

St. Paul's Newsletter

November 2017

Hampton Court Way, Thames Ditton, Surrey KT7 0LP Telephone: 0208 398 6791

Web site: www.stpauls-thamesditton.surrey.sch.uk e.mail: Info@stpauls-thamesditton.surrey.sch.uk

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Dear Parents – Mrs. M. F. Johnson

As the half term is now behind us we are already a sixth of the way through this academic year. All our new children have settled wonderfully well due in no small measure to the kindness and inclusive nature of our wonderful children.

Our attendance figures are very good indeed, pupils are also very prompt and lateness is rare. I would however like to draw parents' attention to the impact an avoidable absence has on the other children. A lesson missed leaves a gap in learning, either the current teacher or subsequent teachers will identify this gap and have to ensure this is filled if the correct foundations for learning are to take place. As such an absence taken as a choice brings with it a cost to the other children as their teacher is gap filling for a child whose parent chose to remove them, rather than working directly with the class.

Pearson's Teaching Awards were televised on BBC2 on Sunday 29th October. Mrs Townsend was one of the seven finalists, an incredible feat.

http://www.surreycomet.co.uk/news/15600892_Outstanding_Thames_Ditton_teacher_nominated_for_Britain_s_Classroom_Heroes_2017/

The newsletter is full to bursting as usual and we hope you will find it interesting and informative. Thank you as always for your support and encouragement.

Headteacher's Awards

Congratulations to the following recipients of this half term's Headteacher's Award

St Bernadette	Florence B.	Olivia M.	Aimee M.
St Matthew	Lucia D.	Lilianna H.	Julian R.
St Luke	Ben G.	Cassius O.	Elijah S.
St Elizabeth	Tom H.	Logan H.	Leo Y.
St Francis	Olanna B.	Rocco C.	Olivia W.
St Mary	James C.	Amy C.	Eloise L.
St John	Samuel L.	Lavinia M.	Isla G.
St Peter	Eva H.	Anya O.	Piers W.
St Joseph	Jasmine H.	Zachary T.	Ethan T.
St Bernard	Dominic H.	Ava H.	Pip R.
St Anne	Roza L.	Elizabeth L.	Leonardo S.
St Thomas	Cristiano B.	Evie L.	Harry N.
St Anthony	Amelia E.	Hetti R.	Britt T.
St Margaret	Anais C.	Robin C.	Gia L.



Headteacher's Awards are presented at the end of each ½ term during one of our celebration assemblies. There are three awards per class for outstanding achievement in any area. Therefore not all children will necessarily receive one within a given year. All teaching staff will endeavour to ensure children's strengths are recognised and rewarded so that every child has the potential to gain at least one award per Key Stage.

Private School Reports – Mrs. O. DeMoraes

We are beginning to receive requests for report-writing for children wishing to apply to private schools. Please note that we have one standard form that teachers are able to fill out for each pupil, which means that parents need only pay one fee of £25 for each pupil rather than for each request. All private schools request a written report from St Paul's - as such can you please forward the admin fee of £25, with written explanation at the time you apply to the private school.

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 £8077.12 (on 12th October) with 177 supporters (no additions since my last missive so come on Eileen (and anyone else with a different name). Let's still aim for £9000 by the end of 2017.

I can only assume that the reason for no new members is that there must be massive computer issues going on. If you can get down to an internet café, and can join up, then you will see great offers from Apple, PC World and Amazon who will all be able to get you connected. Maybe you need a new iPhone in which case 02 should be your first port of call based purely on their £52.50 donation. BT or EE give very generous donations as well so if your reason for not joining is poor internet connectivity then your excuse has gone.

Have a fruitful and perky 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.

Educational Visits

Year 2 trip to Florence Nightingale Museum -

Mrs. H. Townsend, Mr. R. Birkbeck and Mrs. J. Roberts

This year, for the first time, Year 2 visited the Florence Nightingale Museum based at St Thomas' Hospital in London. The children spent the morning being taught by Florence herself. She told her eager listeners all about her early life and her desire to help others. The children were enthralled to hear about the horrors of life in Scutari, especially the rats running around. They understood how the impact of her reforms has improved our hospitals today. Lunch was taken in the hospital with a view of the River Thames and The Houses of Parliament. We thank the parents for helping us and looking forward to running this trip again.



