



# St. Paul's Church of England Primary Newsletter

Friday 12th January 2024

From the words of St. Paul... 'Encourage one another and build each other up.'

## Headteacher news

Happy New Year to all. I hope you have had a wonderful break and have many memories to treasure. It has been lovely to have everybody back together in school this week including all our new families who have joined us.

This half term is one of my favourites, the evenings get lighter, and everything starts to grow including our children. With this in mind we will all be learning about our brain this half term. How we can look after it and make it grow. How we can keep it regulated and understand how we build neuroplasticity when we are learning. We will be learning about this through a program called My Happy Mind. myHappyMind is an award winning, whole school curriculum. It teaches children preventative habits that support positive mental health, resilience and self-esteem.

It will be taught to every child in a school from Early Years through to Year 6, All of the concepts we teach are based in science and research and grounded in neuroscience and positive psychology. Parents can download the MyhappyMind app and find out about what we have been learning and get some top tips to help parents too. More information about this has been attached to the newsletter emailed out to parents today.

Alongside this, also attached is our monthly online safety letter giving you the most up to date information of how you can keep your children safe online.

**Starting school in September 2024...**



For families living in the Lancashire area who require a primary school place in September 2024, this is your last chance to apply before the deadline. You can now apply online via Lancashire's online system at:

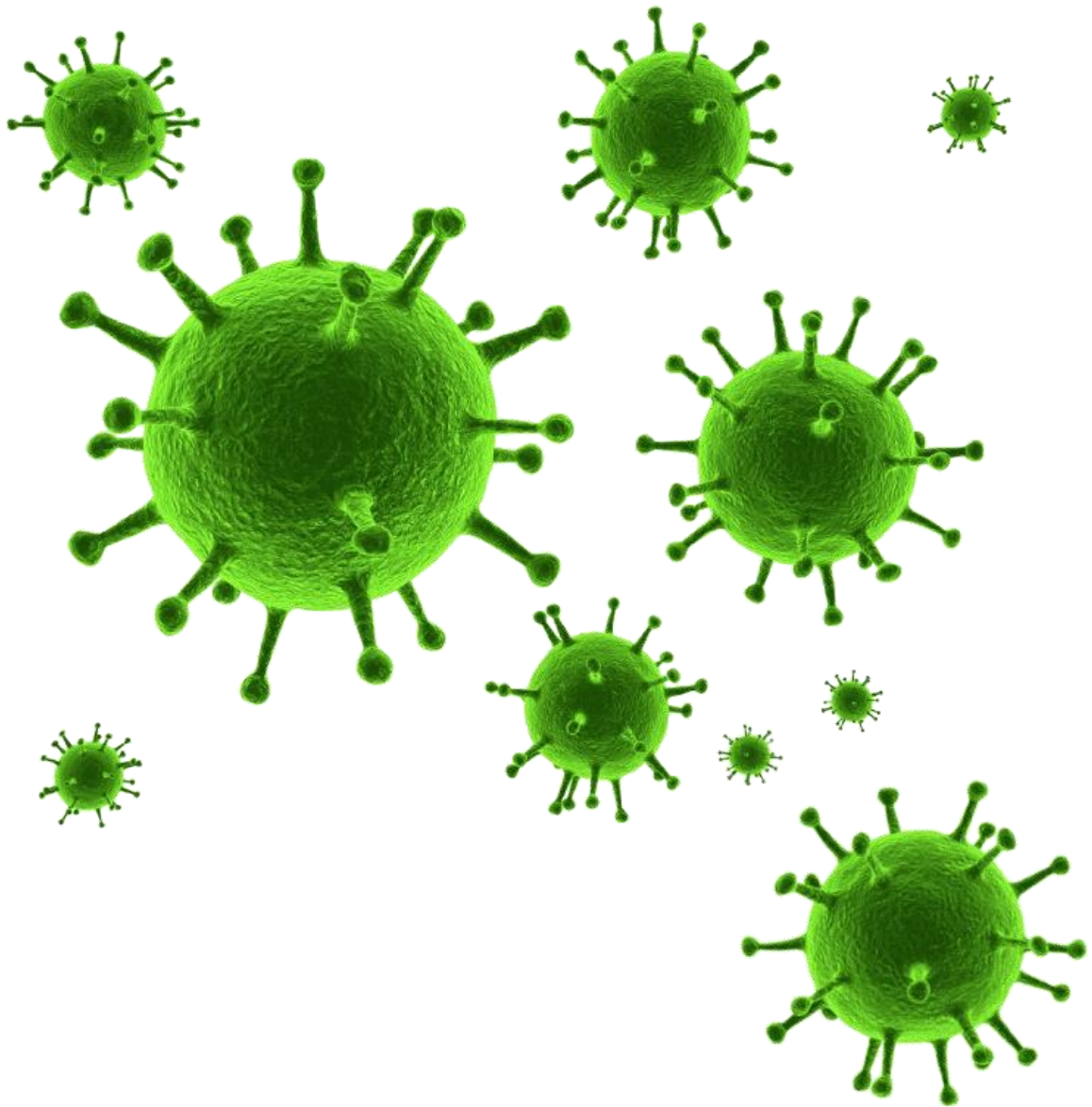
[www.lancashire.gov.uk/schools](http://www.lancashire.gov.uk/schools)

