

# St Paul's Newsletter – Autumn 10.11.23

*'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,

I am not sure that I can remember a week quite like this one! Just in the last few days, we have had a monitoring visit by the Oxford Diocesan Board of Education and a monitoring visit from our WBC School Improvement Officer. Yesterday, we held our first Open Event of the year, welcomed Governors to Governor Day and ran a tour for prospective parents.....and if that was not action packed enough, we evacuated the building part way through the afternoon when the fire alarm went off! Understandably, the children and staff are more than ready for a well-deserved weekend but they should be immensely proud of the wealth of positive feedback we have received from those visiting St Paul's this week.

- 'Pupils said they feel safe in school, one stated: 'I don't notice the difference between school and home, this is my 2nd home - teachers feel like our 2nd parents'. They were very clear that everyone is treated equally, there is a huge diversity in the school but these differences are celebrated. Pupils didn't feel there is any real bullying in the school, they talk to the teachers and things are sorted out.' (OBDE Advisor)
- 'Adults and pupils display warm relationships and mutual respect leading to the very good learning attitudes and behaviours observed across the school.' (WBC School Improvement Officer)
- 'We all agreed that it was the best Governor's Day we had had. The children were a delight, engaging with us in the classroom, at lunch and in the playground. The staff were welcoming and very accommodating as we dipped in and out of their lessons. We, the Governors, are all well aware of the hard work that is behind what we observed yesterday, the clarity of values, excellent presentation of the curriculum especially in the new schemes in Geography, History, Science and Art. We were all very impressed with the overall behaviour of the children. When talking to parents who were visiting at the same time as us, they too were impressed with the school.' (Penny Wallace, Chair of Governors)
- 'Amazing school! I am so happy I had a chance to visit school today. Everyone was busy and happy in classrooms. Keep doing your amazing job!' (Parental feedback after Open Morning)
- Fantastic visit, lovely to see all facilities. Received all the information needed and looking forward to our son joining in September - fingers crossed! (Prospective Parent)

The House Captains have done a brilliant job of selling items to raise money for the British Legion Poppy Appeal. Not all of the children who wished to make a donation remembered to bring their money into school and as there are still some items remaining, these will be on sale on Monday and Tuesday.



Yesterday's evacuation was a sight to see, with all pupils and staff out of the building and at their assembly points in less than three minutes. The children were calm and sensible as they quietly moved to their muster points and the governors were impressed by the behaviour of the whole school. Luckily, it was an accidental activation at Walter and not a real emergency so we could quickly return inside to continue with afternoon lessons.

Have a good weekend - Mrs Taylor

## Safety of pupils and parents!

We have had a number of serious complaints from local residents this week and despite our appeals to avoid parking alongside West Oak Care Home, some parents are still choosing to ignore the fact that this is a private road for residents only. This morning, there were cars parked all down the road and there were even some parked in the residents' own spaces. There were also parents parked in the car park of Murray House, another area we have repeatedly asked parents to avoid using for parking.

Drop off this morning was not only chaotic but dangerous, with pupils and parents at risk of serious injury. As some parents of Walter and St Paul's chose to park on the double yellow lines, there were no passing places for other drivers which resulted in complete gridlock. Drivers then began sounding horns and revving engines despite not being able to move in any direction, frightening the children and intimidating pedestrians trying to get to school.

To make matters worse, vehicles parked alongside West Oak then began pushing their way into the line of stationary traffic. The situation continued to deteriorate as parents then began disembarking their children into the middle of the road in the path of oncoming traffic, instead of using the pedestrian crossing.

We work very hard to keep our pupils safe whilst maintaining a positive partnership with our local community. Sadly, the behaviour of a number of parents from both schools is putting children at serious risk and jeopardising the good will of local residents towards our schools. Despite the best efforts of Walter, Meadow and St Paul's, we have not been able to bring about any lasting improvement to this issue and have asked for assistance from Wokingham Borough Council and Thames Valley Police and requested that Murray Road be considered as a site for the installation of an AMPR camera.

## Congratulations



Marc from 5K receiving his trophy from the UK Motocross 450cc Champion, Tommy Searle. Out of thirty six racers, Marc came 10th overall.

Well done, Marc, what a fantastic achievement.

## PE & Games

### Indoor PE

On indoor PE days, pupils should come to school in uniform, bringing their kit with them to change into.

### Outdoor Games

All classes will have Games on Thursday. Pupils should come to school dressed in PE kit (navy or black shorts or tracksuit, plain white t-shirt). Games lessons take place every week in all but the most extreme weather and, therefore, we ask that pupils bring their uniform too, in case they have to change into dry clothes.