Year 3 Trip to Haslemere - Miss. A. Adams and Miss. E. McDonald

On Tuesday 10th October year 3 visited the Haslemere Museum. We spent the day learning lots of new and exciting facts about the Ancient Egyptians and their beliefs about life after death. We learnt about the mummification process which involved a demonstration with a 'mummy' doll. We helped to take out its organs and place them into Canopic jars! We also looked around the museum and saw a real mummy and its coffin. To end the day, each class mummified their own toys. We had a really fantastic day. Thank you to all the wonderful parents who joined us on the day, helping make the trip truly successful.



Year 4 Butser Farm Trip – Mrs. L. Hope and Miss. M. Jenkins

On Thursday 12th October, Year 4 visited Butser Ancient Farm as part of our History topic, Invaders and Settlers. We discovered how the Celts and Romans lived through doing activities such as, chalk carving, clay pottery and even made Celtic style jewelry!

We extended our knowledge about the differences between living in a Celtic roundhouse compared to a Roman Villa. To end our exciting day, we had the challenge of creating a wall using wattle and daub which was great fun...if a little messy!



Information from Subject Leaders

Literacy- Mrs .L. Hope

Thank you to those of you who have already volunteered to be reader-helpers. It's lovely to see you all around the school building, creating a wonderful atmosphere for the children. If you haven't already signed up and are considering doing so, please do not hesitate to get in contact! I haven't yet hit the heady-heights of numbers that I received last year, so would love to hear from as many of you as possible, as you really do make a difference.



Christmas Letter Box

The pupils' Christmas Letterbox will appear on the 30th November. Cards to both pupils in other classes and school staff may be posted. Please remind your children to address their cards fully by including:- Christian name, surname, the class name and year group of the recipient.



Poppy Appeal Mrs. L. Pryor

Poppies are available for purchase at the office. Please bring in your donations in an envelope (suggested donation £0.50). This year we also have additional poppies merchandise ranging from a suggested 50p to £1.00 donation. The Y6 pupils will take the poppies to the classrooms every morning from 2nd to 10th November.

Bin-Day Fr Rob

Every Tuesday Fr. Rob and Mr. Tufts have to leave their bins by the front door of Our Lady of Lourdes church ready for emptying - right by the route to school for our younger pupils. But if anyone puts the wrong items in the blue bins (recycling) and brown bins (garden waste) those bins simply don't get collected. So please teach your children the importance of recycling, the difference between the different coloured bins and what goes where! Thank you.

News from the Office – Mrs. L. Smith

Medical Notifications – Mrs. S. Thuilliez

To enable the school team to fully support your child, could I ask that you please make sure to notify me directly in future of any medical or dietary issues that may impact your child's school life? This can be notified via an email to info@stpauls-thamesditton.surrey.sch.uk This is necessary regardless of whether or not you have made the teacher aware. All the relevant forms are available on our website.

Admission to Reception - Sept 2018 – Mrs. L. Busuttill

The closing date for primary level admissions is 15th January 2018.

In addition, parents **must** apply to the Local Authority. This can be done online at: www.surreycc.gov.uk/admissions.

Baubles for Christmas Tree - Mrs. L. Pryor

Each year we enhance the school Christmas tree by personalising the decorations. Each pupil has provided a decorated red or gold bauble. We now invite all **new pupils** to add their bauble to our collection. Please ensure the bauble is not breakable and includes the child's name, the date and their year group. For guidance:- sizes ranging from 10 -15cm in circumference would be appropriate, gold or black indelible pens write well on shiny surfaces. Can your child please bring their decoration to school by **Thursday 23rd November**.

Christmas Lunch- 13th Dec 2017 -Mrs. S. Thuilliez

On Wednesday 13th December the children will be having Christmas lunch in the school hall. Traditionally, the whole school have Christmas lunch together. If your child normally has a packed lunch, and you would like them to have a Christmas lunch, please fill out the slip below and return before 1st December. Please note that the fee for the meal is £2.25 and is to be paid online from 5th December. Please note that the meal is free for children in Foundation and Key Stage 1 but a slip must be completed for children to be included.