This is a quick and easy way and offers an email receipt of all submitted applications. **Please ensure that you hit the 'submit' button when you are ready to send in your completed online application.** You must apply even if you have siblings at your preferred school or academy.

**The closing dates for applications for September 2024 are at 11.59pm on:**

**Primary applications – 15th January 2024**

## Winter virus information



We currently have a high number of pupils and staff who have been off sick with suspected flu-like symptoms. Symptoms of influenza (flu) can include fever, an aching body, dry cough, headache, sore throat, diarrhoea or tummy pain, feeling sick and being sick. Despite school being cleaned daily using antibacterial solutions with the use of antibacterial soap and hand gels available for all to use freely. It is that time of year and many schools and people across the valley are suffering with the virus.

**To reduce the spread of infection it is important to keep children with any symptoms of flu-like illness away from school until they have fully recovered, are free of symptoms and have not had a fever for at least 48 hours.**

The NHS have a helpful guide should you wish to use this. <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

We are still encouraging good respiratory hygiene i.e. covering their nose/mouth with a tissue when coughing or sneezing, discarding tissues after use and washing hands with soap and water. It is important to reduce the risk to others.

## Winter weather



### It's that time of year...

As part of our winter preparation, I would like to inform you that we take Health and Safety very seriously in school and in the unfortunate event of extreme weather we will aim to remain open.

If we have to close school due to dangerous weather conditions, we will update our school's **Twitter page @StPaulsCESch at the earliest opportunity**. We will also update our PTA Facebook page, our school website and we will inform BBC Radio Lancashire.



**Whilst waiting around our school grounds in your cars we would ask that you turn off your car engines in order to help to keep the air around school cleaner.**

## Parents Couch to 5k

Earlier in the term we announced that we would be completing C25K for parents, led by Mrs Alvarez. I am very proud of our fabulous C25K parents who completed the whole 5k run at the start of December on what was possibly one of the wettest, wildest days of the year! They sky is the limit now!

**Our next Couch25K will start on Thursday 18th January 2024.**

**If you would like to join us then please meet at our reception area on Thursday at 3.45pm where Mrs Alvarez will greet you.**





Apply for support for with childcare costs.



From 2 January 2024, eligible working parents can apply for 15 hours of childcare for their two-year-old. Parents have until 31 March 2024 to apply for a code, with mid-January to the end of February being the optimum time to apply in case they need to provide further information to support their application.

To apply for a childcare code each parent needs to be working and earning the equivalent of 16 hours a week at national minimum/living wage and under £100,000 adjusted net income per year. This means that each parent needs to earn from just over £8,600 per year to be eligible for 15 hours a week of childcare during term time.

