



St Paul's Friday Round Up

Friday 11th December 2020

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

COVID update

You may have seen details in the press earlier this week about a government announcement to close schools next Thursday rather than Friday. This alteration is too short notice and will inconvenience working parents. As a result, we shall stay with our original term dates. School will be open on Friday 18th December, with an early end of day as planned.

The collection times for next Friday will be staggered as follows:

Nursery 12pm (as usual)

Reception 1:20pm

Year 1 1:15pm

Year 2 1:25pm

Year 3 1:25pm

Year 4 1:20pm

Year 5 1:30pm

Year 6 1:20pm

Isolation

If any member of your household develops COVID symptoms, it is vital that the whole household stays at home until the result of the COVID test for the relevant family member is known.

Quarantine for Overseas Travel

Travel options this year are very restricted for us all. There is insufficient time for travel to a quarantine affected destination. For further information on travel corridors and quarantine regulations, please click [here](#). Children should not be in school during a quarantine period, which is why there is insufficient time within the holiday period to travel to many destinations.

Informing the School of a Positive COVID Case

If your child develops COVID symptoms and tests positive over the holidays, you must notify the school immediately. The period of infection can precede symptoms by 48 hours, so a child or staff member who develops symptoms in the first few days of the holiday may have been infectious whilst at school. The school needs to be informed so that we can identify and inform any direct contacts. All notifications of a positive case should be made **by email** to the school office on: office@stpauls.hounslow.sch.uk

Please be aware that we may contact families over the Christmas holiday if there is a positive COVID case in our school community.

Action:

If your child tests positive for COVID during the school holidays or weekends, contact the school office via email on: office@stpauls.hounslow.sch.uk immediately.

Attention Nursery Parents! Reception Admissions 2021

All nursery families must make an application for a Reception place by 15th January 2021. Applications are made via the Local Authority online. Please find attached to this Round Up a flier with details of the admissions process. If you have any questions, please contact the school office.

Action – Nursery Parents

Complete an application for your child's Reception place via the local authority online application form by 15th January 2021.

School Meals Update

I am delighted to announce that this week we have had a hot school meal every day of the week. This has been a real challenge for the catering team, as the meals are served in the classrooms, to keep COVID bubbles isolated. I would like to thank the catering team for their work on this. In the spring term we hope to introduce a COVID secure return to dining rooms for the vast majority of pupils. We aim to phase the return to dining halls in over the term. There will be more details on this in future Round Ups.

Action:

Contact the school office to sign your child up for hot school meals every day. Remember, school meals are free to all children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2.

School Meals – Single Use Plastic

Providing meals to classrooms has meant that we have had to use more disposable items than usual. I know that many of you have shared our concern to reduce the use of plastics. We are currently using more compostable items and are now asking all parents to provide their child with a reusable drinking water bottle every day in school from January. I know that many of you already do so. Children should bring a filled bottle (water only) in from home each day and take it home at the end of the day to be washed. Children will be able to top up their bottles in school during the day. We shall stop providing drinking water in single use disposable bottles at lunchtime.

Action:

If your child does not already bring a reusable water bottle to school, please provide one for them from January.

Afterschool Sports – Year 3 & 4

The planned Multisports club (Y3) and Dodgeball club (Y4) which were due to run this half term were cancelled as a result of the second national lockdown restrictions. Provided there are no new government measures in January, we anticipate running these clubs for the children originally booked into them, starting in the week beginning 11th January. Miss James, our sports leader will confirm this in writing to enrolled pupils on Wednesday 6th January. There are still a few vacant spaces for Year 3 and 4 pupils.

Action:

If you want your child to join either of the clubs and have not previously enrolled them, please contact the school office.

Peripatetic Instrument Lessons Update

Enrolment for instrument lessons has now closed. This afternoon the brass tutor, Mr Browne, has met the children who will start brass lessons to measure them for an instrument. The outcome will be shared shortly. Music lessons are likely to start in the week beginning 11th January. The Ukulele lessons will take place on a Monday and the brass on a Friday. The school office has contacted parents and shared the music lesson agreement. There will be further contact with instrument purchase/hire details.

Action:

If your child has been confirmed a place in lessons, please complete payment on Parentpay and look out for further details on instrument purchase/hire. If you would like to add your child to the waiting list, please contact the school office.

Class Christmas Parties

Next week we shall have our class parties. They will be slightly different from previous years to keep them COVID secure. **Years 3,4,5 and 6 will have their parties on Tuesday 15th December, Classes N,R and Year 1 and 2 will have their parties on Thursday 17th December.** The children can wear Christmas party clothes on the day of their party. Please help them to choose sensible clothes (be aware that they will still have outdoor playtimes). Expensive, best clothes shouldn't be worn as they may get damaged. Christmas jumpers are great.

Party food contributions are being collected by class teachers. This year all food must be brought to school in the original sealed wrapping from the shop. We won't be able to have homemade food this year. Please also remember that we are a nut free school, so please no nuts or nut products.

Food Bank Collection

I was truly overwhelmed by the response to our Foodbank appeal on Thursday. Once again, the care and generosity of our school community shone through. There was an enormous amount of food that we delivered this afternoon to the Hounslow Foodbox. The volunteer who received it told us it was the largest single donation they have had in years. I am very grateful to you all and can assure you that every donation will go to needy members of our own community.



Scooter Theft

One of our families had their child's scooter stolen whilst playing in the park next to the school last weekend. It was an aqua coloured Mini Micro scooter and matching dinosaur helmet. The scooter had 2 stickers on it, one at the top and one at the bottom of the steering pole. The paint at the bottom of the pole at the back had thinned a bit. If you see it around, please let us know. Please also be aware if you are using the park.

EXTERNAL PARTNERS

In Game Chat

Many computer games have in-app chat functions. These functions can present a safeguarding risk to children. There is a very short You Tube video for parents about these functions. Click [here](#) to view the video.

Action:

Click on the link above for advice for parents.

Hounslow Digital Skills Training

Hounslow Adult and Community Education (HACE) will be running three new digital skills courses (free), starting from January

- a Google Office Advanced course
- a course to help with creating and delivering presentations (PowerPoint and Google slides)
- and a course which helps learners who are new to Online Learning (using Google) but don't feel they have the skills or confidence around the digital side of doing that – It focuses mostly on how to do online learning with HACE, but the skills are transferable if other providers use Google Classroom.

Action:

See the attached course fliers for details of the courses and enrolment.

Contact:

To contact the school, please send an email to office@stpauls.hounslow.sch.uk or phone: 020 8560 3297

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

The office gate is currently kept closed to reduce mixing. You can call the office from the gate if you need face-to-face support.