



St Paul's CE Primary School

Newsletter

3rd September 2014

Message from the Headteacher

Welcome back to the new school year. It has been great to hear such positive comments from children and parents as they came in to our newly refurbished building and playgrounds. The builders have worked extremely hard to get us to where we are now. They will be with us for a couple more weeks, working to complete the Early Years rooms and then we will have the building to ourselves. It has been just over a year since the devastating fire which destroyed much of the school last summer. I am extremely grateful to the pupils, parents, staff, governors and reconstruction team for their patience and support. I am sure that we will all benefit from the many enhancements.

As ever the school year starts with a flurry of new national initiatives and changes: the new National Curriculum, the Universal Free School Meal offer, a new Special Educational Needs framework and much more. We are determined that despite this climate of change, we will continue to provide exciting, stimulating learning programmes which help our children enjoy and achieve within a calm and welcoming setting.

I would especially like to welcome all the new families and staff joining the school. On the staff we have two new permanent teachers, Miss Jones (Y6) and Mrs Little (Y3). Miss Apperley is covering Mrs Riley's maternity leave in the nursery. Mrs Chan and Mrs Punwani have joined the Breakfast club, SMSA and Aftercare team. Mrs Sinclair is our first ever chef and she is joined by Miss Harrison and Miss Raines to make up the new kitchen team.

I am sure that we will have another successful year, building on the school's many previous achievements. If you have any queries or concerns please do speak with your child's teacher, either at the end of the day or contact them via the school office by telephone or email.

Mrs Cossar, the deputy headteacher, and I at the school gates in the mornings and the afternoons. Please do speak to us if you have any queries.

School Meals

We are really excited to be starting the new academic year with our own kitchen and our own catering team. For the first time we will be preparing and cooking the meals for our children on site. This is the result of a very clear vision from our governing body and thanks to the support of our parent advisors and the catering committee we put together last year. I would like to thank all involved for their advice and support. We will have a much greater control over our menus and how we enjoy our meals together. Mrs Sinclair, our chef, will work with the children and staff to enhance and develop amazing school meals for us.

We are almost unique in the Borough for having brought the entire operation 'in-house'. We will no longer be serving meals that have been cooked elsewhere and delivered in insulated boxes to our site. This means that our lunches will be fresher and far tastier. For those in the

Juniors who still need to pay, we are cheaper than the new borough meals provider. Our school dinner will cost £1.95 a day. Please contact the school office for details on booking school meals if your child is in year 3, 4, 5 or 6.

We have also been able to re-think how we serve our meals. In recent years we have run a canteen service with children queuing for their meal and rushing to finish to make room for other children. The dining room has been noisy and frenetic; not the best place to enjoy a meal.

We are working to introduce 'family service'. We have divided the school into three sittings across the lunch break. Each sitting includes school dinner children and packed lunch children, who now eat together in the school hall. In family service the food is available at each table and children sit together serving and eating together much like a family. This prevents queuing and leads to a much calmer atmosphere during meal times. It also means that there are fewer children in the playground at any time and that children are able to get more time to play as they do not have to queue for their meals. We will shortly buy new tables with chairs rather than benches and some new crockery to facilitate the 'family service'. Our SMSAs (dinner staff) now set up the hall for lunch and will be able to sit and eat with the children during 'meal time'. Once we become more familiar with the lunch routines we shall invite all staff to come and have lunch with the children. We are experimenting and trying out the new routines, refining and improving each day. The children are already giving us feedback and we welcome any feedback from you too.

Universal Free School Meal – Reception, Year 1 and Year 2

The Universal Free School Meal offer (UFSM) came into effect from the beginning of this term. Any child in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 is now eligible for a free school meal at lunchtime. If your child is in Reception, Year 1 or Year 2 and currently has a packed lunch, you may want them to change to school meals. Please contact the school office to arrange this.

Sadly the UFSM does not apply to Junior children (Years 3,4,5 and 6). All children in juniors may have a school meal at a cost of £1.95 a day. Free school meals are available for junior children if the family income is low and meets the criteria set out by government. If your child is in Juniors; currently has a packed lunch and would like to change to school dinners, please contact the school office for details on changing and eligibility for free school meals.

Additional School Funding for Pupils from Lower Income Families

The government makes available additional funding to enable schools to support children from lower income families. This funding is used to employ additional staff or to provide more resources and activities. In order to qualify for this funding schools need to submit the number of pupils eligible for free school meals. I would like to encourage all low income families in the school to complete the application for free school meals whether or not their child receives the Universal Free School Meal offer. This is the only way that we can release additional funding to enhance provision in the school.

Please contact the school office if you are a low income family to help us release additional funding.

Buildings and Expansion Update

The St Paul's site is now almost complete. The Early Years area is being decorated ready for Reception and Nursery classes which start shortly. The construction team will then leave us with a wonderful new school.

The planning application for Alexandra House should be considered by the Local Authority in the next couple of weeks. If the application is successful, we should then be able to proceed to tender. I will keep you updated as to the progress of the application.

School Priorities for this Academic Year

Our main priority, as ever, is to provide a rich and stimulating learning environment for your children so that they enjoy and achieve. In particular we aim to:

- develop further speaking and listening opportunities for children in the Early Years,
- focus on sustained, high-quality writing opportunities particularly in the Infants,
- develop the 'Big Talk' before the 'Big Write' each week, so that children can discuss and extend their ideas before writing,
- increase the number of year 1 pupils passing the phonics screening assessment,
- build on last year's higher attainment at the end of Key Stage 1 (Year 2),
- ensure that children continue to make steady progress in each year group,
- continue to work on the redevelopment plans for Alexandra House to provide a second site for our 2 form entry school,
- secure and enhance our school meal provision,
- launch a redesigned school website,
- embed the new National Curriculum,
- introduce the new changes to the Special Educational Needs framework.