There is more information on the childcare support available to parents on the [Childcare Choices](#) website, where they can explore the early education entitlements and other government help with childcare costs.

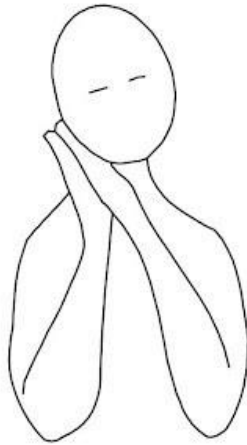
Easy funding for school, with no cost to yourself.



Please use #easyfundraising when you book your holidays and raise big donations for St Paul's CE Primary - Rawtenstall for free! Plus book with TUI in January for a chance to win back the value of your holiday! Sign up to support us on easyfundraising today: <https://join.easyfundraising.org.uk/st-pauls-rawtenstall/lk1ey8/c2s/zYSXMPZI/CE790/facebook/>

## Word of the week

Each week the children in the EYFS & KS1 have been learning a new word in Makaton. We thought it would be lovely if we shared each week's new word on the newsletter so that we can all learn together. This week the infants are learning how to sign the word 'to sleep.'



# to sleep

Dates for your diary...



- Monday 8th January - School reopens to all

- Monday 8th January - Swimming starts each Monday for Wonderful Willows class

**Have your circumstances changed? Apply for free school meals.**



*1 - Have your circumstances changed?*

For any parents/carers, **whose circumstances have changed** and think their child(ren) may be entitled to Free School Meals, please can an application form be completed. Parents can apply electronically via the link below:

<https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/children-education-families/schools/free-school-meals/?page=3>

**Registering for the Free School Meal service also means the school will receive additional funding for your child, which is called Pupil Premium.**

**Please note that younger siblings of pupils who are already entitled will not automatically qualify for Free School Meals. If a family's circumstances have changed and cease to be entitled to qualifying benefits, the elder children will be protected but any new children will not qualify. This is why Pupil Access Team require applications completing so they can properly assess new sibling's entitlement.**

## PTA

We hope you all had a fantastic Christmas break and Happy New Year!

On Wednesday 17th January 2024 at 3:20pm we will be holding our AGM (which was postponed from November). This is a chance for you to see what and how the PTA run and for you to get involved. We always need new volunteers! If you would like attend, end please come to the school office by 3:20pm.

We look forward to seeing you there!

😊 Thank you for your support 😊

Kath McArragher - PTA Chair

**PTA Second Hand online uniform shop:**

You can access the shop online at the following link

<https://app.uniformd.co.uk/items/227>

This week we have been learning...



Amazing Acorns



The children have been amazing this week and so ready to get back to their learning. We

We have had a pretend snowball fight this week and have written all about it.

In Maths we have been exploring numbers within ten, which is greater and fewer, we have also been comparing numicon and dominoes.

We have started exploring winter and identifying the differences between hot and cold.



## Brilliant Berries

Happy New Year.

Berries have had a super first week back, we have enjoyed listening to what everyone has been up to and hearing about their lovely presents. We have loved exploring some of our new provision areas, our favourite seems to be the Gree grocers shop. The children have enjoyed shopping for food and paying with money. In RE we have been discussing Christianity, particularly looking at kindness and forgiveness.

Gentle reminder that we do play out in most weathers, it would be appreciated if children could have appropriate winter wear with them until the sun starts to shine again.

## Awesome Ashes



Welcome back Ashes!

This week we have welcomed some new friends into our class and they have settled in really well. This week we have started looking at our new topic Africa and the story of Handa's Surprise. We went on a plane journey to Africa and saw lots of animals on our Safari. In Geography we have been working on Human features of geography. Down in forest school we went on a bear hunt to find human features and then made our own houses, hotels, roads and bridges.

- **Just a reminder we have Dan the sports coach in for the rest of this term PE is now on a TUESDAY until February half term**
- ***Please come dressed in your PE kit on Tuesdays.***

## Super Sycamores



Happy New Year to everyone! It has been a fantastic start to the new Spring term, with children so keen and ready to learn. We have had some fabulous work from the children. We started the week looking at our new scheme 'My Happy Mind', where the children will learn more about their brain and their wellbeing.

