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Redwood trip to the Mandir: <https://st-paulsprimaryschool.co.uk/spps-news/redwood-visit-the-mandir-temple/>



InTouch

YOUR MONTHLY GUIDE TO ST PAUL'S NEWS, INFORMATION AND EVENTS


Faith, Hope and Love

January | ISSUE 3 | 2023-24

School Attendance

Regular 100% school attendance (apart from serious illness) is crucial to prepare your children for successful transition to adolescence, and to support their longer term economic and social participation in society. Research shows that children with the highest attendance throughout their time in primary school gain the best GCSE and A level results. Every moment in school counts, and days missed, add up quickly. If a child in Reception or Year 1 misses 9 days, they miss 9 phonics lessons. A new sound is taught every day so this can result in the child not achieving a Good Level of Development in Reception or not achieving the required standard in the Yr 1 Phonics Screening Check. If a Year 6 child misses 19 days in Year 6 they will miss 19 maths lessons and 19 maths fluency sessions. This means they will miss the whole maths unit on fractions, percentages and ratio. It is also important to arrive at school on time, if a child arrives late to school every day, their learning begins to suffer as they miss the teacher's explanation of the work at the start of the lesson. Students with high absence rates are at a significant disadvantage, as they miss out on valuable learning opportunities and it can also lead to friendship issues as they do not develop their social communication skills if they are frequently absent from school.

The impact of poor school attendance:

Attendance percentage At the end of the school year	Equivalent days absent		Time missed if you are late everyday	Equivalent days absent
95%	9 days		5 minutes late	3 days lost
90%	19 days	10 minutes late	6.5 days lost	
85%	29 days	15 minutes late	10 days lost	
80%	38 days	20 minutes late	13 days lost	
75%	48 days	30 minutes late	19 days lost	
70%	57 days	Don't be late!		

School Matters!



Parent Pay

If you wish to purchase uniform or pay for a school trip please do it via your parent pay account, the link to login is:

www.parentpay.com



A Message from our Executive Leader

Dear Parents and Carers,

It's hard to believe that we are already approaching the beginning of February! As always, your children have been working really hard in all their lessons. They all really enjoyed the St Paul's Christingle Service. Massive thanks to all of you for ensuring that your child brought an orange in for their Christingle. We had some spares just in case as we know how hectic family life can be! However, we didn't need any spares as everyone remembered 😊. The spares were donated to staff and to the kitchen.

It was also wonderful to see so many parents at the service. You are all always welcome at these services which run from 9:15 to 10:00. The next one is our Lent Service on Friday 23rd February. The choir always sing beautifully and Fr John's talks are always spot on for adults and children alike.

We break up at the normal time on Friday 9th February and return on Monday 19th February as there is no INSET day. I and the St Paul's Team would like to wish you a blessedly peaceful half term break.

With Very Best Wishes to you all,

Mrs Ali Silke

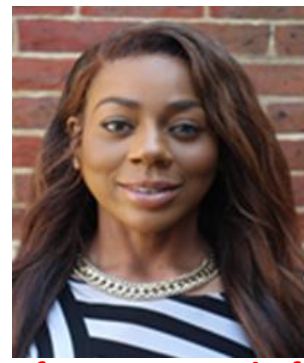
International Day



On Friday 9th February we will be celebrating our 'International Day'. Children may wear their own clothes and are encouraged to wear items from a country close to their hearts. Dress to impress!

Each class will showcase classwork in the hall, for other students to see. We are asking for parents to donate food for our children to share during the afternoon.

Please see the email that has been sent to you regarding this.



A Prayer from our Head of School

We thank you, dear Lord, for everything that is new and beautiful, for everything which holds promise and brings us joy. Bless us all as we start this new year. Help us to make the most of every day. May we show love to one another and to all. May the new beginning of this new year remind us that you give us chances to start over again and again.

Help us to forgive others as we receive your forgiveness. Help us to learn and to work together. Help us to listen when we should and to know the best words when we speak and when it is better not to speak. Bless our school and keep us safe. Be with us as we travel each day. Help us to be aware of your love shown to us in the people around us.

Bless all those who care for us in school and at home. Help us show our love and care for them in what we say and do.

Amen

Celebrating our success

On Wednesday 17th January, we welcomed Dominic Ribbex, Director of Delivery, and his colleague from the DfE to St. Paul's. They had asked the SDBE MAT for a tour of our school as they were 'blown away' by the quick turn around at St Paul's as we went from an inadequate rating to good in three years during a pandemic! We couldn't have done this with out all of you and your wonderful children.