There is a lot to do, but I am sure that we have the right team in place to achieve this.

Homework

We shall be sending home the maths and English homework books shortly. This year, we have introduced a 'reading record' book for all children. This will help to structure the reading homework. We have also changed the number of books being sent home and the way in which they are returned to school.

For children (predominantly the younger ones) who are just learning to read independently we shall send home five books a week. These books will be a mix of reading scheme and class library books. We would ask that you read regularly with your child, helping them to read with increasing independence. Once you have read a book, please record a comment in the reading record for each book and put it in your child's book bag. We will respond to comments in the reading record. There are some suggested comments inside the front cover of the reading record books. Specifying exactly how many books should be read in a week is not easy, so we provide five with a view to reading most or all of them over the week. If four of the five books are read and returned to school we shall send four new books back home along with the fifth book from the week before.

As you know, older children also benefit greatly from reading and discussing their books with an adult. The older, more confident children will bring home fewer, longer books from the class library. Whilst it may not be necessary to have your child read aloud to you, it really helps higher order comprehension if you help your child establish a regular reading routine

and discuss what has happened in the book that they have read and how they respond to it. Again, please sign and comment in the reading record book. We will change your child's books regularly as they finish them.

I hope that you find these reading record books helpful. The system is relatively flexible to reflect varying abilities and needs across classes. If you have any questions about our system, please speak with your child's class teacher.

Extra Curricular Activities

We shall distribute the extra curricular activity brochure later this half term. Please do look out for it.

School Rededication Service – Thursday 25th September 2014

We shall be holding a rededication service for the refurbished school on Thursday 25th September at 2pm. The service will be held in the church with refreshments after the service and a chance to see some of the new building. Bishop Paul of the Kensington Area will be joining us for the service. In addition a number of guests connected to the recovery of the building after the fire and local community figures will be joining us. Most importantly you, our families and friends are most welcome to join us. More details will follow soon, please put the date into your diary.

Annual Calendar

Please find below a copy of the annual calendar. Clearly further updates and additions will be made and shared with you over the year.

Future Newsletters

We usually circulate the school newsletter by email. This newsletter will be produced as a hard copy and as an email but future newsletters will be sent by email only. Hard copies are always available at the school office. If you have not received an email copy of this newsletter and would like to please contact the school office to have your details added to the mailing list.

St Paul's School Calendar 2014-15 – September 2014

September 2014

Thursday 11 th	3:45pm Secondary School Transition Meeting for Y6 Parents
Friday 19 th	3 rd installment of Sayers Croft money due in (Y6)
Thursday 25 th	2pm Rededication Service for the refurbished school (friends and families welcome).

October 2014

Thursday 9 th	10:00am School service – Harvest – Year 5 (friends and families welcome)
Monday 20 th	5-7:30 Autumn term Parents' Evening
Tuesday 21 st	4-6:30 Autumn term Parents' Evening
27 th – 31 st	HALF TERM HOLIDAY

November 2014

Monday 10 th	School Photographs – Families and individuals
Tuesday 11 th	3:40 Parents' curriculum support workshop – details to follow

Monday 24 th – 28 th	Year 6 Residential visit to Sayers Croft
<u>December 2014</u>	
Wednesday 10 th	Globe Players Christmas performance for Juniors
Monday 15 th	School Christmas Lunch
Tuesday 16 th	11:30 Nursery nativity in Chapel (Nursery families only)
Wednesday 17 th	10:00 School Christmas Service – Year 1 (friends and families welcome)
Friday 19 th	Final day of term– EARLY CLOSURE 1:30pm
<u>January 2015</u>	
Monday 5 th	Return to school – Spring term
Wednesday 14 th	9:00 Parents’ curriculum support workshop – details to follow
Friday 23 rd	10:00 School Service – St Paul’s day – Year 2 (friends and families welcome)
<u>February 2015</u>	
16 th – 20 th	HALF TERM HOLIDAY
<u>March 2015</u>	
SUNDAY 1 st	School Sunday – service for our school at St Paul’s church
Monday 2 nd	5-7:30 Autumn term Parents’ Evening
Tuesday 3 rd	4-6:30 Autumn term Parents’ Evening
Thursday 26 th	10:00 School Service – Easter – Years 3 & 4 (friends and families welcome)
Friday 27 th	Final day of term– EARLY CLOSURE 1:30pm
<u>April 2015</u>	
Monday 13 th	Return to school – Summer term
<u>May 2015</u>	
Thursday 7 th	General Election – Nursery class closed on this day
11 th – 15 th	Year 6 SATS Assessment Week
25 th – 29 th	HALF TERM HOLIDAYS
<u>June 2015</u>	
Monday 29 th	Junior Sports Morning – weather permitting
Tuesday 30 th	Infant Sports Morning – weather permitting
<u>July 2015</u>	
Friday 10 th	2pm Recorder concert (Year 4/5 families and friends)
Monday 13 th	5-7pm Parents’ celebration evening – no appointments needed
Friday 17 th	2:30pm – Year 6 Leavers Service & Barbecue (Y6 families and friends)