This week we have begun our new fiction book 'The Bear and the Piano'. We went down to the Forest to see what we could find there and wrote sentences using adjectives. We have also written how the bear's piano music has made us feel, extending our vocabulary with words including enchanted and majestic.

Maths this week has been learning more about place value and we started our Science unit all about how our bodies work and the senses we use.

- **PE is on a Wednesday for both indoor and outdoor this half term.**
- **Please bring back your reply slips for our Eureka class trip on 24th April.**



## Outstanding Alders



Happy New Year!

We have enjoyed listening to each other's stories about Christmas and New Year.

This week in English we have started our new book *The Little Hen and the Great War*. We have enjoyed predicting what the book is about and have been looking at the main character the Hen and thinking about how she might be feeling. In maths we have been adding and subtracting by 10 and adding number to different types of number lines. In history we have started our new topic World War 1 and we are going to be looking at why Basil Arthur Horsfall is significant. In PE we practiced our over arm throwing whilst trying to hit a target and also practiced our batting skills.

- **Our first forest school session is Monday 15th January.**
- **Our PE days are still Thursdays (outdoor) and Fridays (indoor)**

## Enchanted Elms



I hope you all have had a lovely Christmas break and Happy New Year.

I have loved listening to all the children stories about their break and what they have been up to.

This week we have started our new novel Escape to Pompeii and the children are looking forward to seeing what happens in the story. We have started a new topic in Science looking at forces the children investigated some forces that they use every day e.g. kicking a football, cutting using scissors. We learnt a new word air resistance and what air resistance is. In Maths we have been looking at time quarter past, quarter to and 5-minute intervals.

Just a reminder that children should be reading three times a week.

- Forest School is on **Tuesday 16th January 2024** - Please return any wellies if you took them over the Christmas break.
- A letter went out about the Life Education Van - Please can you ensure that your child returns their slip.

## Marvellous Maples



Happy New year and welcome back to the Spring term.

This week has been busy, and we have started reading our class book - The Boy Who Grew Dragons. The children are enjoying the story and have made great predictions about what they think will happen using clues in the story. Year 4 children have been dividing using the chunking method and I am so proud how hard they have worked to understand this new concept. Year 3 children have been rounding to the nearest hundred and adding/ subtracting over the hundreds barrier.

We have also started our Science topic - living things and their habitats by grouping and classifying different animals using four different criteria. Our Geography topic is Geography in the News where we have been learning about the recent flooding in England.

- **Forest school is Friday 19th January.**

## Dazzling Elders



Happy New Year!

This week we have started our new topic in Science: Animals including humans. This week we have learned about the main functions of the organs involved in the digestive system. The children worked beautifully writing a diary of an apple as it went on the journey through the mouth and beyond! In Maths, the Year fives have been learning about multiplication including multiples factors and square numbers. The Year fours have been learning about 3D shape. In guided reading we are all reading Anglo Saxon Boy by Tony Bradman this half term. If you would like your child to have a copy in class, please could you borrow a copy from the library or purchase one. In PE the children are learning rugby skills.

- Just a reminder as we have Dan the sports coach in for the rest of this term PE is now on a Tuesday and Friday until February half term.

## Wonderful Willows



Happy New Year and welcome back to our Spring term, we hope you have all enjoyed the break together.

This week we have thoroughly enjoyed exploring the poem, 'Timothy Winters'. Willow's class were in their element performing the poem in small groups, we definitely have some Oscar Award winners with their theatrical displays. In Science we have begun our half termly topic, Evolution. On Thursday, we recreated our own fossils, tried to decipher the types of fossils we had in class and attempted to describe the process of fossilisation. This meant we had to learn lots of new scientific vocabulary.

