



2023/24

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Thursday 11th January 2024

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ST PAUL'S SCHOOL NEWSLETTER 16



THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

"Let us go forward with the Lord for the good of the Church and the World."

(Pope Benedict XVI)



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.

THE FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY



The feast of the Epiphany, when the Wise men bow down, in adoration at the side of the Christ Child. It is a very special moment, as these educated Gentiles who have followed a star, are the first non- Jewish people to recognise the Messiah. They are the sign that Jesus came to save all peoples. The gifts they bring are symbolic: Gold a most precious costly item for a King; Frankincense the incense we still have in Church, a sign of a priest/teacher; Myrrh, the oil used at funerals, to suggest this king has been born for us, to die for us. We also see that they are changed by this encounter, they decide to go home taking another path to avoid Herod, but also perhaps taking a new step in their journey to eternal rest. We too must be changed by our encounter with this Christ Child this season and pray to become ever closer to this babe whose birth has changed our lives forever.

HEADS UP

St Bartholomew

This week, St Bart's learned about 3D shapes in Maths and in RE they compared the two versions of Nativity written by Luke and Matthew in their Gospels. They really enjoyed watching the Beauty and the Beast Pantomime with the rest of the school. They were also introduced to their new topic, Crime and Punishment, where they had to inspect a crime scene.



BEAUTY AND THE BEAST

All children watched the Beauty and the Beast Pantomime on Tuesday. This treat, for the Feast of the Epiphany, has been paid for by the PTA.



99% Attendance Owl awarded to St Paul's Class for week ending 15th December 2023

94% Whole School attendance for week ending 15th December 2023

SEMINARIAN OF THE MONTH



Ryan Hawkes is in his fourth year of training. He says that a good piece of advice he was given is to make the most of every opportunity that comes one's way and adds that one such experience which he is enjoying this year is his house-job: 'Schola Master', the director of our seminary choir. He says it is really amazing to see how willing his brother seminarians are (even those who would admit to being less musically inclined than others) to throw themselves into choral singing.

At the end of this academic year he will be admitted to candidacy for holy orders, this is the last 'step' before ordination to the Diaconate. He thanks everyone for their support and continued support. Ryan adds "Please, at this time of year, remember in prayer those who, for whatever reason and in whatever way, do not know the love of God for them, or do not receive love from others. And of course, let's pray for peace in the Holy Land."

MESSAGES FROM THE OFFICE

OFFICE HOURS—Mon—Thurs 8.00—3.30pm, Fri 8.00—8.15 and 8.45—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

The first week back and we have already had complaints from neighbours about inconsiderate parking! These are all reported to the Thames Valley Policing teams. Going forward, any registration plates will also be published in the newsletter. We have permission to use St Joseph's Church carpark, this is only a short walk away.

CAFOD

During December, the retiring collections at the various Nativity and Advent Services, as well as the Yr6 Charity Day, raised £657.21. This has now been sent to CAFOD. Thank you for your generous donations.

PTA

There will be a 'Good as New' uniform sale in the school playground after school on Friday 12th December.



OUR LEARNING

A reminder that there is lots of information on our website, including an overview for each Key Stage showing what children are learning this academic year.

These can be found in the 'Our Learning' section, on class pages:

<https://www.stpauls.w-berks.sch.uk/page/?title=Class+Links%26%23160%3B&pid=33> (select class)

The 'Our Learning' section also contains information about all curriculum subjects, across the school: <https://www.stpauls.w-berks.sch.uk/page/?title=Our+Learning&pid=8>

We hope you find this information useful.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

January

Sat 13th 10.30am First Holy Communion Session
Thurs 18th Census Day
Street Dance Starts
Thurs 25th Mass for the Conversion of St Paul
Sat 27th 10.30am First Holy Communion Session

February

Mon 12th HALF TERM
Wed 21st Parent Consultations time TBC
Thurs 22nd Parent Consultations time TBC
Sat 24th 10.30am First Holy Communion Session

March

Sat 9th 10.30am First Holy Communion Session
Sat 16th 10.30am First Holy Communion Session
Thurs 21st Last Street Dance
Sat 23rd 10.30am First Holy Communion Session
Mon 25th 1.30pm Reconciliation
Thurs 28th 1pm END OF TERM