



Newsletter—September 2017



A WARM WELCOME

Welcome back to the new school year—we do hope you had a lovely break over the summer to enjoy some family time together. As always our children have returned to school very ready for the year ahead; thank you for ensuring that they are wearing the correct school uniform and are well organised! It has been a very smooth start to the beginning of term and we look forward to lots of successful weeks ahead. A very warm welcome to our new families who have joined our school. We hope you enjoy your journey with us and we look forward to getting to know you well. This term we also welcome Miss Beth Meredith who joins our teaching team as Y5 class teacher. Miss Jenny Nichols is our new trainee teacher and will initially work in Y3 with Mrs Miller and Mrs Tattersdill. Mrs Williams is undertaking her teacher training qualification this term and will be working in Nursery and Year 1. We also welcome back Miss O'Kell who returns as our Year 1 teacher.

To help you stay informed, our school website contains an extensive range of information about our school including an on-line calendar of events so please do take a look. Class newsletters will be uploaded onto the school web-site in the Curriculum area. Thank you to those parents and carers who completed the homework questionnaire at the end of the summer term. The results of the questionnaire will support us in the review of our homework policy. As always, if you have any queries or concerns about any aspect of school life, please do let us know.

Thank you for your ongoing support of everything we do at St. Paul's.

With very best wishes,
Mrs Sheena Sinclair
Head teacher.



A GREAT START



As you know attendance and punctuality are very important to help ensure that your child makes the best progress they can at school. Our attendance this week is 95.3% and everyone has been punctual, which means the school day can get off to a prompt and efficient start. Many thanks.

Please remember to phone the school office before 10am (earlier if possible) if your child is going to be absent and to follow-up absence by completing the form in the school porch. Holidays and non-urgent medical/dental appointments should be avoided during school time. I am unable to authorise requests for holidays due to legal regulations (except in exceptional circumstances) therefore any absence would be recorded as unauthorised.

Teaching staff supervise the beginning of the school day (from 8.40am). Once you have brought your child to school, using the Thames Road entrance whenever possible, we request that you leave the school playground so that duty teachers can supervise the children easily. At the end of the day please avoid coming into the school grounds before 3pm as lessons are often still going on outdoors. Dogs are not allowed within the school grounds and we also request that mobile phones and other electronic devices are not used within the school grounds. Many thanks for your co-operation.

PARENT PARTNERSHIPS

We know our best partners in education are you, our parents and carers. We always encourage open and honest conversations to ensure the best possible outcomes for your child. Therefore, if you have any queries or concerns then please do bring them to our attention by either calling into school, telephone to make an appointment with your child's class teacher or speak to myself or Mrs Peacock, Deputy Head. Duty teachers at the beginning of the day can pass on general messages to your child's teacher. There will be an opportunity for you to meet your child's class teacher and discuss their progress on **Monday 16th October or Wednesday 18th October**. The on-line booking system will open on Monday 11th September at 5.30pm so you can select a convenient appointment time.

SAFE GUARDING AND PUPIL WELFARE

We are committed to ensuring that the children in our care are kept safe at all times; our child protection policy, along with our behaviour and anti-bullying policies all ensure that we are compliant with the expectations in the government's "Keeping Children Safe in Education" document. As mentioned on the end of term newsletter, we will be working in partnership with the NSPCC this term to deliver their "Speak out Stay Safe" message which will help empower children to keep themselves safe. Next week there will be some assemblies in school for KS1 and KS2 pupils where their message will be delivered in a child friendly way. **On Tuesday 19th September from 2-3pm**, there will be a parent/carer workshop about on-line safety in the school hall. We encourage you to attend so you are fully informed about how to keep your child safe in this digital age. Further details about the workshop and the assemblies will be sent out shortly.



Mrs Sinclair is the designated safeguarding lead and Mrs Peacock is the deputy designated safeguarding lead. Should you ever need to raise a safeguarding concern then please do so.

As well as our commitment to safety, we also take seriously our responsibility in ensuring that our pupils develop healthy lifestyles. We encourage our children to be active and to take good care of their bodies. Children are encouraged to make healthy choices at lunch time—meals provided by school meet nutritional regulations. It is therefore essential that children on packed lunches have an equally nutritious meal. Please avoid including more than one sweet treat and ensure that at least one portion of fruit or vegetables are included. **IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT PRODUCTS CONTAINING NUTS ARE NOT INCLUDED AS WE HAVE SOME PUPILS WITH SEVERE NUT ALLERGIES.** Sweets, chocolate bars and fizzy drinks are also not allowed.

Over previous years, it has been noticeable that an increasing number of children are bringing birthday cakes into school. Whilst we appreciate that this is a very generous way to celebrate birthdays, it is also time consuming for staff to prepare the cake and it also means that children are frequently having cake at school. Therefore we will no longer be accepting birthday cakes or birthday sweets in school. We do hope you understand our reasons for this.

To ensure that your child's uniform is kept safe, please ensure that each item of clothing is clearly labelled. This will avoid unnecessary upset and expense. Many thanks.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Tuesday 12th September (5-6pm) - A presentation by Mr Ramsey, Headteacher of St Michael's Catholic Academy, and Mr Rochester Year 7 Head of Year, for Parents and Carers of Y5 and Y6 children.

Monday 18th - Friday 22nd September - Y6 Bikeability - Bikes needed in school each day.

Tuesday 19th September (2-3pm) - NSPCC Parent/Carer information workshop about On-line safety. Everyone welcome and encouraged to attend.

Friday 29th September (1.45-3pm) - Macmillan Coffee Afternoon

Monday 9th - Friday 20th October - Y3 Swimming each morning

Thursday 12th October - Friends of St Paul's Disco

Monday 16th and Wednesday 18th October (3.40 - 6.10pm) - Parents Consultation Evenings

WE ARE STILL COLLECTING FOOD/TOILETRY ITEMS FOR BILLINGHAM FOODBANK.

ANY DONATIONS CAN BE PLACED IN THE COLLECTION POINT NEAR THE SCHOOL OFFICE