

St Paul's Newsletter – 02.12.22



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Safeguarding Team: Julianne Taylor – Headteacher and Designated Safeguarding Lead
Linda Edwards – Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead

Headteacher's Message

Dear St Paul's Families,



Santa's helpers (aka Mr Walsh and Mr Walker, our Site Team) did an amazing job on Wednesday, decorating every corridor as a surprise for the children and staff to come into the following day. Everyone was delighted with how cheery and festive the corridors looked and it is proving impossible to walk anywhere in school without smiling. They also wrestled our 14ft Christmas tree into its stand and hung the lights and baubles, ready for this evening's Yuletide event – Thank you both of you for doing a festively fantastic job!



We are really looking forward to this evening and our brilliant PTA and their team of helpers have been beavering away in preparation. They have been out at the gate each morning this week, ready to receive your donations and along with lots of parent volunteers, have spent the last five days getting everything ready. It has been a huge amount of hard work, all for the benefit of our children and school and we are very lucky to have such excellent support – THANK YOU all. Thank you too to everyone who has sent in Yuletide donations and to those of you who have volunteered to man stalls and help out after school today.

4R 'rocked' this morning with a brilliantly delivered, interesting and entertaining assembly on the Romans. It was great fun and a high-quality performance, teaching us about Roman roads and numerals amongst other things. Well done, children, and thank you for starting off a grey chilly morning with so much energy and enthusiasm for learning – you were fantastic!

With Christmas on the horizon, our December Online Safety Bulletin, features information on setting parental controls on a range of devices, including games consoles, tablets and smart phones. It also has good advice for children as to what to do if ever someone is unkind to them online. It is a quick and easy read, packed with helpful information.



If your child is unwell, absences should be reported via the absence section under ParentMail, or by emailing absence@stpauls.wokingham.sch.uk. Please include your child's name, class and the reason they are unable to come to school that day. A written record of why your child is absent is what we need and there is no need to phone before school as well as this takes up valuable manpower at what is the busiest time of the day.

Have a lovely weekend everyone.

Mrs Taylor

Christmas Celebration

There are three performances, all held at the church, one during the day and two in the evening. Each performance involves the whole school and **lasts approximately an hour**. There are two tickets per family. two per family but some are for standing room only, due to the layout of the church. **Booking for tickets is online and if you haven't already, please do book your tickets as soon as possible as booking closes on 5th December at 3:30.**

Children should be dressed in full school uniform for each performance, including school shoes, and will need a warm coat, hat and gloves for the walk up to church. We ask the children attend both evening performances, not just the one you have tickets for, to avoid missing readers, actors or having great big holes in each year group choir. There is nothing more disheartening for the children than to take to the stage with half of their year group missing, which also spoils the event for parents too.

For both evening performances, drop off is at school at 5.30pm at the playground doors opposite the staffroom (the doors you enter for pick up from the disco etc.). 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 several extra pairs of hands for each class for the walk up to church and if you will be able to help with walking for any of the performances, please let your child's teacher know as soon as possible.**

The performances themselves are as follows:

- **6pm - Tuesday 13th December (drop off is at school at 5.30pm and pick up is from church at 7pm)**
- **2pm - Wednesday 14th December – this is a change to the original date (children will return to school and should be picked up as normal from the playground)**
- **6pm - Wednesday 14th 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 one by one 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 again and a drawing of the plan of church and pick up routes nearer to the performances, to ensure it remains fresh in everyone's mind.

Curriculum Celebration – 6th December 3.30pm – 4.30pm

We will be throwing open the doors so that pupils and parents can visit classrooms to look at displays and examples of work in a variety of curriculum areas. Entry and exit will be via Murray Road and entry to the school will be via the link doors, opposite the staffroom. This event is a chance for you to look at the work set out in each room to see what we have been learning about this term. If you have time to visit a class from each year group, you will be able to see how the children's knowledge and skills develop as our pupils move up through the school. Please avoid walking through the hall as the after school club will be in session.

Christmas Lunch & Christmas Jumper Day – Friday 16th December

Further to our ParentMail on 22nd November, regarding the menu and how to book a Caterlink Christmas lunch for your child, please note that **booking will close on Monday 5th December.**

Christmas lunch is a very special event for the whole school and we have two sittings, one for Y3 & 4 and the second for Y5 & Y6. All lunches will be eaten in the hall, both home packed lunches and Caterlink Christmas lunches and the hall set up with banquet style tables, dressed with table cloths and crackers, courtesy of the PTA.

The staff and children are welcome to wear a Christmas Jumper for this non-uniform day but jumpers are not compulsory!

Cash Payments to School

From 1st January 2023, cash payments will no longer be accepted by the School office. Please ensure you have a SCO pay account set up so that you can make payments for lunches, school trips and buy uniform.

After this date, Caterlink will only accept payments made electronically. They ask that you ensure your child is sufficiently in credit in their online account to have a lunch each day. Should you have any queries, please contact the school office.

