



# St. Paul's Dorking

## Church of England (Aided) Primary School

Newsletter | Wednesday 19th December 2018 | No. 8

Dear Parents and Carers,

As the term draws to a close we have much to celebrate and thank God for. It has been really lovely to welcome so many of you to Christmas services over the last couple of weeks. Reception beautifully depicted the Christmas story, interspersing the narrative with lovely singing. They did a super job! Years 1 and 2 told the Nativity story through the perspective of the townsfolk of Bethlehem in the play 'Busy, busy Bethlehem'. Again they sang the songs and spoke their words with such enthusiasm, giving a really impressive performance and should be commended wholeheartedly. Then Yrs 3–6 treated us to a service where the Christmas story was narrated and interspersed with prayers and carols as well as Yr 4 taking the lead with the short play 'The Inn-spectors'. This was a lovely act of worship and reminded us that Jesus is God's gift of love to us all. Thank you too to the clergy from St Paul's, Rev Ruth and Rev Peter, who gave us some thoughts to ponder and a challenge with regard to how we will respond to Jesus this Christmas time.

Also through this half term we have been considering the theme of 'Trust' - one of our school values—and considered what does trust mean to each of us and the importance it plays in relationship building and development. We have also explored that Jesus is with us in the stormy times of life and that we can trust him to be with us through all aspects of our lives. We have looked at our Trust value statement and begun to explore this in order to understand what it means to each of us. *The Christian message is that God can be trusted - we can put our faith in him and confidently rely on him to have our best interests at heart. Trust must be at the core of every healthy team and community: it means we can feel safe. At St Paul's school we learn how to earn the trust of others, how to be trusting and secure in our relationships, and how to rebuild trust when it is broken.*

I would like to thank all of the staff at St Paul's for their dedication and hard work this term. They have all worked tirelessly to ensure we could give our very best to your children. However there is one person I would like to mention in particular—Mrs Malia. It is with great sadness that we say goodbye to Mrs Malia today. She has served at St Paul's for 15 years as Deputy Head (including two terms as Acting Head) and has invested her absolute all into St Paul's. No doubt many of your children have been touched by her kindness and excellent teaching to ensure that they are nurtured and are able to flourish. She is retiring in order to spend more time with her family, and particularly to enjoy being a more present Grandma. However I am delighted to tell you that she has agreed to run some interventions one afternoon a week and your financial contributions to the St Paul's Trust Fund has made this possible. So your children will be able to continue to benefit from her excellent teaching through these catch up groups. As a school we have said a number of fond farewells—singing songs, making cards and bunting and sharing special memories. As a staff we hosted a tea party for Mrs Malia and were delighted that so many of her ex-colleagues from both here and her previous school—Newdigate—were able to join us to say a very fond farewell. We would like to wish her all the best as she starts this next chapter.

I hope you have a very good Christmas break where you will have time for family gatherings and moments to reflect.

Best wishes for a very Happy Christmas,



**Thank you to parents who have made some changes to their driving and parking arrangements. There now seem to be far less cars moving at the very busy times. It also makes for a healthier start and end to the day. Please keep this habit at the start of next term.**



### St Paul's shine at Gymnastics



A large gymnastics squad from Yrs 3–6 took part in the annual Dorking Schools gymnastics competition. The children did a super job and came 4th overall. Three individual medals were also won in the vault, by Tilly (3rd), Nancy (2nd) and Amelia (joint 1st). Well done!



### Year 6 Bookclub

Each half term, Year 6 have a book recommendation for Bookclub. The year group are encouraged to, if they wish, read the book and then attend the book club that takes place during the last week of each half term. This half term we have read 'A boy called Hope'. We met on Friday to discuss the book and to do a number of activities based around it. It was overwhelmingly enjoyed by all. Like all good bookclubs we also have ample portions of cake! The photo below relates to the 'fashion show' that we held (you need to read the book to find out why!). Thank you to Mrs Eborn for helping me lead this club.



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

- 19th December - End of Term, 1.30 pm
- 3rd January - First Day of Spring Term
- 10th January - Y1 & Y3 Swimming
- 14th January - Y2 Great Fire of London Workshop

#### **Advance Notice...**

**Please note we are doing Parents' Evening slightly later in the Spring term. The dates will be**

- Tuesday 26th February 3.40—6pm
- Thursday 28th February 4.30—8pm

Wishing you a very Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year from everyone at St Paul's

### Breakfast Club new menu

In response to recent media reports and parental concerns with regard to sugar intake, Breakfast Club will be primarily serving only low sugar cereals from January. They will have a treat day once a week where Cocopops and Frosties will be offered. They will no longer serve scotch pancakes but will continue to offer toast and muffins with spreads. Fruit and yoghurts will also come onto the menu.

### Thank you

I am sure the children would like me to thank the kitchen



staff and school staff for a really super Christmas dinner last week. It was really tasty and so nice to have so many children having a sit down meal together.

Shelter

### CHRISTMAS JUMPER APPEAL

Thank you to everyone who brought in some money on Christmas dinner day to wear their festive jumper—we raised £235 for Shelter.

### **YEAR 6 END OF TERM DONUT SALE AND CAROL SINGING**

Year 6 will be selling donuts and singing carols in the lane at 1.30 pm tomorrow to raise money for their Leavers' Fund



A really big well done to Sports Crew—through their efforts of running a range of lunchtime activities they raised £193.58 for Children in Need

Well done and thank you to all of the children and staff who worked so well to help us understand the true meaning of Christmas through our varied Christmas services. For a full report please look at the website [www.stpaulsschool-dorking.co.uk/news](http://www.stpaulsschool-dorking.co.uk/news)



### Selected to run for Surrey!

**Lucas, Samuel, Shaun and Joe have recently been to Cheshire to represent Surrey at a National Cross Country competition. They were 4 of 15 children chosen from the whole county to represent Surrey.**

**A remarkable achievement for St Paul's—well done boys!**

Please see the attached document for all of the sports reports for events that have taken place this term. Thank you to Miss George and the children for putting these reports together.

