



2023/24

NUMBER 21

Friday 23rd February 2024

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ST PAUL'S SCHOOL NEWSLETTER 21



THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

"Nothing brings peace to a soul like a confession that's well prepared: clear, concise, contrite, and complete. If we haven't been to confession in a while - and even if we have - we should make every effort to make the practice habitual."
(Scott Hahn, Signs of Life.)



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.

LENT



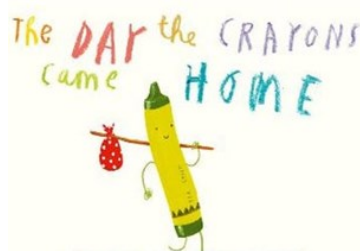
We are now in the great season of Lent, when we spend six weeks preparing to celebrate the high point of our faith: the Paschal Mystery, the suffering, death and resurrection of Jesus. It should be a time for personal reflection on where we stand on our faith journey. Only a little reflection will let us see that, on the one hand, there are many ways in which we fail through word and action, to be the kind of people that the Gospel challenges us to be. Yet it is also a time of hope! Just because Ash Wednesday has already come and gone, doesn't mean we can't start changing for the better today! Remember that even those who came to the vineyard

at the eleventh hour were paid the same amount. Yet the earlier we start the better. So let us try this Lent to prepare for the wonderful feast of Easter by praying, fasting and giving a little more both of our time and ourselves to others.

HEADS UP

St James

This week in RE they learnt about Jesus being tempted in the desert. In Maths, they learnt how to divide and in English they wrote and drew a story about 'The Day the Crayons came Home'. During Phonics, they learnt about the -er sound.



SEMINARIAN OF THE MONTH



Farvin Gonsalves is originally from Goa India. He moved to Reading after finishing a Masters degree in Computer Applications and worked as a software tester before starting to study for the priesthood. He is in his second year and has enjoyed visiting museums while he is studying in London. He also helps young people prepare for their Confirmation. Farvin asks that we continue to pray for peace, especially in the Holy Land and Ukraine.

CELEBRATION OF THE WORD

During Lent, our Mini Vinnies lead our Monday Celebration of the Word. You can find a copy of the readings and prayers on our website each week.

<https://www.stpauls.w-berks.sch.uk/page/?title=Our+Prayer+Life%3A+Lent&pid=757>

98% Attendance Owl awarded to St Paul's Class for week ending 9th February 2024

96% Whole School attendance for week ending 9th February 2024

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.

PARENT CONSULTATIONS

Thursday 22nd February 1.30pm - 4.30pm.

LENTEN REFLECTION

Pupils from the Middle School, Year 3 & 4, will be performing the Lenten Reflection in school during the final week of term.

Tuesday 26th March performance for the school

Wednesday 27th March 2pm performance to parents

Wednesday 27th March 6.30pm performance to Parents.

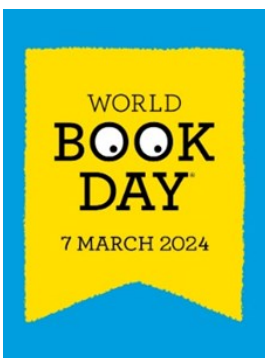
Tickets are not required for these performances. ***For the evening performance could children please return to school at 6pm.***

NO PHOTOGRAPH'S OR VIDEOING OF PERFORMANCES

Due to safeguarding protocol we have to enforce a blanket ban on parent's videoing or photographing any part of any performance in school.

WORLD BOOK DAY

THURSDAY MARCH 7th



Our emphasis for World Book Day this year is **READING FOR PLEASURE**.

Please talk to your child about a character in a book/comic that they really enjoy reading about and they can come to school dressed as that character on Thursday 7th! They should be prepared to talk about why they enjoy this character so much and if possible, bring the book in to school to review and share.

We look forward to celebrating all the fantastic books children enjoy **reading for pleasure!**

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

February

Thurs 22nd Parent Consultations
Sat 24th 10.30am First Holy Communion Session

March

Thurs 7th YrR Height, Weight and Hearing Tests
Thurs 7th World Book Day
Sat 9th 10.30am First Holy Communion Session
Tues 12th YrR Vision Screening
Sat 16th 10.30am First Holy Communion Session
Thurs 21st Last Street Dance
Fri 22nd LKS2 Topic Day TBC
Sat 23rd 10.30am First Holy Communion Session
Mon 25th 1.30pm Reconciliation
Wed 27th Lenten Reflection 2pm and 6.30pm
Thurs 28th 1pm END OF TERM

APRIL

Mon 15th INSET DAY—School closed to pupils
Tues 16th Pupils return
Sat 20th 10.30am First Holy Communion Session
Sat 27th 10.30am First Holy Communion Session

MAY

Sat 11th First Confessions at Church
Mon 13th SATs Week
Sat 18th First Holy Communion
Mon 27th HALF TERM Week

JUNE

Mon 3rd INSET DAY—School closed to pupils
Mon 10th Class Photos
Fri 21st Fun Jar for Crazy Hair
Wed 26th St Matthew School Trip TBC
Thurs 27th St Philip School Trip TBC
Fri 28th St Barnabas School Trip TBC
Fri 28th Dress Down for Bottle Tombola
Fri 28th Mass for St Peter and St Paul at school
Fri 28th Family Fun Night (3.30—7pm)

JULY

Mon 22nd Leavers Mass 10am at Church
Wed 24th 1pm END OF TERM

Are you an inspirational teaching assistant who is able to make an impact on the outcome of children's learning in our school?

Teaching Assistant

We are looking for **2** inspirational **part time** Teaching Assistants for 10 hours and 17.5 hours per 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 26th February 2024 Midday

Interviews: Friday 1st March 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 Criminal Records Disclosure will be sought alongside other checks from the successful candidate.