

St Paul's Newsletter – Autumn 01.12.23

'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,

Its beginning to look a lot like Christmas!



Preparations are well underway for our Christmas Fair and our new committee are working their socks off to be ready for next Friday. For this event to be a success, we still need lots of volunteers - details of how to sign up can be found below. Don't forget next Wednesday is non-uniform day for a tombola donation:

- Y3 - Selection box, box of chocolates, chocolate Santa etc;
- Y4 - donations for the Bottle Tombola;
- Y5 - Toys or Games;
- Y6 - Christmas decoration or a box of chocolates etc.

We have begun rehearsing for our Christmas Celebration up at the church and the children are in fine voice. I don't think we have ever heard such sweet singing as we have this week and the event will undoubtedly be a memorable one. There will be three performances, each involving the whole school and lasting approximately an hour. Each family will be allocated two tickets but because of the layout of the church, some will be standing room only. Online booking will go live this afternoon, please look out for the ParentMail.



The Christmas Celebration is the biggest event of the school calendar and there is nothing more disheartening for children than to take to the stage with half of their classmates missing. We ask that every child attends both evenings so that everyone is able to enjoy this event to its fullest. Sadly, last year, over 80 pupils only attended on the night their parents were in the audience, which put a huge strain on the rest of the children, some of whom had to step into parts moments before the performance began. On both evenings, drop off is via the link doors at 5.30pm (the door you entered for pick up from the disco.). Children should go straight to their classrooms where teachers will be waiting to receive them. Those children attending after school club will be collected by staff at 5.30pm.



We always need lots of extra pairs of hands for the walk up to church and if you will be able to help with any of the performances, please let your child's teacher know as soon as possible. We are looking for at least three extra adults per class but with 320+ families, this should be doable😊

The performances are as follows:

- 2pm - 3pm Tuesday 12th December (the children will return to school and should be picked up as normal from the playground).
- 6pm - 7pm Tuesday 12th December (drop off is at school at 5.30pm and collection is from church at 7pm)
- 6pm - Wednesday 13th December (drop off is at school at 5.30pm and collection is from church at 7pm)

Our one-way system in church at the end of each evening performance and dismissing year groups takes a little time and patience, but ensures that we safely reunite pupils and parents. We will send a letter out containing all of this information, including a plan of church and pick up routes, nearer the time to ensure it remains fresh in everyone's mind.

We are delighted to welcome Sheila Hoover, as a new Parent Governor. If you too might be interested in joining our hardworking team, we still have several vacancies. For more information about what is involved, please contact our clerk Pauline.Wells@stpauls.wokingham.sch.uk



Well done to the children in Selwyn House for earning the highest number of House Points this week. This is the second time they have been awarded the cup this half term.

Congratulations to all of the children who designed and made a decoration for the Dressing The Christmas Tree Competition. This year's entries were of an excellent standard and we were impressed by the creativity and ingenuity of every one. The School Council had a very difficult time choosing our two winners, but in the end decided on those from Jaya 3D and Blake 5D. The children and their families have been invited to present their decorations to the Town Mayor and Mini Mayor on Monday evening, after which, they will be hung on the outdoor Christmas tree in the Marketplace. We will include photos of all of the decorations in next week's newsletter, along with photos of the event itself.

Thank you to 6S for this morning's stunning assembly on Advent. Not only was it a polished, professional performance, but the content was also fascinating and a timely reminder of what the run up to Christmas is really all about.

As well as this Newsletter, we are sending out our December issues of our Online safety Bulletin, featuring articles on age ratings, AI and Snapchat. It is full of helpful advice and information and well worth a read.

Finally, the UK Health Security Agency has issued a yellow cold-health alert for the South East, which covers Wokingham Borough. The alert is in effect from Monday 28th November 2023 at 18:00 to Tuesday 5th December at 12:00, so wrap up warm this weekend!

Mrs Taylor

Important Message from the PTA regarding the Christmas Fair

We would like to say a huge thank you to those of you who signed up to have an Estate Agent board for this year's Christmas Fair – we really appreciate your support.

As you know, the Fair will take place on Friday 8th December, 3:30pm – 5:30pm and we are looking forward to seeing you there! We will need around 50 volunteers in order to run this event and so far, we've had a few people come forward which is great, however, we need lots more.

Please email the PTA directly on PTA@stpauls.wokingham.sch.uk with details of how you will be able to help. Please note, if we do not have enough volunteers we will need to reduce some of the fun things we have planned for the children.

In exchange for a non-uniform day next WEDNESDAY 6th December, donations for the Christmas Fair Tombolas will be as follows:

Y3 – Selection box, box of chocolates, chocolate Santa etc;

Y4 – donations for the Bottle Tombola;

Y5 – Toys or Games;

Y6 – Christmas decoration or a box of chocolates

From Monday to Thursday, there will be boxes for donations near the Murry Road gates.

Sporting News

Football

Y5/6 Girls team have had a fantastic start to the season, winning both their matches in the Wokingham District League to top the group and go into the Knockout Cup competition after Christmas. They were runners-up at the Wokingham District Girls Tournament after a tense final and have qualified for the County Cup knockout competition which will begin early in the Spring term.

Y3/4 Girls have had a superb start to their season. For many girls it was their first ever matches and first time representing the school. Though they lost their first match, they won the second 9-0 in a very convincing manner. They have also qualified for the knock out competition after Christmas.

Y5/6 Boys won both their matches in the Wokingham District League to top their group and go into the knockout cup competition after Christmas. They reached the quarter finals in the Wokingham District Boys Tournament and have qualified for the County Cup knock out competition.

Congratulations to all our football players. I am very much looking forward to seeing how we get on in the knock out competitions.

<https://www.myjourneywokingham.com/events/build-a-christmas-tree-trail-competition-at-wokingham-libraries/>

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](#), 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 \(wokingham.gov.uk\)](#)

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 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. If parents have any queries about receiving their vouchers, they can contact haf@wokingham.gov.uk in the first instance. If it is a technical issue which they are not able to resolve, they 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	
Monday 4 th December	Dressing the Christmas Tree – Wokingham Town Hall Square
Friday 8 th December	Christmas Fair 3.30pm -5.30pm
Diary Dates	
Tuesday 12 th December 2pm-3pm & 6pm -7pm. Wednesday 13 th December 6pm-7pm	Christmas Celebration, St Pauls Church
Thursday 14 th December	Christmas Lunch
Friday 15 th December	End of term – 2pm finish
Monday 15 th January	Liddington Information Evening for Y5 parents 6.30pm
Tuesday 20 th & Wednesday 21 st February	Parents' Consultations

just play sports

Spring Term
[04/01/24] – [27/03/24]

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.

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

Book online at bit.ly/stpaulsclubs

[justplaysports.co.uk](https://www.justplaysports.co.uk) |
 fb.me/justplaysportsberks |
 Jack 07957423083 |
 info@justplaysports.co.uk |
 [@justplaysports_](https://www.instagram.com/justplaysports_)

Ofsted Registered

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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BERKSHIRE MUSIC TRUST
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!
Just turn up on Saturday 18th November
1.30pm-3.30pm at our
Bracknell Music Centre, Ranelagh School
Ranelagh Drive, Bracknell RG12 9DA
admissions@berksmusictrust.org.uk

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

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

✓ Childcare Vouchers Accepted | ✓ Weekly Booking Discounts
 ✓ Tax Free Childcare | ✓ Flexible Payment Options

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

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