



Friday 20th December 2024

St Paul's News



St Paul's Church of England Primary School vision:

Jesus said, 'Let the little children come to me' Matthew 19:14.

We are all equally important, listened to and loved by God.



Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome to our final newsletter of 2024.

In our last week before the Christmas break there has been much festive fun to enjoy at St Paul's. This week our children in Years 1 to 6 watched the pantomime at the Royal Spa Centre. At the same time our Early Years children enjoyed a craft afternoon, with a number of you able to join us. Yesterday, the whole school travelled to St Paul's Church and together enjoyed a lovely Christmas service. As always, thank you to the Church team for organising and leading this for us; especially Katy who did a superb job. We also saw some wonderful kindness as our term ended. Yesterday, I had the pleasure of taking a considerable amount of food to the Food Bank to distribute to those in need. Thank you to everyone that donated. A special mention needs to go to Mrs Gilbert (parent), whose workplace donated a large amount. We thank you for your kindness. Another mention needs to go to Mrs Lord and her team of Year 3 & 4 children. Last week, after school, they sold bracelets that they had made. Then, with the money raised, they went with Mrs Lord and Mr Broad to Asda and bought a huge amount of food, that was also delivered to the Food Bank yesterday. Please find a photo overleaf of the children and the food that they purchased. Thank you all for thinking of others.

This year has been yet another year of highs and lows at St Paul's. This term we finally had our much anticipated SIAMS Church Inspection. This was a high as it went incredibly well, and we were very pleased that our wonderful school was recognised. Our strong school values and vision were very clear to the inspector and, as a result, we received a very positive report. Sadly, at Easter we experienced a huge low, as we lost another member of our St Paul's family, Miss Reading. Once again, as a school, we had to navigate through a time of great loss and much sadness. I know, as we move towards Christmas, many of our thoughts are with both Miss Reading's family and Neive's family, who we lost a short time before this.

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I am pleased to finish the last newsletter of the year with some good news. Over the past 12 months I have been working to raise the funds to convert our courtyard into a spiritual and memorial space. To both remember those that we have lost and also to have somewhere to pray, reflect and find quiet. I am delighted to tell you that we now have the necessary funds to be able to start this project next term, ready for us to enjoy in the warmer months. Thanks to various grants; our PTA and a very generous donation from the St Paul's Trust Fund, we are now able to start this work. We will be installing two benches; one in memory of Neive and the other in memory of Miss Reading. I will share more information with you in the New Year, as I will need to put together a working party to do some preparation work.

Just before we return back to school after Christmas, St Pauls Church will be hosting their second Hope meeting. This will, once again, take place at school, on Sunday 5th January 2025 at 4.00pm. I know the Church team would be delighted to welcome you to this.

Finally, I have included a photo at the top of this newsletter which was taken a few weeks ago by Mr Hawkins. He was called into the hall by some astonished children, who noticed that we had a beam of light that had broken through our curtains. They spotted that the light looked as though it was coming directly from the Christmas star and shining on the rest of the bible images. What an amazing image Mr Hawkins was then able to capture for us all to enjoy.

Thank you to the PTA and volunteers who gave up their time to wrap all the books to hand out to our children. It is very much appreciated. Finally, thank you on behalf of all the staff for the cards and presents many of you have sent in. We all very much appreciate your thoughtfulness.

I wish you all a wonderful Christmas, which I hope is full of love, laughter and kindness.

God Bless

Mr Matthew Bown
Headteacher



Christian Ethos Group

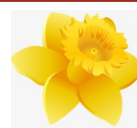
House Points

Paper Chain Prayers

As a family, write your prayers on strips of paper. They could be thank you, sorry or please prayers. Join them together to make paper chain, and use them to decorate your house or tree for Christmas.



