

St. Paul's Newsletter

December 2017

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Dear Parents – Mrs. M. F. Johnson



As this is the final newsletter before Christmas, may I take this opportunity to thank you for the unstinting support you give to the school and I hope you have a blessed and peaceful Christmas. As always I have so much to thank our wonderful parents for, since the news of my retirement I have been inundated with the kindest messages, I have been truly blessed to share in your community for so long.

I have been reading the children's written contribution to the end of term data capture, they are a joy to read. I note how fondly they write about their teachers, the educational visits and the fun of learning, what a joy.

Advent Celebrations – Mrs. H. Townsend

Please find below a summary of our Advent activities. Parents are naturally welcome, but please remember that pre-school children may only attend these occasions if they are able to sit silently for the duration. It is so disappointing for pupils and their parents if their contribution cannot be seen or heard.

- Tuesday 12th December (Families with surnames A-J), Wednesday 13th December (Families with surnames H-Z) at 9.30am Year 1 and 2 Christmas Concert for parents in the School Hall.
- Thursday 14th December at 9.30 'The Reception Nativity' (St. Bernadette and St. Matthew's classes) in the School Hall.
- Thursday 14th December at 7.00pm 'An Evening of Carols & Readings' (Years 5 and 6) in Our Lady of Lourdes Church
- Thursday 21st December 9.30am End of Term Advent Mass for KS2 in Our Lady of Lourdes Church; 10.30am End of Term Advent Liturgy for Foundation and KS1 Children in Our Lady of Lourdes Church.

Christmas Letter Box- Mrs. L. Smith

The pupils' Christmas Letterbox will appear on Wednesday 30th November. Cards to both pupils in other classes and school staff may be posted. We ask that you do not include any sweets or chocolates within the card to be fair to all children. Please remind your children to address their cards fully by including: Christian name, surname, the class name and year group as shown here.



James Dickinson

Reception- St Matthew's



Winter Weather

-Mrs Smith

Although the weather is still very mild at present, the school has a procedure for school closure in the event of severe weather. As the school telephone line does become congested, information regarding school closure can be obtained via:

- our own website - updated by 7am
- the Surrey website <http://www.surreycc.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/schools/school-closures>

Key Stage 2 Field Clothes-

Mrs. H. Mourzag

After the success of last year, 'field clothes' returns again for Key Stage 2 children after October half-term.

Children in Years 3-6 are invited to bring in a pair of old trainers and a set of old clothes (large enough to wear over their uniform). Wearing these clothes, one year group per day will go onto the field for football or free play at lunchtime.

All items must be in a named carrier bag; shoes and clothes must be labelled. These will be sent home at the end of each half-term. Please note that St Paul's P.E. kit cannot be used as field clothes



Easy fundraising –Mr. T. Cooper , Parent

The website allows you to make donations to our PTA (SPPA) while just going about your usual day to day online shopping. Registration is quick and easy and then just one extra click registers you for donations when shopping. Most major retailers are listed. Please do not forget to Gift Aid it as well. Easy Fundraising can also be used via the App on all mobile devices. There really is almost nothing that you cannot get through Easy Fundraising.

So far our total raised is £8313.14 (on 20th November) with 178 supporters (two new members since my last ramblings so thank you both). Let's still aim for £9000 by the end of 2017. A Christmas push please. If a present cannot be bought by EF then it is plainly rubbish.

I must dedicate this month to the Doyle family who have had three boys through St Pauls and they have just left our EF having raised over £1000 for the school. To be fair Maurice now has 17 bicycles, 6 dishwashers, three sheds to keep them in and more insurance policies than you could possibly need but their boys were never short of pencils.

Have a restful and peaceful month and, as always, thank you to everyone on board and let us please keep trying to get more supporters. This is the key thing to our success. I have managed to get Santa Claus to sign up and so, if he can, you can. Happy Christmas one and all.

Enrichment – Mrs. A. Rawsthorne

Enrichment is one of the most popular events in the school each week; the children really enjoy working across year groups, learning new and exciting skills. We are very fortunate to have such supportive parents to help us provide such varied and interesting subjects.

In order to keep things fresh for the children, we change the enrichment options each term and I am now looking for volunteers to help provide some new subjects, either from January or from the start of the Summer term. I would particularly like to hear from parents who could support us in one of the following areas:

Science

Knitting or sewing

Hockey

Keep fit

Baking or cooking

Gardening

A foreign language, other than Italian (as this is taught in school)

Classes run each Friday from 2.15-3pm over the course of a term. We are also very happy for parents to share enrichment sessions, either in pairs or alternating, depending on availability.

