

# St Paul's Newsletter – 21.4.23



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## Headteacher's Message



Dear St Paul's Families,

Welcome back! I hope that you enjoyed the Easter break and had time to relax with family and friends. They say a city never sleeps and the same was true of our school during the holiday.

On Palm Sunday, the congregation of St Paul's met in our car park, to process to church as part of the start of their Easter celebrations. Throughout the holiday, we had contractors on site, completing various improvement projects, including a team of plumbers who spent three days upgrading all of the thermostatic controls on the radiators in the rollalong part of the building. Our Year 3 classes and 5S will no longer feel like they are in tropical climes all year round and our school is now much more energy efficient. We had further work completed in the pool plant room and are now making the final arrangements for reopening the pool in the next couple of weeks for this term's swimming lessons.



Ms Edwards returned to us on Monday as Mrs Tritton, following a beautiful outdoor wedding ceremony in the spring sunshine. The bride and groom had a wonderful day, celebrating with family and loved ones and we wish the newlyweds every happiness for the future.

The children have made a great start to the new term and as a result of discussions with a cross section of our pupils about behaviour and attitudes, we have a renewed focus on transitions. We are proud of how hard everyone has worked on this over the last few days and can already see a big improvement in entry to and from lessons after assembly, break and lunchtime. These are calmer than they were prior to Easter, with no learning time being wasted on any unnecessary fuss. We are going to keep up this good work over the coming weeks to make sure this behaviour is fully embedded, before moving on to the next area the children feel could be improved.

Yesterday, we were sorry to say farewell to Rehaan and Shanaya Sharma who are moving to Canada. What an exciting adventure and we wish them all the very best for the future, especially settling in at their new school. We said a special goodbye in assembly yesterday, presenting both with the gift of a book and cards from their classmates to mark their time here at St Paul's.



This morning's assembly focused on our spring term sporting achievements, in which 82 pupils had an opportunity to represent St Paul's in a range of competitions, leagues and festivals. We are tremendously proud of their efforts and by the way in which they can be relied upon to support and encourage one another whilst representing the school. Every one is a fantastic ambassador for sportsmanship and for St Paul's.



To all of our families who will be celebrating this weekend, Eid Mubarak! We wish you and your family every happiness.

Mrs Taylor

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## Industrial Action Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> April

It remains unclear at this stage as to whether or not we will be in a position to open, either partially or fully, on Thursday, but I would advise all parents to have childcare plans in place. Please note, a further national strike day is planned for Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> May.

## UK Emergency Alerts Service

The Government testing of the UK Emergency Alerts Service on Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> April could mean that secret phones held by a victim-survivor of domestic abuse could be discovered by a perpetrator if they are near the victim-survivor/secret phone when the alert goes off.

The alert will be sent to all mobile phones and tablets and may make a loud siren-like sound for about 10 seconds, vibrate or read out the alert even if it's on silent.

We have been asked to share awareness of this planned alert with our community so that victim-survivors can take mitigating actions, for example turning off their phone/tablet or putting these into airplane mode or changing settings to turn off extreme alerts over the testing time period (I found the setting on my phone under setting – notifications and then scrolling down to the very bottom).

More details are on [How emergency alerts work - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk) as well as details on the planned alert on 23rd April which are at [About Emergency Alerts - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)

## Online Safety – help for you to keep your child safe

We know that our pupils receive good online safety education at St Paul's but keeping children safe online isn't something that can be managed by us alone, particularly when the vast majority of their activity occurs outside of school hours and away from school devices. We recognize how difficult it can be for parents to keep up with the risks and issues that children and young people face online, which is why we regularly include online safety information in our newsletters and send you a monthly Online Safety Bulletin. As we have recently seen an increase in pupils getting into difficulty outside of school, to further support you in keeping your child safe, we have purchased a series of seven short online safety videos for parents by Alan Mackenzie, Online Safety Specialist.

The videos are:

- Introduction;
- The 4C's: Content; Contact; Conduct and Commerce;
- Online Gaming;
- You Tube; Social Media;
- Screen time;
- Useful Links and Resources.

Each week for the next seven weeks, we will include a brief overview, a video link and details of additional resources, via ParentMail, along with the Newsletter. We hope you will find these resources a helpful addition to the online safety information and resources we already provide.

## The Coronation of King Charles III



We will be celebrating the coronation on Friday 5th May and the children are invited to come to school dressed in red, white and blue. We will be holding a whole school picnic on the field at lunchtime and a Crown Competition. All of the children are invited to make a crown to commemorate the coronation and to wear it during our pageant, when we will be choosing an overall winner for each year group and awarding prizes.

## Sporting Achievement

For a week during the Easter holiday, Harry took part in the 47th Jersey Primary Football Festival, captaining the Wokingham District Schools' team. The team had a great week playing some very competitive football and whilst they may not have won the overall tournament, they really enjoyed the chance of playing against top teams from all over the UK. They also had lots of fun exploring what the island has to offer!

Well played, Harry!



## Forest School News



We have enjoyed meeting this term's Forest School groups and the children have already started to get to know each other. They have been very busy planting out our allotments with peas, broad beans and potatoes. There has been much excitement discovering worms and centipedes in the soil! This week has also seen us visit the pond area for the first time this year. The children have been very respectful of the creatures that use this area as their habitat, but needless to say, the discovery of newts, pond snails of different shapes and sizes, water boatmen and pond skaters created much elation!



We look forward to seeing where our Forest School journey will take us next.

## Parent Survey 2023

Thank you very much to all those parents who completed our annual survey, the results of which are available on our website [here](#). We were very pleased with the results overall and are currently looking at how it is that we can work to have 100% positive response in every category.

