

St Paul's Newsletter – Autumn 20.09.24

'One body, every person, growing together.'

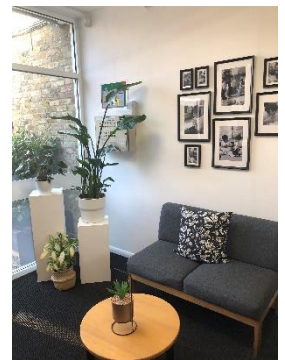


Safeguarding Team: Julieanne Taylor – Headteacher and Designated Safeguarding Lead
Linda Tritton – Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead

Headteacher's Message

Dear Parents,

We were inspected by Ofsted in March and on Wednesday, we had our SIAMs inspection. This is a completely separate process to Ofsted and applies only to church schools. It was an incredibly busy day but it gave us a chance to celebrate the work of the school and our wonderful pupils, parents, governors and fabulous staff team. Special thanks to Mrs Simpson, Mrs Mathews, Mrs Cole, Mrs Medhurst, Mrs Cheung, Ms Addis and Mrs Warman, for meeting with the inspector. Your feedback about St Paul's helped paint a picture of what our school is like, day in and day out from the viewpoint of a parent. Thank you also to our governors, Penny Wallace, Stephen Howard, Sheila Hoover and Sunny Pau who met with the inspector to share their experiences as governors, helping to bring all of the information gathered during the day 'to life'. Thank you also to an often unsung hero, our clerk to governors, Mrs Wells who does a huge amount of work behind the scenes, which we would be lost without. Although unable to join us on Wednesday, we hope she is feeling much better soon. We now have to wait for our report which will arrive within 15 working days.



The refurbishment of the entrance hall is complete and the transformation really is stunning! The photos do not do justice to how beautiful the space is now. Thank you, Mrs Deen, for organising the contractors and to Mrs Buchanan and Mr Pearson for helping with the finishing touches. Every visitor has commented on how amazing this space looks and how warm and welcoming it is.



Thank you to Mrs Thornhill for this morning's assembly. As you may remember, she has been instrumental in many of our children having their short stories and poetry published and this morning, she presented certificates to another 40 of our pupils whose work has been selected to be published. She also shared a new writing opportunity, available to all pupils, involving writing a Wonder Verse poem.



Finally, thank you very much for your generous donations today - we raised £297 for Jeans for Genes with today's non-uniform day. To those parents who wanted to donate this morning but had no change - worry not, just send your donation in on Monday.

There is a yellow weather warning of thunderstorms this weekend and if you are travelling, take extra care. Have a good weekend, everyone - Mrs Taylor

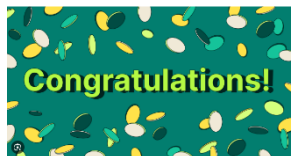
Punctuality



There have been an increasing number of pupils arriving late to school. Can we remind everyone again that the Murray Road gates close promptly at 8.40am – the time that school starts. The traffic in and around school can be very congested, but as this is a historical problem, it is something that all parents should be well aware of. If you travel to school by car, additional time should be built into your journey to allow for traffic and parking to ensure a prompt arrival.

If late, **you should accompany your child all the way into the school office**, entering via the Oxford Road entrance, to sign them in and notify us as to the reason why your child has missed the start of school.

Congratulations!



Congratulations to Laura Clements, Paul Evans, Joanne Wong and Luke Morris on their appointment as governors of St Paul's. We are very much looking forward to working alongside you and in partnership for the best possible outcomes for all our pupils.

Diversity

At St Paul's, we recognise, respect and welcome everyone's different backgrounds, identities and experiences and endeavour to reflect the diversity of our community through our curriculum.

We think carefully about powerful knowledge which is relevant to our local context and ensure that Fundamental British Values and themes of equality and diversity are woven through our curriculum in meaningful and relevant ways. We are mindful of whose stories we tell and seek to ensure that the diversity of our school family is reflected through the rich and interesting knowledge we teach.

Our school is currently made up of 374 pupils and a team of 53 staff and we are immensely proud to have 28% of our pupils who speak one or more languages in addition to English – 30 different languages in total! Our Learning Mentors, Mrs McBain, Mrs Judd, Mrs Gray, Mrs Holt and Mrs Alessandrini reflected this earlier in the week, scaling ladders to hang a vibrant display of the flags of the nations of the world along the ceiling of the link corridor and in the library, they hung 'Welcome' written in the 30 languages spoken in our school. It looks amazing!



Forest School News

It has been a pleasure to start the new school year with class sessions with 6T and 5B. They rose to the challenge to create pieces of art using natural items from the woodland floor. As you can see from the photos, they have embraced our school values of ~we encourage and collaborate~ and ~we have a voice and we listen to others~ to create these masterpieces:



Our first set of afternoon groups have met and started to build new friendships. They showed how they were ready to learn and used copious amounts of determination and resilience while learning how to tie a reef knot. Some even mastered tying the knot with their eyes closed!

