.

Book now at energy-kidz.co.uk

Scan to book now



- ✓ Ages 4-11 years
- ✓ Venues across the U.K
- ✓ Keep active & improve wellbeing
- ✓ Release Creativity
- ✓ Make memories to last a lifetime
- ✓ Explore a variety of child interests



[energykidz](https://www.facebook.com/energykidz)



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