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

Outdoor Games
Thursday – all classes

## Absence Reporting

If your child is unwell, we need a written record from you of why they are not at school for our register. When reporting an absence please ensure you have sent in your absence either by email or Parentmail by 8.45am. Please include your child's full name and class and when stating the reason for the absence, "unwell" or "under the weather" are not suitable reasons and will not be acceptable. Please give symptoms or explanation as to why they are absent from school.

## Message from the Governors



There are 3 vacancies on the governing body of our school for Parent Governors. The governing body is made up of people from different groups including parents, teachers, local authority appointed members and foundation governors who are appointed by the diocese. A term of office lasts for 4 years – you will be amazed at how quickly the time flies. Depending on interests and expertise each governor sits on at least one of the three committees: Learning & Teaching, Health & Safety and Finance & Personnel. Our current governors have introduced themselves on the [governor page](#) of the school web site.

## What do governors do?

School governors:

- are responsible for the strategic management of the school;
- oversee its aims, values and ethos;
- promote high standards of educational attainment;
- monitor pupil progress and attainment;
- ensure compliance with the National Curriculum;
- manage the budget, including deciding the number of staff and pay;
- participate in the appointment of the Headteacher and Deputy Head;
- regulate school conduct and discipline.

The governors act as a team, but the amount of time that each is able to give to the role varies. The full governing body meets every half term and committees between 3 and 6 times a year. The governors support the school in practical ways throughout the year by joining in with events. Once a term they are invited in to spend a whole day in school observing how their discussions and decisions are being put into practice. The highlight of these days is always talking to the pupils in their classrooms, over lunch and in the playground.

## What will I get out of being a governor?

You will get:

- the knowledge that you have played a significant part in improving children's education and supporting the staff;
- a chance for continuing professional development and to develop new skills, such as chairing meetings, asking questions, making suggestions and monitoring the budget;
- A chance to work as part of a dynamic team.

If you think that this is a way in which you would like to contribute to the school please get in touch with the clerk to the governors by email [Pauline.wells@stpauls.wokingham.sch.uk](mailto:Pauline.wells@stpauls.wokingham.sch.uk). There is a legal process to follow in appointing governors but the clerk will be able to help you through this process and training for your future role will also be available. We look forward to hearing from you.

## Playtime Snacks



As a Healthy School, 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 permitted.

## Naming Items

We are drowning in lost property because so many items do not contain the name of the owner. This makes it impossible to reunite children with their belongings. PLEASE ensure that all items of clothing, including coats, shoes and trainers are clearly labelled with child's name and class. Lost property can be found in the green container situated to the left of the wooden gate into the playground

## My Journey

Our latest My Journey Wokingham schools competition is out now! This competition is open to all Wokingham primary school children and the winner will have their design printed onto a high vis jacket for each member of their class.



**Make sure you use the template at the end of the newsletter to design a black and white logo for a high vis jacket.**

**Please send your designs to us by 25th November to: [myjourney@wokingham.gov.uk](mailto:myjourney@wokingham.gov.uk)**

Please see template attached which has all the details of how to enter and an image of the winning design from last year's competition. Link to it on our website too: <https://www.myjourneywokingham.com/events/design-a-logo-for-a-high-vis-jacket/>

## Caterlink Feedback

Our meal provider Caterlink are looking for our pupils to provide them with some feedback so they can ensure they are getting the best experience for their meal times. It only takes 2 minutes and will give them an insight in to how the children enjoy the meals and also give any idea for new ones! Click on the link below: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/G9VWNSR>

## 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](tel: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 \(wokingham.gov.uk\)](#) Please make any referrals as early as possible prior to school holidays in order for the application to be considered and processed in time.

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 would like you to 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. The e-Vouchers team will be in contact with you to confirm what you need to do in order for vouchers to be sent to your eligible families for use this Christmas. Vouchers will go live from the system on 6<sup>th</sup> November. Please ensure that the children who are eligible for free school meals are marked in your system so that the vouchers will be sent to them when they are activated by Wonde. Please note that the HAF team will manually load vouchers for any children who have an active referral to the programme. You will not need to upload any additional vouchers for children if your system

is linked to the booking system. Any children who do not receive benefits related free school meals should not be send any manual vouchers. If you or a family worker assess that the child/ren should be considered for a referral, please follow the referral process as above. If parents have any queries about receiving their vouchers, they can contact [haf@wokingham.gov.uk](mailto:haf@wokingham.gov.uk) in the first instance. If it is a technical issue which we are not able to resolve, we will refer them onto the Wonde (e-Vouchers) support team.

