



2023/24

NUMBER 2

Thursday 14th September '23

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ST PAUL'S SCHOOL NEWSLETTER 2



The Year of the Holy Spirit

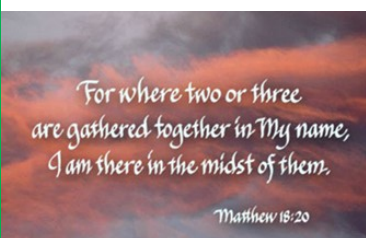
WHAT OFSTED HAVE TO SAY

St Paul's continues to be a Good School.

Leaders ensure that pupils' respect for others is at the heart of the school's ethos. Pupils develop this by focusing on the seven principles of 'Catholic Social Teaching'. Behaviour in classrooms is very strong. Pupils are well mannered and conduct themselves sensibly around the school. Leaders are highly ambitious for what they want all pupils to achieve in their time at school. Leaders expect all pupils, regardless of any challenges, to fully engage and learn the curriculum. They have created a curriculum that is well sequenced to promote pupils' learning.

For the full report, please see our website <https://www.stpauls.w-berks.sch.uk/attachments/download.asp?file=5252&type=pdf>

WELCOME JESUS, OPEN YOUR HEART

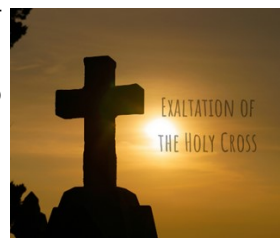


The gospel this week is showing the formation of the early Church. Jesus said, "For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them. Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." It reminds us that we have rules to follow, rules so important in the beginning of the Church. However, he reminds that the Mosaic laws are losing their meaning, with Pharisees caring more about ritual and outward signs of piety, than the important humanity of Jesus. We are asked to "regain" our brother or sister not rebuke them. "Regaining" is more than stopping someone's offensive behaviour, it is converting that person – bringing about a true change in attitude. Jesus' openness to sinners depends on a change of heart and a change in behaviour: "Go, and sin no more". He is with us in our Church community and his message is one of reconciliation, not retribution.

HEADS UP

St Jude, along with all pupils from Yr1 to 6, went to mass and celebrated the Exaltation of the Holy Cross. It was also an opportunity to welcome our new parish priest, Father Jude. For PE, St Jude did gymnastics. In English this week, they learnt about California and the Native American Tribes. During Science, St Jude learnt about Copernicus and Galileo and in Music, they played the glockenspiels. For Art, they learnt how to braid like the Native Americans.

Thank you for reading our first newsletter as Head Boy and Girl.



THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

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"Had there been no cross, Christ could not have been crucified. Had there been no cross, life itself could not have been nailed to the tree. And if life had not been nailed to it, there would be no streams of immortality pouring from Christ's side, blood and water for the world's cleansing. The legal bond of our sin would not be cancelled, we should not have attained our freedom, we should not have enjoyed the fruit of the tree of life and the gates of paradise would not stand open. Had there been no cross, death would not have been trodden underfoot, nor hell despoiled." (From a discourse by Saint Andrew of Crete.)

100% Attendance Owl awarded to St Andrew's Class for week ending 8th September 2023

96% Whole School attendance for week ending 8th September 2023

2023/2024 TERM DATES

Inset Day Mon 4th Sept 2023

Term 1 –Tues 5th Sept 2023 to Fri 20th Oct 2023, 3.20pm

Half Term Mon 23rd Oct to Fri 27th Oct 2023

Term 2 Mon 30th Oct 2023 to Wed 20th Dec, 1.00pm

Christmas Holidays Thurs 21st Dec 2023 to Fri 5th Jan 2024

Inset Day Mon 8th Jan 2024

Term 3 Tues 9th Jan 2024 to Fri 9th Feb 2024, 3.20pm

Half Term Mon 12th Feb to Fri 16th Feb 2024

Term 4 Mon 19th Feb 2024 to Thurs 28th Mar 2024, 1.00pm

Easter Holidays Fri 29th Mar 2024 to Fri 12th April 2024

Inset Day Mon 15th Apr 2024

Term 5 Tues 16th Apr 2024 to Fri 24th May 2024, 3.20pm

Bank Holiday Mon 6th May 2024

Half Term Mon 28th May to Fri 31st May 2024

Inset Day Mon 3rd June 2024

Term 6 Tues 4th June 2024 to Thurs 24th July 2024, 1.00pm.

MESSAGES FROM THE OFFICE

OFFICE HOURS—Mon—Thurs 8.00—3.30pm, Fri 8.00—8.30 and 8.50—3.30pm

CONTACT DETAILS

Please keep the school up to date with any change of contact information ie: change of telephone number / address / email address / doctors or medical conditions.

MOBILE PHONES

We would like to remind you that if children need to bring a mobile phone with them to school, it needs to be handed in at the school office and collected at the end of the day. Children should only bring phones in, if they are walking to/from school by themselves. This is also a Yr6 privilege!

Phones should be handed in as soon as you arrive at school in the morning. Please take phones to reception before coming onto the playground.

Many thanks for your cooperation with this.

PASSPORT SIGNATURES/LETTER REQUESTS

Kindly note that we are now asking for a donation for any passport renewals/applications that we are asked to witness or letter requests for other organisations.

SUPPORT FOR MOROCCO AND LIBYA

We have all been shocked and distressed to hear of the recent disasters in Morocco and Libya where many thousands of people have and are still suffering. We want to help as much as possible so we are asking children to bring a few coins into school next Wednesday. Donations will be placed on a large red cross in our hall, we will talk to the children about the aid this organisation provides to help those most in need at times like these. We are always grateful for your generosity in responding to supporting charitable initiatives. The children know that supporting the vulnerable is a key issue in Catholic Social Teaching. Many thanks for your continued support.

SEMINARIAN OF THE MONTH



Ryan Browne is in his fifth year of Study in Rome. He was born and attended school in our diocese and his brother is a teacher in one of our primary schools. When he was very young he was greatly impressed by the kindness and caring nature of his local parish priest which inspired him to follow his example. He says he has been privileged to work in different countries and communities during his training. Ryan lists his hobbies as music and cooking. He asks for our prayers for himself and other Seminarians but also for all young people.



The PTA will be holding another 'Good as New' uniform sale after school on Friday 15th September in the Infant Playground.

TRAVELLING BOOKS



The Travelling Book Company will be in school on the 3rd October. All children will have the opportunity to look at a range of books.

Parents/carers will be able to visit the book fair in the school hall on Thursday 5th and Friday 6th October.

ROSARY

We will recommencing our weekly Rosary Group at 9am on Wednesday, with effect from 11th October. It is a very informal group, our prayers last only around 15 minutes, all parents and carers are most welcome, just turn up after dropping off children.



FREE SCHOOL MEALS

If you are receiving any of the benefits listed below, you could qualify for Free School Meals for your child: Income Support, Income Based Job-Seekers Allowance, Income-related Employment and Support Allowance, Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999, Child Tax Credit only with income less than £16,190, Guarantee Element of State Pension Credit, Universal Credit. For more information, or to apply online, go to www.westberks.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals or call 0163542400