



St. Paul's Dorking

Church of England (Aided) Primary School

Newsletter | Friday 2nd October 2020 | No. 3

Dear Parents and Carers,

I trust this finds you and your family well in these very strange times. We are settling into our new 'normal' here with children remembering to be an arm's reach apart and staff making some changes to how they teach in order to keep everyone safe. This readjustment brings to mind a quote I have on my wall by Vivian Greene "Life isn't about waiting for the storm to pass; it's about learning to dance in the rain". Things are different right now and we are having to get used to not being able to do some of the things we enjoy but our mindset about these things can make such a difference. We have been thinking about this with some of the children—looking at things differently to see if we can still be positive and achieve. I don't know about you but I have been wearing my metaphorical wellies for a while now and actually I really am getting used to them! Let's dance in the rain!

It was lovely that so many of you could join us for 'Meet the teacher' this week and I hope you feel you have got to know your child's teacher and that you were able to use the chat box to raise questions. If you have any specific questions or queries please do contact them via info@stpauls-dorking.surrey.sch.uk and they will respond within a day or two. We do apologise for the technical issues that there were with the Year 4 meeting and we are actually going to re-do that meeting in full on Wednesday 7th October at 4.00pm. Same time, same place, a week later and let's hope technology is kinder this time!

You may be aware that the teaching of Relationships and Health Education has recently become statutory in schools and we will be sharing more information with you about this over the coming months. For some of the teaching of RSE (Relationships and Sex Education) we use the Chris Winter 'Teaching R.S.E with Confidence in Primary Schools' resources, from Year R to Y 6, which are recommended by 'Surrey Healthy Schools'. All lessons have a clear structure, are age appropriate and are designed to be built upon prior learning with each subsequent year.

As we went into lockdown in March, the children missed out on this learning, which is taught by the class teachers. We felt that, due to the fact that only some children returned to school in June, it was best to wait until this academic year to teach these lessons. As a result, the children will need to be taught the lessons they missed last academic year, as well as the ones intended for their year group.

Our intention is for the children to be taught the "catch up" lessons during the next half term. The remaining lessons will be taught in due course before the end of July 2021. Your child's class teacher will be sending you further information prior to the lessons being taught. We will also be sending out our revised RSE policy within the next couple of weeks and this explains, in more detail, our aims for RSE at St Paul's as well as the content and organisation of the curriculum.

FOSPA had their annual AGM last night and I am delighted we have new Co-chairs: Sarah Rees and Tara Laws. Thank you to Tahmina Quddus who chaired last year and we are looking forward to the exciting plans that FOSPA have for us this year. Watch this space! They aren't thinking about what they can't do but are thinking what can they do... exciting ventures!

We have some exciting news in school too. I am delighted to tell you that Mrs Bryan is expecting a baby! Her bump is due in January, so she apologises if you haven't seen as much of her as usual as she is having to take more care with regard to social distancing. I too have some news; I am going for my final treatment at the chemo suite tomorrow! The prognosis is very positive and I will soon be back in person. I just have to give it a month for my resistance to start to pull up. I can't wait to be back in the building after half term. Thank you so much for your hugely supportive thoughts, words and prayers over the last year. I have really valued yours and the children's cards and messages.

I trust you received my letter with regard to our home learning offer in case we need to isolate. We will also be using the website portal for homework too. Please do have a read of the paperwork and return your 'charter' via the year group e mail address. Wishing you a restful weekend, Mrs Alden

Social Distancing in the Lane

Please can we remind you to arrive at school on time (neither early, nor late...but just right) Some people are arriving slightly too early which is causing queuing in the lane. In the afternoons, once you have picked up your child/ren please remember to continue to stay in single file as you walk away from school so that social distancing can be maintained. Thank you.



Just a reminder...

Public Health England advice is that if any of the 3 covid symptoms are present then your child must isolate and get a test. We cannot accept a GP diagnosis of 'not covid' without a test **unless** the GP has a clear alternative diagnosis.

Please can we remind you that if you are in isolation you should not leave isolation to pick or drop off your child and if a child is isolating they can not come on the school run to pick up a sibling. Thank you

PLEASE FIND ATTACHED A MULIT-AGENCY GUIDE ON SUPPORTING THE WELLBEING AND HEALTH OF YOUR CHILD WHICH WE HAVE BEEN ASKED TO SHARE



THANK YOU FROM ST PAUL'S CHURCH

St Paul's Church would like to pass on huge thanks to parents for their kind donations to the Food Bank. Any further donations can be left at the church over the weekend.



HAPPY SHOES DAY, 20TH OCTOBER

In celebration of International Walk to School month, the children are invited to wear the shoes that make them happiest. The brighter, the better. Children can 'bling' their shoes with coloured laces and accessories, if they wish. Please keep them practical. Voluntary donation £1 to Living Streets.



HEADLICE IN SCHOOL!

We have had reports of headlice in school so please check your child's hair and treat if appropriate. Thank you.

Dates for the Autumn Term (new info in **RED**)

- W/B 12th Oct - Y 1&2 Virtual Multi-Skills
- 15th Oct - 4.30 pm to 8 pm, Parents Eve
- W/B 19th Oct - KS2 Virtual X Country
- **20th Oct - Happy Shoes Day**
- 20th Oct - 3.40pm to 6pm - Parents Eve
- 23rd Oct - INSET (School closed to pupils)
- **26th-30th Oct - Half Term**
- 2nd Nov - Back to School
- 4th Nov - 9.30 am - Virtual Open Day for Reception 2021
- 11th Nov - 7 pm - Virtual Open Eve (R21)
- 12th & 13th Nov - Nasal Flu Immunisations
- W/B 16th Nov - Y1&2 Virtual Multi-Skills
- W/B 23rd Nov - KS2 Virtual X Country
- **W/B 23rd Nov - Y6 Bikeability (Grp 1)**
- **W/B 30th Nov - Y6 Bikeability (Grp 2)**
- **18th December - 1.30 pm - End of Term**
- **4th January 2021 - INSET Day**
- **5th January 2021 - First Day of Spring Term**

ALL VIRTUAL SPORT WILL BE DURING PE TIME



Congratulations to all the children and families of St Paul's School, on receiving the **Bronze award from Modeshift STARS**. This national scheme recognises the work done by schools to support sustainable travel, with the aim of improving the health and wellbeing of children and young people.

At St Paul's, we use Travel Tracker, the year round Walk to School Challenge. Each day the children record their active journeys to earn their WOW badges each month. Look out for the September badge next week.

October is International Walk to School Month. Why not join the challenge and walk, cycle, scoot or park and stride to school for the month of October? There are lots of great ideas for things to do on the way, on our Safer Routes page on the website. Have a look at the Family Walk to School Kit and the Family Walk from Home Resources for fun games to play along the way.

<https://www.stpaulsschool-dorking.co.uk/page/?title=Safe+Routes+to+School&pid=20>

Next year, we are aiming for the Silver Award with even more of our children using active travel on their route to school. Join in, if you are able and let's do this together. Thank you to Mrs Atkinson for her work in this venture

Clay delights

Year 3 have been making coil pots in design technology. The children used cross hatching to make sure the clay coils stuck together. Next, we will be evaluating our work when it has dried.



SAFETY AT DROP OFF AND PICK UP TIMES

Please would parents who accompany their younger children up to school make sure that they are with them at all times, particularly when crossing the lane to the school. We often have delivery vehicles up at school.

Also, please note that NO PARENTS are to park in the Safe Zone outside. No-one is to drive up past the Safe Zone unless by prior arrangement.