St David's Day Wednesday 1st March

Children can wear something yellow on St David's Day (the patron Saint of Wales) and Mrs Silke (who is Welsh herself) can be normally be spotted in the playground wearing her traditional Welsh costume with pride. 😊



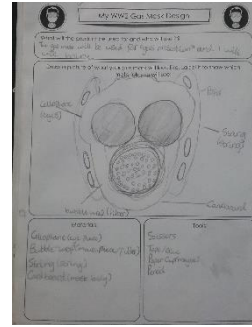
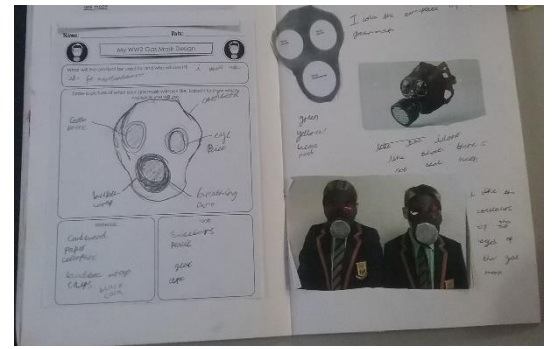
Spotlight on Art

Last half term Chestnut class were learning about WW2 and for this DT unit their learning intention was to design, make and evaluate a replica gas mask.

The children were tasked to develop their ideas and create a working design, follow their design, and then evaluate their work.

The children learnt about the history and use of gas masks, explored the materials that could be used and investigated the various joining methods.

They then thought about how it would feel to wear a gas mask and decided as a class that they are glad these masks are no longer mandatory!



Ash Class

Ash class have been learning about the famous artist Pablo Picasso, his life and works of art. They found out that not only was he a painter, but he created pottery and wrote poems as well. The children learnt that Pablo introduced cubism to the world, the children discussed what they liked (and didn't like) about his artwork. Using black drawing ink, they experimented with shape and pattern in their sketchbooks, ready to create their own clay sculptures of Pablo Picasso's famous King and Queen vases. Using different ways to hold the paintbrush and trying various sizes of brush, the children used their observational skills to create what they could see in the picture.



Nursery Places

Full-time and part-time places are currently available at St Paul's Nursery. For more information, please call the school office on 020 7703 4896.





SPOTLIGHT ON LEARNING

Spotlight on Larch

In PE, Larch class have been doing Gymnastics. We have been learning about the importance of balance, agility and flexibility. The whole class has made great progress.



In Religious Education, Larch Class have been discussing different elements of the role of the Bishop within the Anglican Church. The children discussed what a parish is and the structures of the Church of England and how it is organised.

The children created talks on the following 6 different topics and presented to one another:

1. What is a Bishop?
2. What Bishops wear?
3. Consecration;
4. Bishops Worldwide;
5. Being an Archbishop and The Archbishop of Canterbury;
6. Bishops in the Bible.

Please ask your child what they presented on. This helps to re-enforce what they have learnt.



Spotlight on Redwood

On 17th January, Redwood Class visited the Shri Swaminarayan Mandir Temple, popularly known as the 'Neasden Temple'. The Mandir is a traditional place of Hindu worship designed and constructed entirely according to ancient Vedic architectural texts – using no structural steel whatsoever.

The visit was a key part of Years 3's Religious Education unit on Hinduism. Throughout the day, the class explored various aspects of this religion and its practices. Everybody acquired a deeper understanding of the construction and significance of the magnificent temple. The intricate details inside the temple captivated the children, as they eagerly tried to spot the different gods and goddesses within the carvings of the wall. The experience was heightened as the children were lucky to observe Hindus singing hymns to the deities and participating in their daily rituals, providing a first-hand glimpse into the rich tapestry of Hindu worship.



Ms Bryan said "When we arrived, the children were amazed at what they could see. Numerous comments echoed through the air, such as 'Wow, Miss, I didn't know it was going to be this big,' and 'Look! Is that real gold?'"



Celebrations

Week beginning 8th January 2024

Class	Name	Reason for nomination
Acorn	Yaseer	For doing amazing counting in our maths meeting.
Acorn	Zinnie	For trying her best always, especially with our phonics sessions.
Sycamore	Laura	For good 'Fred talk' CVC' words in phonics.
Sycamore	Tehillah	For excellent counting 1 more in maths.
Maple	Zachariah	For trying really hard with his handwriting – well done!
Maple	Arvish	For returning to school with a positive attitude in all areas of her learning – well done!
Ash	Ezekiel & Frida	For really impressing me with their learning behaviours – Always focused!
Redwood	Kaylah	Great start to the term and working well in all lessons.
Redwood	Kaiona	For being active in class and listening well.
Larch	Vida	For her fantastic attitude and application all week.
Larch	Logan	For being so attentive and involved in class discussions.
Chestnut	Francis	For making good choices and concentrating in all lessons.
Chestnut	Rancel	For his improved participation in all lessons.
Willow	Rhea	For continuing to show a positive attitude in all areas of her learning.

