



ST. PAUL'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

Friday 24th April 2020

Headteacher: Mrs Ali Silke
Deputy Headteacher: Mrs Crannitch
Inclusion Lead: Miss Anne Browne



A message from your new Headteacher, Mrs Silke:

I hope you all had a blessed and peaceful Easter with your families despite the challenging circumstances. Rest assured the St Paul's team will continue to support you as much as we can during this extended period of the lockdown.

I am thrilled to have joined you this week as your new Headteacher and am really looking forward to working with you all and your wonderful children over the coming years. It is very strange starting my first week unable to meet with you all collectively to tell you a bit about myself, share my vision for St Paul's and also my expectations. That time will come but in the meantime.....

First, a little bit about myself and my background. I was born in South Wales, the eldest of 4 girls but spent 7 years of my childhood in Lusaka in Zambia where I went to the local state school. I am married and live in New Cross Gate with my husband and 2 daughters who are both in their second year at university.

I first became a Headteacher in 2001 in Tower Hamlets where I started my teaching career 26 years ago and since then have successfully led schools in Southwark, Wandsworth and Croydon.

My aim as your new Headteacher is quite simply to ensure that St Paul's becomes the outstanding school your children need and, most importantly, deserve. My expectations are extremely high, of myself and **all** staff because I simply want the best for every child at St Paul's. I want to be up front with you by letting you know that I also have very high expectations of you as parents in terms of:

- Your children's attendance and punctuality
- Your support of your children's learning
- Your engagement with school in terms of attendance at parent consultations, meetings and workshops, performances and Class Collective Worship.

I know from my years of experience that if we work in partnership in this way then every St Paul's child will achieve their full potential. If you show you care, they care, and together we will fulfil the school's vision: 'We arise, shine and become who God wants us to be.'

Finally, I promise you that every action I take or decision I make, will have the well-being and progress of every child at its core so that St Paul's goes from strength to strength in the years to come. When we return to school I will be in the playground at drop-off and collection so please come and say hello and introduce yourself. I very much look forward to meeting and working with you all.

Important Thankyous

I know you will join me in saying a huge thank you to the following people:

- Mrs Crannitch for doing such a great job when she stepped up last term as Acting Headteacher in very challenging circumstances with the Coronavirus outbreak.
- All the school staff who are working **so** hard to continue to provide distance learning opportunities for your children as well as in-school provision for Keyworker and invited children. Next week there will be class email addresses on the website so your children can contact their teacher. In addition, you will receive a weekly phone call from your child's teacher to touch in and check their pupils are ok and to answer any questions.

- Tony Cavallo, who is ensuring we get all the newly available resources on the website as soon as they become available.
- Last but by no means least, huge thanks must go to Mr Roy, Miss Linda May, Mr Barry Knight who have worked relentlessly together to facilitate a weekly food bank at St Paul's church on Tuesdays between 10 am and 2pm so that every family at St Pauls can receive a weekly bag of groceries and other essential items. They have raised an amazing £9,500 so far and plan to continue fundraising until the children are able to return to school. The Easter eggs brought lots of happy smiles to our children's faces during the Easter break. We are really grateful to Father John Carruthers who is allowing the food bank to be located in the St Pauls Church at a time when churches are supposed to be closed for the safety of clergy and parishioners. Morrison's Walworth Road have also been immensely supportive of the project and donated 500 free Easter eggs amongst other things.



Supermarket Vouchers

Apologies for the delay in these being issued due to circumstances beyond our control. We do expect them to be available shortly for FSM children and when they are, they will be back dated to 20th March when the lockdown began.

Weekly learning

Weekly learning will continue to be set for all year groups by the class teachers on the school's website using the following link: <http://st-paulsprimaryschool.co.uk/home-learning-resources/> You can also access this page by going to the school's website page and clicking on the 'Learning' link along the top and selecting 'Home Learning Resources'. There are also regular updates on the website regarding online resources that provide useful and enjoyable learning opportunities for your children. So please do check regularly.

Please note there are still things we can continue to do together even though we are not in school:

- Every Thursday at 8pm join together as a community, on your doorstep or through the window to clap and cheer and bash your pots and pans for our NHS and all other keyworkers.
- Bishop Christopher invites us, as we hold onto hope whilst facing reality, to pray together for our nation and for all those affected by the Coronavirus. He encourages us to pause in whatever we are doing at 1pm each day and again at 7pm to say The Lord's Prayer.

Although we may be physically apart, these actions of hope in faith will keep us together.

Any further updates regarding the reopening of the school will be put on the school website as soon as we are advised to do so by the government. Please ensure you are checking this regularly. We really look forward to seeing you all back in school when it is safe to do so. So until then please stay safe and look out for your family, friends and neighbours during these challenging times.

Prayer

Loving God,

We pray for all those who are suffering because of the coronavirus, may they know your healing power.

When we are afraid for ourselves and our loved ones, give us your strength and courage.

When we feel alone and isolated, reassure us with a sense of your presence.

Give wisdom to those in authority and may our community work together for the good of all.

We give thanks for those who care for others and ask you to bless them in all they do.

We ask this in the name of Jesus, healer and physician.

Amen

**Love and prayers to you all,
The St Paul's Team.**