



2023/24

NUMBER 17

Thursday 18th January 2024

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ST PAUL'S SCHOOL NEWSLETTER 17



THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

"Christian unity is a fruit of God's grace, and we must dispose ourselves to accept it with generous and open hearts."

(Pope Francis)

The week of prayer for Christian Unity begins this Thursday



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

THE BAPTISM OF OUR LORD

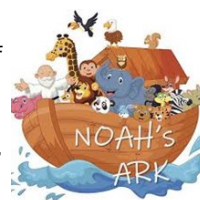


The Gospel we looked at this week in school, tells of the Baptism of Our Lord. It is important following the Epiphany, as it too is a time where God acknowledges His Son. The Wise Men had been drawn to the special baby in the stable and recognised Him as the Saviour. Here at the River Jordan, John's Baptism of Jesus, was a recognition of His greatness. There are several reasons why it was right for John to baptize Jesus. Jesus was about to embark on His great work, and it was appropriate that He be recognized publicly by His forerunner. By baptizing Him, John was declaring to all that here was the One they had been waiting for, the Son of God, the One he had predicted would baptize "with the Holy Spirit and fire." Yet even greater than John's declaration was that of the Father. When God spoke, sending the Spirit, the Trinity come together. Jesus' baptism was the start of His ministry which was to grant us salvation. On this feast we remember our own baptism, the start of our faith journey along with the Blessed Trinity, where we hope to be instruments that reveal God's presence today.

HEADS UP

St Barnabas

This week, St Barnabas enjoyed learning the clarinet in Music. PE was a fun lesson of games to help practise throwing and catching. In RE they learnt about Noah's ark while in French they learnt the alphabet. They learnt about homophones in English and in Computing they researched facts about the Rainforest. On Wednesday, they watched, with the rest of the school, an exciting judo presentation.



FOODBANK

We are continuing to collect for our local SVP, they have particularly asked for shower gel, shampoo, sanitary products, male razors and female deodorants as well as food items such as coffee, long life milk and juices. Anything you can donate will be most welcome.

A neighbouring parish SVP is also collecting warm clothes such as hats and gloves, if you have any pre-loved items there will be a donation point in the main entrance.

99.5% Attendance Owl awarded to St James' Class for week ending 12th January 2024

95% Whole School attendance for week ending 12th January 2024

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.

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.

WET PLAY DONATIONS

We are looking for donations of any games that are suitable for children to play during wet play times - Dobble, UNO, Top Trumps etc

UNIFORM

We would like to remind you that trainers are not part of the school uniform and are to be worn during PE only.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

January

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

ADONAI WARRIORS JUDO CLUB

The children watched a Judo demonstration on Wednesday morning. Mr Kerwin has spaces at Judo Club on a Wednesday morning 8—8.50am for children in Yr1–6. Please complete the attached form if you would like your child to attend.



CLUBS

This term we have the following clubs on offer at school: Drama; Choir; Jigsaw Club; Judo; Street Dance and Mr Browne's Sports Clubs. We also facilitate peripatetic music lessons with Berkshire Music Trust.

We are looking for any keen parents to run Football and Netball Clubs. If this is something you feel you are able to do, please contact the school office.

BUILDING FUND CONTRIBUTIONS

Thank you to all parents for your continued support of the school Building Fund which the school operates as a member of the Diocesan Buildings Fund Scheme. The school asks for £30 per academic year per child at the school as a voluntary contribution to fund the cost of maintenance works carried out in the school. A proportion of the funding for such works has to be secured by the school as it is a Voluntary Aided Catholic School. The school claims Gift Aid in relation to these payments where possible (in the region of £700 in total per annum) and therefore we would ask you to let us know if your tax circumstances change to ensure that the school complies with the relevant legislation. Gift Aid can only be claimed in relation to your contribution if you are subject to income tax and/or capital gains tax for the year of donation at least equal to the tax treated as deducted from your Gift Aid donation. If you have not signed up, please do consider a voluntary contribution to the Building Fund.