



St Paul's C of E Junior School

Dear Parents,

This second half of term has been no less exciting than the first half! Our netballers and footballers have been kept very busy. Well done to everyone who has taken part in any competitions this term, you all deserve a well-earned rest!

Mrs C Foster, PE & Games Coordinator

Netball

The netballers continued to build on the skills they have been learning in Netball Club and have all shown huge improvements. It is great to see how well the girls are listening and then trying to incorporate the coaching tips into their match play.

We played our second league match on Wednesday, 6th November against Winnersh Primary School, and it was great to be able to give all the children the opportunity to play for at least a quarter in a league match. The standard was very high. St Paul's Reds won comfortably 12-3 displaying excellent passing, use of space and accurate shooting. The children all worked very well together and were comfortable changing positions during the rotations. Player of the match was Erin Lewis – congratulations Erin.

Despite losing 0-11, St Paul's Blues showed great determination and tenacity playing a strong Winnersh team in what was a very tough match. We had a full change of team to allow everybody the opportunity to play. Player of the match was Abigail Wilcox – well done Abigail.

Netball Festival at St Crispin's School



Throughout the Festival, we saw some excellent team-work and demonstration of netball skills. Again, we were lucky enough to be able to field two teams. The Red Team won 2 matches, lost 2 and drew 1. All the girls played well in the different positions, showing great passing and use of space, as well as confidence in front of the goal. Special mention goes to Abigail Wilcox for being the top scorer for the Festival. Player of the Tournament was Sienna Hunt for excellent court play. Well done Sienna and Abigail.

The Blue Team drew 2 and lost 3 matches, but showed excellent progress during the Tournament. The passing was coming together and we saw fewer footwork penalties. It is very confusing for the newer players to change positions and understand where they need to be, and this improved markedly during the Festival. Player of the Tournament was Shriya Kuchimanchi. Congratulations Shriya on your first competitive game of netball. Special thanks to Mr Khapali who took over the management of the rotations – Thank you!

In our third league match we played Westende Junior School and again, we gave everyone the opportunity to play at least one quarter in a competitive match.

The Red Team continued to demonstrate excellent netball skills during a highly competitive game finishing in a 1-1 draw. Player of the Match was Jodie Sawyer for her excellent defending - great work Jodie.

The Blue Team showed tenacity and determination, and everyone contributed during their time on court. It was very gratifying to see how well the girls have listened during training and worked hard to apply what they are learning in the matches. Unfortunately, we lost 0-15 but this was not a true reflection of how the girls played. Player of the Match was Hanna Kawash – well done Hanna.

Unfortunately, we were not able to hold our final session of Netball Club due to the poor weather. After Christmas we will be focusing on footwork, marking and understanding of space – skills we will need to master before the children can play in the next round of matches. It would be great if they can continue to practice their passing over the holidays (practicing against the wall can be very effective!) and take the time to watch some of the England netball team in action on YouTube so they gain a greater understanding of how the game of netball is played at an elite level.



Football League

Both the boys' and girls' team have been in action this term, playing in the Wokingham District League and the Berkshire Primary FA League. We also managed to slip in a friendly match for the Boys' B Team as well. Special thanks to all our volunteer coaches who have given up their time to coach the teams, our volunteer referees Harry and Josh MacBain, and also to all the parents who work together to transport the children to the matches!

Boys' League

November was a busy month for both the boys' A and B Teams playing Nine Mile Ride School with both teams winning their matches: 3-2 and 5-2 respectively. The A Team played a closely fought match but the boys dug in and demonstrated great perseverance to secure the win. Well done to Kamran Shah for taking the Man of the Match. The B Team showed excellent teamwork and great passing and commitment to take the win over a strong Nine Mile Ride side. Congratulations to Finn Borkowski for Man of the Match, with a special mention to Ellis Eggleton who also played extremely well.

Unfortunately our match scheduled against Lynch Hill School did not go ahead due to the opposition going to the wrong school!

Next, came a thrilling match against St Michael's Primary School! The boys did not give up and created so many chances against a very strong St Michael's team going on to win 4-3. The demonstration of skills was exceptional, particularly on the dreadful pitch. Well done to Nathan Wiard who was very strong and composed in defence, taking Man of the Match.

The boys also won their matches against Holy Family Primary School and St Dominic Savio Primary School 2-0 and 3-0 respectively. It was a fairly one-sided match against Holy Family, with lots of skills on display – amazing considering the state of the pitch! Man of the Match went to Rhys Littleford – excellent passing, shooting and great teamwork.

In the match against St Dominic's we were missing Owen and Kian, but the strength and depth of our squad meant that we were able to cover with excellent players. Two contenders for Man of the Match – Lewis McMenemy and Finley Hempson for excellent defending skills and some fantastic saves in goal. Well done to both of you.

Football Tournament at Academy Sports



At the end of November, we were able to field two teams at the Reading FC Community Tournament. Both teams played extremely well with the B Team getting through to the quarter finals!

The A Team were unlucky to lose from a deflected goal, and so didn't progress to the final coming in 3rd place overall. Congratulations to Owen Quilty and Finn Borkowski who took home Players of the Tournaments for A and B Teams respectively, demonstrating skills and determination in all their matches. Well done to both of you!



Girls' League

The girls' team were no less busy playing in the Girls' League against Willowbank Junior School. Unfortunately, they lost 1-7 but this was our best performance from the girls' team so far against what was probably the strongest team in the league - Willowbank have 4 district players and the team have been playing together for at least a year. The work rate was amazing and the girls didn't give up at all during the match. Player of the Match was Evelyn Duxbury – congratulations Evelyn!

In their match against St Dominic Savio Primary School the girls demonstrated that they are putting together the skills learned during training sessions into match play, such as onetouch controlled passing, use of space and defensive skills. Player of the match was Evelyn Duxbury for working hard, keeping focused and her excellent team-work – well done Evelyn.

Football Tournament at Academy Sports

At the beginning of December, the girls were extremely excited to be representing St Paul's at the Reading FC Community Tournament. For many of the girls this was their first experience of playing in a tournament, and despite the wet and cold weather, there were plenty of smiles and laughter on and off the pitch. As they progressed through the tournament their confidence grew and the goals started to flow. Narrowly missing out on going through to the knock out stages, the girls continued in style playing in the mini friendly tournament



and coming away unbeaten in all matches. Congratulations to all the girls who took part. Player of the Tournament was Jodie Sawyer. Jodie was the top goal scorer, and also demonstrated excellent listening skills putting the coaching tips into place immediately.

Special mention to Samantha Sehejpal for her fantastic teamwork, unselfish play and setting an inspirational example for the less experienced team members.

Indoor Athletics

Congratulations to both the Years 3/4 and Years 5/6 indoor athletics teams who came 1st overall and brought home gold medals. This is a fantastic achievement from all the boys and girls who took part beating 23 other schools. The teams demonstrated their strength and depth of athletics skills as well as wonderful teamwork. The children not only excelled on the track and field, but also when waiting and supporting their team-mates and the other schools. They were an absolute credit to St Paul's. Both teams will now go on to represent Wokingham District at the Berkshire County Finals next term. I cannot remember a time in the last ten years at least, where one school has both teams represent Wokingham so this reinforces what an amazing achievement this is. Well done to all of you!!



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