## Punctuality

We appreciate how hard it is getting back into a routine after a holiday but once again, we are experiencing high numbers of children arriving late to school. Arriving late should be a very occasional occurrence, not a daily event! It means your child misses out on a calm, well ordered start to their day, which can be extremely stressful. Please ensure that your child arrives in good time and before the gates close at 8.40am.

## Parking



Despite a heartfelt plea via ParentMail and in the Newsletter, a small number of parents still insist on parking in the road opposite the Murray Road gates. This is causing a huge amount of ill feeling and is the source of numerous complaints. This road is private and parking is for residents only, who are well within their rights to ask drivers to park elsewhere. I would strongly urge you to park elsewhere, as this is the same level of care and consideration that you would hope to see from visitors to the area in which you live.

## Walk to School Week

The week of the 15th May is Walk to school week and we are encouraging children to be more active. By walking to school, they will be well on their way to reaching the recommended 60 minutes minimum physical activity per day, which helps them engage in their learning in the classroom. This year's theme is 'walk with wildlife' to find out more visit:

<https://www.livingstreets.org.uk/products-and-services/projects/walk-to-school-week>



## Competition time!



As part of Wokingham Borough Councils' activities to mark the coronation of King Charles III, Wokingham Town Council is holding a colouring competition for children aged 12 and under. The entry form and colouring page can be found at the end of the Newsletter and is also be available to download from the town council's website in the next couple of weeks, along with information about other Coronation related events and activities happening around the town.

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

## 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. For more information, follow the link [cost of living help hub](#)

## Families eligible for Free School Meals

If your child gets means-tested free school meals you are entitled to financial support. Wokingham Borough Council and First Days Children's Charity are working together to provide payments to help during school holidays. [Apply through First Days Children's Charity.](#)

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.

## PE Timetable

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, 5S, 4P	4C, 6B, 6T	Outdoor PE – all classes

## Forest School Sessions

17/4	24/04	15/05	22/05	12/06	19/6	26/06	03/07	10/7	17/7	18/7	TBC
5D	3K	5S	6B	5K	6T	4C	3B	6D	3H	4R	4P

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.

## Diary Dates

Next Week	
Thurs 27th	Proposed Industrial Action – school may be forced to close on this day.
Upcoming	
Mon 1 <sup>st</sup> May	BANK HOLIDAY
Fri 5 <sup>th</sup> May	Coronation Picnic & Crown Competition
Mon 8 <sup>th</sup> May	BANK HOLIDAY – The King's Coronation
Wed 10 <sup>th</sup> May	Parents' Forum Meeting – Learning Lodge 3.45pm – 4.30pm
Tues 9 <sup>th</sup> May- Fri 12 <sup>th</sup> May	SATS week – NO MORNING CLUBS THIS WEEK
Wed 17 <sup>th</sup> May	St Paul's and Walter PTA Circus – 4pm, 5.30pm and 7pm (all tickets now sold out)
Thurs 25 <sup>th</sup> May	Open Morning 9.00am – 9.55am
29 <sup>th</sup> May – 2 <sup>nd</sup> June	HALF TERM
Mon 5 <sup>th</sup> June	Inset Day – school closed
Tues 6 <sup>th</sup> – Fri 9 <sup>th</sup> June	Mental Health & Wellbeing Week
Thurs 8 <sup>th</sup> June	Sports Day 9.00am until approximately 12.30pm
Sat 17 <sup>th</sup> June	PTA Summer Fair 11.30am-2.30pm
Wed 21 <sup>st</sup> June	New Parents' Afternoon 2.00pm – 3.00pm (This event is for the parents of current Y2 pupils who will be joining St Paul's in September)
Wed 21 <sup>st</sup> June	Curriculum Celebration 3.30pm – 4.15pm
Wed 5 <sup>th</sup> July	Year 6 Production 6.00pm – 7.00pm
Thurs 6 <sup>th</sup> July	Year 6 Production 2.00pm – 3.00pm
Tues 11 <sup>th</sup> – Fri 14 <sup>th</sup> July	Big Swap Week
Fri 14 <sup>th</sup> July	Reports sent home to parents
Mon 17 <sup>th</sup> July	Y6 Enterprise Day
Tues 18 <sup>th</sup> July	Y6 Leavers' Service at St Paul's Church (tbc)
Wed 19 <sup>th</sup> July	PTA Year 6 Leavers' Disco – 7.00pm -9.30pm
Thurs 20 <sup>th</sup> July	End of Term – 2pm finish





PROSPECT PARK, READING

**SUNDAY 14 MAY • 2pm**

After last year's huge success, we invite you again to join us at our fantastic Colour Run.

A 2.5km course around Prospect Park which you can do either once or twice.

Plenty of 'Colour Throwers' around the course to ensure that you get the full colour experience and make

*memories to last a lifetime.*



Scan for tickets or visit our website





**GOD SAVE**  
The King





# Wokingham Town Council

## Coronation Colouring Competition

Colour the Crown overleaf and fill in contact details to be in with a chance to win a book token.

For ages 3 to 12

Entrants name	_____
Entrants age	_____
Parents name	_____
Parents contact (email or phone)	_____

(Please write in caps)

### **Closing Date 2<sup>nd</sup> May**

Drop off your completed entries to Wokingham Town Hall (RG40 1AS) entrance post-box labelled *Coronation colouring competition entries*. (usually available Monday to Saturday 7am to 10pm)

Images of entries (including entrants' first name and age) may be shared on social media.