Mrs McBain and Mrs Gray are looking forward to all the adventures that these groups will share over the term.



23/09	30/09	07/10	14/10	21/10	04/11	11/11	18/11	25/11	02/12
4P	3D	6S	5M	4R	3B	6D	5K	4L	3H

Curriculum Information Evening – Wednesday 25th September



We are looking forward to welcoming you to our Curriculum information Evening next Wednesday. Each teaching team will give a short presentation about what their pupils will be learning from now until next July.

Each presentation will be delivered twice (5:00pm & 5:45pm) so parents with children in different year groups have the opportunity to attend. For this event, please enter school via the Murray Road where staff will be waiting at the link doors to direct you to classrooms.

There will be no access via the Oxford Road entrance. All visitors should enter and exit via the playground.

New Parent Tours

If you know any prospective new parents who may be interested in a tour of our fabulous school, we are now taking bookings.

Tour dates are:

2pm Wednesday 9th October

9am Thursday 10th October

9am Thursday 28th November

2pm Friday 29th November



Prospective parents can book a place on a tour via TicketSource using this link: [Click here to book on our tour](#)

If you or anyone you know has a child due to start school in September 2025 please do book onto one of Walter Infant School's tours: www.ticketsource.co.uk/walter-infant-school

School Uniform and Games Kit

We are seeing a number of pupils coming to school wearing items which are not school uniform/PE kit. School shoes should not be replaced with brightly coloured trainers and PE kit must not be replaced with football kit. Jewellery is not appropriate for school and no necklaces or bracelets should be worn. For full details of our uniform policy see the Key Information document or our website.

Book Fair



The Book Fair will be in school from Tuesday 24th September - Monday 30th September, with over 200 new children's books to browse and buy! If you are unable to join us, gift vouchers are available at www.travellingbooks.co.uk/parents.

St. Paul's earns **FREE BOOKS** for every book sold at the Fair, so this is a great opportunity to support the work of the school and help us stock up our classrooms with new resources. We hope to see you there!

1st Schools and Grassroots fixture of 2024-25 Season.

You have been invited to Reading Football Club's 1st Schools and Grassroots Fixture of 2024-25!

When?

Reading vs Crawley Town

Saturday 19th October, 12.30pm kick off

Where?

Select Car Leasing Stadium

How to qualify for the discount and confirm your attendance?

To redeem, please visit <https://ticketing.readingfc.co.uk> and enter the following unique coupon code: #StPaulsCE in the basket once you have logged in and selected your tickets which will be discounted to the below prices:

13 and under: £1
17 and under: £3
18-24: £5
Adult: £10

We are delighted to advise that during this match, Max (3B) has been invited to go onto the pitch at half time to play football with his team! This is a very exciting opportunity and we hope Max and his team have great fun!

Parent Consultations

This term Parents' Consultations are scheduled to take place on **Wednesday 6th November 3.40pm-7.00pm and Thursday 7th November 8.40am – 11.30am**. Booking is online and further information will follow nearer the time.

They will be face to face meetings and you will have the opportunity to look through books and visit classrooms. Meetings with teachers will take place in the main hall.

After School Club – Junior Adventure Group

JAG's After School Club offer fun, happy and safe places for children to play freely across age groups and take part in structured activities such as arts and crafts and active play. Providing an energising end to the school day, children can join group activities, enjoy a healthy snack, or chill out with toys and games that are all set up and ready for them to enjoy.

Find out more at: <https://www.junioradventuresgroup.co.uk/term-time/after-school-club/>

Absence Reporting

We no longer have access to the Absence Reporting section of ParentMail. Absences must be reported in writing by emailing absence@stpauls.wokingham.sch.uk

If your child is not able to attend school due to illness, you must email by 8.15am on each day of the absence, ensuring you give your child's name, class and symptoms. Stating that your child is 'unwell' is not sufficient information for our records.

Any request for term time leave must be in writing on our Leave of Absence Request Form, which can be found on our website under parents > absence reporting

Next Week at School

Week of 23 rd September	Clubs Start
Tuesday 24 th – Monday 30 th September	Book Fair
Wednesday 25 th September	Curriculum Information Evening 5-5.30pm & 5.45-6.15pm
Diary Dates	
Tuesday 1 st October	Individual Pupil Photographs
Friday 4 th October 9.00am	3D Class Assembly 9.00am
Friday 11 th October 9.00am	3H Class Assembly 9.00am
Monday 14 th October	House Captain Election
Tuesday 15 th – Friday 18 th October	Year 6 Residential Trip to Liddington
Friday 18 th October 9.00am	3B Class Assembly 9.00am
Tuesday 22 nd October	Flu Immunisation (details to follow)
Friday 25 th October 9.00am	6D Class Assembly 9.00am
Friday 25 th October 3.30pm finish	Break up for Half Term
Monday 4 th November	Children Return to School
Wednesday 6 th November 3.40pm – 7.00pm	Parent Consultations
Thursday 7 th November 8.40am – 11.40am	Parent Consultations
Friday 15 th November 9.00am	5B Class Assembly
Friday 22 nd November 9.00am	6T Class Assembly
Friday 29 th November 9.00am	5M Class Assembly
Thursday 5 th December 9.00am	4R Class Assembly

