



2023/24

NUMBER 3

Thursday 21st September '23

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ST PAUL'S SCHOOL NEWSLETTER 3



The Year of the Holy Spirit

FORGIVENESS



Forgiveness is a powerfully healing force. In the Gospel this week Peter wonders how far our forgiveness should go, how many times must we be slighted before we say enough? He replies not seven, as Peter offered, but 77 times. It is in his parable he explains the story of a king settling debts with his servants. One of them who owes a huge amount begs for more time, more patience but receives something unexpected instead: a complete remission of his debts. The now "freed" servant leaves with a whole new life available to

him. Meeting one of his fellow servants, he demands that a relatively smaller debt be given to him at once. Unable to pay, the servant is thrown in jail. Once the king hears of this behaviour, the king demands that the first servant be put in jail. Here Jesus says this is how we will be treated if we fail to forgive others—we will suffer.

HEADS UP

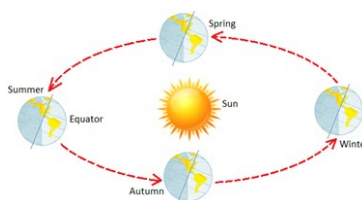
ST SIMON

This week, St Simon explored the Solar System and why Earth revolves around the Sun. In RE, they learnt about St. Paul's letters and how they influenced us and our 7 principles of CST. St. Simon particularly enjoyed crafting dreamcatchers and designing teepees while in Maths they revised special numbers. They also enjoyed writing about Native Americans.

Along with all the other classes, we used our penny donations to decorate a red cross to remember the people working with the Red Cross charity in Libya and Morocco. We also remember those who have tragically died and suffered through those hard times.

The Year Sixes also had an exciting time meeting the new Early Years and had lots of fun playing games. Year Fives spent some time making posters for the new Minnie Vinnies' campaign.

Have a good week!



WELCOME ASSEMBLY

Parents of all pupils who started at St. Paul's this September are invited to a special Liturgy that will take place in the school hall on Monday 9th October at 9.30am. After the Liturgy there will be an opportunity for parents to meet their child's mentor if they are a Foundation Stage pupil or their buddy if they are in Y1-6. During the Liturgy all new pupils will be invited to place a **small** pebble in our circle of stones. Please assist us by helping your child to choose a pebble, decorate it with their name and bring into school by Wednesday 4th October.

LITURGY FOR YR 1 TIE PRESENTATION

On Monday 2nd October Year 1 children will be presented with their ties at a special Liturgy. Unfortunately due to space restraints we ask that only Year 1 parents attend for this celebration which starts at 9.30am.



100% Attendance Owl awarded to St Paul's Class for week ending 15th September 2023

97% Whole School attendance for week ending 15th September 2023

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

SEPTEMBER

Mon 25th Yr6 to Windmill

OCTOBER

Mon 2nd Yr1 Tie Liturgy
Nominations for School Council
Tues 3rd LKS2 Egypt Workshop
Choir Rehearsal at Birch Copse

Wed 4th Flu Immunisations

Thurs 5th Census Day

Yr6 NCMP

Travelling Book Sale after school

Fri 6th Travelling Book Sale after school

Mon 9th Welcome Assembly

Hustings Week

Tues 10th Individual and Sibling photos

Thurs 12th Leaders' Mass

Mon 16th M&M Productions (Oliver Twist)

Thurs 19th School Council voting

Fri 20th Harvest Festival

Mon 23rd HALF TERM WEEK

Tues 31st Choir Rehearsal at Birch Copse

NOVEMBER

Wed 1st Whole School Mass (All Saints)

Fri 10th Remembrance

DECEMBER

Mon 11th Advent Liturgy 7pm at Church Yr3-6

Tues 12th EYFS Nativity to Parents 2pm

Wed 13th Christmas Lunch and Party Day

Thurs 14th KS1 Nativity to Parents 2pm &
6.30pm

Mon 18th Yr6 Fundraising Day

Reconciliation in school 1.30pm

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.

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.



MESSAGES FROM THE OFFICE

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

PARKING

Please be considerate to our neighbours. We have had reports of parents driving over food waste bins in Ayrton Senna Drive.

LEGO

If anyone is having a tidy up ahead of Christmas and looking to rehome any Lego, please consider donating it to school.

CENSUS DAY

Census Day is Thursday 5th October. It is important for all eligible children (YrR, 1 & 2) to have a meal on this day, especially if they ever have a school meal, as the funding for these is taken from this census. Thank you for your cooperation

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.

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.



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



We will shortly be holding our AGM—a great time to get involved!

The more people we have on board as active members, bringing fresh ideas and their time, the more we can achieve in terms of events and money raised.

Please get in touch if you would like more information pta@stpauls.w-berks.sch.uk

1

SUPPORT THE SCHOOL

The PTA is vital to the success of the school. Funds raised enrich your child's learning and make every student's experience better. Be part of the group that pays for the playground your child loves or funds the library that's their favourite place to be.

2

IT'S TOTALLY FLEXIBLE

Whether you're a full-time parent or working the nine to five, anyone can get involved. It's less commitment than you think, and you don't always have to attend meetings. Small jobs such as designing a poster, distributing letters or running a stall keep everything running smoothly.

3

MAKE LASTING FRIENDSHIPS

Meet and chat to a wider circle of families from different classes and year groups. Get to know other parents, and bond over exciting events, socials and get-togethers. Find a place to belong and spend time with others who share your values.

4

BE BETTER CONNECTED

Create closer links with the head, teachers and staff. If you're new to the school, the PTA is an excellent way to find out how things work and become part of the community. If not, you'll still gain greater insight by seeing how things work from both sides.

PTA+
The home of school fundraising

10

REASONS TO JOIN THE PTA

5

BECAUSE IT'S FUN!

Be part of the team which organises the best events and get-togethers. Debrief over a glass of wine (or two). Suggest your most hare-brained idea and watch as it catches on and everyone wants a piece of the action. Laugh. Cry. Be there for each other.

6

CHANGE SCHOOL FOR THE BETTER

Have your say on important decisions. Work with the school and other parents to see where improvements can be made, and implement them. Directly influence the experience of your child and hundreds of others.

7

LEARN NEW SKILLS

Everyone has something they can bring to the PTA, but you can also learn new skills by trading with others. Always wanted to perfect that cookie recipe? Not sure how to design a poster? Want to hone your public speaking skills? You can do it with the support of the committee.

8

IMPROVE YOUR CHILD'S LEARNING

Studies show that children whose parents are involved in their education do better in school. Engaging with the PTA shows your children's education is important to you. Play your part in improving the school and watch them

9

IT'S NOT JUST FOR MUMS

Everyone is welcome, and it's especially important to have dads and male carers represented, as male role models are crucial in children's upbringing. Dads can bring different skills; they can bring a different perspective, and they can bring along other dads.

10

CREATE LASTING MEMORIES

Our children are only at school for a few years, but they will remember the difference we make for a lifetime. They will cherish the activities and games we fund, learn using resources we buy, and remember the events we hold. Help keep the PTA going so future pupils can benefit too.