



St Paul's CE Primary School

Newsletter

3rd December 2014

Message from the Headteacher

The season of Advent will shortly be upon us, as I type I can hear the school choir practising Christmas Carols and the candles for the school's advent ring arrived this afternoon! It has been a really busy half-term with a lot of really enjoyable learning taking place. Only last week I was in class with Year 6 watching them recreate a Victorian evening out in London with the Crew theatre group. I know that the pupils and staff have worked really hard this term and will continue to do so until the Christmas Holiday break.

Harvest Gifts

Once again the response to the harvest appeal was very generous. Following the service the Year 5 children delivered harvest gifts to the residents of Lambert Lodge, the stroke club and to vulnerable local residents. We have been inundated with letters of thanks from all the recipients. Thank you for your generosity.

Samaritan Purse

Earlier this week the Samaritan's purse shoeboxes were collected from the school. We had collected 112 boxes – a really great response. This weekend they will be delivered ready to distribute at Christmas to needy children in Serbia. In putting together a shoebox, I really believe we are practically realizing the schools moto, *Caring for All...Growing with God.*

Children in Need

We also had a collection and non-uniform day on Children in Need day in October. Thanks to the generosity of pupils, parents and staff we raised £265.74, which was paid in to the Children in Need account.

Remembrance Day

A group of Year 6 children supported the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal and joined Mrs Cossar and me on the gate. The school collection came to £121.09. Thank you all so much for supporting this important appeal.

Talk Time

This term we have introduced *Talk Time* into the Reception and Nursery classes. This is a weekly speaking and listening session run by a Speech and Language Therapist. The aim is for a specialist professional to introduce language rich learning activities and to identify pupils who may need further, intensive support. The introduction was supported by a workshop for Reception parents and it was great to have so many parents present. The programme is likely to develop with smaller groups working with the Speech and Language Therapist whilst the school staff continue the *Talk Time* activities with the rest of the class. We have introduced this programme as we know that speaking is often an area in which our youngest children do less well. Having specialist support should help us to further enhance our provision in the Early Years.

Bicycle racks

Following the completion of the restoration works on this site we have been able to reopen the bicycle racks behind the year 5 and 6 classes. Children are welcome to bring bikes and scooters to these racks as well. The governors of the school cannot accept responsibility for any bicycles or scooters left on site, so please provide a lock. No bicycles or scooters should be left on the racks over the school holidays as they may be removed.

End of day in the back playground

The school gates are opened at 3:20pm to enable parents to get to their children's classroom in time for dismissal at 3:30pm. Infant and Foundation stage children need to be dismissed to the correct adult. Please do not walk right up to the classroom doors and look in to the classrooms as this can distract and delay the end of day for each class. I would be grateful if all parents collecting children in the back playground could stand well back from the classroom doors. Your child will then be sent over to you. This will enable staff to quickly and safely return the correct child to the correct adults. Please do not enter the classrooms or crowd around the doors as it makes efficient dismissal very difficult. If you wish to speak with the teacher, please wait for the rest of the class to be dismissed before starting a conversation.

Alexandra House

The local authority agreed last academic year to our school's expansion to become a two-form entry school from September 2015. Our current site is completely full and does not have capacity for expansion. As part of the arrangement the authority agreed to converting Alexandra House into a second site for the school. Alexandra House was built in the 1930s as a Health Centre. It has many small rooms that will need to be opened out to create classrooms. The building has a listing for some of the original 1930s features. The school and diocese have been working with the local authority school's team on the plans for conversion. At the start of this academic year planning permission was granted with a number of conditions, including the retention and restoration of some of the period features, including the original windows. The project then went out to tender.

Last week the successful contractor (Ash) began work on the site. The initial works schedule provides for a two-phase project. The first phase (the hall at the northern end of the building and a number of classrooms leading off it) are due for completion at the end of May 2015 and the second phase (the remaining building and external works) are due for completion in July 2015. Provided the contractors are able to meet this schedule, the new site should be ready well before the start of the new school year next September. We may be able to move a couple of classes into the new building for the second half term this summer. Ash were the contractors who built the new extension at the Blue School, Isleworth. The headteacher at the Blue School has told me that their project went very well and that the contractors met all the deadlines on their project.

I will include updates on the project in my future newsletters.

New School Website

I am very pleased to announce the launch of the school's new website. The old website was an excellent site, but the new site holds more information as required by the Department for Education. The home page is intended to be dynamic, with news items changing regularly. There are a number of new additions to the site, a Google calendar that should sync with your

own electronic calendar and lots of new curriculum and information content about the school.

A number of Junior children helped in the design of the website and suggested their own innovations: the 'Google translate' button at the foot of the page can be used to translate the site into many different languages and there is an 'order uniform' section in the contact us area of the site.

The site redirects automatically from the old address or can be found at the new address: <http://www.stpauls.hounslow.sch.uk>

Please do browse the website regularly as more content and news will go up throughout the year.

Year 6 Sayers Croft

Last week Year 6 went for their residential visit to Sayers Croft for a week. The visit is designed to develop social and education objectives. The children really seemed to enjoy themselves. Amongst other activities the children did archery, simulated caving, abseiling, team challenges and orienteering. They relaxed in one another's company and had a chance to challenge themselves to try new things. I am delighted that every child from the class was able to go and would like to thank all the parents and staff for helping to make the trip so successful. There are pictures from this year's trip on the school website.