In order to give the kitchen sufficient time to order the food, we regret it will not be possible to take any more requests after 1st December, and no refunds for absent children can be made. If your child has a particular food allergy, Christmas lunch may still be possible. Please detail their particular needs on the form. Vegetarian options are also available, please state on the form if you would like to request it. Children who already have school meals will automatically be provided with a Christmas lunch at no extra charge.

SPPA

St Paul's Parents' Association (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>

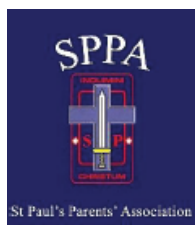
Upcoming SPPA events for your diary

Friday 10th November – MUFTI day

Children can wear their home clothes to school in return for a toy to be used at the Toy Tombola at the Christmas Fair. Toys should be new or nearly new and suitable for primary school children. Any soft toys must have their safety tags intact (the material tag sewn onto the toy showing the safety symbol). Thank you to Year 3 St Peters who will be collecting bottles at the Front & Back gates.

Friday 24th November – Collection for the Christmas Fair Surprises Room

Donations of new or unused gift items such as toiletries, bags, purses, scarfs, books



Saturday 2nd December – Christmas Fair

The Christmas Fair team have a wonderful afternoon of festive fun planned for everyone. This is a very special event and cannot run without everyone's help. The class reps will be in touch soon to let you know which stall your class will be responsible for. Please support them by volunteering for stall rotas. Many hands make light work and we'll all have fun in the process!

We are hoping to organise another Santa Fun Run – more details to follow!



Parent to Parent

The last day for submission to the December newsletter is Thursday 16th December. Please forward all wording as a Word attachment to info@stpauls-thamesditton.surrey.sch.uk

for mums/dads/grandparents will be gratefully received. This has become one of the most popular rooms at the Fair. The children love choosing and presenting their gifts so please dig out and donate any unwanted gifts so that this room will be well stocked. Thank you to Year 3 St Johns who will be collecting donations at morning drop off at the Front & Back gates

Parent to Parent

For the benefit of parents who are new to the school, this section is for parents to share information about any events/fundraisers they may be hosting/helping to organise/taking part in, or any items/issues that may interest other parents or if you have anything you would like to buy or sell. It is only available to current parents of the school and not for any third-party advertising or selling. Simply email your article to administrator@stpauls-thamesditton.surrey.sch.uk at least 10 school working days before the 1st of the month.

The last day for submission to the December newsletter is Thursday 16th November. Please forward all wording as a Word attachment.

Dates for your Diary

November	Autumn Term
Wednesday 1 st	Feast of All Saints 10.30am- All Saints Day Mass at Our Lady of Lourdes Church
Thursday 2 nd	6.30pm Talk for Y6 parents - SATs and reporting process
Monday 6 th	Judaism week whole school
Wednesday 8 th	Year 2 local walk
Friday 10 th	SPPA mufti day
Monday 13 th	9.30am Open Morning
Thursday 16 th	9.30am Open Morning Feast of St Margaret of Scotland
Tuesday 21 st	St Bernadette to visit Chertsey Museum
Wednesday 22 nd	St Matthew to visit Chertsey Museum
Thursday 23 rd	Christmas Baubles in today from new children Christmas tree arriving
Sunday 26 th	Christ the King
Monday 27 th	St Anthony's class will attend the Victorian School Room experience Mexicolore in the Studio with Year 5
Tuesday 28 th	St Margaret's class will attend the Victorian School Room experience
Thursday 30 th	Children's Christmas Letter-Box up today in Jungle Library Feast of St Andrew Year 1 to visit Polka Theatre
December	
Friday 1 st	Deadline for Children to register for Christmas Lunch
Saturday 2 nd	12.00pm Christmas Fair

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**Christmas Meal Form – Wednesday 13th December 2017
To School Office by 1st December 2017**

If your child has a packed lunch but you would like them to participate in the Christmas meal on 13th December 2017 please complete the slip below and return via your child's book bag by 1st December 2017.

Name (s)..... Class.....

Yes please I would like my child to have a **Christmas Lunch**

Allergies/Dietary requirements.....

I will pay £2.25 on line for my child/children if in Year 3+ by the deadline Tuesday 5th December. All payments must be received by Friday 8th December.

Signed.....