



# Newsletter — January 2017



Welcome to the first newsletter of this new year—happy new year to all our families. We are all looking forward to a happy and successful term here at St. Paul's. The new term has already got off to a busy start with lots of wonderful learning going on in the classrooms, around school and beyond! As usual, our children have returned to school ready to learn. Thank you for ensuring that they arrive at school promptly and that they are equipped for their day ahead; this ensures learning can be as effective as possible. Please continue to ensure that your child's uniform is clearly labelled and that they have a full P.E kit and water bottle (containing plain water) in school.

We welcome Mrs Taylor back to school and are also delighted to welcome Mrs Mavi and Miss McCue who have joined our team of valuable Teaching Assistants. A warm welcome also to our new nursery children who are joining our school this term and to two new pupils who are joining our Reception and Year 4 classes. We hope you all enjoy being part of our wonderful school.

Best wishes to you all for 2017.

Mrs Sinclair (Head teacher)

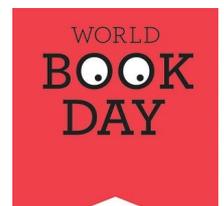


## SCHOOL NEWS AND DIARY UPDATES

Class newsletters are available to view in the "Curriculum" area of the school's website. Please do take the opportunity to read them so you are aware of what your child will be learning over the coming term. We will be uploading some new videos on to the website about national curriculum tests which will be useful for Parents/Carers of Y2 and Y6 pupils to view. As always, your support of learning is always valued and undoubtedly benefits your child. If you have any queries or concerns about your child's progress please arrange an appointment to speak to their teacher in the first instance.

So far this term some of our pupils have already participated in a range of sporting activities. Y6 and Y5 footballers have been very successful in their competitions and one boys' team and one girls' team made it through to the Stockton inter-school football finals. We have also had pupils from Y3 taking part in a "Hoopstartz" workshop where they learned some fantastic hoola-hooping skills. Y4 pupils took part in a netball workshop. We also have a host of talented swimmers and table-tennis players who are representing the school in competitions. Well done to everyone! I will also share the results of the parental questionnaire in the coming days. Thanks for your replies.

- ◆ Safer Internet Day 2017 will take place on Tuesday 7th February with the theme 'Be the change: unite for a better internet.'
- ◆ The Friends of St. Paul's have arranged a Bag 2 School collection for Wednesday 8th February
- ◆ Thursday 2nd March—World Book Day (Mrs Miller will circulate details of events to support this day)
- ◆ Friday 10th March—Fairtrade Breakfast 8am (Mrs Peacock will circulate details)
- ◆ **Tuesday 14th March & Wednesday 15th March—Parents' Evenings** 3.40-6.10pm (the on-line booking system will be uploaded shortly for you to book your appointments) \*Please note that after-school clubs will not run on these dates\*



Thank you for supporting the Evening Gazette "Wish Token" collection. The tokens have been collected by a parish representative and will be added to the parish collection. The money raised from the tokens will support a Lourdes visit for a parishioner.

We are now collecting Sainsbury's Active Kids Vouchers. Please ask your friends and family to support our collection as we often have enough tokens to exchange for playtime equipment. The collection remains open until June 2017.



Year 6 have decided to spend their £250 prize money, from the environmental competition they won in December, on some paper recycling bins and gardening equipment to help improve our school grounds.



## **OUR JOURNEY IN FAITH**

This term we will be supporting the work of Cafod and Fairtrade. We are delighted that Miss Margaret Hodgson will be visiting school once again to promote the work of both of these charities. Miss Hodgson will lead some school Assemblies during Fairtrade Fortnight and to launch our Cafod appeal. Further details will be circulated nearer the time about how we will be supporting these charities.

This year the pupils in our school will be learning more about Oscar Romero, a priest and Archbishop, as well as a supporter of Cafod, from El-Salvador who died in 1980 whilst celebrating Mass. He left a wonderful legacy of inspiration about the importance of peace, supporting the poor, community values and the wonderful challenge to "Aspire not to have more, but to be more."



**CAFOD**  
Just one world

**Aspire**  
have not to **more**  
but to be **more**

This term we continue to pray for our Year 4 pupils who are preparing for their First Holy Communion. Please keep Amelia in your prayers as she continues to receive treatment for her illness. We also pray for her family and friends at this difficult time.

## **ATTENDANCE AND SAFEGUARDING**

Thank you for your continued support with ensuring that children attend school every day and on time. Our current school attendance since September is 95.96%

Forty of our pupils had 100% attendance during the Autumn Term—well done children.

Attendance for January 2017 is reported below

Reception:	99%
Year 1:	95%
Year 2:	96%
Year 3:	99%
Year 4:	97%
Year 5:	93.5%
Year 6:	95%



Please continue to report absence due to illness by 10am on the first day of absence. This should be done by phoning the school office. A slip is to be completed when your child returns—these are available in the porch. Requests for leave of absence during term time are to be made; forms are available in the porch. Holidays taken during term time should be avoided if possible. The school has a duty to monitor attendance and punctuality and the school attendance officer from the Local Authority also monitors attendance. National school attendance is 96% and as a school it is our aim to be above this national target—thank you for your support.

As always the safety and well-being of your child is of prime importance. This term the children will learn more about being safe on-line. Across the school, learning will promote the safe use of the internet. Mrs Cooke will be uploading some information on to the school website to share what the children have been learning. If you have any concerns regarding safeguarding then please contact myself, Mrs Sinclair, as Designated Safeguarding Lead or Mrs Peacock as Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead.

To ensure that our school premises and surrounding area is a safe place to be please ensure that scooters and bikes are not mounted whilst inside the school grounds. Please park considerately and safely around school and continue to support our "Walk to School" campaign. Many thanks.

## **HEALTHY SCHOOLS**

This term we have launched our "Phunky Foods" initiative. Mrs Tattersdill has worked with some Y6 ambassadors who are encouraging pupils to make healthy choices at lunch time and beyond the school day. We launched our initiative last week when the Y6 pupils led an assembly to share some information with the children. Part of the initiative is for the children to organise a quiz and fun activities, conduct a survey about food and exercise and plan a presentation for parents and carers. We also support the "Change 4 Life" initiative, encouraging the children to be active and develop healthy lifestyles. Please support us by ensuring pupils make healthy choices with packed lunches. Many thanks.