



Newsletter — January 2018



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 in school.

We welcome Cohen and Emily who have joined Y2, and Anya who has joined Y5. A warm welcome also to our new nursery children who are joining our school this term. Mrs Wilson will be returning to school in March following maternity leave. We look forward to having her back at school. Sadly this means that we say goodbye to Miss Meredith. We are so grateful to her for the contribution she has made to our school and wish her well in her new school.

Best wishes to you all for 2018.

Mrs Sinclair (Head teacher)

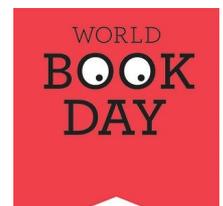


SCHOOL NEWS AND DIARY UPDATES

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. Miss Wilberforce and Mrs Lankford will soon be holding a SATs information session for parents, after which we will be uploading some new videos on to the website about national curriculum tests. 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.

Please also remember that our school website contains lots of information about school events. Children who attend sporting events also write a blog which can be found on the PE / Sport tab by clicking on the Gold Mark logo. We also 'tweet' information and news so if you are a Twitter user you may like to follow us—see the home page on the website.

- ◆ **5-9th February is Internet Safety Week**—activities will take place with the theme 'Create, Connect and Share Respect; a better internet starts with you.' Every child will learn more about on-line safety. Our updated E-safety policy is now on our website for you to view.
- ◆ **Friday 23rd February**—CAFOD Lent Fast Day (see overleaf)
- ◆ **Thursday 1st March**—World Book Day (Mrs Miller will circulate details of events to support this day)
- ◆ **Friday 9th March**—Fairtrade Breakfast 8am (Mrs Peacock will circulate details)
- ◆ **Monday 26th March & Wednesday 28th 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***



PARENTS AS PARTNERS

You may remember completing a questionnaire about homework just before the summer holidays. Your views were considered when we revisited our homework policy during the Autumn Term. Mrs Miller and Year 3 trialled a new approach to homework which was very well received and in the light of this we have reviewed our homework policy. Our updated policy is available on the 'Prospectus and Policies' tab on the website. After February half term this will be our whole school approach to homework so look out for your child's 'homework menu' as well as any advice and guidance from their teacher. We hope you find this beneficial.



OUR JOURNEY IN FAITH

Although it feels like we have just celebrated the season of Christmas, the Church's year moves on to the season of Lent which begins on Ash Wednesday, 14th February. During Lent the children will be taking turns to bring home a prayer bag to share with their families. We also support the CAFOD appeal "Give it Up" which reminds us that as a Catholic community we should never give up on the poorest people and are challenged to build a better world this Lent. On **Friday 23rd February** we will take part in the CAFOD appeal—Children will be invited to donate money they have saved by giving up a treat. Children are welcome to also "Be a goodie—wear a hoodie" as an outward sign of their contribution and may wear a hoodie for the day instead of their school jumper or cardigan. During school assembly in the week leading up to the CAFOD appeal the children will learn more about the impact of the work of CAFOD on a Zimbabwean community. Our school collection point for the Billingham Food Bank is always open and we are very grateful for your continued donations.



CAFOD
Just one world

Lent 2018

This year our children will be presenting class liturgies to focus on the special events of Holy Week. Families are welcome to join us in the school hall on the day of their child's class liturgy.

Foundation Stage—Monday 26th March at 9.15am
Class 1 and Class 2—Tuesday 27th March at 9.15am
Class 3 and Class 4—Wednesday 28th March at 9.15am
Class 5 and Class 6—Thursday 29th March at 9.15am



This term we pray for our Year 4 pupils who are preparing for their First Holy Communion. Please also 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 school attendance for the Autumn term is 95.3% which, unfortunately is lower than our school target of 96.5%. Please remember to avoid holidays during term time, as well as non-urgent appointments. 51 of our pupils had 100% attendance during the Autumn Term—well done !

Attendance for Autumn Term 2017 is reported below

Reception:	94.8%
Year 1:	94.9%
Year 2:	94.8%
Year 3:	97.7%
Year 4:	94.9%
Year 5:	94.6%
Year 6:	95.6%

Well done Year 3



To ensure that our school premise 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.

As you know, the school has a policy of not allowing pupils to wear jewellery, other than a watch. Therefore ears should not be newly pierced during the school year. This should be saved for the summer holidays. Many thanks for your support.

HEALTHY SCHOOLS

Children from Y1—Y6 will recently have brought home a leaflet from Change 4 Life about a Family Snack Challenge. As a school we encourage healthy eating and life styles including a wide range of active learning, active playtimes and lunchtimes, two 60 minute PE lessons per week as well as opportunities to take part in sports competitions and after-school clubs. Please ensure that fruit and vegetables are included in any packed lunches and only one "treat" snack. We encourage refillable drink containers to help save excessive waste. Our new recycling bin at school will encourage us all to be more environmentally friendly.



change
4 life
Eat well Move more Live longer

