

St Paul's Newsletter – Autumn 15.12.23

'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,

In almost every newsletter, there has been a vote of thanks and today's is no exception.



Huge thanks to our brilliant PTA Committee for planning our excellent Christmas Fair. The new committee only formed in October and have already got two discos and the Fair under their belts. With their army of willing helpers, pupils and staff, they put on a really enjoyable fundraiser last Friday. Thank you to everyone who helped or came along on Friday to join in the fun. It was wonderful to welcome so many of you to this event and to see you all having such a good time. We are still waiting to learn the final amount raised.

Well done to all of the children who entered the Dressing the Christmas Tree Competition. You will see from the photos that it was hard for the School Councillors to choose which decorations should represent St Paul's, as all of the entries were both creative and original in design. Well done, Jenson, Amelia, Bethan, Oniesh, Spencer, Georgia, Lauren, Myroslav and Danica.



After much deliberation, our winners were Blake and Jaya who attended the celebration in the Town Square last Monday evening, along with their families, to present their decorations to the Mayor and Mini Mayor of Wokingham Town. Thank you, Mrs Walker, for organising our entries and for supporting the children on the night!

Thank you, Sue and Penny Chapman, for Monday's Year 3 Christingle making workshop and lighting ceremony. All three classes had a lovely time.

The children shone at each performance of our Christmas Celebration, reminding us of the true meaning of Christmas. It is always a very special time when our whole school community comes together, pupils, staff and families and the children were marvellous, giving us a celebration to remember. We are so proud of their efforts. Thank you very much for your generous donations to our collection for Crisis. You raised £450.81, a wonderful amount to help homeless people with a safe place to stay, a Christmas meal access to health practitioners.



Thursday was Christmas jumpers all round, with everyone dressed to impress! and Our fantastic staff team entered into the spirit of things too and with the corridors bedecked with decorations, school never looked more festive. Christmas lunch was a mammoth undertaking, with two separate sittings. Our Cook,

Jason, and his team did a brilliant job of preparing and cooking 320 delicious Christmas dinners. Our hardworking lunchtime controllers, admin staff, teachers and learning mentors helped lay tables, serve and clear over a two hour period - it was extremely frantic and a lot of hard work but as you can see from the photos, lots of fun. Our thanks to the PTA for providing 400 Christmas Crackers to dress the tables.



Thank you to Mrs King, Finance Assistant, for getting behind the wheel and driving the flatbed truck to transport our beautiful Christmas Tree from the hall to the church. Our tradition is that we gift our tree to the church each year so that it has two lives and can be admired by the wider community. Huge thanks to the Year 5 team and to Mr



Walsh for loading and unloading the tree and moving all of the equipment from the Christmas Celebration back from church. Thanks also to the staff who will be walking up to church this afternoon to dress the tree in its second home.

This morning, Father Richard led the whole school in a resounding rendition of the Twelve Days of Christmas with the children and staff organised into six groups, singing and up on their feet, doing actions for each of the days - it was such good fun! We also had a special Sports Assembly to celebrate the many of achievements of our pupils at a number of interschool competitions. A huge number of certificates and medals were awarded to pupils and we are immensely proud of their efforts.



Sadly, we are saying farewell to Connor, 4P, who is moving to a new school in Swindon. We wish him well and hope that he and his family will be very happy in their new home. Also leaving us today is Mrs Long, Learning Mentor, who is off to work at Reading University. We wish her all the very best for the future and with her new role.



Welcome to Mrs Collins, our new School Secretary. We are delighted that she is finally here and that it will be business as usual in the new year. Many thanks to our admin team who have done a valiant job of trying to keep things running smoothly over the last few weeks - I know it is much appreciated by everyone.

It is also Welcome Back to Mrs Hamer, who returned to us from maternity leave yesterday. Mrs Hamer will be teaching in 4P each Wednesday and working across the school on her remaining two days. We are delighted to see her return. We recently had two new members join our team of Learning Mentors, Mrs Alessandrini and Miss Cox, both of whom are settling in well. they are a great addition to our team.

All that remains is for me to wish you a very Merry Christmas and a happy, peaceful New Year! We are looking forward to welcoming the children back to school on Tuesday 2nd January.

Mrs Taylor

Congratulations to Leilah – 3D



Earlier this month, Leilah won two silver medals at a gymnastics competition.

Congratulations, Leilah, what an excellent result!

Eve's – Little Princess Trust Fundraising



Eve has been raising money for the Little Princess Trust by having her beautiful flowing locks cut short! This is something she has been wanting to do for a long time and is such a generous was to support this charity. Well done Eve – we are really proud of you and love your new hairstyle!

Forest School Sessions

The timetable for next term's sessions can be found below. 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.

08/01	15/01	22/01	29/01	05/02	19/02	26/02	04/03	11/03	18/03	25/03	26/03
6S	5M	3B	4P	6T	5K	3D	4B	6B	5D	5H	4R

PE and appropriate kit

Please ensure that your child has their PE kit with them for every indoor PE lesson. We have some pupils who regularly use the excuse of forgotten kit to avoid participating. The expectation is that all pupils will participate as this is part of their National Curriculum entitlement.

Could you also ensure that on Thursday, when the children come to school dressed in kit, it is only in a white t shirt and navy blue or black plain joggers or hoodie. This is the expectation for every child. No brightly coloured fashion items, football kit or clothes with slogans are permitted. These should be saved for non-uniform days.

