



St Paul's Friday Round Up

Friday 8th September 2023

Welcome to our round up of news and information for the week.

Welcome

We have had a wonderful start to a very special year this week. The children have settled well into their new classes and have started the curriculum. September 2023 marks the 150th anniversary of our school. St Paul's school opened in the autumn of 1873. Much has changed in that time and much has stayed the same. We shall be marking this anniversary with a range of events throughout the school year. I shall share details in the Friday Roundup throughout the year.

It is lovely to welcome new pupils and their families to the school. We have new children in many year groups as well as those starting school in Nursery and Reception classes. The Friday Roundup comes out by email every Friday – do look out for it.

School Website & Facebook

The school's [website](#) is full of information about the curriculum, news and a downloadable calendar of school events. Do check it regularly. You can also join the [school's Facebook account](#) where we share school news throughout the year.

Term Dates 2023-24

I attach to this Round Up a copy of the school's term dates as well as the events diary for the year. These can also be found on the school's website in the calendar section.

High School Admission Meeting for Year 5 & 6 Parents – Wednesday 27th September 2023, 3:45pm

The high school admission process (September 2024), for pupils currently in Year 6, opened at the start of this month. We shall be holding a workshop for parents of pupils currently in Years 5 & 6, to share information about the admissions process and to answer any questions that you may have. All parents in Years 5 and 6 are welcome to attend, no booking necessary. The meeting will be held at 3:45pm on Wednesday 27th September 2023. Please come to the school office once you have collected your child.

A key part of the process is to attend open evenings at the high schools that you are interested in applying to. The majority of these open events are held in September and October. Some of these events will occur before our meeting in school. I shall circulate a copy of the dates for Hounslow high schools, as well as the application booklet for this year's application round, to Year 5 & 6 parents by email.

150th Anniversary – Calling Ex-pupils and staff!

We need your help! We are looking to make contact with as many ex-pupils, ex-staff/governors and ex-families of the school.

We would like to invite ex-pupils, staff and governors to help us mark this event by recording their most vivid memories of their time at St Paul's. Ideally, we would like a voice recording but would also welcome written text and any photos of school days past. Perhaps it was a school trip, a particular teacher, a group of friends or a specific event or day in the history of the school that stays with you as a memory of the school. Please send contributions to the school via email at:

150years@stpauls.hounslow.sch.uk or by post to: St Paul's CE Primary School, St Paul's Road,

Brentford, TW8 0PN. Please share who you are, when you were connected with the school and your memory!

We shall use the memories to create an audio-visual archive of our school, which we shall share during our anniversary year.

Extra-Curricular Clubs – After school and Peripatetic Instrument Lessons

Over the school year we offer a wide range of after school clubs, as well as peripatetic instrument lessons. I attach details of this term's offer in our Autumn term club brochure. Please read the booklet carefully for details of booking arrangements for each club.

Parent and Teachers' Association – Coffee and Cake meeting – Friday 15th September – 2pm

We have always been blessed to have an active and enthusiastic Parent Teachers' Association, keen to support and build our school community with a range of social activities and support for one another.

As we welcome new families to the school this is a great time to bring our parents, old and new, together at the start of the year to share ideas and to re-energise us all. We are therefore inviting all parents interested in sharing ideas for activities, who are keen to join us for tea, coffee and cake next Friday at 2pm (before school pick up). Please come to the school office. EVERYONE IS WELCOME.

I know that an afternoon meeting may not be practical for everyone. If you are keen to join us, but can't make it, please send your details and ideas to Mr Roy, our school business manager, and we shall keep you in the loop. Mr Roy can be contacted via the school office email:

office@stpauls.hounslow.sch.uk

Homework 2023-24

In our parent survey (March 2023) we had considerable feedback about the homework we provide. We have been working on a more consistent approach to homework – re-assigning priorities and aligning what is sent home more closely to what is being studied in class each week.

Homework should be as positive as possible reinforcing and supporting a child's development and not simply a chore which has to be endured every week. As a parent, I know the pressure and stress that homework can sometimes present. By picking out the most important aspects of learning and bringing greater consistency to the homework we hope to reduce the 'chore' and battle of homework.

Reading

Regular reading is the bedrock of homework. This ideally starts well before children start school, with parents reading regularly to their child as well as telling stories orally. This presents reading as a pleasurable experience, which children value as a shared experience with their parents.

Children need to be read to and later read with for many years into primary school, building upon the enjoyment and routine of having been read to since a very early age. As they enter the upper juniors and become more independent, they still need to read regularly with and discuss their reading with an adult. Children who don't achieve the expected standard for reading at the end of primary school almost universally have a poor pattern of regular reading in their primary school life.

For this reason, we are prioritising regular reading with adults in our homework.

Every child has a red reading record book and will have reading books from school. We want every child to either be read to by an adult, read with an adult or read to an adult and discuss the text

(dependent upon their age) regularly. Each child should therefore have at least one parental comment and signature recorded in their red reading record – which should be returned to school on the day listed in the class newsletter. The red reading record is for recording your child's experiences of reading and literature in its widest sense; so, as well as their school reading books, please record information about what stories you have read to them (Nursery, Reception, Year 1, Year 2), details of any library and home books your child enjoys, details of any plays, musical, films or story events that you attend out of school. All of these things contribute to your child's enjoyment and mastery of reading, which is why they are so important to us too.

If you haven't already, why not visit and join Brentford library a five minute walk from the school. This is a great resource for books and story events and activities. Joining the library is free.