If you are able to help with any of these suggestions, or have an alternative skill you could offer, please contact me by email at:

enrichmentmanager@stpauls-thamesditton.surrey.sch.uk

Educational Visits

Reception trip to Chertsey Museum –Miss de Jesus and Mr Goddard

On Tuesday 21st November and Wednesday 22nd November, the Reception children went on their first school trip to Chertsey Museum. With their current topic being 'toys' the children thoroughly enjoyed making the link between their classroom learning and the visit. They all participated in group work, where they had the opportunity to enhance their learning about various indoor and outdoor toys, clothes and household items from the past. Activities included sorting, investigating how different toys worked, exploring through interactive activities, dressing up and role play. They made Victorian thaumatropes, the 19th Century's answer to the optical illusion!

We now look forward to our next adventure, finding mini-beasts at Alice Holt next term!



Year 2 visit to local surroundings- Mrs. H. Townsend, Mr.R. Birkbeck and Mrs. J. Roberts

To help study our topic on the local area, Year 2 walked around the roads near our school to observe their immediate surroundings. The focus of the visit was for the children to note which safety features have been placed around St. Paul's school to help keep them safe. The walk also highlighted the dangers around our school such as cars driving too fast and cars parking on the pavement, but also reassured us that most cars slow down when they see children. Having learnt about tally charts in previous weeks, Year 2 carried out a traffic survey and recorded the number of different vehicles that passed by.

Information from Subject Leaders

P.E. – Mr. R. Birkbeck

Esher football tournament

On Friday 10th November, the St Paul's football team travelled to Cobham to take part in the annual Esher football tournament. There were eleven teams taking part and each team played four games with the top four teams going into play-off games. St Paul's gave a good account of themselves and were unlucky to see results not quite go their way. We missed out on the play-off games but could quite easily have made it with a little more luck. Well done to all the boys and thank you to the parents who volunteered to help with transport.



The Daily Run

This month saw the launch of 'The Daily Run', an initiative to help keep children active and making healthy choices. Each day the children get outside and walk, jog or run for 10-15 minutes. The children record their progress and set their own personalised fitness targets, whether it is to complete a larger distance or simply to aim to jog rather than walk. Thank you to the staff at Saint Paul's who have approached the run with great enthusiasm and well done to all of the children for taking part with such positivity.



Lost Property – Mrs. A. Paterson

Dear parents, I am responsible for lost property within school. Many children know to look for their lost items but are unable to find them due to the fact they aren't named. Many times, items have clearly been labelled with a permanent marker that unfortunately washes out and is impossible to read. Ensuring every item has a clear name tag sewn or ironed on is imperative to allow our children to be able to develop their independence by locating their lost items. As with every other aspect of St. Paul's life we endeavour that our children are able to follow the Expectation and Continuity Grid and take responsibility of their belongings and if misplaced have the independence to find the item themselves.

I thought at this time it might be beneficial to refresh all parents and inform new parents, of the St. Paul's Lost Property process:

Green box- first point of call for the children. ALL lost items are placed into the green box first and kept in the green box from Monday – Friday. The green box is placed in the hallway, accessible to all children. Children are responsible for looking for their own lost items during their break times. Teachers also remind children in class each week to look for any missing items of clothing. If your child is in Foundation/Key Stage 1 and is finding this difficult, please remind them they can always ask a teacher or a Teaching Assistant to guide them in the right direction.

Yellow box- after 1 week, I move all remaining items left in the green box to the yellow box which children still have access to for one more week. The yellow box is placed in the studio.

Red box- if an unnamed item has not been claimed for two weeks it is moved to the red box which is placed on the field on Friday afternoons for parents and children to look through. Named items are kept in the yellow box so that children still have the opportunity to retrieve these items independently.

At the end of every half term on the last day all items remaining, named and unnamed, will be placed outside for parents and children to retrieve. Lastly, but not least, any unnamed items that accumulate over a half term in the red box that aren't retrieved, will be forwarded to SPPA for the second hand uniform sales.

Congratulations

The school is very proud to share that Lottie A. from Year 3 achieved first place in the Elmbridge Literary Competition in the age 8-11 category. Many congratulations Lottie!

<http://www.rcsherrifftrust.org.uk/website/lfw17.htm>



Coats**- Mrs. E. Nicholas**

Now that the weather is colder, please ensure that your child has a coat with them every day. When the weather is suitable the children will go outside at break times.