- **Forest School is Thursday 18th January**

## Mighty Oaks



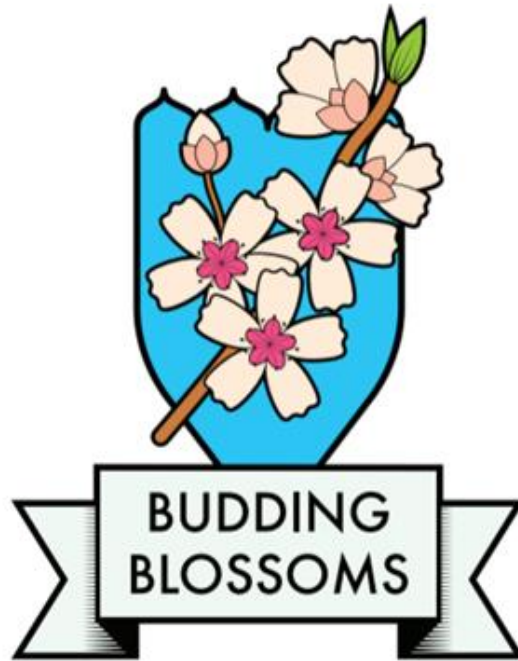
Happy New Year and welcome back! It has been a wonderful start to the new year and it has been lovely to welcome the children back after the Christmas break.

This week, we have started to read our new novel, *Holes*, by Lois Sachar. It tells the story of a teenager who has been sent to a juvenile detention camp. Already this week we have looked at writing persuasively and a setting description through the eyes of the main character. Some great work produced already.

In our creative curriculum, our focus will be on Geography and how Mexico compares to the UK. We will also be studying architecture and the perspective of buildings when drawing our own designs. More information can be found on our class topic web.

- **PE this term will be each Tuesday (outdoor) and Friday (indoor). Please make sure kits are in school for each of the sessions.**

## Budding Blossoms



Welcome to Spring Term.

In English this half term, we are reading 'Lights on Cotton Rock' the children are hooked already. We have been predicting the story and the children could not wait to read it the story. We met the character Heather and we have written a description of her as she gets lost.

In maths, we are measuring using length, we have enjoyed visiting various parts of the school to measure different items and deciding if we need to use millimetres, centimetres or metres. The children have quickly grasped this and I am super impressed.

Reading books will be changed every Tuesday and Friday, please support your children's reading and read frequently at home.

If you have any questions, please ask.

