



ST. PAUL'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

Faith, Hope and Love

Friday 26th February 2021

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

A Message From Your Headteacher, Mrs Silke

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are delighted that the Prime Minister has announced that all St Paul's children will be able to return to school on **Monday 8th March** and all staff are so excited that we will all be reunited again as the St Paul's CofE Primary School. It is you and your wonderful children that make St Paul's the very special place it is. We are very proud of the fact that we have not had any bubble closures since 20th March 2020. Although Covid cases are now lower, I would like to reassure you that we are not complacent and have reviewed the risk assessment so that the school will be safe for all children and staff to return to school on 8th March. Please continue to wear your masks when dropping off and collecting children. Please see below for details of entrances and times of day which are the same as they were during the Autumn Term before Christmas.

It is with a heavy heart that I write to let you know that St John's CofE Primary School is due to close at the end of the Summer term due to the pupil numbers being too low to make the school financially sustainable. Our thoughts and prayers are with the children and families and this incredibly difficult time, as well as with the staff who have worked so hard for the good of every pupil on a relentless basis. This was evident when I visited the school over a year ago and saw the high-quality teaching and wonderful children working so hard. Rest assured that they are being supported by the SDBE MAT and Southwark LA through this challenging time.

Full reopening Monday 8th March 2021

Acorn and Sycamore class to use the EYFS gates. 8.45am-3.15pm daily.

Maple and Ash class to use the small gates in the KS1 playground. 8.45am-3.15pm daily.

Redwood and Larch class to use the large gates in the KS1 playground. 8.30am-3pm daily.

Chestnut, Oak and Willow to use the main gate to the office. 8.30am-3pm daily.

Building Work

Following a successful bid placed by the SDBE MAT, we are thrilled to announce that the main school building is due to have a whole new heating system installed. The toilets near Larch and Redwood class are also going to be replaced, which will bring them up to the same high standard as the other children's toilets at St Paul's.

The children in school from these classes were consulted on the colour scheme they would like and they chose to use the school colours red and grey. Rest assured, work will be done from 3:30 into the night to minimise disruption to the children's learning.

Online safety

We are all on screens and online a LOT more than we used to be, so we will regularly be giving you updates on how you can keep your children safe online and what to do if you have a concern. If you have a concern about something on TEAMS please email the class teacher using the class email address as your first point of contact or email the school TEAMS email address at: teams@stpauls.southwark.sch.uk

The DfE have also given some guidance on harmful online challenges and online hoaxes at the website below

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/harmful-online-challenges-and-online-hoaxes/harmful-online-challenges-and-online-hoaxes>

If you have a concern around filters for your devices so your child is safe on other sites please look on the NSPCC site which has information about the best parental controls for all different devices. We recommend you have filters for any device your child is using regularly

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/parental-controls/>

The following website <https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/> has information if you are concerned about something online and how you can report an incident and the DfE have also produced guidance

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-keeping-children-safe-online/coronavirus-covid-19-support-for-parents-and-carers-to-keep-children-safe-online>

As always, please contact the school directly if you want to talk anything through or want advice with any of the above sites.

Whole school events coming up

Fairtrade Fortnight Day Monday 1st March

Fairtrade fortnight is happening from 22nd February- 7th March this year. The importance of fair trade and knowing where our food comes from is more important now than ever- the increased challenges faced by farmers are exacerbated by climate change. It is important that these farmers and producers are offered the support to continue their work and support their communities. To celebrate this day, on Monday 1st March, all classes will be talking about Fairtrade and what it is. They will be then looking at and discussing choices that we can make every day and the possible consequences of those choices- both good and bad for both trade and the climate. Finally, all children will be reflecting in some way on the choices that they make.

The following link is for the Fairtrade website- please look as there are recipes, art, short films and lots of activities that you can do!

<https://www.fairtrade.org.uk/choose-the-world-you-want/>

World Book Day Thursday 4th March

Thursday 4th March is 'World Book Day' and we will be celebrating this remotely this year with the theme, 'Books at Bedtime'. Rather than dressing up as book characters this year, we would like children to wear their PJs all day – staff will be doing this too! During the day, all

children will share a heart-warming and uplifting story called 'Shine' by Sarah Asuquo and completing some follow-up work linked to this. Please encourage the children to tell you about the story 'Shine' and reflect with them on the many ways that they shine each and every day. This links with our school vision for every child 'we arise, shine and become who god wants us to be. It would be lovely if you share a favourite book with your children on this day too and ask them to tell you all about the stories that they love and why.

We are also sending a free book home courtesy of the London Children's Book Project for all children in packs for this week. We hope you enjoy them. If you want to you can send your class teacher a photo of your child reading their favourite book and we will then send them onto the London Children's Book Project who are collating a short film will be a montage of over 1,000 children enjoying books for World Book Day. Please note that by sending an email of your child with their favourite book you are giving permission for the London Children's Book Project to use this in their montage. We will share the link of this when we get it and will put it on the website. **Please email over any photos by Tuesday 2nd March for the London Children's Book Project to office@stpauls.southwark.sch.uk**

Year 6 workshops

We are lucky to be able to offer some workshops virtually for our Year 6 children in March, these include a Playing Safe workshop from the London Bubble Theatre Company which looks at knife and gang crime and how our child can stay safe. We then have a Think! Workshop from Equaliteach which look at resisting peer pressure through role play and other activities. The children in Year 6 will access these via teams and they will be included in the work pack content the week they are happening, hopefully some of the parents can see these fully funded sessions. These sessions are offered annually for our Year 6's so if your child is younger they should get these same sessions in the future.

Other information

Home Learning Packs

Thank you for coming to collect your children's home learning packs every Friday as well as returning the work done by your child. This work is marked by your child's class teacher and it helps them to decide what to plan to teach your children during the following weeks. Great work is sent by the teachers for the Senior Leadership Team to see and it is also uploaded onto the website. This is because we really want to celebrate the great work that is being done by children at home as well as that which is done in school.

<http://st-paulsprimaryschool.co.uk/remote-learning-art-gallery/>

Breakfast Bags from School Food Matters

You can collect your next bag on **Tuesday 9th March from 9am** and on every alternate Tuesday thereafter. Fresh milk is included in the bags so please do come to collect on the above date as we do not have the facility to refrigerate 216 bottles of milk. Please note that we have no say whatsoever regarding the contents of the bags as it is decided by the School Food Matters charity and what is donated to them.

Critical Worker and Invited Children Bubbles

We continue to have 4 bubbles in operation as follows:

Acorn, Sycamore, Silver Birch (mixed ages) Walnut (mixed ages)

Please note that the children in school in the bubbles are not being taught by their classteachers, with the exception of Acorn class. This is because the teachers are doing their remote teaching from home to help them stay safe. Our bubbles are now at **full** capacity and we do not have sufficient staff to open a new bubble. Therefore we now have a waiting list in operation and apologise for any inconvenience this causes.

Contact Details at St Paul's For Support with Remote Learning

As always if you have questions or need help with Microsoft Teams and home learning, please email teams@stpauls.southwark.sch.uk If you have questions or need help with a child who has special needs or if you think your child needs additional academic or emotional support, please email senco@stpauls.southwark.sch.uk

A Prayer For A Hopeful Future.



Dear Lord,

As the days get longer and the sun begins to shine, please let Your light continue to make positive changes and guide us into a more optimistic and hopeful future during these difficult times.

When we look at the colours developing and flowers growing, may each new bloom remind us of Your grace, help us to bring light into our souls and give birth to warm thoughts and kind words and gestures.

Amen



**Love and prayers from
the St Paul's Team**