



# St Paul's CE Primary School

# Newsletter

[www.stpauls.hounslow.sch.uk](http://www.stpauls.hounslow.sch.uk)

26<sup>th</sup> April 2019

## **Message from the Headteacher**

Welcome back to school. I hope that you all had a good Easter break and were able to take advantage of the good weather in the second week. The summer term is always very busy with lots of exciting events and this year is no different. Please do read on to find out more and look out for your class newsletter and overview that your child will bring home shortly.

There is a wealth of information on the school website, including the online calendar which can be synced with your personal diary if you use an electronic diary. Do please have a look at the website if you have not done so recently.

## **Staffing Update**

I am delighted to announce that Mrs Riley gave birth to baby Evie on Easter Sunday. Mother and daughter are both healthy and back at home. I know that you will want to join me in wishing Mr and Mrs Riley and their family well as they welcome Evie into the family. During Mrs Riley's maternity absence we are delighted to welcome Miss Kidd to the teaching team, she will teach RR class for the rest of the school year.

This term we welcome Mr Hunt to the school's cleaning team.

## **Assessment Meeting for Year 2 and Year 6 Parents – Monday 29<sup>th</sup> April**

During the summer term we complete our end of year assessments across the school. Pupils in Years 2 and 6 participate in the statutory national assessments. Pupils in Year 1 and some in Year 2 will complete the statutory phonics screener. Our pupils and staff have worked very hard to prepare for these assessments in a calm and realistic way.

I am sure that many of you will be aware of the national issues around pupil stress, curriculum narrowing and other negative aspects of the annual SATs assessments.

We work very hard to maintain a calm, proportionate approach towards these assessments, to minimise stress. Whilst we want every child to give their very best to their assessments, we do not want them to cause undue stress or define the final term of the school year. We do not narrow the curriculum in Years 2 and 6 and we retain our usual lesson timetables throughout the year. Whilst we do some practice of past papers over the school year, this is only done on two occasions in the autumn and spring terms. We do not do endless test papers in the weeks leading up to the assessment period as we believe this is counterproductive and not good education. Instead we maintain our usual lessons and support.

A couple of years ago we introduced an assessment meeting for parents of pupils in years 2 and 6 to explain the assessment process. We shall hold this year's meeting at 2:30pm on

Monday 29<sup>th</sup> April in the St Paul's Site hall. All parents with pupils in Years 2 and 6 are very welcome to attend.

In terms of preparation for the assessment season all we ask is that you continue to complete the homework that the teachers set, to reassure your child that they are ready and encourage them to do their very best and to help them to manage any nerves they may feel by reminding them how special they are to you and that you want no more from them than their best effort. We will continue to support and reassure them here in school.

Our children are so much more than a numerical mark at the end of a timed test. They are the very special individuals made by God, with unique skills and talents, for whom we have unconditional love.

### **PTFA Easter Tombola**

The spring term ended with the PTFA's Easter egg tombola. It was lovely to see such a big turnout, despite poor weather. I would like to thank the PTFA team for organising another very successful event. The PTFA's fundraising really benefits our children. Over the last year the PTFA funded the new playground markings on both sites and paid for the curriculum enrichment workshops. PTFA events provide a great community event for the school as well as providing funding to keep our 'offer' rich.

Our next PTFA event will be the summer fair on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> July. Do put the date into your diary and look out for information nearer the time.

### **Lent Appeal**

This year's Lent appeal for the community in Musoma, Tanzania with whom Heather Johnstone, our church mission partner is working has been a great success. As well as learning about the Rehema project and the Chechekeya nursery in Nyambeshi, we shared prayer and worship with one another and had a porridge morning on both school sites.



The picture shows the lent boxes that we collected in at the end of the term. The lent boxes were folded into the shape of a chair, as the funds raised will be given to the Chechekeya nursery to buy furniture for their new nursery building. A few boxes are still coming in, but the present total is £468.65. I am once again amazed by the generosity of our community and am certain that this will support the nursery and the work it is doing with the youngest children in Nyambeshi. Thank you all.

### **Polling Station**

The continuing uncertainty over Brexit means that the UK is very likely to participate in European elections on 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2019. As I write, this is not 100% confirmed, however the school's nursery is used as a polling station and therefore **NURSERY will be closed on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2019**. The school will be open to all other classes as usual. Should the situation change I will update you.

### **Upgrade to St Paul's Recreation Ground Playground**

Following the consultation last year, the Friends of St Paul's Recreation and Hounslow Council have secured a contractor to upgrade and improve the playground next to the school.

The text below comes from the Friends and explains a bit more about how and what will happen, as well as giving details of an anniversary event planned for the community during the early May Bank Holiday.

'The contractors will start **works w/c 6<sup>th</sup> May** and we've been instructed by Wicksteed that the playground will need to be **closed for a minimum of 4 weeks** for the works to take place.

We know this will mean no use of it for a month, but we hope that the other parts of the park can be used instead during that time in good weather after school. And it will be worth it when the park is finally improved!