## Pupil Premium Funding

If you are in receipt of one the following benefits your child may be eligible for free school meals and Pupil Premium funding:

- 1) Income Support.
- 2) Income based Job Seeker's Allowance.
- 3) Income related Employment and Support Allowance.
- 4) Child Tax Credit – Where the family's annual income is not more than £16,190 and Working Tax Credit is not in payment.
- 5) Guarantee Pension Credit.
- 6) Support under part six of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999.
- 7) Universal Credit.

Please contact the office to find out more or follow the link <https://www.wokingham.gov.uk/schools-and-education/school-information-and-services/free-school-meals-and-the-pupil-premium/>

Dates for Next Week	
13 <sup>th</sup> -17 <sup>th</sup> November	Anti-Bullying Week
Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> November	6B Class Assembly
Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> November	6T Class Assembly
Diary Dates	
Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup> November	PTA Winter Disco
Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> November	Non-Uniform day - WADE
Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Fair 3.30pm -5.30pm
Sunday 10 <sup>th</sup> December	Annual Primary Schools' Carol Concert 5pm Loddon Valley Leisure Centre
Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup> - Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Celebration, St Pauls Church 6-7pm
Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Lunch
Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> December	End of term – 2pm finish
Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> January	Liddington Information Evening for Y5 parents 6.30pm





**just play sports**

[Autumn] Term  
[11/09/23] –  
[08/12/23]

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.

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

**Book online at [bit.ly/stpaulsclubs](https://bit.ly/stpaulsclubs)**

[justplaysports.co.uk](https://www.justplaysports.co.uk) | 
 [fb.me/justplaysportsberks](https://fb.me/justplaysportsberks) | 
 Jack 07957423083 | 
 [info@justplaysports.co.uk](mailto:info@justplaysports.co.uk) | 
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Making music for everyone

**BRACKNELL HAVE A GO!**

Sign up within  
24 hours of the event  
taking place to get  
**10% off** your first  
term of lessons!

**Come and try all our instruments for FREE!**  
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**1.30pm-3.30pm at our**  
**Bracknell Music Centre, Ranelagh School**  
**Ranelagh Drive, Bracknell RG12 9DA**  
**[admissions@berksmusictrust.org.uk](mailto:admissions@berksmusictrust.org.uk)**



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**Junior  
Adventures  
Group**

# Winter WONDERLAND Adventure

*Embark on a Winter Wonderland adventure with JAG!*

Get ready for an enchanting winter adventure during JAG's Winter Wonderland program! From Jingle Bell races, Santa obstacle courses, Relay Tree Decorating, there's something for every child to enjoy! JAG's Winter Holiday Clubs offer children a world of benefits, including the opportunity to form new friendships, develop crucial social skills, and engage in a wide range of exhilarating activities.

- ✓ Ages 4-11 years
- ✓ 70+ enchanting locations
- ✓ Stay active & boost well-being
- ✓ Unleash creativity in a winter wonderland
- ✓ Create cherished memories
- ✓ Explore a variety of winter-themed interests

**SCAN HERE FOR MORE INFO & SAVE 10% OFF!**

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**Junior  
Adventures  
Group**

# Winter WONDERLAND Adventure

All JAG holiday programs are built on our holistic child philosophy, fostering creativity, learning, inclusion, participation, well-being, and happiness, ensuring that children's time with us is always a highlight. These programs build confidence, nurture creativity, and keep young minds active during school breaks. Best of all, they're incredibly fun, leaving children with memories and experiences that shape their growth and development.

This Winter Wonderland, the excitement continues with a magical lineup of activities tailor-made for the season. From our enchanting festive fruit trees, Gingerbread Man tag, and Winter themed scavenger hunt, these themed adventures are sure to ignite young imaginations and create lasting winter memories!

## Our Activity Categories

<b>Creative Inventors</b> Excelling opportunities for children to express themselves creatively • Painting & Crafts • Role Play • Drama	<b>Brain Boosters</b> Captivating games & puzzles to entertain and perplex! • Quizzes & Brain Teasers • Puzzles & Building Projects • Code-Breaking	<b>Super Sports</b> Action-packed multi-sports sessions • Tennis • Football • Basketball
<b>Zen Masters</b> Activities that promote physical, emotional and personal wellbeing and happiness • Yoga • Zen Gardens • Healthy Heart Circuits	<b>Global Kids</b> A chance to practise life skills through a range of engaging learning experiences • Cooking • Rocket Building • Eco Warriors	<b>Power Teams</b> Fun, movement-based activities and challenges • Team Challenges • Obstacle Courses • Scavenger Hunts