Punctuality

Despite the appeal in last week's Newsletter, we continue to have a high number of children arriving late each day. The gates close at 8.40pm, the time that school starts. Anyone arriving after this time, must be signed in at the Oxford Road entrance of school. The Education Welfare Service regularly monitor our registers for attendance and punctuality is one of the areas they will be reviewing before the end of this term.

HAF Programme – Christmas Bookings Open

The Christmas HAF Programme is now live! The programme is open to any families who are receiving benefits related free school meals (FSMs) and helps to fill the gap for those children during some of the main school holidays (Christmas/Easter/Summer) by providing funded activities and a healthy meal. This is separate from universal free school meals which is for all children from Reception to year 2 and is also separate from pupil premium. Parents must have applied and been accepted for FSMs through their child's school in order to automatically qualify for the HAF programme.

Full details of what is on offer for Primary, Secondary and SEND provisions this Christmas can be found at:

[Book a place on Holiday, Activities and Food programme - Wokingham Borough Council](#)

To participate in the programme, parents need a unique WBC booking code. If you do not yet have a code, you can request one by completing a form online at:

[Holiday, Activities and Food programme - Wokingham Borough Council](#)

If you already have a code, but do not remember it, email: HAF@wokingham.gov.uk

The Christmas programme will consist of:

- Funded holiday clubs for primary aged children (2 days of 6 hours per day)
- Funded supervised activities for secondary aged young people
- Funded holiday club with Reading Football Community Trust or family Stay and Play sessions at Building for the Future for children with SEND
- HAF Christmas Event – a session to attend as a family consisting of activities, crafts, a panto, food and an appearance by Father Christmas, two dates with one date for children with SEND

Funding is limited and therefore not guaranteed. The priority is for those families who are not able to afford any activities for their children during the holidays and where a child/children are identified as vulnerable/in need. Please include as much information as possible on the reason for referral to support the application.

Keep up to date with the HAF Programme by visiting our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/HAFprogrammeWoky/>

Emily Bartle - Holiday, Activities and Food Programme Support Officer: Emily.Bartle@wokingham.gov.uk

Help with cost-of-living crisis

The Council and its partners can help you if you're struggling with the cost of living. The impact of the crisis is wider than we've ever seen in Wokingham Borough. More people than are relying on credit cards, asking families members for help, missing meals and their overdrafts to get by. You can go to them for help. Here's how:

Funding for families, food and energy

Almost 2,000 young people who receive means-tested free school meals have had help through the [Household Support Fund](#) already.

If your child gets means-tested free school meals [apply for the Household Support Fund through First Days Children's Charity](#)

If your child does not receive means-tested free school meals we have another grant you can apply for if you are struggling.

If you're struggling with bills or buying food [apply for the Household Support Fund through Age UK Berkshire or Citizens Advice](#)

Please note you are only able to apply for one grant type from the Household Support Fund.

Other support options:

Go to the [cost of living help hub](#) for help and tips open to all

Go to the [help for families with cost of living](#) advice pages

See how you can get [help with household bills](#)

[Register for priority services](#) if you have children aged five or under, you are pregnant or if you or a family member is disabled or has a long term health condition

See services you can contact directly for [help with essentials like food or warm clothes](#)

If you'd prefer to talk to someone, contact One Front Door. This is a service led by Citizens Advice which helps residents find the most appropriate support. Use the [online referral form](#) or call [0808 278 7958](tel:0808 278 7958), Monday to Friday.

And if you're not struggling but have time and want to help others, why not see if you could volunteer locally to support organisations [helping people struggling with the cost of living](#).

Reading Agency- Winter Mini Challenge

The 2022 Winter Mini Challenge, presented by The Reading Agency in partnership with Science Museum Group starts on 1st December. The Summer Reading Challenge 2022 saw thousands of children reading and exploring science and innovation as part of this year's Gadgeteers theme. Now that it's getting chilly and the winter holidays are approaching, we're back with even more fun experiments and reading encouragement. Children can join the Gadgeteers as they use their ingenuity and creativity

to keep everyone entertained during a snowstorm. Get ready for cool do-it-at-home experiments and learn along the way as you read for pleasure with the Winter Mini Challenge!

The Challenge runs from 1 December 2022 to 20 February 2023.

More information on the Challenge and how to get involved can be found at wintermini.org.uk.

The Little Explorers Book Club Library Challenge

The Little Explorers Book Club Library Challenge is a great way for young children to discover their local library. It is open to library members aged 7 and under.

- Each child needs to have their own library card
- Children collect a stamp each time they borrow books
- Collect six stamps to get a certificate
- Ten certificates to collect

Contact your local library branch for more information. Wokingham Libraries are also running the following activities throughout the Christmas holidays:

- Storytime- with children's author Fiona Barker
- Finchampstead Library- Wed 21st Dec 10:30am
- Wokingham Library- Wed 21st 2.30pm
- Lower Earley Library- Thurs 22nd 10:30am
- Woodley Library- Thurs 22nd 2:30 pm
- Get Arty - Wokingham Library- December 22nd, 10:30-11:30

PE Timetables

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

Forest School Sessions

The timetable for this term's sessions can be found below and 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.