Tights and socks**- Mrs .E. Nicholas**

Do you have any spare children's tights and socks? If you do, we would be glad to have them. During the winter the children sometimes fall in puddles leaving their tights and socks uncomfortable or torn. We like to keep a small store of spares to help us with these situations.

Thank you for your help with this and do return these items to the school office as soon as possible for the next person in need.

Christmas Party Day**- Mrs. L. Pryor**

Just a reminder that on **Wednesday 13th December** - the day of the children's Christmas lunch and Christmas party afternoon – children can wear their own clothes to school that day. (Please do ensure that these are up to the rigours of the school day).

Poppy Appeal- Mrs. L. Pryor

We are delighted to share that we have raised £583.26 this year. Many thanks to the wonderful Year 6 pupils who took the poppies round the classrooms and to all the children who gave so generously.

**News from the Office** – Mrs. L. Smith**Provision of birthday treats in school and food allergies**

– Mrs .S. Thuilliez

St Paul's has a number of children who have a severe food allergy. Some of these children may experience a reaction if they are in the same room as the allergen, particularly nuts and sesame seeds. The school has in place a procedure to ensure that all staff and catering staff are aware of children with food allergies, but with packed lunches it is the responsibility of the parents to ensure that the food supplied is appropriate. There is an increased use of sesame in cooking, for example it is often used for flavouring and decorative purposes in foods and cooking does not destroy its ability to cause allergic reactions. For this reason could I please remind you to consider this when purchasing items for your child's lunch? It is also important that you ensure that your child knows not to share their food at school. Your help in this matter is very much appreciated.

Surrey Healthy Schools is a joint project between Education and Health services across the county. In line with this, please note that we cannot safely allow children to distribute sweets (or other edibles) in school when it is their birthday. However, parents are more than welcome to distribute treats after school when other parents can make the decision whether their child may accept one or not.

School Meals – Mrs. S. Thuilliez

If you wish your child to change between school meals or packed lunch next term, notice must be received in writing, via an email to meals@stpauls-thamesditton.surrey.sch.uk by **Wednesday 20th December 2017**. To allow sufficient time for the kitchen to process the necessary orders, it will not be possible to accept any changes after this date. Please note that it is not possible to switch between school meals and packed lunch mid-term. Changes can only be made at the end of each half-term or full-term.

In line with Surrey County Council guidelines, parents must make their payments, on-line to Tucasi, prior to the start of the Spring term. If you require any further assistance with school meal arrangements or payment, please do not hesitate to contact the school office.

School Clubs – Mrs .L. Pryor

The Spring Term timetable and booking forms for clubs will be available on the website at the beginning of January. Please complete the relevant booking forms and return to the School Office, via your child's book bag, by Wednesday 10th January. A booking form is required to secure a place on any club and places are allocated on a first come, first served basis.

Dates for all clubs are given on the timetable and individual booking forms. Please check these dates carefully and make a note of the dates. When a club is cancelled due to unforeseen circumstances the office will send a Parentmail.

SPPA

We love to hear of new ideas for fundraising opportunities. If you have any great ideas, or would like to organise and lead a one off event without joining the committee, please do let us know.

New members are also very welcome at any time of the year so please contact us if you would like to be join us <mailto:sppa@stpauls-thamesditton.surrey.sch.uk>.

Our next SPPA meeting is on 23rd January 2018 at 7pm

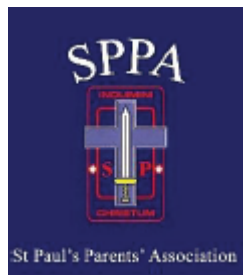
Upcoming SPPA events for your diary:

Saturday 2nd December – Christmas Fair

The Christmas Fair team have a wonderful afternoon of festive fun planned for everyone. We look forward to seeing you there from midday!

Saturday 16th December at 10.30am – Santa Fun Run

All welcome!. Entrance fee is £2. Please wear full costume or Santa hat. Coffee & Mince pies will be on sale from 9.30am



Need new school shoes?

Pop into Hopscotch in East Molesey (opposite Tesco's), tell them you're from St Paul's school and for every pair of school shoes sold they will donate £1 to SPPA. So support a local business and you'll be supporting your school, too!