**SCAN HERE TO FIND OUT MORE AND TO CLAIM OUR LIMITED TIME 10% DISCOUNT**

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## ADULT EDUCATION COURSES

To book please visit [www.webenrol.com/wokingham](http://www.webenrol.com/wokingham) or contact us on  
0118 9743797 or [adulteducation@wokingham.gov.uk](mailto:adulteducation@wokingham.gov.uk)

<b>Family Learning</b>		
<b>Dealing with anxiety for secondary school parents</b> – aimed at parents of secondary school pupils, this course will look at how anxiety presents in teenagers, and techniques that can be used to reduce it's impact.	7 and 14 November Tuesdays, 12pm to 1.30pm  Or 8 and 15 November Wednesdays 7.30pm to 9pm	Online via Zoom  £15
<b>Fun with Time</b> – gain confidence in how to support your children with telling the time and the fun ways you can support their learning at home. Discover the different methods used to teach time in school and the expectations of each year group.	23 November Thursday 12.30pm to 2.30pm	Finchampstead Childrens Centre  FREE
<b>Learn with Lego</b> – learn how to use Lego with your children for more than building! Explore basic maths and gain confidence in using bricks to help your child count and measure and explore mathematical problems of symmetry and patterns. This course is aimed at parents/carers of preschoolers and infant school aged children.	30 November Thursday, 12.30pm to 2.30pm	Loddon Hall, Twyford  FREE

<b>Maths Skills for you</b>		
<b>Understanding your pay slip</b> – this course is designed to support learners with understanding the information provided on a pay slip including pay periods, National Insurance, and tax. It is a practical course which will look at the types of calculations used to help explain the deductions from the money that you earned.	8 and 15 November Wednesdays 10am to 12pm	Radstock Community Centre, Earley  FREE
<b>Money Management</b> – this course will support learners with understanding household spending and introduce the basics of how to make and manage a household budget. It will look at the value of planning in advance, consider typical spending habits as well as tools to help assess promotions and deals to calculate whether they are a true saving for you.	13 November to 4 December Mondays 6.30pm to 8pm	Online via Zoom  FREE
<b>Excel at Budgeting</b> – Have you thought about using Excel for your own personal budgeting purposes? Learn how to manage what you spend against your income or budget using basic formatting and maths functions in Excel. This is aimed at people with a basic knowledge of using Excel.	16 November Thursday 10am to 12pm  Or 6 December Wednesday 10 am to 12pm	Wokingham Library  FREE

<b>Improving your skills for work</b>		
<b>Business Maths Essentials</b> – This course will support learners to understand the financial terms used in businesses e.g. profit, costs, turnover and revenue. This Multiply course is suitable for anyone who may be starting up a new business, wishes to feel more confident with numbers used within business, or those wanting to practice these skills for their day-to-day job, or to upskill to apply for a new job or voluntary role.	7 November to 5 December Tuesdays 6.30pm to 8pm	Online via Zoom  FREE
<b>Building your confidence to get back into work of volunteering</b> – Getting into work or volunteering after a break for any reason, or for the first time in a new country, can be daunting. This course will help you to identify all the strengths and qualities you have that employers want and look at ways to expand your experience through volunteering or further learning while building your confidence to take the next steps.	15 November to 13 December Wednesdays 10am to 11.30am	Online via Zoom  FREE
<b>Introduction to a teaching assistant role in schools</b> – Find out more about different roles available in schools and gain an understanding of how to apply for roles. Explore your own strengths and weaknesses in your transferable skills and build your confidence to apply for roles in schools.	16 November to 14 December Thursdays 12.45pm to 2.45pm	The Cornerstone, Wokingham  £45

<b>Digital Skills for you and for work</b>		
<b>Digital Skills – First steps in iPads and internet</b> – Get started with your iPad and gain confidence using it and the internet. The course covers settings, connecting securely to a WIFI network, swipe actions and virtual keypad, using the App Store and internet browser. Learners do not need to bring their own device.	1 to 22 November Wednesdays 10am to 12pm	The Cornerstone, Wokingham  £30
<b>Excel for work</b> – learn how to create effective and professional Excel spreadsheets to meet common business needs including formulas. Learn techniques for handling and sorting data for easier understanding and presenting.	6 November to 11 December Mondays 10.30am to 12.30pm	Wokingham Library  £30
<b>Word for Beginners</b> – Learn to use Word to produce, save and print a variety of documents for use at home and in the workplace	6 November to 11 December Mondays 2pm to 4pm	Wokingham Library  £30