5 th Dec	6 th Dec	7 th Dec	8 th Dec
5K	3K	3B	3H

Diary Dates	
Next Week	
Tues 6 th December	Curriculum Celebration 3.30pm – 4.30pm
Upcoming	
Tues 13 th December	Christmas Celebration, St Paul's Church 6.00pm – 7pm
Wed 14 th December	Christmas Celebration, St Paul's Church 2pm – 3pm & 6.00pm – 7pm
Friday 16 th December	Christmas Lunch & Christmas Jumper Day – non uniform day
Fri 16 th December	5D Class Assembly 9.00am – 9.15am
Tues 20 th December	End of term – 2pm finish
1 st January	The school will be cashless from 1 st January onwards, including for Caterlink lunches

GET ARTY!

WOKINGHAM LIBRARY
THURSDAY 22 DECEMBER
10.30AM TO 11.30AM

Come and join us for a fun session of Festive arts & crafts.

This event is open to children aged 4 to 10.

£1 CHARGE
LIMITED SPACES,
BOOKING ESSENTIAL!

STORYTIME WITH
Fiona Barker

Wednesday 21st December
 2:30pm
Wokingham Library

Booking is essential

Wokingham Borough Libraries

just play sports

Soccer Schools

Christmas Camp and Inset Fun Day
@ St. Pauls Junior School

Open To Boys and Girls Aged 4 - 11

Venue: St. Pauls Junior School,
 Wokingham RG41 2YJ

Dates:
 Christmas Camp: Wednesday 21st -
 Friday 23rd December

Inset Day: 4th January

What We Offer:
 Football, Multi Skills, Cricket, Dodgeball
 Rounders, Tennis, Tournaments, Competitions and
 Mini Olympics!

More Information...

Timings:
 Normal Day: 10:00am - 3:30pm
 Extended Day: 08:30am - 5:30pm

Prices:
 Full Week Booking Normal Day: £76.00
 Full Week Booking Extended Day: £103.00
 One Day Booking Normal Day: £28.00
 One Day Booking Extended Day: £38.00

Inset Day Booking Normal Day: £28.00
 Inset Day Booking Extended Day: £38.00

All Prices Include VAT

10% Sibling Discount!

Open for 4 year olds from 10am - 2pm:
 £23.00

We are now Ofsted Registered so can accept
 childcare vouchers!

Head to the website below and you can book your
 space there!

Book now at info@justplaysports.co.uk

Holiday Clubs

WINTER Wonderland

Save 10% off your booking!
 Use code: **EBWINTER22**

Scan to book now

Amazing Club Experiences!

Energy Kidz are bringing an avalanche of play and activity this Winter Holidays! Our holiday clubs are the perfect solution to ensure your child enjoys an unforgettable school holiday like no other, as we invite your child to us on a jam-packed holiday. Our whole of child philosophy powers our programme with an amazing mix of skills for sports, energising activities to get children moving, creative sessions that encourage children to express themselves and much more - ensure your child doesn't miss a moment by securing their place today.

- ✓ Ages 4-11 years
- ✓ Venues across the U.K
- ✓ Keep active & improve wellbeing
- ✓ Release Creativity
- ✓ Make memories to last a lifetime
- ✓ Explores a variety of child interests

Book now at energy-kidz.co.uk

energykidz 0333 577 1533 info@energy-kidz.co.uk Orsted

What to expect

"It's the season for another holiday jam-packed full of festive fun at Energy Kidz's action packed holiday clubs coming to a venue near you this December! As a special bonus this winter we are inviting children to enjoy a winter wonderland to remember. The holiday will include all their normal club activities with a special festive twist... Children will enjoy a number of brilliant opportunities to bring the magic of the festive season to life with activities that include...

- ★ The kid's favourite WOW activities - Mission Possible, Target Archery, Ultimate Frisbee and much more!
- ★ Winter-themed Activities - Winter-themed sports, snowball relays, snow globe making, scavenger hunts and more!
- ★ Winter Wonderland Activities - from decorate the tree creations, Winter parties, candy cane playdough, greeting cards, 'snow'ball battles and more!

Our Activity Categories:

Creative Kidz Discovery Kidz Wellness Kidz
 Energetic Kidz Practical Kidz Sporty Kidz

Book Now!

Yule need to act fast to secure your spots at our Winter Holiday Clubs!

Scan here for more information & our limited time 10% Early Bird savings...

- ✓ Childcare voucher accepted
- ✓ Tax free childcare
- ✓ Weekly booking discounts available
- ✓ Flexible payment options

*Age and activities vary per venue