Have a lovely weekend, Mrs Taylor













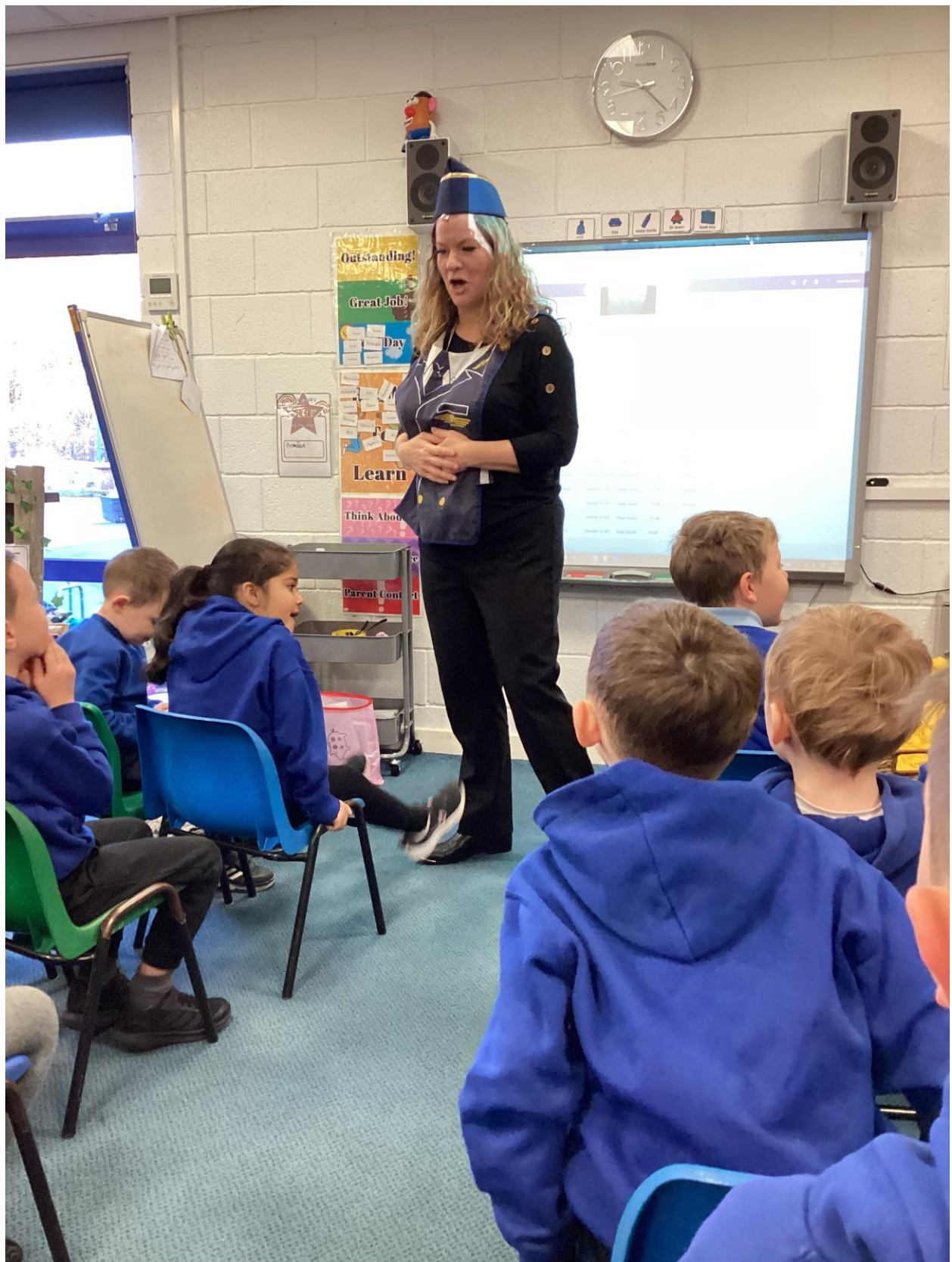












Have a look at our [X \(twitter.com\)](https://twitter.com/X) to see photo's of our learning in action.

*Let's* celebrate - Weekly awards





### St. Paul's Awards.

	<u>Learner of the week</u>	<u>Topic award learner of the week</u>	<u>Value winner</u>
Amazing Aconites	Bonnie	Eilidh	Kobe
Awesome Ashes	Charlotte	Finlay	Louie
Super Sycamores	Sophia	Ivory	Aizah
Outstanding Alders	Tobiah	Fraser	Noah LW
Enchanted Elms	Evie	Isla	Milo
Marvellous Maples	Jack	Sonny	Teddy
Dazzling Elders	Ava	Archie	Erin
Wonderful Willows	Lexi	Eesa	Mysha
Mighty Oaks	Alice	Scarlett	Emma
Brilliant Berries	Kaira		
Budding Blossoms	Charlie		

## The Big Ambition – Have your say!

The Children's Commissioner for England, Dame Rachel de Souza, has launched The Big Ambition, a national survey of children and young people across England.

The Big Ambition aims to hear from children across England on what they think is important! In the lead up to the next General Election, the Children's Commissioner wants to take children's thoughts, opinions and ideas to decision-makers, to make sure that the Government hears young people's voices on what they think needs to be done to make children's lives better in England.

The Big Ambition survey is open and has now been extended to **Friday 19th January 2024** to allow even more children the chance to have their say.

<https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/the-big-ambition/>

## Bright Futures Trustee opportunity

Trustee - Board of Directors, Charitable Status Day Nursery

**Location:** Rossendale

**Organisation:** Bright Futures Early Learning [Charitable Status Day Nursery]

**Role Overview:**

Bright Futures Early Learning is seeking a dedicated and passionate individual to join our Board of Directors as a Trustee. As a Trustee, you will play a crucial role in guiding the strategic direction of our charitable status day nursery, ensuring the well-being and development of the children in our care. This is an exciting opportunity for someone committed to making a positive impact on the lives of children and families in our community.

