



2023/24

NUMBER 11

Friday 24th November '23

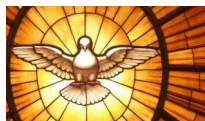
St Paul's Catholic Primary School, City Road, Tilehurst, Reading, RG31 4SZ

Tel : 0118 9422003

Headteacher : Mrs N Oster

Email: office@stpauls.w-berks.sch.ukSchool Website: www.stpauls.w-berks.sch.uk

ST PAUL'S SCHOOL NEWSLETTER 11



The Year of the Holy Spirit

TALENTS

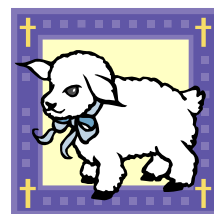


This week's Gospel sees a rich man delegating the management of his wealth to his servants, much as investors in today's markets do. He gives five talents (a large unit of money) to the first servant, two talents to the second, and one talent to the third. Two of the servants earn 100 percent returns by trading with the funds, but the third servant hides the money in the ground and earns nothing. The rich man returns, rewards the two who made money, but severely punishes the servant who did nothing. The meaning of the parable extends far beyond financial investments. God has given each person a wide variety of gifts, and he expects us to use those gifts in his service. It is not acceptable to put those gifts in a drawer and ignore them. Like the three servants, we do not have gifts of the same degree. The return God expects of us is commensurate with the gifts we have been given. The servant who received one talent was not condemned for failing to reach the five-talent goal; he was condemned because he did nothing with what he was given. The gifts we receive from God include skills, abilities, education, experiences, and more. The point of the parable is that we are to use whatever we have been given for God's purposes. We need to look to our gifts, not to be afraid to grow and develop, to invest them in our lives for the good of everyone. We must be selfless not selfish with them and above all not waste them.

HEADS UP

St Andrew

This week, St Andrew enjoyed rehearsing their Nativity. They also wrote a letter to Santa, excitedly walked to the post box and sang to Santa as they put them in. During Maths, they learnt about subtraction and in PE they enjoyed playing ball games. In RE, they learnt about Advent and the coming of Jesus. In Computing they learnt all about computers.



God of love
We pray for peace in our world, and an end to war.
Instead of hatred, let there be love.
Shelter your children and protect us.
Guide us and keep us from harm,
so we can build a world of love and live
our lives in peace.
Amen

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

"The Mass is where the Bible dwells in its natural and supernatural habitat . . . it's the only place where the whole Bible is proclaimed consistently and fully. For the Mass is the culmination of the Bible's prophecy. The Bible is about the Mass, and the Bible suffuses the Mass. When we go to Mass often, we absorb the Bible as if through every pore of our body. We take it in with the grace to understand it."
(Scott Hahn)



FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

Children in Year 3 and above can join our First Communion preparation sessions which start in the New Year. Please complete the attached form or ask at the school office for a hard copy. Forms should be returned as soon as possible to enable us to order the children's books in good time. There will be a short introductory meeting for parents on Wednesday 13th December at 6pm.



99% Attendance Owl awarded to St Paul's Class for week ending 17th November 2023

96% Whole School attendance for week ending 17th November 2023

FOOD BANK

Reminder that our Mini Vinnies are still collecting donations for the SVP Food Bank. They very most grateful for the support of the school for the most vulnerable in our local community. If you are able, please consider making occasional small donations of tins or packet food. The donation basket can be found in the school office area.

HOLY SOULS

We remember those who have died and we pray for them during the month of November. In school the children have been invited to write the names of loved ones or anyone who has died and say a special prayer for the Holy Souls.

NEW STARTERS September 2024

If you have a child due to start school, or know of anyone due to start, we have now set our Open Mornings for the September 2024 Intake

Tuesday 5th December 10am (Full)

Friday 15th December 1.30pm (New Date)

Wednesday 10th January 10am.

Booking is essential.

Please pass the word around to friends and families to come and have a look around our *Outstanding Catholic School*, as judged by the Diocese.

EYFS AND KS1 CHRISTMAS PRODUCTIONS

Pupils in EYFS will be performing their Nativity Play, "The King is Born" on Tuesday 12th December at 2.00pm. No tickets will be required for family and friends coming to this production.

Pupils in Years 1&2 will be putting on their production of "The Grumpy Sheep" on Thursday 14th December at 2pm and 6.30pm. **Tickets are required for both performances.** You will be advised of the times that children will need to be in school for the evening performance closer to the time.

There will be 2 afternoon and 2 evening performance tickets allocated to parents with children in Years 1&2. Tickets will be sent home the week before the performance.

EVERY PERSON ATTENDING THE PERFORMANCE WILL REQUIRE A TICKET (including young children sitting on laps).

Both of these productions will be performed to the school on Monday 11th December during the school day.

BUG CLUB BOOK AMNESTY

We are now missing quite a few of our Bug Club books. This means we have fewer books to give out to children to read. Please may we request that all pupils have a look for any Bug Club books they may have at home. These can be identified by the Bug Club logo on the front or back covers. We will welcome all returns!

CHRISTMAS FAYRE

Friday 1st December is Crazy Hair Day (**nothing permanent**) for a Fun Jar donation.

Please contact a member of the PTA if you are able to offer your services to man a stall for the Christmas Fayre on Saturday 8th December.