Monday 9 th December 2.00pm	Christmas Performance at St Paul's Church
Tuesday 10 th December 2.00pm and 5.00pm	Christmas Performance at St Paul's Church

Little Sips BIG ADVENTURES

Dear parent/guardian,

As you may be aware your child's school has a milk scheme, administered by Cool Milk. Mid-morning milk provides a much-needed nutritional boost and keeps children hydrated between breakfast and lunch. Children receive free milk until the age of 5. After that, they can continue to reap the benefits of fresh mid-morning milk at a subsidised* cost.

If you'd like to opt in and have not already done so, simply register your child at www.coolmilk.com/register. Your child(ren) will continue to receive free milk whilst under the age of 5 and Cool Milk will get in touch with further information by email shortly before their 5th birthday.

For children who are already over 5, it's not too late – our scheme is flexible! As well as being able to register and make payment straight away, you can join and cancel the scheme at any time. We offer yearly, termly and half termly payment periods and a recurring payment option to give you one less thing to remember.

If you already have an online Cool Milk account for a sibling, you can manage your account, make payment and add extra children by logging in at www.coolmilk.com/parents.

Should you have any questions or need any help, send us a message at www.coolmilk.com/contact or give us a call on the number listed below – we're here to help!

Kind regards,

Cool Milk

☎: 0800 321 3248

🌐: www.coolmilk.com



SCAN TO REGISTER

*Milk for under-5s is fully funded by DHSC via the Nursery Milk Scheme. Milk for over-5s is subsidised by Defra via the School Milk Scheme.

UNIVERSAL VOICES

PERFORMANCE MUSICIANSHIP COMMUNITY

Director Dr Rebecca Berkley, Associate Professor in Music Education

Universal Voices thanks you for your continued support which has helped us bring the joy of singing to children in Reading.

Performances and events in 2023 – 24

Universal Voices have been busy performing around Reading this year.



We were delighted to join the Berkshire County Choirs in a joint concert at the University Great Hall on 23.3.24, where we performed *Everyday Wonders: The Girl from Aleppo*, by Cecilia Macdowall. This piece tells the extraordinary story of Nujeen Mustafa, a Kurdish teenager with cerebral palsy forced by war to flee her home and embark on an arduous journey with her sister from Syria to Europe. The cantata tells Nujeen's story through chorales, rhythmic spoken sections, body percussion, and a solo violin part infused with Middle Eastern flavours. The prevailing mood of Nujeen's story is embodied by the final line of a chorale that bookends this unique concert work: 'singing the song of life itself.'

Universal Voices also performed a mini-opera in this concert, *The Moonrakers* by Malcolm Williamson. Set on the south west tip of Cornwall, the opera told the story of some very clever smugglers and very stupid soldiers who could not see the skulduggery going on under their very noses. The children acted out the music with drama and actions justly receiving very warm applause from the audience for their excellent singing.

THE ABBEY FRINGE FESTIVAL

Saturday 28 September
10am to 12.30pm

Join members of The Abbey's Drama team and Sabina Netherclift, Co Artistic Director at Filament Theatre Company for a drama workshop

This fabulous drama workshop is for students in year groups 4-5 and is a great opportunity for students to experiment with a range of performative and collaborative skills.

Students will work in groups and participate in different workshops that will allow them to develop their vocal and physical abilities and their use of the performative space.

A lot of fun to be had!



SCAN ME

FAMILY FUN

Crafts, games and a safe space to chat in an inclusive environment!

2ND Wednesday each month 4.15 - 5.15pm

Children must be supervised by a parent/carer at all times

FREE Drop-In

ASD Family Help

For neurodiverse adults & families!

in Earley








JAG

Term Time Clubs

Running at your school!

Fun packed multi-activity clubs for every child

At Junior Adventures Group UK, we understand the importance of creating a nurturing space where children can thrive. Our clubs are more than just activities - they are opportunities for your child to build confidence, make friends and develop crucial skills.

- ✓ A big dose of fun beyond the school day!
- ✓ Make new friends across all age groups
- ✓ Delivered by a team of expertly trained professionals
- ✓ Keep active and improve wellbeing
- ✓ Explore creativity and a wide range of interests



SCAN HERE TO BOOK NOW OR FIND OUT MORE!




[@junioradventuresgroupuk](https://www.junioradventuresgroup.co.uk)
[junioradventuresgroup.co.uk](https://www.junioradventuresgroup.co.uk) 0333 577 1533