### **Responsibilities:**

**Strategic Leadership:** Contribute to the development and implementation of the organization's strategic plan, ensuring alignment with our mission and values.

**Governance:** Provide oversight and governance, ensuring compliance with relevant laws and regulations. Actively participate in board meetings and decision-making processes.

**Financial Stewardship:** Review and approve budgets, financial statements, and fundraising initiatives to ensure the financial sustainability of the organization.

**Advocacy and Networking:** Represent the organization in the community, building relationships with stakeholders, potential donors, and partners to enhance our impact and reach.

**Risk Management:** Identify and address potential risks to the organization, working collaboratively with the board to implement effective risk management strategies.

**Policy Development:** Contribute to the development and review of organizational policies, ensuring they reflect best practices and legal requirements.

**Committee Participation:** Engage actively in committees and working groups, providing expertise and support in specific areas such as finance, HR, or fundraising, as needed.

### **Qualifications:**

**Commitment:** A strong commitment to the mission and values of Bright Futures Early Learning.

**Experience:** Previous experience in a governance or leadership role, preferably within the charitable or education sector would be desirable but not essential.

**Expertise:** Knowledge or experience in areas such as education, child development, finance, law, or marketing would be advantageous.

**Team Player:** Ability to work collaboratively with a diverse group of individuals, contributing effectively to decision-making processes.

**Integrity:** A high level of integrity, ethics, and transparency in all actions and decisions.

**Time Commitment:** Trustees are expected to attend regular board meetings, typically termly and allocate additional time for committee work, strategic planning, and ad-hoc responsibilities.

**Diversity:** Bright Futures Early Learning is committed to promoting equality and diversity. We encourage applications from individuals of all backgrounds and experiences to ensure a diverse and inclusive board.

Benefits: In addition to the satisfaction of contributing to a meaningful cause, Trustees will have the opportunity to develop their leadership skills, expand their professional networks, and play a pivotal role in shaping the future of Bright Futures Early Learning.

### How to Apply:

- Interested candidates should submit a CV and a cover letter outlining their interest in the role and relevant experience to [manager@bfns.org](mailto:manager@bfns.org) by 31st January 2024. Shortlisted candidates will be invited for an interview.
- Bright Futures Early Learning is an equal opportunity employer, and we encourage candidates from all backgrounds to apply.
- Note: Bright Futures Early Learning is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Appointment to the role is subject to an enhanced DBS check.