Please find our FaceBook page—PTA—St Paul's Catholic Primary School or email pta@stpauls.w-berks.sch.uk

UNIFORM SALE

Our next 'Good As New' uniform sale will be on Friday 15th December.



ST JOSEPH'S CHURCH

The church will be open for private prayer on Mondays and Tuesdays from 8.30 am until after the 10.30 am Mass.

St Andrew's Class will be walking to Mass on **Thursday 30th November** for 9.30 Mass to celebrate their Saint's Day.

ST ANDREW'S DAY

Any children belonging to part of the Scouting /Girl Guiding movement are welcome to wear their uniform to school on Thursday 30th November

CHRISTMAS JUMPER SWAP on Monday 11th December

Following the Eco Warriors 'Cut Carbon Month', we will be holding a Christmas Jumper Swap for the category - Say 'no' to a new item.

Please keep an eye out for details of the day that this will happen, but start digging out those Christmas Jumpers!

This will be held in the School Hall at 8.30 on Monday 11th December.



ECO WARRIORS

The Eco Warriors held their inaugural meeting on Thursday 16th November.



DATES TO REMEMBER

NOVEMBER

Wed 29th Yr5/6 Trip to Winchester Science Park

DECEMBER

Fri 1st Crazy Hair Day (**nothing permanent**) in exchange for a **Fun Jar**

Thurs 7th Yr3/4 Topic Day/Yr1/2 India Day

Fri 8th Dress Down Day in exchange for a bottle for the Bottle Tombola

Sat 9th Christmas Fayre (**new date**)

Mon 11th Christmas Jumper Swap 8am

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

Tues 12th EYFS Nativity to Parents 2pm

Wed 13th Christmas Lunch and Party Day

Wed 13th First Holy Communion Parents Meeting at 6pm in the school hall

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

Mon 18th Yr6 Fundraising Day

Tues 19th Reconciliation in school 1.30pm

Wed 20th End of Term **1pm**

St Paul's Stars Breakfast & After School Club Play Worker Job Vacancy



We have a vacancy for a playworker at St Paul's After School Club. We are looking for someone to work 6 hours per week over two days from 3-6pm. Days to be agreed. Applicants need to have experience of working with 4-11 year olds, good communication skills and ability to work as part of a team. Duties include setting up and delivering play activities, providing refreshments including preparing a simple tea for approx. 40 children at After School Club (basic cooking skills are necessary – Food Hygiene Qualifications a benefit.)

The successful applicant will have a good sense of humour and like working & interacting with children.

For more information and to request an application pack please email the club at st.paul.asc@gmail.com

Closing date – 6th December 2023

This school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. An Enhanced Criminal Records Disclosure will be sought from the successful candidate.

Acorns Nursery School

St Birinus House Empress Road Calcot RG31 4XR

Tel 0118 9420475

Email: acornsnursery@loveyourcommunity.net

"COME AND PLAY" FREE OPEN AFTERNOON

Friday 24th November 2023 2pm – 3.00pm

You are invited to join us for some chat, toys and lots of fun! Come and look around our "home from home" setting. Meet our friendly staff. We are looking to fill our last remaining spaces for 2 year olds and 3 year olds to start in January 2024.

Caring, friendly and supportive setting. Term time only 9.15 am – 4.00 pm

Morning, lunch club and afternoon sessions.

Registered for 15 and 30 hours funding. Privately funded children from age 2. The 2 year old funding also accepted.

Several rooms for children to access. Large, enclosed and well-equipped garden. Fully qualified and experienced teachers and Nursery Nurses on staff.

SEMINARIAN OF THE MONTH

Nathan King is in his third year of study at Alan Hall in London. At the moment his spends his weekdays in studying and travels to the Cathedral to take up his duties at weekends. He will soon be moving to the Cathedral full time. One project he is involved in is the setting up of a library of spiritual books for a parishioner drop in group. He speaks about his very rewarding placement at a Caritas Centre for people with disabilities. He asks for our prayers for all those who are suffering in our world.



MESSAGES FROM THE OFFICE

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

ROSARY

Weekly Rosary Group will be held at 9am each Wednesday. 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.

SCHOOL LUNCHES

Please remember to cancel your child's school lunch if you are sending them in with a packed lunch.

ADVENT SERVICE

All Middle and Upper school pupils will be involved in our annual Advent Service, which takes place in St Joseph's Church on Monday 11th December at 7.00pm.

PLEASE NOTE ALL KS2 CHILDREN ARE EXPECTED TO ATTEND

SAFEGUARDING INFORMATION

A reminder that information regarding safeguarding, including our Child Protection & Safeguarding Policy and our E-Safety Policy, is available on our website: <https://www.stpauls.w-berks.sch.uk/page/?title=Safeguarding&pid=70>

Mrs Chambers is our Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) and Mrs Oster, Mrs Hughes, Mrs Jackson and Miss Hoare are all Deputy DSLs.

SCHOOL UNIFORM

We have noticed a lot of 'non uniform' items being worn into school. Please familiarize yourself with the school uniform policy. <https://www.stpauls.w-berks.sch.uk/attachments/download.asp?file=5132&type=pdf>

PARKING

Please DO NOT park on the double yellow lines on City Road or neighbouring roads. There has been an incident where a residents wing mirror has been knocked off their car due to vehicles being unable to pass safely.