Lining Up Awards

Key Stage:	Winners (class):
KS1 (Maple and Ash)	Maple
LKS2 (Redwood and Larch)	Redwood
UKS2 (Chestnut and Willow)	Willow

Top Table			Team Points	This Week	Running Tally
Tae-Ron Acorn	Enyel - Ash	Romeo - Chestnut	St George	574	2nd 8pts
Inzata - Acorn	Lyra-May Ash	Ruqayat - Chestnut	St Patrick	769	1 st 10pts
Kendrick - Sycamore	David - Redwood	Poppy - Willow	St Andrew	501	4 th 5pts
La'Mari - Sycamore	Ayshath - Redwood	Zephaniah - Willow	St David	466	3 rd 6pts
Isaiah - Maple	Mohammed - Larch		Well done St Patrick! 		
Arvish - Maple	Elizabeth - Larch				

Celebrations



Celebrations

Celebrations

Week beginning 15th January 2024

Class	Name	Reason for nomination
Acorn	Jason	For settling well this week.
Acorn	Zinnie	For her great singing when learning new songs.
Sycamore	Fola	For her effort in phonics and being able to hear the sounds in the words.
Sycamore	Chavon	For his amazing progress at recognising numbers 1-5.
Maple	The Whole Class	For their perseverance during music when trying to sing in 'round' for 'Across the fields' – well done!
Ash	Asher	For his excellent speaking in role as the piano playing bear.
Ash	Pere	For his creative thinking when exploring balancing on different body parts.
Redwood	Seig	For focusing and thinking carefully about vocabulary choices in English.
Redwood	Edwin	For always remaining focused and listening attentively.
Larch	Olivier	For his brilliant diary from the perspective of Hogarth in the Iron Man.
Larch	Folawe	For the effort she has put into her work on multiplication and division all week.
Chestnut	Mishka	For his consistent effort and focus when completing his work in all subjects.
Chestnut	Moses	For his improved behaviour and attitude in all lessons.
Willow	Andrea	For being consistent in completing her home work to the best of her ability and returning it all on time.
Willow	Alfie	For showing excellent effort in his maths lessons.

Lining Up Awards

Key Stage:	Winners (class):
KS1 (Maple and Ash)	Ash
LKS2 (Redwood and Larch)	Larch
UKS2 (Chestnut and Willow)	Chestnut

Top Table			Team Points	This Week	Running Tally
Alex - Acorn	William - Ash	Francisca - Chestnut	St George	502	2 nd 15pts
Zinnie - Acorn	Platina - Ash	Jack - Chestnut	St Patrick	595	3 rd 14pts
Alice - Sycamore	Pelumi - Redwood	Cartiery - Willow	St Andrew	660	4 th 13pts
Fathimath - Sycamore	Emmanuel - Redwood	Taijah - Willow	St David	686	1 st 16pts
Elias - Maple	Elijah - Larch		Well done St David! 		
Fola - Maple	Eliana - Larch				



Dates for your diary

Upcoming Events!

Term Dates

Spring 2023/24

Spring Term 1 - Tuesday 9th January to Friday 9th February 2024 (3.15pm finish)

Half term – Monday 12th to Friday 16th February 2024

Spring Term 2 – Monday 19th February to Thursday 28th March 2024 (1.30pm finish)

Summer 23/24

Summer Term 1 – Monday 15th April to Friday 24th May 2024 (3.15pm finish)

May Day Bank Holiday 6th May

Half term – Monday 27th May to Friday 31st May 2024

Summer Term 2 – Monday 3rd June to Thursday 25th July 2024 (1.30pm finish)

Monday 8th July – INSET Day

Event	Date	Time
Maple Class Collective Worship	Thursday 1 st February	9:00 – 9:30am
Larch Class Collective Worship	Thursday 8 th February	9:00 – 9.30am
International Day & Dress to Impress	Friday 9 th February	
Redwood Class Collective Worship	Wednesday 21 st February	9:00 – 9.30am
Willow Class Collective Worship	Thursday 22 nd February	9:00 – 9.30am
Lent Service at St Paul's Church	Friday 23 rd February	9:15– 10:00am
Acorn & Sycamore Collective Worship	Friday 1 st March	9:00 – 9:30am
St David's Day – Children may dress in yellow	Friday 1 st March	
Year 6 Assessment Week	Tuesday 5 th – Friday 8 th March	
World Book Day	Thursday 7 th March	
Ash Class Collective Worship	Wednesday 13 th March	9:00 – 9:30am
St Patrick's Day – Children may wear green	Friday 15 th March	
Chestnut Collective Worship	Wednesday 20 th March	9:00 – 9:30am