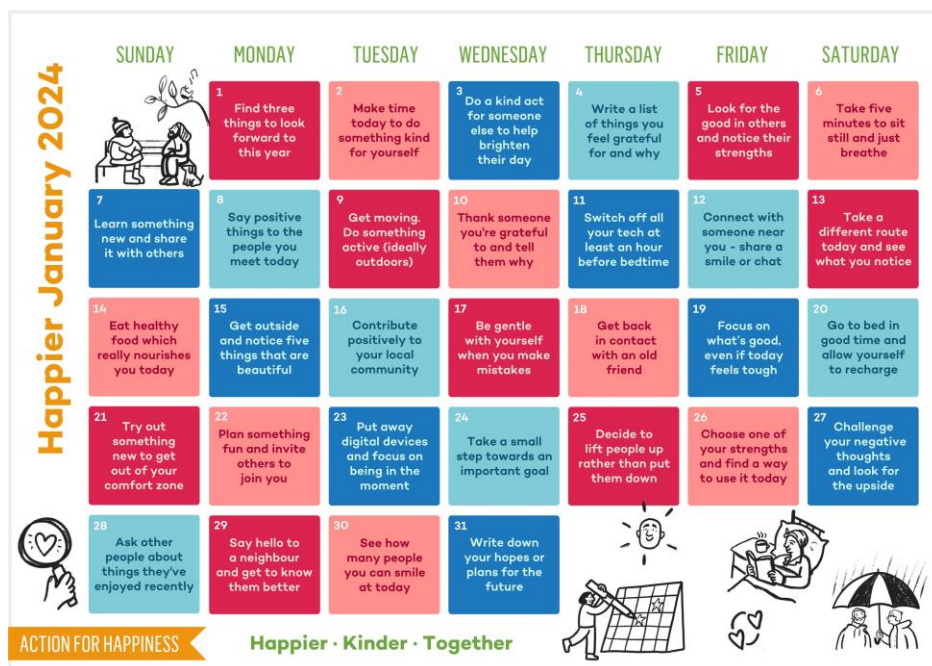
## Happier January

This month, let's start the new year happier.

Each month, as part of our work based on our school values and to inspire practical actions for a happier and more caring society; our classes work through the action for happiness calendars.

This month, we're encouraging you to try something new each day!

Trying a new activity can be a great source of happiness. In challenging times, it also helps to take a new perspective or find new ways forward.



## Attendance/Holiday information

Attendance to school is compulsory, all children must attend every day unless they are ill or have symptoms of Covid.

We are unable to authorise any absences that are not illness related unless in exceptional circumstances. There is a leave of absence form available from the school office however, we would ask that all holidays are taken within the holiday periods and not in term time, to avoid a fine from Lancashire County Council. A holiday list for this academic year is on our school website. [School-Holidays-23-24.pdf](https://stpaulsrawtenstall.co.uk/School-Holidays-23-24.pdf) ([stpaulsrawtenstall.co.uk](https://stpaulsrawtenstall.co.uk))

To enable us to safeguard our children, may we request that if your child is absent from school you, please telephone the school on 01706 215893 by 09:00am to inform us. If we have not received a call, a member of our office staff will call you to ensure that your child is at home and is safe.

## Holiday list 2024/25





ST. PAUL'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL  
Calder Road, Rawtenstall, Lancashire, BB4 8HW  
Headteacher: Mrs Charlesworth  
[head@constablelee.lancs.sch.uk](mailto:head@constablelee.lancs.sch.uk)  
School Office: 01706 215893

## School Holidays 2024/2025

### AUTUMN TERM 2024

Staff Training Days	Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> and Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> September 2024
Re-open	Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> September 2024
Mid Term Closure	Monday 21 <sup>st</sup> October - Friday 25 <sup>th</sup> October 2024 (inclusive)
Re-open	Monday 28 <sup>th</sup> October 2024
Closure after school on	Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> December 2024

### SPRING TERM 2025

Re-open	Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> January 2025
Mid Term Closure	Monday 17 <sup>th</sup> February - Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> February 2025 (inclusive)
Re-open	Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> February 2025
Closure after school on	Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> April 2025

### SUMMER TERM 2025

Re-open on	Tuesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> April 2025
Staff Training Day	Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> May 2025
May Day Closure	Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> May 2025
Mid Term Closure	Monday 26 <sup>th</sup> May - Friday 30 <sup>th</sup> May 2025 (inclusive)
Re-open on	Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> June 2025
Closure after school on	Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> July 2025
Staff Training Days	Monday 21 <sup>st</sup> and Tuesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> July 2025



## St Paul's Church news



## My happy mind



We are proud to be a part of the myHappymind Family! As a whole school program grounded in science and dedicated to building positive mental wellbeing, myHappymind helps children understand how their brains work and creates a culture that helps to build children's resilience, confidence, and self-esteem.

myHappyMind is a mental health and well-being programme to support children in learning habits to support their own mental health. It does also cover all the mandatory objectives from the DfE Relationship Education Curriculum and also around 70% of the PSHE objectives.

myHappyMind also teaches the children how to self-regulate and manage their emotions in stressful times, allowing them to be their very best selves! Learn more here: <https://myhappymind.org/>

- **Parent App** <https://myhappymind.lpages.co/myhappymind-parent-app-introduction/>



## Reflective Friday



Hope you all have a wonderful weekend filled with wintery fun.

Mrs Charlesworth