New furniture in the school

Last week the new chairs for the school dining hall were delivered. We introduced them on Monday. We now have the round tables and separate chairs that we have been waiting so long for. This week we started some of our new SMSA staff, expanding the team to help improve the meal service and in readiness for family service. Once the staff become familiar with their new roles and the additional crockery and dining hall resources arrive, we shall be able to introduce family service in full for sittings two and three.

Parents' Prayer Group

We are blessed at St Paul's to have a dedicated group of parents who pray for the school each week. They meet in the church after drop off every Tuesday. All parents are very welcome to join the group. You don't have to attend every week, although you are welcome to! Each half term, pupils from the school join the group to pray and reflect together.

Our next joint group will be on Tuesday 9th December when the school choir will join the prayer group to sing Christmas Carols together, from 9:15am. If you would like to come and join us, please do come along. There will be refreshments afterwards.

If you have something that you would like the group to remember or thank God for in Prayer, please complete a slip in the school reception area and post it in the prayer box. Prayers may be for your family or friends of the school.

New Staff

This half term we have been joined by Miss Katie Pilkington. She is supporting children primarily in years 2 and 6 with reading, phonics and Mathematics. She is leaving us at Christmas to return to Australia.

Following the reorganization of the school meals arrangements we have recruited additional staff to work in the kitchen, dining hall and playground. The new staff are: Mr Sampath Disanakage cook, Mrs Ramona Ponci kitchen assistant, Mrs Andrea Brown, Mrs Hana Hirsi, Mrs Katarzyna Kisielewska, Miss Tiffany Wellington all school meals supervisors. Mrs Suky Johal has been recruited as a part time Teaching Assistant. Mrs Marietta Taylor is reducing her timetable, taking on a part time teaching assistant role next term. We shall recruit a replacement for her in her current role in the New Year. I am delighted to be welcoming all the new staff and postholders into our growing school. I am sure that they will help us go from strength to strength.

Oware

At the end of October the junior children welcomed Seth Bonti-Asamoah from the Oware Society to teach us about the history and rules of the West African game Oware. This was a very successful day and the children were keen to play Oware. Pictures of the day can be found on the school's website.

Year 6 Bicycle Training

Last month the Cycle Experience cycling training team came to our school. They taught some of the year 6 pupils about safe cycling and about riding on the road. The children did well and the trainers were impressed by their maturity and effort. We shall shortly distribute the certificates.

Changes to School Meals Payments

We have been working for some time to identify and introduce a 'cash free' payment system for the school. We are preparing the school systems and preparing for this introduction by changing the way that the school meal payments for Junior children are collected. Some of you may already have been contacted by the office team about this.

At present the changes are taking place to systems within the school and so you should not notice any change yet. However, if you wish to change your child's meal type, please inform the school office no later than the Friday before the change.

Christmas Cards

The Christmas card postbox went out today. The postbox is located just inside the door by the school hall. If your child wishes to distribute Christmas cards please ensure that they write the name of the recipient clearly on the front of the card and the class in the top corner. All cards should be posted in the box and will be distributed by Year 6 pupils.

Coming Up...

December 2014

Wednesday 10th

Globe Players Christmas performance for Juniors

Thursday 11th

Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1 Christmas performance at the Watermans Arts Centre

Friday 12th

9:30 Tour of school for prospective families – please reserve a place through the school office

3:45 Parent Friends' Association Christmas Fair in the Church Hall

Monday 15th

School Christmas Lunch

Tuesday 16th

11:30 Nursery nativity in Chapel (Nursery families only)

Junior class parties (PM)

Wednesday 17 th	10:00 School Christmas Service – Year 1 (friends and families welcome)
Thursday 18 th	Foundation Stage class parties (PM)
Friday 19 th	Infant class parties (PM)
	Final day of term– EARLY CLOSURE 1:30pm
<u>January 2015</u>	
Monday 5 th	Return to school – Spring term
Friday 9 th	9:30 Tour of school for prospective families – please reserve a place through the school office
Wednesday 14 th	9:00 Parents’ curriculum support workshop – details to follow
Monday 19 th – 23 rd	St Paul’s Week in school
Friday 23 rd	10:00 School Service – St Paul’s day – Year 2 (friends and families welcome)
Tuesday 27 th	Year 5/6 Girls’ football finals – group from school to attend
Friday 30 th	Year 6 visit to Natural History Museum

Christmas Services at St Paul’s/St Faith’s Church

Details of this year’s Christmas services at our church can be found below:

CHRISTMAS AT ST PAUL'S

SUNDAY 14 DECEMBER
 SANTA BREAKFAST 9.15AM
 CHILDREN'S NATIVITY 10AM

SUNDAY 21 DECEMBER AT **ST FAITH'S**
 CAROL SERVICE 6.30PM
 CHRISTMAS EVE
 CRIB SERVICE 4.00PM
 MIDNIGHT COMMUNION 11.30PM
 CHRISTMAS DAY
 ALL AGE COMMUNION 10AM