



ST. PAUL'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Faith, Hope and Love

Friday 4th December 2020

Headteacher: Mrs Ali Silke
Deputy Headteacher: Mrs Crannitch
Inclusion Lead: Mr Anthony Chavez

A Message From Your Headteacher, Mrs Silke

I would like to start by saying how proud we are of all our Acorn nursery children who are coming to the end of their first term in school. They have worked so hard with their phonics and maths but also have learnt how work together nicely and also to play together in the outside classroom by using kind words and kind hands. Well done to all Acorn and the Acorn staff team.



Collective Worship - Advent

Father John led our collective worship on Tuesday this week as we were celebrating the first day of advent. The children and staff were delighted to see his worship from St Paul's Church. We are all looking forward to being there together in the near future. (Hopefully!) If you would like to see the collective worship please click on the following link: https://youtu.be/ejkbEDI_KOM

Christmas at St Paul's

Christmas isn't cancelled at St Paul's but we do have to make some amendments due to our Covid risk assessment. We will be having class parties this year on 17th December in the afternoon. The school will provide the food and drinks as we are unable to accept donations from you this year, but hopefully we will be back to normal next year.

Christmas Cards and Gifts

If you wish to give any Christmas cards or gifts to adults or children these will need to be brought in **no later than the morning of Wednesday 16th December at the latest** so that they can quarantine in a class box before being given out on the last day of term.

Homework

The most important homework children can do is to read every night or be read to if they are not yet reading independently. This is because all the educational research shows that the amount reading and immersion in books from the Early Years to year 6 is the greatest indicator of future academic success. In the words of Jeanette Winterson, the famous novelist, 'Teach a child to read and keep that child reading and you will change everything and I mean everything.' Reading is our cultural capital. Alice Walker says of her childhood, 'Books became my world because the world I was in was very hard.' It is no coincidence that during the pandemic, book publishers are one of the few businesses to be thriving.

We will publish the top 2 classes for completing Microsoft Teams homework every other week. The last 2 weeks it has been Redwood and Chestnut class. Who will it be next week.

Children who need it can request paper copies of homework each week. Please let your child's class teacher know if this is the case.

Attendance Celebration

We want to say an extra special thank you to you all as parents and carers for ensuring that your children come to school each day and also on time despite the challenges of Covid. We are delighted that our attendance figure is 94.5% compared to 95.3 % last year and this is all due to your commitment to your children's attendance at school. Thank you 😊

PLEASE NOTE IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUR DIARY BELOW

Christmas Lunch For The Children Will Be On Friday 11th December

On this day, children will be able to wear a festive Christmas jumper in addition to the rest of their uniform with an optional donation of £1 or whatever you can afford in aid of 'Save the Children'. At a time when child poverty and hunger around the world is such an issue we felt it was a worthy charity to support and for the children to be aware of.

Last Day of Term Friday 18th December

As usual on the last day of term, we will be sending the children home **at 2pm** after they have had their lunch.

Spring Term First Day Back For Children – Tuesday 5th January

Monday 4th January is an INSET day so the school will be closed for children.

Parent Conferences

The teachers are really looking forward to speaking to on the phone to update you on your children's progress and well-being so please do ensure that you sign up for Parent Conferences as outlined below. These will be held next week and also the week commencing 14th December. The timings will be 3.30-6pm daily – 10 minutes per parent. Your child's Class teacher will arrange a time with you in advance. Sheets for you to sign up for your preferred time were shared this week. So that you can see your child's maths and English work in Year 1 to Year 6, they will bring their old maths and English books home the night before the conference which contain the work they did up to the October half term break. These books can be kept at home unless the class teacher asks for them to be returned, as we have to keep a sample from every year group at the end of each year.

Date	Classes and Phone Call
Monday 7 th December	Ash
	Maple
Tuesday 8 th December	Ash
	Maple
Wednesday 9 th December	Larch
	Redwood
Thursday 10 th December	Larch
	Redwood
Monday 14 th December	Willow
	Chestnut
Tuesday 15 th December	Willow
	Chestnut
Wednesday 16 th December	Oak
	Acorn and Sycamore
Thursday 17 th December	Oak
	Acorn and Sycamore

Supermarket Vouchers for DfE Free School Meals Children for the Christmas Break

We will be issuing the vouchers for the Christmas Holidays to all families who are registered for FSM. The vouchers will amount to £15 per week per child.

All children at St Paul's are entitled to receive a free school dinner, which is an initiative unique to Southwark LA. This is totally different to having FSM status in line with the DfE criteria and it is only FSM children who are entitled to benefits such as the government supermarket vouchers or priority for device loans in the event of lockdown. To be eligible for DfE FSM status you need to be in receipt of one of the benefits listed below:

- Income Support.
- Universal Credit - your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get).
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance or Income-related Employment and Support Allowance.
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999.
- The guaranteed element of State Pension Credit.
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more £16,190).
- Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for four weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit.

If you do meet any of the above criteria and you have not yet registered for FSM status then please complete the attached form and email the office@stpauls.southwark.sch.uk.

Up-To Date Contact Details – Arbor Communication and Safeguarding

Thank you to those of you who have informed us of your new phone and email contact details. If you have not done so please email the office@stpauls.southwark.sch.uk as soon as possible. We have emailed this newsletter to you on Friday so if you did not receive it we do not have the correct email for you.

A Prayer for Advent

Heavenly Father,
Wake us up Lord!
The night is nearly over.
Let us begin our Advent journey.
Move us from our lives
Of greed and selfishness,
From our globalised world
Of inequality and exploitation,
To your kingdom
Of righteousness and mercy.
To a transformed world,
Where peace is built on understanding not weapons,
The poor are empowered to live their lives to the full,
Businesses are built on need not greed
And your Creation is nurtured not abused.
Wake us up Lord!
Let us live as people of the light.
Amen.

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



Celebration Collective Worship
Celebration nomination
4th December 2020



Class	Name of Child	
Sycamore	Maya Kaleb	For her fantastic effort in phonics and writing For always completing his homework
Maple	River Yaelle	For working hard on presenting her work in a neat and clear way For beginning to focus more during the carpet sessions
Ash	Callum Eliana	For an improvement in his handwriting For always being so helpful and kind to everyone in class
Redwood	Alfie Rachel	For showing great improvement in his work since September For making a big effort in her maths work
Larch	Ted Jessica	For fantastic recall of science facts For great balance in PE
Chestnut	Amelia Princess	For excellent practical perimeter investigation work and lovely neat drawings to show what she found Super homework on Teams about what special things would represent her life - very thoughtful
Oak	Sienna Nataniel	Completing intervention work successfully For making a big effort to improve his behaviour
Willow	Aminah Abiola, Nicole, Carlos & Emma	For her great enthusiasm in getting the class Christmas ready For their great effort with their homework on Teams

Lining Up Awards

Bubble	Winners (class)
Bubble B (Maple and Ash)	Ash
Bubble C (Redwood and Larch)	Redwood
Bubble D (Chestnut, Oak and Willow)	Chestnut