

# St Paul's C of E Junior School

Dear Parents,

5P rounded off an exceptionally busy week with a fantastic assembly this morning. It was lovely to see so many parents and grandparents at their poetry themed assembly.

Despite the very chilly weather, we still have children coming to school without coats and then complaining at break and lunchtime that they are feeling the cold. Please ensure that your child comes to school suitably equipped for the weather as it can take ages to get over the feeling of being 'chilled to the bone'.

Today Caterlink reported a problem with their ovens in the kitchen, but this only came to light at the time of service so it seems that some fish fingers were under-cooked. Those meals affected were withdrawn and disposed of, and a replacement was provided. In a very small number of cases children did not receive their first choice due to the volume of food that had to be disposed of.

Please be reassured that the problem has been reported to Caterlink Head Office who will be sending engineers to fix the faulty ovens as a matter of priority.

We are becoming increasingly concerned about the lack of parental supervision for some of the young children who come to pick up siblings from St Paul's. In the last few weeks, there have been numerous incidents of children climbing over the walls of the outdoor classrooms, standing on the top of the table tennis tables, and playing on the wooden fort and activity trail. Whilst waiting to pick up children from school, the only place parents and children are permitted to wait, is on the playground. This ensures the safety of every small visitor and that our site is treated with the same respect shown by our pupils.

On Tuesday 22 January at 6.30pm, parents are invited to attend a Parents' Workshop on online safety training. This will be presented by Teresa Hughes, Lecturer – University of Kent (Centre for Child Protection, School of Social Policy, Sociology and Social Research. Parking will be available on the playground from 6.15pm, and entrance is via the link doors.

Have a lovely weekend.

Mrs Taylor  
Headteacher



## Upcoming Events

**January 22** On-line Safety Talk,  
6.30pm

**25 January** 3F Class Assembly,  
9.15am

**31 January** Liddington Information  
Evening, 6.30pm

**1 February** 5K Class Assembly,  
9.15am

**8 February** 3G Class Assembly,  
9.15am

**14 February** 5S Class Assembly,  
9.15am

**15 February** 4B Class Assembly,  
9.15am

**18 – 22 February** HALF TERM

## Congratulations!

Congratulations to Vivaan Bhat's family on the safe arrival of a baby boy, Sahaskrit.



## Sick children

This term, there have been a high number of pupils with sickness bugs being sent back to school within 48 hours of their last bout of vomiting. As parents, we know how difficult and costly it can be to have to take time off from work to care for poorly children but sending them back to school whilst they are still infectious or too poorly to cope in lessons, puts the health of other pupils at risk. Viral infections are easily passed on and can have a significant impact on others, particularly if it is then passed on to the teachers and results in classes being covered by supply agency staff.

No child should return to school until 48 hours has passed since their last bout of sickness or diarrhoea.

## Ensuring your child's success

The Reading culture at St Paul's is made up of many different elements:

- Class novels;
- Drop everything and read sessions;
- Book Talk;
- Guided Reading;
- Paired Reading;
- Vocabulary development;
- Word of the Day.

Through these activities, our pupils are exposed to good quality texts and vocabulary, and have many varied opportunities to practise their reading skills. But, as they become more independent, it can be tempting for parents to step back and let them continue their reading adventures alone. Research shows the enjoyment of reading, developed through time with parents has a significant positive impact on a wide range of life outcomes, including academic, social, personal, and health and wellbeing

Being heard read aloud, in addition to the reading that goes on in school, has a profound effect on any child's success:

- Children who read 20+ minutes per day outside of school score in the 90th percentile of their peers;
- Children who read 5 minutes per day out of school drop to the 50th percentile even with the same in-school instruction;
- Children who read for 1 minute per day out of school fall below the 10th.

We cannot emphasise enough how critical reading aloud regularly to an adult outside of school is to ensure every child's future success. We recently invested in new Reading Records for each pupil to support you with this and would be very grateful if you could write a short comment and date and sign the record, every time you hear your child read.



If you would like to find out more about supporting your child with reading or would like some help and advice, please speak to your child's teacher.

## Emergencies

Please help us keep your children safe by ensuring that our records are up to date for emergency contact numbers.

Our records show that some children only have parents as the contact numbers should they fall ill or receive an injury. We always advise parents to provide an additional number of a relative or close friend that we might use, should we be unable to reach you. This does happen from time to time and it can be very distressing for a child who is feeling unwell or a child where no one has arrived to pick them up at the end of the day.

