

St Paul's Newsletter – 09.12.22



0118 978 5219 - admin@stpauls.wokingham.sch.uk
Safeguarding Team: Julianne Taylor – Headteacher and Designated Safeguarding Lead
Linda Edwards – Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead

Headteacher's Message

Dear St Paul's Families,

It has been a funny week this week, with so many children unwell and under the weather. On Tuesday, we had a staggering 62 pupils off sick – over 16% of the school roll! If your child is unwell, please let us know via the absence section under ParentMail, or by emailing absence@stpauls.wokingham.sch.uk. Include your child's name, class and the reason they are away. As it is a written record we need, please do not ring the school as well as this takes up valuable manpower at the busiest time of the day.



Thank you

Huge thanks to our brilliant PTA Committee for planning our excellent Yuletide celebration. Despite being a committee of only four, with their army of willing helpers, pupils and staff, they put on a really enjoyable fundraiser. Thank you to everyone who helped or came along and joined in the fun. It was wonderful to welcome so many of you to this event. We are still waiting to learn how much we raised in total.

Well done to all of the children who entered the Dressing the Christmas Tree Competition. It was hard to choose which decorations should represent St Paul's as all of the entries were both creative and original in design. After much deliberation, our winners were Kathryn McD and Emma S. Both attended the celebration in the Town Square on Monday evening, along with their families, presenting their decorations to the Mayor and Mini Mayor of Wokingham Town. Congratulations girls!



We are always so well supported by you, whatever the event and we have just found out that thanks to your generosity, we raised a fantastic £537.41 for the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal. Thank you so much!



We had more than 60 visitors to Tuesday's Curriculum Celebration and enjoyed receiving such positive feedback from those of you able to join us. We agree with you, it is amazing to see how much learning has taken place already this term and the progression of knowledge and skills is very evident as you move up through the school. Our next event will be held in the Spring Term and the date published in January.



The Christmas Post Box has appeared in the library and the House Captains will be making deliveries on a daily basis from Monday until the end of term. Cards going via this service will need the name and class of the recipient written clearly on the envelope to ensure they reach their intended destination.

Best wishes to Gabija, who left on Monday to start at her new school, St Michael's in Bracknell. We hope she soon settles in and makes lots of new friends!

Our love and best wishes also go with Mrs Hamer – her new baby is due to arrive on Christmas Eve and today was her last day with us before commencing maternity leave. We gave her a special St Paul's send off this afternoon and will keep you posted of any Baby Hamer developments.



Please do read the letter regarding the arrangements for picking up from church after each of the evening performances of the Christmas Celebration as it explains how we manage to reunite almost 400 pupils with parents quickly and efficiently – it does need your cooperation and a prompt pick up.

The forecast for the weekend is down into minus figures, so wrap up warm!

Mrs Taylor

Christmas Lunch & Christmas Jumper Day– Friday 16th December

The children are welcome to wear a Christmas Jumper for this non-uniform day but they are not compulsory! Should you have any Christmas jumpers that your child has grown out of, we would welcome any donations so we have spares available. They can be handed to the staff on the Murray Road gate before next Friday.

Cash Payments to School

From 1st January 2023, cash payments will no longer be accepted by the School office. Please ensure you have a SCO pay account set up so that you can make payments for lunches, school trips and buy uniform.

After this date, Caterlink will only accept payments made electronically. They ask that you ensure your child is sufficiently in credit in their online account to have a lunch each day. Should you have any queries, please contact the school office.

HAF Programme – Christmas Bookings Open

The Christmas HAF Programme is now live! The programme is open to any families who are receiving benefits related free school meals (FSMs) and helps to fill the gap for those children during some of the main school holidays (Christmas/Easter/Summer) by providing funded activities and a healthy meal. This is separate from universal free school meals which is for all children from Reception to year 2 and is also separate from pupil premium. Parents must have applied and been accepted for FSMs through their child's school in order to automatically qualify for the HAF programme.

Full details of what is on offer for Primary, Secondary and SEND provisions this Christmas can be found at:

[Book a place on Holiday, Activities and Food programme - Wokingham Borough Council](#)

To participate in the programme, parents need a unique WBC booking code. If you do not yet have a code, you can request one by completing a form online at:

[Holiday, Activities and Food programme - Wokingham Borough Council](#)

If you already have a code, but do not remember it, email: HAF@wokingham.gov.uk

The Christmas programme will consist of:

- Funded holiday clubs for primary aged children (2 days of 6 hours per day)
- Funded supervised activities for secondary aged young people
- Funded holiday club with Reading Football Community Trust or family Stay and Play sessions at Building for the Future for children with SEND
- HAF Christmas Event – a session to attend as a family consisting of activities, crafts, a panto, food and an appearance by Father Christmas, two dates with one date for children with SEND

Funding is limited and therefore not guaranteed. The priority is for those families who are not able to afford any activities for their children during the holidays and where a child/children are identified as vulnerable/in need. Please include as much information as possible on the reason for referral to support the application.