Parent to Parent

The last day for submission to the January newsletter is Thursday 7th February. Please forward all wording as a Word attachment to info@stpauls-thamesditton.surrey.sch.uk



RideLondon 2018 - Ballot now Open

The ballot for the 2018 St Paul's RideLondon team places is now open! Are you looking for a challenge for 2018? Did you feel inspired by watching the riders in the summer? Sign up now for the ballot to cycle 100 miles from London through the beautiful Surrey countryside **on Sunday 29th July 2018**. We have 5 places available. If selected in the ballot, you will need to pay a £70 entrance fee to secure your place and then commit to fundraising a minimum of £400 to cover the ballot fee and to raise money for the school. For more information and an entrance form, please email elaineheywood99@hotmail.com or Gavin.mcquire@gmail.com. For more information on the ride check out www.prudentialridelondon.co.uk. If the event that we have more than 5 applicants, the ballot places will be drawn at the Christmas Fair! Good luck!!

Parent to Parent

Kids yoga at St Pauls

They love it! From January give Yoga a go; your child can join us on the mat Thursdays 8-8.45am or register your interest for another class to take place Tuesday mornings. £6/session incl. snack – Sophia Gambietz – Mother of Anton Year 6 and Oscar Year 3

Adults yoga at St Pauls

Every Monday 8-9.15pm I welcome you in the Studio for a mix of gentle, dynamic and restful Yoga. All levels of fitness & experience welcome. Drop-in £10.00

Check out the kids' feedback (Photo) on www.sophiayogaforall.com under Petits Yogis or find about more about me and what I offer to support you in your health and wellbeing. Sophia Gambietz – Mother of Anton Year 6 and Oscar Year 3.

The Arts Hub UK

We are delighted to announce The Arts Hub UK Christmas Craft days will be running at St Paul's on Saturday 9th and 16th December 2017.

Taking inspiration from our favourite Christmas books we will be making unique and creative Christmas gifts while also keeping your little artists entertained while you get your Christmas shopping done!

Please see details below

Location: The Studio, St Paul's Primary School, Hampton Court Way, Thames Ditton, Surrey

Times: The day will begin at 9am and end at 3pm.

Cost: £35 per day per child.

Available extras

- Early drop off / late collection

As we know every minute counts when it comes to Christmas shopping, we are offering an early drop off at 8.30 for a charge of £5. You can also collect your child later at 3.30 for a further charge of £5

- Lunch

We will provide your child with a healthy packed lunch and drink so you do not need to think about preparing one. This is available for £5 per child.

If you would like to book, please contact us at theartshubuk@gmail.com

If you would like to see more of what we do you can go to our website www.theartshubuk.co.uk or follow us on FB @ The Arts Hub UK

Jo Aird – Mother of Charles in Year 6

Dates for your Diary

December	Autumn Term
Friday 1 st	Deadline for Children to register for Christmas Lunch
Saturday 2 nd	12.00pm Christmas Fair
Thursday 7 th	Last day for submissions to the January Newsletter
Friday 8 th	Feast of the Immaculate Conception of Mary
Monday 11 th	All clubs finish this week
Tuesday 12 th	9.30am Years 1 & 2 Christmas Concert for parents in school hall. (Families with surnames A-J) 10.30am School nurse in for Flu vac Year R,1,2,3
Wednesday 13 th	Children may wear their home clothes to school today 9.30am Years 1 & 2 Christmas Concert for parents in school hall. (Families with surnames K - Z) 12.00pm Christmas lunch in the school hall, children's party afternoon
Thursday 14 th	9.30am Reception Nativity Play for parents in school hall 7.00pm An Evening of Carols and Readings presented by years 5 and 6 at Our Lady of Lourdes Church
Friday 15 th	1.00pm Father Christmas might visit if everyone is very good!
Saturday 16 th	10.30am SPPA Santa Fun Run
Monday 18 th	Children's Christmas Entertainment
Tuesday 19 th	4.30pm Report Surgery
Wednesday 20 th	1.00pm Children's DVD afternoon
Thursday 21 st	9.30am End of term Advent Mass for KS2 at Our Lady of Lourdes Church. (Year 3 & 4 to organise) There will be a retiring collection for the Cardinal Hume Centre 10.30am End of term Advent Liturgy for Foundation Stage and KS1 at Our Lady of Lourdes Church. There will be a retiring collection for the Cardinal Hume Centre During interval SPPA will serve refreshments School closes at 1:15pm for all pupils for Christmas Holiday
January	Spring Term
Thursday 4 th	School re-opens for pupils This term's Lenten appeal charity is Missio