Please remember to keep us informed of any changes at home; we will always treat information confidentially, sharing it with staff working with your child and a strictly 'need to know basis'. If something significant happens outside school, a child may become anxious and find it difficult to manage their emotions. If we are aware that they are facing challenging times, we are able to keep a close eye on them and give them the support they need. Something that may not seem important enough to share could still impact greatly, such as a change to work routines, childcare arrangements, family circumstances etc.

## Safety in PE Lessons

We would very much appreciate your cooperation with the following:

- No jewellery is permitted to be worn during PE; this includes earrings. In the past we have provided tape for earrings to be covered so that a child does not miss out on a lesson but in future, we ask that parents ensure that earrings are removed before coming to school on PE days;
- Long hair must be tied back and children should arrive at school on PE days with hair already tied back.

Thank you in advance for your help with this matter. With your support, the huge amount of lesson time being wasted on hair and jewellery, will now be spent on PE lessons.

If you might be considering having your child's ears pierced before they leave St Paul's, we advise this is done at the very start of a 6 week summer holiday as this gives sufficient time to heal before the Autumn Term.

## Pupil Premium Funding

The children of some families in receipt of benefits are eligible for free school meals and therefore entitled to a grant to enhance their education within school. This in-school funding can be used for a variety of opportunities, such as: payment for extra-curricular clubs; school uniform; trips; and additional support with teaching and learning.

If you think your child could be entitled to this funding, please speak to Mrs Lander, who will be happy to advise and support you in completing and submitting an application.

Who is entitled to Pupil Premium Funding?

To be eligible, at least one parent must be in receipt of one of the following:

- Universal credit;
- Income Support;
- Income-based Job Seeker's Allowance;
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance;
- Child Tax Credit provided you are not entitled to Working Tax Credit;
- The Guarantee element of the State Pension Credit.

They might also be eligible if:

- At least one parent was eligible for any of the above benefits in the last six years;
- The child has is or has been looked after under local authority care;
- They are children from service families who receive a child pension from the Ministry of Defence.

## **School Council News**

The School Council meets fortnightly and is made up of a pupil elected representative from each class. Meetings are chaired by a pupil and are an opportunity to discuss ideas and suggestions raised by children from across the school. The councillors are a hard working bunch and have come up with some excellent ideas on how to make a positive difference to both the school and the wider community. Just two for this term are - Playground Litter Patrol and a Bad Hair Day to raise funds for Great Ormond Street Children's Hospital.

## **Request**

Please remember to label your child's school uniform, PE kit, coat, shoes and trainers. We already have a significant amount of items in the Lost Property store, and it's much easier to reunite owners with their missing items if they are named. Thank you.

## **Igniting Writing – Wokingham Library**

Igniting writing is a creative writing club for Year 6 children hosted by Wokingham Library on Saturday mornings. The club is designed to bring young writers together to develop their writing and storytelling in a fun and relaxed group setting. If you want to find out more about the group, ask some questions or see what goes into planning the sessions, you can get in touch at the following webpages:

Website: <https://directory.wokingham.gov.uk/kb5/wokingham/directory/service.page?id=Wi6ijfJao4E>

Blog: <http://ignitingwriting.tumblr.com>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/829509490414536>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/IgnitingWriting>

You can also call Wokingham Library on 0118 9781368.

*~Alex Baker, founder and group leader of Igniting Writing*

## **Bohunt Secondary School - Proposal to Change School Admission Policy 2020-21**

To find out more about the proposed changes to the Admission Policy for siblings, please visit Bohunt School's website <https://www.bohuntwokingham.com/about-bohunt/admissions/>

The consultation for this will finish on Friday 25th January, after which the Local Governing Body will make a final decision.

