

2023/24

NUMBER 18

Thursday 25th January 2024

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ST PAUL'S SCHOOL NEWSLETTER 18



THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

"To be a Christian was to go to Mass. This was true from the first day of the New Covenant. Just hours after Jesus rose from the dead, He found His way to a table with two disciples."

(Scott Hahn, The Lamb's Supper)



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

FOLLOW ME



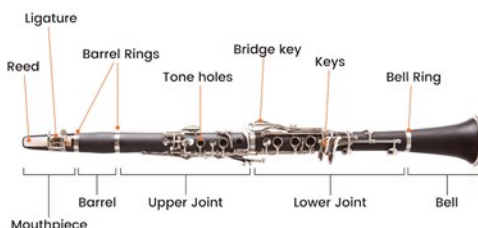
The Gospel this week sees Jesus call His first disciples. It is a story of transition. The first disciple Andrew had been a follower of John the Baptist and heard him say about Jesus, "There is the Lamb of God". He turned his allegiance from John to Jesus and walked with Jesus literally and eventually, spiritually too. So moved by this experience Andrew excitedly told his brother Simon that he had met the Messiah and brought him along to meet Jesus. Jesus immediately recognised the qualities of Simon and changed

his name to Peter, to be His rock. Let us pray that we too listen for our call from the Lord and that we too are willing to change our lives to follow Him where He leads.

HEADS UP

St Matthew

This week, they learnt all about John the Baptist in RE and how to tell the time in Maths. During English, they wrote a story about the Amazon Rainforest. They were introduced to their new Science topic, Plants. In Computing they put together an online safety poster. They learnt how to play the clarinet in music and sang a song about stars.



Symposium on What does it mean to be Human?

This is being hosted by the Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth's Dialogue with Cultural Sectors team on Saturday 16th March 2024.

Tickets can be booked directly on <https://prcdtr-symposium.eventbrite.co.uk>

The keynote speakers are Mgr Michael Nazir Ali and Ryan Christopher. Workshops will be run on a range of topics by Dr Catherine Knowles, Rachel MacKenzie, Dr Gerard Fieldhouse Byrne, Dr Collette McGovern, Dr Maria Lynch and Simon Caldwell. David Wells, the popular inspirational speaker, will be front of house as presenter and guide.

99% Attendance Owl awarded to St James' Class for week ending 19th January 2024

95% Whole School attendance for week ending 19th January 2024

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.

CLUBS

This term we have the following clubs on offer at school: Drama; Choir; Art Club; 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.

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

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.

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.

UNIFORM

We would like to remind you that trainers are not part of the school uniform and are to be worn during PE only. If boots are worn to school, please could children change out of these and into school shoes.

We have noticed an increasing number of girls wearing nail polish to school, we request that this is removed before coming back to school on a Monday morning. Earrings are to be removed or taped for PE lessons. If your child needs to have their earrings taped, please ensure that you send the tape in to school for this purpose.

PTA UNIFORM SALE

There will be a PTA uniform sale after school on Friday 9th February. This will take place on the infant school playground



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NETBALL AND FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT

Yr5 and Yr6 children have been invited to take part in a Catholic Cluster Netball/Football Tournament at Blessed Hugh Faringdon on Thursday 25th April 2024.

Netball Teams will consist of 7 players, both boys and girls can participate with a maximum of 3 boys on the Team. Football Teams will consist of 9 players, both boys and girls with no limitations.

Please indicate below if your child would like to take part in this event by **Friday 9th Feb**

Name: Netball or Football (please circle)

Class:

Signed: Date: