St Paul's Newsletter – 12.5.23

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Headteacher's Message

Dear St Paul's Families.

What a full on two weeks we've had!



Not to be foiled by a wet field for our Coronation Picnic, we held the St Paul's Street Party, filling the corridors with picnicking pupils and staff. It was such good fun and after some time in the playground,

we lined the corridors once again, to applaud our pageant of Kings and Queens as they showcased their homemade crowns. It was an amazing collection and almost impossible for our Team Leaders to choose four overall winners. Thank you to the children who entered the competition-your designs were inspired! Congratulations to our winners Michael, 6D, Louis, 5K, Violet, 4R, and Boril, 3K, who were each presented with a commemorative Coronation Bear by our Chair of Governors, Penny Wallace. Congratulations to both Ameya, 4R, and Sophie, 4C, who won prizes in the



Wokingham Town Hall Crown Colouring Competition.

The work on the pool plant room continued this week and by the end of today, all the necessary tests of our new boiler were complete. It will take a few days to get the water up to a balmy 32 degrees and we should be able to start lessons by the end of next week. We will ParentMail the timetable as soon as we are able to confirm a start date and until then, indoor PE lessons will continue as normal.

The work in the Prayer Garden is beginning to take shape. Our gardener has worked wonders in taming and retraining the wisteria, which is about to bloom and the first two beds have been stocked with new plants. Thanks to Mr. Walker, our Site Assistant, for his donation of a beautiful Acer, which takes pride of place in our new planting scheme.



We are incredibly proud of the way that our Y6 pupils approached their SATs this week and impressed by their mature and sensible attitude. The take up for our SATs breakfasts was high and special thanks goes to the Y6 team for preparing and putting on a spread each morning to ensure a relaxed start each day. The children were brilliantly supported

by our team of learning mentors and governors who acted as readers, scribes and prompts and went into the week as well prepared as possible thanks to the Year 6 Team. Mrs Tritton oversaw the logistics and thanks to her efforts, the week ran without a hitch. There were some very tricky questions in the tests but Y6 rose to the challenge and gave their best throughout every paper – we could not have asked for more. They are a remarkable group of children and to be congratulated on the way they conducted themselves this week, as are Y3, Y4 and Y5, who have been 'as quiet as mice' throughout the tests, especially 5K, who decamped to the Art Room each morning so that there was plenty of additional space for SATs.

Please note, here will be a change of menu next week, with Friday's dishes being served on Thursday and vice versa.

All that remains is for me to wish you all a good weekend – see you Monday.

Mrs Taylor

Online Safety Videos for Parents

This week's film is the third in the series, the focus of which is Online Gaming. You will find the link to the film and other useful resources in the ParentMail message accompanying this newsletter.

Attendance

Good school attendance is vital to your child's education and wellbeing. Children who attend school regularly are more likely to feel settled in school, maintain friendships, keep up with their learning, and gain the greatest benefit from their education. There are only 190 school days each year, leaving 175 days for holidays, appointments and other events that would otherwise impact on learning. The target for all pupils is a **minimum** of **95%** attendance at the end of the school year and below you will

find a table which you may find helpful - you will see that if your child misses half a day a week, their attendance will be 90%. They will have missed 95 lessons, which is 19 days away from school, which equates to almost 4 weeks. If they missed this amount every year, by the time they sit their GCSEs, they will have missed half a year of secondary school.

175 NON SCHOOL DAYS A YEAR						
175 to spend on visits, holidays, shopping, family events and appointments						
190 School Days in a Year	10 days Absence 180 days of	19 days Absence 171 days of	29 days Absence 161 days of	38 days Absence 152 days of	47 days Absence 143 days of	
190 days of school	school	school	school	school	school	
100%	95%	90%	85%	80%	75%	
GOOD ATTENDANCE		CAUSE FOR CONCERN		SERIOUS CONCERN		

This week's attendance is as follows and you will see, there is definitely room for improvement:

YR 3 85.9 %

YR 4 85.3 %

YR 5 86.6 %

YR 6 87.1 %

Menu Change Census Day

There will be a change in Menu for Census day next Thursday the 18th of May.

Thursday's Menu: Fish Fingers and Chips or Beet Burger with chips with Vanilla Shortbread.

Friday's Menu: Chef's Special Korma with rice or Vegetable Wellington with Apple Crumble and cream.

Online Safety

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Forest School









We have been enjoying the spring sunshine this week at Forest School. The bluebells in the woodland are looking and smelling wonderful! The children have been learning how to tie a reef knot and a lot of mathematical conversation about shape followed after joining all of our rope together. The allotment is almost fully planted out now, the sweetcorn went in the beds today and our strawberries are already flowering.

During our reflection, the children talked about what had made them proud: new friendships, holding newts, planting out new seeds independently, climbing trees and mastering the reef knot were just a few of the thoughts shared. Mrs McBain and Mrs Gray are very proud of the teamwork shown by the groups.













We have been working towards our Gold Woodland Trust Award this week. Tuesday saw our Forest School group take a fieldtrip to Holt Copse to visit another woodland. While there, the children took part in a treasure hunt, mapping where they found various points of interest; they explored a woodpile – much to the surprise of a small mouse and estimated the age of some of the large poplar trees.

Once back at school, we discussed the similarities and differences between Holt Copse and our own woodland. The children were excellent ambassadors for St Paul's and Mrs McBain and Mrs Gray were very proud of them all.



Reporting absences

If your child is absent from School please you can email <u>absence@stpauls.wokingham.sch.uk</u> or you can ring school on 0118 978 5219 to let us know that your child is not well enough to attend school but **we will <u>require it in writing also</u>**. We request that we receive this <u>no later than 8.30am</u>. It is important that we have the correct information for our registers.

When sending emails to the school, please include the child full name and class. If your child is off due to vomiting and diarrhoea, they must not return to school within 48 hours of the final episode.

Walk to School Week

Calling all parents – want to earn rewards, with your children, during Walk to School Week 2023?

Next week the 15th May is Walk to school week and we are encouraging children to be more active.

The My Journey Team Innovation Valley Rewards app will be shutting down soon

Fear not, the My Journey Wokingham challenge will continue over on the **BetterPoints app!**

The BetterPoints app has a slightly different look and feel, but otherwise it works the same: it tracks your activities and rewards you for making greener and healthier travel choices.

What do I need to do?

- 1. Download the BetterPoints app. It is available for free from Google Play Google Play or the App Store.
- 2. Create a new user account with the same email address as used for your IVR account. If you already have a BetterPoints account, you can simply log in.
- 3. Join the My Journey Wokingham challenge via the 'Challenges' button on the bottom navigation bar.
- 4. Complete the 'Wokingham Baseline Survey' to earn 250 BetterPoints.
- 5. Please note: You must be 13 or older to register with the Better Points app.

You can also scan the QR code to download the app too:

To celebrate the <u>Walk to School Week</u> campaign, Better Points are offering you extra rewards for walking and wheeling between **15 - 19 May**.

If you are a parent or guardian, why not swap four wheels for two feet for your journey to school?

∠ Level-Up

Can you complete 30 minutes in total (not necessarily in one go) on each day of Walk to School Week to earn the maximum **750 BetterPoints**?





- Level 1: Walk or wheel for 30 minutes on one day to earn 50 BetterPoints, and unlock...
- Level 2: Walk or wheel for 30 minutes on two days to earn 100 BetterPoints, and unlock...
- Level 3: Walk or wheel for 30 minutes on three days to earn 150 BetterPoints, and unlock...
- Level 4: Walk or wheel for 30 minutes on four days to earn 200 BetterPoints, and unlock...
- Level 5: Walk or wheel for **30 minutes on five days** to earn **250 BetterPoints**.

(A) Walk with Wildlife

A theme for this year's Walk to School week campaign is "Walk with Wildlife".

To encourage you and your children to enjoy nature and its wild inhabitants, we're offering a bonus for visiting one or more of the borough's nature parks.

By walking or wheeling to one of the locations listed below, whether before, on route, or after school, you will earn an extra **50 BetterPoints**. For more information on these nature parks, <u>tap or click here</u>.

We wish you good luck from the My Journey Wokingham team and we hope you earn lots of points during Walk to School Week!

Sports events



Yr 3 and 4 won the Cross Country Comp[etition at St Neot's last week – well done to our team!

The children who participated in the Tri Golf Qualifier tournament at Luckley House school had a brilliant time! Well done, everyone.



Junior Jam

Calling all 8-18 year old musicians! Would you like to play alongside a live band? Would you like to be a more confident performer?

If this is music to your ears, the monthly Junior Jam at The Outlook in Reading is the stage for you! To find out more, say hi to us on IG @music.made.fearless and check out when the next jam is happening'



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

Nut Policy

We do not permit any items in school containing nuts. Please check packaging carefully when choosing items for lunch boxes and break time snacks. Playtime snacks can be any of the following - fruit, vegetable sticks, dried fruit and nut free cereal bars. Crisps, chocolate, biscuits and sweets are not permitted at break.



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. <u>Apply through First Days Children's Charity.</u>

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

Thursday			
Outdoor PE – all classes			

Forest School Sessions

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

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				
Wed 17 th May	St Paul's and Walter PTA Circus – 4pm, 5.30pm and 7pm (all tickets now sold out)			
Upcoming				
Thurs 25 th May	Open Morning 9.00am – 9.55am			
Thurs 25 th May (NEW)	Year 3 Victorian Day			
29 th May – 2 nd June	HALF TERM			
Mon 5 th June	Inset Day – school closed			
Tues 6 th – Fri 9 th June	Mental Health & Wellbeing Week			
Thurs 8 th June	Sports Day 9.00am until approximately 12.30pm			
Sat 17 th June	PTA Summer Fair 11.30am-2.30pm			
Wed 21 st 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 21st June	Curriculum Celebration 3.30pm – 4.15pm			
Wed 5 th July	Year 6 Production 6.00pm – 7.00pm			
Thurs 6 th July	Year 6 Production 2.00pm – 3.00pm			
Tues 11 th – Fri 14 th July	Big Swap Week			
Fri 14 th July	Reports sent home to parents			
Mon 17 th July	Y6 Enterprise Day			
Tues 18 th July	Y6 Leavers' Service at St Paul's Church (tbc)			
Wed 19 th July	PTA Year 6 Leavers' Disco – 7.00pm -9.30pm			
Thurs 20 th July	End of Term – 2pm finish			



Fun packed multi-activity clubs for every child!

