



ST PAUL'S NEWS

Newsletter 11 - 09.01.26

A note from Mr Varney:



Hello everyone,

Happy New Year to everyone and welcome back to the spring term. It has been a joy speaking to the children this week about what their Christmas breaks looked like and how lucky they have been with the gifts that they received. From all of the staff here at St Paul's, a huge thank you for the lovely cards and gifts we received from parents - it is incredibly kind and really appreciated! The children have settled incredibly quickly this week and have already set to engaging in their new topics and areas of learning.

Over the Christmas holidays, we had a delivery of new dining room tables and chairs to help us to further improve our dining experience. Our new round tables have been a huge hit and the children are enjoying being able to face each other when eating, socialising as you would in a restaurant. Thank you to our PTA who purchased the tables for us and a huge thank you to Ashley Fyson for purchasing our new dining room chairs - this was an incredibly kind donation.

Good attendance at school has always been important and it is proven (although obvious) that children who are attending school regularly have far greater chances of succeeding academically and personally, giving them greater chances in life. My stance and approach to attendance has always been clearly communicated so it is frustrating that after a 2 week break, our school's attendance is only 93% this week, with some children and families still on holiday. Children should be at school most of the time. Illnesses can't be helped and is expected but the Government and NHS have provided guidance on when children should be off school and for how long for. Children should NOT be taking time off of school to go on holiday and should not be having days off to go places or celebrate birthdays. It is also concerning that when this is happening, children are being encouraged to be dishonest and tell school that they have been unwell. The school will now be moving forward with un-authorising any absence we think is linked to holidays or visits and are in the process of working with the Local Authority to provide Fixed Penalty Fines to those families who have been taking term time holidays. I am incredibly passionate about children attending school so that they can reach their fullest potential and the school will continue to be relentless in tackling poor attendance. If you would like to know more about Fixed Penalty Notices, a fact sheet for parents is accompanying the newsletter this week.

Have a great weekend.

Upcoming events:

Y4 Show Racism the Red Card
Fundraiser Event - children to wear
football / sports kit - Friday 30th
January - see separate letter

PTA Sponsored Pancake Flip Event
- Wednesday 11th February - details
to follow

PTA Valentine's Disco - Wednesday
11th February - details to follow

St Paul's Art Gallery - Friday 13th
February @ 3.30pm

KS2 Theatre Trip - Thursday 5th
March - details to follow

Character Dress Up Day for Book
Week - Friday 6th March

EYFS / KS1 Theatre Trip -
Wednesday 11th March - details to
follow

Y6 Voice in a Million Trip -
Wednesday 18th March

Achievements this week:



Stars of the Week

Headteacher's Trophy

The headteacher's trophy this week goes to



Noah M - Year 2

Noah - we can all see how hard you have been working recently and how much your learning is progressing because of this. You are making good choices and are engaging really well in class with your teachers and friends. Well done Noah!

Year R - Indie

Year 1 - Scarlett

Year 2 - Matilda

Year 3 - Alfie E

Year 4 - Ronnie

Year 5 - Krisz

Year 6 - Jessica



Value Superstars

These children have shown our value of Friendship this week:

Lennox - Year R Nancy - Year 1 Holly - Year 2 Harry W - Year 3 Angelo - Year 4 Isabella - Year 5 Finley - Year 6

Teacher of the Week

Our 'Teacher of the Week' has been chosen by our pupils and this week it goes to

Mrs Sharp

For being helpful and supporting children when they don't understand something and for always being there for us.

Attendance:

MOMENTS
MATTER.
ATTENDANCE
COUNTS.

Whole School Target - 97%

Whole School - 93.6%

Nursery - 86.7%

Reception - 94.4%

Year 1 - 98.7% - Great!

Year 2 - 89.7%

Year 3 - 92.8%

Year 4 - 95.3% - Good

Year 5 - 94.7%

Year 6 - 92%



Handwriting Stars

The following children have been recognised by Jessica and Mary, our lead ambassadors, for their great presentation and handwriting this week:

Addison - Y3 Joseph - Y6

Ask us about our learning this week:

Nursery Class - ask us about our learning in class this week where we have been learning about the North Pole. We were thinking about snow and even went on a snowy walk.

Reception Class - ask us about our work in Literacy this week where we have been engaging with our book 'Charlie and Lola'. We were reading about their favourite foods and thinking about our own.

Year 1 - ask us about our learning in science this week where we have been investigating our senses. We learned what are senses are and which parts of our bodies help us with which sense.

Year 2 - ask us about our learning in maths this week where we have been developing our knowledge of money. We have been learning about the values of different coins and notes.

Year 3 - ask us about our learning in English this week as we began to explore our new book 'The Moth'. We learned that moths are nocturnal animals who fly at night.

Year 4 - ask us about our learning in English where we started our new text 'My Family and Other Romans'. In the story, dad is telling his family what life in the roman times was like.

Year 5 - ask us about our learning in maths this week as we explored comparing fractions by finding common denominators using our times table knowledge.

Year 6 - ask us about our learning in maths this week as we have been investigating the relationship between fractions, decimals and percentages, finding a percentage.



Fresh off the Press



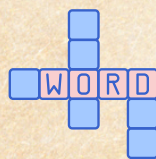
Hi everyone. This is our sports / expressive arts news for this week:

In Year 4, Emma and her team won 3-0 in their football match. Flo went up a league in the under 10s football team. Pheobe scored a goal in her first game of the season and got player of the match. In Year 3, Isla took part in a horse riding competition and won a medal. Esme completed her first run and Millie played ping pong.

In Year 2, Etta swam her first meter in swimming with no arm bands. Alfie head got his red belt in karate and Elodie started a new gymnastics club.

If you have any sports news that you would like featured in our newsletter, please send it to sportscommittee@stpauls909.herts.sch.uk

Milena's Book and Word of the Week



buffeted (verb) - to strike repeatedly e.g. The waves buffeted against the stone wall.



'Survivors' by David Long. This book is a wonderful anthology that is a treat for all the family. Be shocked and amazed by these incredible real-life stories of extreme survival. This book is aimed at children in KS2.