

# St Paul's C of E Junior School



Dear Parents,

A very warm welcome back to all our children and families to the new school year. We hope you had a good holiday. For those of you joining us for the first time, we look forward to working in partnership with you and wish you a long and happy association with our school.

Already, our new pupils have settled in well and throughout the school there is a real 'buzz' about learning. The staff and children are united in doing the very best that they can which is wonderful to see - we never settle for anything less at St Paul's!

We are excited about the learning planned for the children this term and hope to see you at this week's Curriculum Information Evening on 13<sup>th</sup> September. This will be an opportunity to hear from the teaching team as to what your child will be studying this term. Each teaching team will give their presentation at 6.00pm and this will be repeated again at 6.30pm, to enable parents with siblings at St Paul's to attend. Parking will be available on the playground from 5.45pm. Entrance to school is via the playground doors where staff will be on hand to direct you to the relevant classrooms.

It is not just new children and families joining us this term, we also have a number of new staff. We are delighted to welcome Mrs Richardson, Year 5 Team Leader, and Mrs Hayre – job share partners in Year 5, Miss Lavrich joins the Year 6 team, Mrs Apps joins us in Year 4 and Miss Gilder in Year 3. We are also welcoming back Miss McDonogh and Mrs Allen, to Year 3. Both taught here previously in recent years.

Thank you for sending your children to school dressed smartly in uniform. We take great pride in every aspect of presentation and with 385 pupils, it is vital that every item is clearly named, including lunchboxes and water bottles. We are already accruing a collection of lost property, despite being only four days into the new school year. We would be grateful if you could help your child to double check that all of the items they bring/wear in school are clearly named. Unnamed lost property can be found in the large green storage container by the Murray Road gate.

Mrs Taylor

## Upcoming Events

### September 13

Curriculum Information Evening

Session 1 - 6.00-6.30pm

Session 2 - 6.30-7.00pm

### September 18

SEN at St Paul's: 2.30pm

### September 20

Parents' Reading Information Evening: 6.30-7.30pm

### September 21

Jeans for Genes Day

### SEN at St Paul's

You are invited to find out about SEN at St Paul's on **Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> September 2018 at 2.30 pm in the Learning Lodge.**

Please inform the office on 0118 978 5219 if you are interested in attending.

## **PE & Games**

We have had a number of queries regarding arrangements for PE and Games. PE kit for all pupils is a plain white round necked t-shirt and navy blue shorts. For outdoor games, the children are permitted to wear a plain navy or black tracksuit. Football Team shirts, whilst very popular, are not school kit and therefore not allowed. For swimming lessons, a one piece costume, swimming hat and towel are required. The children are welcome to wear goggles.

## **Break Time 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 allowed.

**We have a number of pupils with acute allergies and for safety reasons, we do not permit any items containing nuts. Please check packaging carefully when choosing items for lunch boxes and break time snacks!**

## **Homework**

Over the last year, we have reviewed the impact on pupil progress of the types of homework we set. With less than 40% of pupils regularly completing the tasks and no evidence that some of the types of work completed have a positive or sustained impact on learning, we turned to the available evidence from a range of studies on homework, carried out in this country and further afield, to establish a means of moving forward in this area.

As reading is the vehicle by which pupils access all subjects within the curriculum, much of the homework we give, going forward, will relate to this key area. By the time pupils leave our school, we want them to be skilled, competent readers, whose comprehension skills and knowledge of vocabulary matches their ability to decode words on a page.

Homework tasks will also focus on the development of instant recall of the multiplication tables and their associated division facts, as well as competence in their application in a range of contexts. Our final focus will be on spelling patterns. This change in emphasis will support our work in ensuring that every child leaves our school as a successful learner, well equipped for the challenges of the secondary curriculum.

As part of this work, we will be holding a Reading Information Evening on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> September and we would hope that you will be able to join us. This evening is aimed at the parents of every child, including those of pupils who might consider themselves to be 'free readers'. The evening will be packed with advice regarding how you can work alongside the school to continue to support your child in developing their reading skills, whatever the level of books they currently read. It will also be an opportunity to introduce the new Reading Journals we have invested in for each child. This event will be held in the main hall and is for parents only. Car parking will be available from 6.00pm and entrance to the event will be via the doors from the playground, not the main entrance. We look forward to seeing you there.

## **Crossing Patroller**

The good news is that our Crossing Patroller, Diane Burch, is still in post for the time being. We are hopeful that the response from all three schools, the parents, and children, has resulted in the decision to replace this service with a permanent crossing to be reconsidered. We will update you when we hear more.

## Vacancies

We currently have several vacancies on our Lunchtime Team and we are also looking to recruit a Classroom Assistant to work in Year 6 and a part time PE and Games Assistant. If you are interested in finding out more about any of these opportunities, please see the [vacancies section of our website](#) or contact our Office Manager, Mrs Crouch on 0118 978 5219.

Diary Dates	
Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup> September	Curriculum Information Evening: 6.00-6.30pm & 6.30-7.00pm
Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup> September	Parents' Reading Information Evening: 6.30-7.30pm
Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> September	Jeans for Genes Day (Non-Uniform Day)
Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> October	Open Morning: 9.00-9.45am
Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> October	Liddington Parents Information Meeting: 6.30-7.30pm
Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> October	School Photos
Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup> – Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> October	HALF TERM – SCHOOL CLOSED
Monday 29 <sup>th</sup> October	INSET DAY – SCHOOL CLOSED