Keep up to date with the HAF Programme by visiting our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/HAFprogrammeWoky/>

Emily Bartle - Holiday, Activities and Food Programme Support Officer: Emily.Bartle@wokingham.gov.uk

Help with cost-of-living crisis

The Council and its partners can help you if you're struggling with the cost of living. The impact of the crisis is wider than we've ever seen in Wokingham Borough. More people than are relying on credit cards, asking families members for help, missing meals and their overdrafts to get by. You can go to them for help. Here's how:

Funding for families, food and energy

Almost 2,000 young people who receive means-tested free school meals have had help through the [Household Support Fund](#) already.

If your child gets means-tested free school meals [apply for the Household Support Fund through First Days Children's Charity](#)

If your child does not receive means-tested free school meals we have another grant you can apply for if you are struggling.

If you're struggling with bills or buying food [apply for the Household Support Fund through Age UK Berkshire or Citizens Advice](#)

Please note you are only able to apply for one grant type from the Household Support Fund.

Other support options:

Go to the [cost of living help hub](#) for help and tips open to all

Go to the [help for families with cost of living](#) advice pages

See how you can get [help with household bills](#)

[Register for priority services](#) if you have children aged five or under, you are pregnant or if you or a family member is disabled or has a long term health condition

See services you can contact directly for [help with essentials like food or warm clothes](#)

If you'd prefer to talk to someone, contact One Front Door. This is a service led by Citizens Advice which helps residents find the most appropriate support. Use the [online referral form](#) or call [0808 278 7958](tel:0808 278 7958), Monday to Friday.

And if you're not struggling but have time and want to help others, why not see if you could volunteer locally to support organisations [helping people struggling with the cost of living](#).

Message from Wokingham Library

We will be holding several activities for children during the winter break.

Winter Mini Challenge

The 2022 Winter Mini Challenge, presented by The Reading Agency in partnership with Science Museum Group, has started! The Summer Reading Challenge 2022 saw thousands of children reading and exploring science and innovation as part of this year's Gadgeteer.

https://wokinghamboroughlibraries.wordpress.com/2022/12/02/2022-winter-mini-challenge/?fbclid=IwAR1YMFkL2uIR_q1aUqUKiTnSLCvBpPPv3k22njfHKiEyUcRNblAuq9pTM70

Activities for children & young people

Mon 12th Dec, 4-4:30pm Storytime and crafts at Wargrave Library
Tues 13th Dec, 4pm Special author storytime at Wokingham Library
Thurs 15th Dec, 3:45-4:45pm Snowflake craft at Woodley Library
Fri 16th Dec, 10:30-11:30 Storytime and crafts at Finchampstead Library
Wed 21st Dec, 10:30am Storytime with Fiona Barker at Finchampstead Library
Wed 21st Dec, 2:30pm Storytime with Fiona Barker at Wokingham Library
Thurs 22nd Dec, 10:30-11:30am Wreath making at Woodley Library (£1.50 charge booking required)
Thurs 22nd Dec, 10:30am Storytime with Fiona Barker at Lower Earley Library
Thurs 22nd Dec, 2:30pm Storytime with Fiona Barker at Woodley Library

https://wokinghamboroughlibraries.wordpress.com/2022/12/07/christmas-at-the-library/?fbclid=IwAR3ByyLT3UNim3kinsx_g1jjoWBHC-7FF37O5mJg1rW6qrTDUhhXRMSVgOI

Wishing you a very Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year

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
3H, 6D, 5D	3B, 3K, 5K	4R, 4P, 5S	4C, 6B, 6T

Thursday
Outdoor PE – all classes

Diary Dates	
Next Week	
Tues 13 th December	Christmas Celebration, St Paul's Church 6.00pm – 7pm
Wed 14 th December	Christmas Celebration, St Paul's Church 2pm – 3pm & 6.00pm – 7pm
Fri 16 th December	Christmas Lunch & Christmas Jumper Day – non uniform day
Fri 16 th December	5D Class Assembly 9.00am – 9.15am
Upcoming	
Tues 20 th December	End of term – 2pm finish
January 2023 onwards	The school will be cashless from 1 st January onwards, including for Caterlink lunches. All payments will have to be made via Scopay accounts.
Wed 4 th January	Inset Day – school closed
Thurs 5 th January	Start of Spring Term for all pupils