



2023/24

NUMBER 13

Thursday 7th December '23

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ST PAUL'S SCHOOL NEWSLETTER 13



The Year of the Holy Spirit

STAY AWAKE!



The Gospel on the first Sunday of Advent, the start of the new Liturgical year asks us to stay awake: Take heed, watch; for you do not know when the time will come. Advent is the liturgical season of vigilance of, waiting. During the four weeks prior to Christmas, we light the candles of our Advent wreaths and put ourselves in a spiritual space. From the very beginning of Christianity, followers of the risen Jesus have been waiting. Paul, Augustine and all the many multitude of saints and the faithful, have all waited for the Second Coming and have all been Advent people. During this season let us join them, turning our eyes and hearts upward and pray "Come, Lord Jesus I'm waiting, I'm waiting".

HEADS UP

St Jude

This week St Jude did SATS practise tests and wrote a poem about the San Francisco earthquake. They also enjoyed RE and learnt all about Advent and John the Baptist. Finally, they wrote a review on their trip to the Science Centre last week.



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.** Children should return to school at 6pm.

There will be 2 afternoon and 2 evening performance tickets allocated to parents with children in Years 1&2.

Tickets have been sent home this week. Please check your child's Book Bag

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.

Due to safeguarding protocol we have unfortunately had to enforce a blanket ban on parent's videoing or photographing any part of any performance in school. The productions will be available to purchase on USB via ParentMail for £5.00.

The retiring collections after each production will go to CAFOD.

TRAVELLING POSADA

We have had the travelling Posada in school this week, before it moved on to its next home, within St Joseph's Parish. It will be travelling house to house for all of Advent. A reminder of how we wait for Jesus and of the journey Mary and Joseph had to make.



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 that all KS2 children are expected to attend.

100% Attendance Owl awarded to St Simon's Class for week ending 1st December 2023

97% Whole School attendance for week ending 1st December 2023

CHRISTMAS CRIB SERVICE 23rd December 12noon

St Bernadette's church in Horseshoe Road, Pangbourne, will be holding a Christmas Crib service for children on Saturday 23rd December. This is a short service of readings, carols and blessings starting at 12 noon, and will be followed by refreshments. All are welcome to join us, and children are invited to dress as one of the characters in the Nativity story.

CHRISTMAS JUMPER SWAP Monday 11th December

Please could any child wishing to participate bring in the jumpers they are offering for the swap on Friday 8th December. They will be issued with a voucher to use on Monday 11th at 8.30am. Parents are requested to accompany their children to the swap.



CHRISTMAS POST BOX

The Christmas internal post box is now open. Children are able to post their Christmas cards to other pupils in school. The deliveries will be made by the Yr 6 children. Please ensure that children's full names and classes are written on the envelopes to help the Yr 6 posties.



CHRISTMAS LUNCH & PARTY DAY

PARTY CLOTHES WEDNESDAY 13TH DECEMBER

Children are able to wear party clothes/Christmas jumpers to school for this special day. The children who are bringing packed lunch may add special items for the festive season. However we do request no fizzy drinks/glass bottles and please remember nothing containing NUTS as we are a nut free school and have children with nut allergies.



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



FOOD BANK

Basket for any donations to the Food Bank can be found in the School Reception area.

Any donations of dried or tinned food products gratefully received.



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.



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.

CHRISTMAS FAYRE Saturday 9th December 12–3pm

Friday 8th December is 'Own Clothes Day' in exchange for a bottle for the Bottle Tombola. Please can adults hand these over to members of the PTA who will collect them inside the infant playground on the morning of the 8th.



Tickets to visit Santa's Grotto are now on sale via ParentMail. Tickets are limited to time slots.

UNIFORM SALE

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



THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK



"We must return to the Eucharist with a purified heart, with a renewed amazement, with an increased desire to meet the Lord, to be with Him, to receive Him and to bring Him to our brothers and sisters with the witness of a life full of faith, love and hope." (Robert Cardinal Sarah.)

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

DATES TO REMEMBER

DECEMBER

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

JANUARY

Mon 8th	INSET Day—School Closed to pupils
Tues 9th	M&M Productions—Beauty and the Beast
Thurs 25th	Mass for the Conversion of St Paul (St Joseph's Church)

MESSAGES FROM THE OFFICE

OFFICE HOURS—Mon—Thurs 8.00—3.30pm, Fri 8.00—8.15 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.

PARKING

Photo below from TVP as a reminder.

A quick reminder that parking on zig zag lines by a crossing is an offence, as it obstructs other road users from seeing people trying to cross. This driver was dealt with for this offence, and will receive 3 points on their licence and a £100 fine. Please park considerably 🚔



SCOOTERS AND BICYCLES

Children **ARE NOT** allowed to scoot or cycle in the school grounds. We have had an incident where a parent was sent flying recently after being knocked into by a child on a scooter.

St Paul's Catholic Primary School are looking for the following staff members to join our team

Teaching Assistant

- Teaching Assistant for 27.5 hours a week to join our dedicated and enthusiastic staff as soon as possible. **Fixed term contract** till 31st August 2024.
- Teaching Assistant for 15 hours a week to join our dedicated and enthusiastic staff as soon as possible. **Fixed term contract** till 31st August 2024

Lunch time Controller

Lunch time Controller for 5 hours a week to join our dedicated and enthusiastic staff as soon as possible. **Fixed term contract** till 31st August 2024.

We welcome applications from people of any faith.
Part time/Job share may be considered for the right candidate.

The successful candidate will:

- Be fully supportive of our Catholic ethos
- Love working with young children
- Be enthusiastic, imaginative, open and reflective
- Have high expectations
- Enjoy working in partnership with parents.

We can offer you:

An Outstanding Catholic School in *“Overall Effectiveness and all aspects of learning”* as judged in our Diocesan Section 48 Validation

Where:

- *“Leaders are highly ambitious for what they want all pupils to achieve in their time at School. Lessons are active and purposeful, while classrooms are calm. The staff are very happy to work at the school. This unity shines through and creates a very strong and inclusive learning environment for every pupil.”* according to the recent OFSTED report
- Delightful and happy children
- A caring and supportive ethos
- A vibrant, stimulating, well-resourced environment.

Please come and visit us to see our lovely school and children.

Closing Date: Monday 08th January 2024 Midday

Interviews: Thursday 11th January 2024

For an application pack please contact the school.

Application packs are also available on line at

<http://www.stpauls.w-berks.sch.uk>

St. Paul's whole school community (all staff, governors, parents and volunteers working in the school) is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children.

An Enhanced DBS will be sought alongside other checks from the successful candidate.