Spelling

In addition to reading, children from Year 1- 6 will receive a spelling homework book which we have created in school. These books include an activity to help learn the spelling, use and meaning of words in the curriculum for their age. **Your child should complete these activities, practising the spelling of the words for homework. There is a section in the spelling book that we want parents to sign and return to school on Tuesday mornings.** Your child will be tested (in the homework book) on a selection of the words for the week. You will see that the words build cumulatively, meaning that each week is not a discrete set of words – as spellings learnt this way rarely stick in our long-term memory. Each child will get a plastic homework folder to keep their spelling booklet in safely between school and home.

Maths

The third piece of homework each week will be a maths worksheet, which is aligned to the learning for the week or half term (rather than the CGP maths books). Your child should complete and return their worksheet to school every Tuesday. The plastic homework folder will help to keep their maths homework together. In addition, children have maths number knowledge passports that they should practise each week.

We want homework to be more effective – to be clearer and less of a chore to complete for parents, to be more closely aligned to the curriculum in school and to have a deeper impact on learning of key skills for each child.

For families seeking further practice at home, please see the curriculum and year group pages on our school website for inspiration.

The first pieces of spelling and maths homework will be issued next Friday (15/09/23).

Medical Appointments during the School Day

We have a really good attendance record in the school, which is really important for learning. The COVID pandemic caused significant disruption to absence patterns in the school. Recently we have seen an increase in the number of parents wishing to collect their children for medical appointments during the school day. This is often very disruptive and we work to minimise these absences as much as we possibly can. We have recently discussed this with the School Attendance Support Officer. By way of guidance, I should like to set out our approach to medical appointments:

Short notice appointments due to illness

Children who need to go to the doctor because they have become unwell should stay at home, as they are ill, and be taken to the doctors. Please notify the school office on the first and subsequent days by telephone or email before the start of the school day.

Non-urgent, routine appointments

Appointments such as dental check-ups and non-urgent dental treatment, optician appointments and routine doctor appointments or vaccinations should not be booked during the school day. Such appointments should be scheduled after school (leaving adequate time to travel to the appointment) or during school holidays.

Paediatric hospital clinic appointments

Some hospital appointments may only occur in working hours, on specific week days. Where this is the case, we ask parents to endeavour to book these on working days during school holidays. In some cases, we recognise that this may not be possible. Where this is the case, we ask that you apply for leave of absence, in good time. This can be done [online](#), or by completing a paper form, available from the school office. You will be asked to provide a copy of the appointment details from your hospital letter (Where letters include specific health information, we do not need this – however it is important to give some more general detail about the reason for the appointment).

Taking siblings out of school

On the rare occasions that an absence during the school day is authorised, we do not allow a sibling to be collected at the same time. Instead, we ask parents to make arrangements for the sibling to be collected by another adult, or to make use of the school's aftercare club.

School Meals 2023-24

From the start of this term, the Junior Free School Meal offer has been introduced. This is a one year initiative funded by the Mayor of London. Under this scheme NO CHILD from Reception to Year 6 needs to pay for a school lunch. If your child is currently having a packed lunch and you would like them to change to a school lunch, please contact the school office on:

office@stpauls.hounslow.sch.uk

Benefits Eligible Free School Meals

Although every primary aged child is now eligible to a free school meal, there is currently additional help for families on state benefits with lower incomes. This support is called *Benefits Eligible Free School meals (BEFSM)*. In addition to a free meal each school day, pupils eligible for *BEFSM* currently receive:

- Free access to activity clubs during school holidays
- Supermarket vouchers to support with food costs during the school holidays
- Pupil Premium funding in school

An application must be made for *BEFSM*. You can check your eligibility and make an application for *BEFSM* by following [this link](#). If you are unsure and need help or advice, please contact the school office.

Menu

Next week's lunch menu is below:

WEEK 3	
1st May	Margherita Pizza 1.3, 2.9 v Loaded Cajun Bean Wedges 1.9 Jackets with a Choice of Toppings 7.8, 9
5th June	New Potatoes Sweetcom Peppers
3rd July	Rice, Cauliflower Carrots
11th Sept	Jam Tart 1.6 & Custard 7 Mr Nourish Biscuit 1
9th Oct	Ice Cream 7 Mr Nourish Biscuit 1 Fruit Pots
	Sweet & Sour Pork Cheesy Pasta Bows 1.7 v Jackets with a Choice of Toppings 7.8, 9
	Rice, Cauliflower Carrots
	Jam Tart 1.6 & Custard 7 Mr Nourish Biscuit 1 Fruit Pots
	Toad in the Hole 1.6, 2.9 Vegetable Toad in The Hole 1.2, 9 v Jackets with a Choice of Toppings 7.8, 9
	Rustic Roast Potatoes Cabbage, Peas
	Fruit Jelly Mr Nourish Biscuit 1 Yoghurt 7 Fruit Pots
	Penne Bolognaise 1 Rice & Bean Burrito 1 1.9 Jackets with a Choice of Toppings 7.8, 9
	Baked Wedges Seasonal Vegetables
	Beetroot Cake 1.9 Mr Nourish Biscuit 1 Yoghurt 7 Fruit Pots
	Fish Fingers 1.8 Cheesy Bean Slice 1.7 v Jackets with a Choice of Toppings 7.8, 9
	Chips, Peas Baked Beans, Coleslaw 9
	Brownie 1.9 Yoghurt 7 Fruit Pots

Contact:

To contact the school, please send an email to office@stpauls.hounslow.sch.uk

To contact the Chair of Governors: chair@stpauls.hounslow.sch.uk

Parent Governors:

Suzanne Forbes: sforbes9.313@lgflmail.org

Tommy Norton: tnorton12.313@lgflmail.org