St Andrew: 505



St David: 500



St Patrick: 470

St George: 417



Parents Prayer Meeting

The next parents prayer meetings will take place on:

Monday 13th January

Friday 7th February

Thursday 6th April

Tuesday 1st April

The meetings will take place in the Breakfast Club Room at 9.00am - 9.30am. Everyone welcome!

FOOD BANK

We would like to thank everyone for the wonderful donations received from the school to the Foodbank. We would like to wish each and every one of you a Merry Christmas and peaceful New Year.

Lateness

This week there have been **153** minutes late recorded. This is less than last week - but there has still been a lot of absences through illness.

We are carefully monitoring each individual pupils' time-keeping, working with Warwickshire County Council's Attendance Officer. Please see the chart below to show how this affects learning.

If in a school year your child is late everyday...	Your child would have lost approximately...	Or they would have missed approximately...
5 minutes	3.5 days from school	20 lessons
10 minutes	7 days from school	41 lessons
15 minutes	10 days from school	55 lessons
20 minutes	14.5 days from school	82 lessons
30 minutes	22 days from school	123 lessons

Applications for Reception 2025

We have received an email from Warwickshire Admissions to remind families of the importance of making their applications on time for a school place in Reception for September 2025. The closing date is Wednesday 15th January and offers will be made on Wednesday 16th April 2025.

Below is a link for the Admissions Department. It contains clear instructions on how to apply, and also gives information on local schools and contact details for the department.

<https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/homepage/421/applying-for-a-primary-school-place>

Fair Access and Vulnerable Learners Coordinator
School Admissions
Warwickshire Council

Coming Late into School

Yet again another reminder that if your child will be coming into school late (whether you overslept, travel problems, medical appt etc) - and they would like a school meal - you will need to inform the school office before 9.20am of your child's meal choice to enable it to be included in the numbers given to our catering staff.

Connect for Health

Connect for Health will be visiting the school on the 20th January 2025 to carry out a Health Needs Assessment with our Year 6 pupils and also carrying out Heights and Weights Assessments with Reception and Year 6 pupils. An email was sent out earlier this week to all Reception and Year 6 parents/carers giving all the relevant details.

PTA

Congratulations on making it to the end of Autumn Term 2 - it's been a busy term!

One outstanding announcement is the winner of the "where's Santa" co-ordinates game from the craft fair - Mr Broad chose the winner from the closest of three and the winner was Ella Harrison! Her prize was kindly donated by Arcade Sweets, based on Clarendon Street (<https://www.arcadesweets.co.uk/>) so do pop in and support them if you are passing by and are in need of some sweet treats.

You may recall that last year we were fundraising for improvements to the front collection area and so over Christmas holidays there are some changes taking place: improving and opening out the space where the children come out in the first instance and then later some planters in the house colours, benches and you may even see the school values illustrated too.



Thank you for all your support and all that remains is to wish you all a very happy Christmas.

Reminders

Monday 6th January - Teacher Training Day - School Closed to Pupils

Tuesday 7th January - First Day of the Spring Term

Wednesday 8th December - Class 3/4C Going Swimming

Thursday 9th December - Class 5/6A Going Swimming

Monday 13th January - Parent Prayer Meeting at 9.00am

Monday 20th January - Connect for Health Heights and Weights for Reception and Year 6 Pupils

ATTACHMENTS AND LINKS TO ONLINE RESOURCES

- * For this week's Family Information Service Newsletter go to <https://mailchi.mp/warwickshire/family-information-service-newsletter-1219204-96fqcdqqs-8827436?e=3e5007f40c>
- * Link to a padlet put together by EMTAS designed to support newly arrived/EAL families - <https://padlet.com/emtasadmin/warwickshire-support-networks-for-newly-arrived-families-17w1oinhjbndi0yc>
- * For the latest Parenting Project newsletter go to <https://mailchi.mp/9ce1a34e3af6/parentingprojectwinter-2024-newsletter-13871692>
- * Barnardo's Arty Party flyer
- * Happy News Issue 80