## Clubs

| Monday  | Tuesday   | Wednesday  | Thursday   | Friday  |
|---|---|--|--|---|
| Running Club –<br>07.45am<br>(7 January – 18 March)                   | Badminton Club –<br>07.45am (8 January – 26 March)          | Judo Club –<br>07.55am<br>(9 January – to be advised by coach) | Gymnastics Club –<br>07.45am<br>(10 January – 21 March)      | Yoga Club –<br>07.45am (11 January – 22 March)      |
| Badminton Club –<br>07.45am (7 January – 18 March)                    | Lego Club –<br>Lunchtime (8 January – 19 March)             | All Years Girls Football – lunchtime<br>(9 January – 3 April)  | Years 4/5 Football –<br>Lunchtime<br>(10 January – 28 March) | All Years Football – 3.30pm (11 January – 29 March) |
| Years 3/4 Football –<br>Lunchtime (7 January – 1 <sup>st</sup> April) | Year 5 Imagineering Club – 3.30pm<br>(8 January – 19 March) | Year 6 Football –<br>lunchtime<br>(9 January – 3 April)        |  |   |
|   | French Club –<br>3.30pm<br>(15 January – 26 March)          | Multisports – 3.30pm<br>(9 January – 3 April)                  |  |   |
|   |   | Years 5/6 Netball Club – 3.30pm<br>(9 January – 20 March)      |  |   |
|   |   | Years 3/4 Tag Rugby Club – lunchtime<br>(before half term)     |  |   |
|   |   | Years 5/6 Tag Rugby Club – lunchtime<br>(after half term)      |  |   |
|   |   | Chess Club – 3.30pm<br>(9 Jan – 27 Mar)                        |  |   |

| Diary Dates                           |   |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| <b>Tuesday 22 January</b>             | Online Safety Talk for Parents, 6.30-7.30pm                       |
| <b>Friday 25 January</b>              | 3F Class Assembly, 9.15am   |
| <b>Thursday 31 January</b>            | Liddington Information Evening for Parents of Year 5, 6.30-7.30pm |
| <b>Friday 1 February</b>              | 5K Class Assembly, 9.15am   |
| <b>Friday 8 February</b>              | 3G Class Assembly, 9.15am   |
| <b>Thursday 14 February</b>           | 5S Class Assembly, 9.15am   |
| <b>Friday 15 February</b>             | 4B Class Assembly, 9.15am   |
| <b>Monday 18 – Friday 22 February</b> | HALF TERM – SCHOOL CLOSED   |
| <b>Tuesday 26 February</b>            | Parent Consultations, 8.50-11.10am                                |
| <b>Wednesday 27 February</b>          | Parent Consultations, 3.50-7.30pm                                 |

# Forest Schools at St Paul's

## 'The only ceiling is the sky.'

This concept originated in Scandinavia and was introduced into Britain in 1993 after staff from Bridgwater College visited kindergartens in Scandinavia. They were inspired by how pre-school children developed their skills in an outdoor, woodland environment and, upon their return, began to develop what is now known as Forest Schools. This approach has now been successfully adopted by thousands of school all over the country, including St Paul's.

Forest Schools is about bringing children outdoors and allowing them the freedom to use their imagination and creativity in ways they may have not done so before. Proven to enhance the learning of children of all ages, from nursery and up to secondary school, this approach is child led and aims to develop self-confidence, self-awareness and self-control, thus enriching and enhancing learning for every pupil. Our aim is that by the time the children leave St Paul's, each of them will have spent time exploring the natural environment through hands-on experiential learning.

After piloting this approach with small groups of pupils in the summer term, we are now in the process of rolling the programme out across the whole school.

Feedback from those children involved to date has been fabulous: here are just a few of the things the children have said:

"I absolutely love learning this way."

"I have done things that I didn't think I could."

"It's my best lesson all week because I'm learning and having fun at the same time."

"I've learnt so much about the world just from being outside in the woods."

Feedback from parents has been equally positive:

"My family and I would like to send a formal BIG THANK you to Mrs McBain who has been running the new Forest School initiative this year. My child was one of the first to try this out and it had great results not only learning and widening his life experiences during the Forest School class, but with further results transferring back into the class room too. It has also boosted his confidence no end!"

"My daughter comes running out of school with a huge grin on her face and talks non-stop about her sessions. She is often still talking about it at bedtime."

"One of my children has had the chance to participate and I am delighted that the other will also have a turn too. What a great opportunity to be able to offer all of the pupils."

During sessions, pupils experience child led activities in a safe environment where they have the freedom to explore a varied range of projects, such as: Bush craft; crafts; den building; observing wildlife; and problem solving, to name just a few. Sessions close with a few minutes of reflection time.

Safety is of the utmost importance and sessions are led by our inspirational Forest School Practitioner, Mrs McBain, who is fully qualified, including in a specialist three year FS first aid certificate. She is ably supported by other



members of school staff and DBS checked parent volunteers. Risk assessments are in place for the woodland area, activities and tool use.

With 386 pupils on roll, the woodland area will not sustain every child participating in a weekly visit without damage to the eco system and therefore the plan involves all pupils on a rolling basis.



~End~