Indoor PE			
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Friday
5D 3D 6S	5K 6B 4P	5M 3B 3H	6T 4B 4R

Outdoor Games
Thursday – all classes

Get help with the cost of living

The [Household Support Fund](#) can help you pay for food, energy, bills and other essentials. It's open to:

- Families where [children receive means-tested free school meals can get £20 per week](#) during the school holidays until Easter 2024
- [Anyone struggling to pay bills or buy food can apply for £240 or £120](#) depending on the size of their household

If you've already applied for the Household Support Fund you do not need to apply again.

Other cost of living help options

There's a range of help and support options you can use to help you this winter:

- Check the [cost of living help hub](#), including our guides
 - [Help for people with children](#)
 - [Help for single people](#)
 - [Help for pensioners](#)
 - [Help if you're in an emergency](#)
- SHARE Wokingham offers fresh produce, like bread and vegetables, for those who need it. These are surplus stock from local supermarkets. More than 2,000 people use it each week and it has saved more than 1,000 tonnes in food waste since it was launched a few years ago. [View the food map](#) to see SHARE's 15 locations and find your nearest.
- Follow these [top tips for households](#) on how to lower your energy bills this winter. Or you can try:
 - The [council's new home energy advice](#) service to see how to lower your bills
 - See if you're eligible [Great British Insulation Scheme](#) is offering free or cheaper insulation to reduce your home's energy bills
 - [Check if your home is eligible](#) for a Heat Pump Grant a part of the Boiler Upgrade Scheme – up to £7,500 on offer towards the costs
- We're encouraging people to [register with power, water and gas suppliers](#) if they are potentially vulnerable this winter. These are known as priority services, which mean you get help faster if you are cut off or additional warnings if there are outages like loss of water pressure or power cuts
- The [Winter Warmers scheme](#) can help you get free items, if you're struggling with the cost of living. This includes things like air fryers, slow cookers, heated airers and more. These will lower your energy usage and bills

Contact Citizens Advice, Wokingham, to find the most appropriate support for your situation. Use the [online referral form](#) or call [0808 278 7958](#), Monday to Friday.

HAF

As a reminder, the HAF Programme offers funding for activities in the main school holidays of Easter, summer and Christmas for children and young people in school years from Reception to year 11 who are eligible to benefits related free school meals. There is also the option for professionals working with families, who are not eligible but would benefit from the programme, to make a referral depending on their family circumstances. You can find full details on our website: [Holiday, activities, and food programme \(wokingham.gov.uk\)](#)

In Wokingham, the entitlement for primary aged children is:

- X2 6 hour days per week for 1 week at Easter, 1 week at Christmas and x4 weeks in the summer. HAF does not operate in half term holidays.
- The HAF Team also run events across the Borough during school holidays for families to attend together. Along with our regular twice weekly SEND stay and play sessions and our newly launched SEND drop off sessions for children and young people aged 8-13 years.

Although children in years Reception to Year 2 ALL receive Universal free school meals, in order to identify those families who are eligible for the HAF Programme we encourage parents to apply for benefits related free school meals as early as possible.

All allocations for funding and vouchers for parents to be able to book funded activities will continue to be via the new Wonde (e-Vouchers) booking system. If parents have any queries about receiving their vouchers, they can contact haf@wokingham.gov.uk in the first instance. If it is a technical issue which they are not able to resolve, they will refer them onto the Wonde (e-Vouchers) support team.

Diary Dates	
Tuesday 2 nd January	Start of Spring Term for all pupils
Monday 15 th January	Liddington Information Evening for Y5 parents 6.30pm
Friday 19 th January	3H Class Assembly
Friday 26 th January	6B Class Assembly
Friday 2 nd February	6T Class Assembly
Friday 9 th February	5S Class Assembly
Tuesday 20 th & Wednesday 21 st February	3.30pm – 7.00pm Parents' Consultations

Christmas Services

St Paul's Church, Wokingham
(Reading Road RG41 1EH)

Sunday 17th December

6.15pm Nine Lessons & Carols

Wednesday 20th December

10am Crib Service for younger children

Sunday 24th December

3pm & 5pm Christingle Service

11pm Midnight Mass

Christmas Day 8am BCP Communion

9.30am Christmas Day Eucharist

St Nicholas Church (Emmbrook Village Hall)

Sunday 24th December 9pm First Mass of Christmas

Hear the song
the angels sing
and then hurry
with the
shepherds
to the manger



Spring Term
[04/01/24] -
[27/03/24]

Use your
childcare
vouchers or pay
with tax-free
childcare

Just Play Sports Clubs

From the sport-mad to the have-a-gos, here you'll find clubs packed with games for any ability and a ginormous focus on fun.

All Years Mixed Multi Skills Club Monday 3.30 – 4.30pm £7.50 a session	All Years Mixed Football Club Friday 3.30 – 4.30pm £7.50 a session
All Years Mixed Football Club Monday Lunchtime £6.50 a session	All Years Girls Football Club Thursday 3.30 – 4.30pm £7.50 a session

Book online at bit.ly/stpaulsclubs

[justplaysports.co.uk](https://www.justplaysports.co.uk) fb.me/justplaysportsberks [info@justplaysports.co.uk](https://www.justplaysports.co.uk) [@justplaysports_](https://www.justplaysports.co.uk) Jack 07957423083

COMPETITION

WIN A £20 BOOK VOUCHER

Design a footprint A4 poster to inspire the community to help tackle climate change.

Each age category will win a voucher!
Four to seven-years-old
Eight to 11-years-old
12+ years-old

Hand-in to your local borough library by Friday 22 December