- There will be **some new** equipment, **some replaced, some repaired-** eg the zipwire will get put back in action.
- There will also be some **disability-inclusive equipment** added- eg a wide slide with handles, seats for swings and a roundabout.
- Some **equipment that is in good working order will stay-** eg the climbing net, and all the swings.
- Where needed there will be some **resurfacing**, including an astroturfed under-5 area.

We hope to have a big opening once completed, and also there may be a possibility of a "community help day" if time/weather permits.

We'll keep you posted as we find out more, as we go along. But exciting times and hopefully soon we'll have a greatly improved playspace for our children.

Finally, don't forget that there are big plans for **Brentford May Fayre on Sat 4th May**, as part of the marking of the **130th anniversary of the park** - put it in your diary and do come along (and a last chance to use the swings for a bit!)

## **Parking**

At the end of last term I received a complaint from a resident of Berkeley House regarding parents from our school parking in their resident bays or blocking the entrance to the parking facilities.

Clearly we want to maintain good relations with our neighbours and I am very conscious that the vast majority of families who drive to school park responsibly either in the Morrisons car park or within the parking bays in the Controlled Parking Zone (which does not operate during drop off and pick up times).

Can I ask all parents to avoid driving down Albany Road at all and instead to use safer, more suitable parking close to the school.

## **Walk to School Week & Be Wise on Wheels Day**

During the week of Monday 20<sup>th</sup> May we shall be holding our annual *Walk to School* week. We hold this week every year at the start of summer to encourage walking to school or using bikes and scooters. As the weather improves these forms of transport become more attractive as well as helping to improve health and our environment. Do please look out for more information on how to take part nearer the time.

## **Summer Uniform**

As the weather changes your child is welcome to start wearing the summer uniform. Please ensure that all uniform is labelled clearly with your child's name and class – a cold morning quickly turns into a sweltering afternoon and our children quickly shed their jumpers and cardigans. Reuniting children to their jumpers is much easier when the clothing is clearly labelled. Please check the school's website for details of the uniform requirements. Hair accessories should be in school colours and children choosing to wear summer dresses are not allowed to wear cycling shorts underneath their dress.

## **Annual Seaside Visit for Friends and Families – Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> June**

We are currently in the process of organising our annual seaside visit, which is due to take place on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> June. The visit is for all families and friends of the school. It is a chance to spend a day at the seaside and has always been very successful. Do save the date in your diary and look out for booking details if you would like to join us this year.

## **Coming Up...**

Below I have listed the school's term dates and a list of planned events for the school year. In each newsletter I include updates to the list of dates. The dates are also updated on the website calendar. Copies of the school's term dates can also be downloaded from the school website.

### **Calendar Dates for Parents 2018-19**

#### **April 2019**

Friday 26 <sup>th</sup>	9:30 Prospective Parents' Tour of the School
Monday 29 <sup>th</sup>	2:30 Assessment meeting for Year 2 & Year 6 parents in SPS hall

#### **May 2019**

Monday 6 <sup>th</sup>	BANK HOLIDAY – school closed
Monday 13 <sup>th</sup>	Year 6 SATS week
Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup>	Year 6 SATS week
Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup>	Year 6 SATS week
Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup>	Year 6 SATS week
Friday 17 <sup>th</sup>	Year 6 SATS week
Monday 20 <sup>th</sup>	Walk to School Week Punctuality Week
Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup>	Walk to School Week Punctuality Week Be Wise on Wheels Day
Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Walk to School Week Punctuality Week Year 4 Class visit to Gurdwara (1 class)
Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Walk to School Week Punctuality Week Year 4 Class visit to Gurdwara (1 class)
Friday 24 <sup>th</sup>	Walk to School Week Punctuality Week End of half term
Monday 27 <sup>th</sup>	Non-uniform day for school funds HALF TERM HOLIDAY until Friday 31 <sup>st</sup>

## **June 2019**

Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup>	Class Photographs
Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup>	10:00 Year 4 Pentecost Service (Y2-6) Parents and friends welcome
Saturday 8 <sup>th</sup>	Annual Seaside trip for families and staff
Monday 10 <sup>th</sup>	Year 1 Phonics Screener
Tuesday 11 <sup>th</sup>	Year 1 Phonics Screener
Wednesday 12 <sup>th</sup>	Year 1 Phonics Screener
Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup>	Year 1 Phonics Screener
Friday 14 <sup>th</sup>	INSET DAY – School closed to pupils
Tuesday 25 <sup>th</sup>	AM – Infant Sports Morning
Wednesday 26 <sup>th</sup>	AM – Junior Sports Morning

## **July 2019**

Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Year 6 secondary transfer day
Friday 5 <sup>th</sup>	2pm Recorder Concert
Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup>	3:45 Reception transition to Year 1 meeting for parents in AH hall– Aftercare to relocate
Saturday 13 <sup>th</sup>	PTFA Summer Fair
Monday 15 <sup>th</sup>	5-7 Parents' Celebration Evening
Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup>	2:00 Year 6 Leavers' Service & BBQ – All welcome
Tuesday 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Final Day of the school Year 1:30 Early Closure