



St. Paul's Church of England Primary Newsletter December 24

Friday 13th December 2024

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

Headteacher news

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we continue to approach the festive season, our school has been buzzing with Christmas cheer, and I'm proud of how our pupils have embraced the spirit of the season.

Our junior pupils recently enjoyed a fantastic panto day, filled with laughter, entertainment, and the magic of live theatre. It's always a joy to see their faces light up during these special performances, and I'm sure they've come home with wonderful stories to share.

Our younger pupils were immersed in a wonderful Christmas experience. The infants explored the sights, sounds, and stories of Christmas in a fun and engaging way.

The festive spirit continued with our Christmas dinners. Our infants enjoyed their special meal following their Christmas experience, while on Thursday, it was the juniors' turn to pull crackers, share jokes, and tuck into a delicious Christmas feast. These shared meals are a wonderful way to create lasting memories.

One of the highlights of our school calendar is always the Infant Nativity. What a joy it was to witness our Infant nativity performances on Thursday! Our youngest pupils shone brightly as they brought the Christmas story to life. Their enthusiasm and hard work were evident in every scene, filling our hearts with pride and the true spirit of the season. Thank you to all who attended and supported our little stars. Your presence means the world to them and to us.

Friday was another day packed with activities and started with our Oaks, Willows, and Elders classes who participated in a TriKidz event. This exciting event combines fun and fitness, encouraging our pupils to stay active and embrace new challenges. The TriKidz team said they were really impressed with the dedication, enthusiasm and encouragements that every child gave to each other. After lunch we were treated to a Ukulele Concert, showcasing the musical talents of our Elms class. In addition to this our budding Guitarist showcased their upcoming talents. Parents, I hope you enjoyed this melodious display of your children's hard work and progress.

Thank you all for your continued support in making these events possible and successful. As we move towards the end of term, let's carry this spirit of joy, community, and achievement with us.

Wishing you all a wonderful final week ahead.

Dates for your diary...



Tuesday 17th December - Alders and Sycamore Class party

Wednesday 18th December - Acorns, Berries and Ashes Class party

Thursday 19th December

- Junior Carol service in church
- Elms and Maples Class party

Friday 20th December

End of term celebration worship

Oak, Elders, Willows Class party

School closes at 1.35pm

PTA

❄️ 🎄 PTA News 🎄 ❄️

Thank you all for your generous donations for our "Wear what you want" day! We are so grateful for all of the support received and the children all looked fantastic!

The raffle has now closed and the draw will take place in the evening of Monday 16th December and will be live on our Facebook page.

Thank you all for your continued support!

Bonnie Smith

PTA Chair

Celebrating art in our school

[St Paul's C of E School Art Gallery](#)

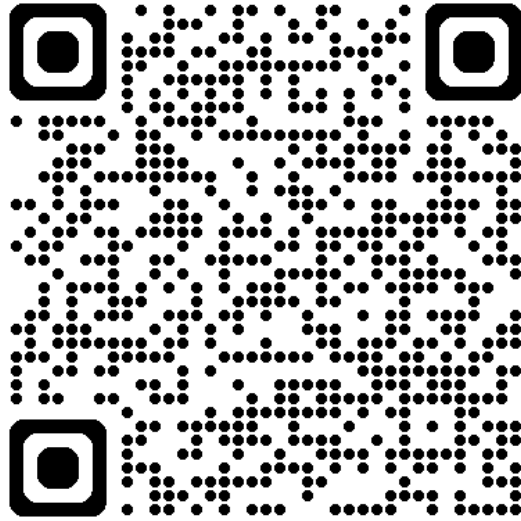
As I walk through the corridors and classrooms of our wonderful school, I'm constantly reminded of the incredible talent and creativity that our pupils possess. It's a joy to witness their artistic expressions adorning our walls, bringing colour and life to every corner of St. Paul's.

One of the many things I truly cherish about my role as Headteacher is the opportunity to see the amazing artwork our pupils create. Each piece tells a unique story, showcasing not only their artistic skills but also their imagination, dedication, and growth. From vibrant paintings to intricate sculptures, every creation is a testament to the hard work and passion of our young artists.

I often find myself pausing in front of these displays, taking a moment to appreciate the thought and effort that goes into each masterpiece. It's not just about the final product, but the journey of learning and self-expression that each artwork represents.

I'm excited to share this experience and this joy alongside me. We've created a QR code that will allow you to view a selection of our pupils' artwork from wherever you are. Simply scan the code with your smartphone, and you'll be transported into a virtual gallery of our school's artistic achievements.

I encourage you to take a moment to explore this digital showcase. Share it with your family and friends, and let's celebrate the creativity and hard work of our pupils together. It's an opportunity for you to see our school through my eyes and share in the pride I feel every day.



St Paul's Mental Health Ambassadors

Our Mindfulness Ambassadors are doing a fantastic job at delivering our Lunchtime sessions. Each week they plan a different activity as well as hosting an emotions drop-in session. They take their roles very seriously and deliver it perfectly.



[myHappyMind Parent App Introduction - England & Wales](#)

myHappyMind is delivered in our school by our class teachers through a series of interactive lessons and then the children apply these learnings throughout the day.

To further embed this learning, myHappyMind has developed a Parent App. These resources can be accessed online on your computer, or through an app on your phone. The Parent App will support you as a parent in understanding what your child is learning, activities for you to do together at home and also a Kids Zone featuring myHappyMind Games plus much more!

To access these materials just go to <https://myhappymind.org/parent-resources> to create your free account. You will need to enter your name, email, and authentication code.

Your authentication code is 119367

Once you have created your account, you will receive an email with the next steps on downloading the app.

We really encourage you to make use of this free content so that you can support your child in getting the best out of the curriculum.

If you have any questions about myHappyMind, please contact your class teacher.

If you have any technical questions about accessing the resources, please contact hello@myHappyMind.org



Have you started your Christmas shopping? Fundraise for school in a way that does not cost you anything.

Easyfunding



We're now registered with Easyfundraising, which means you can help us for FREE. Over 7,000 brands will donate to us when you use Easyfundraising to shop with them – at no extra cost to yourself! All you need to do is sign up and remember to use Easyfundraising whenever you shop online. It's easy and completely FREE!

These donations really mount up, so please sign up to support us at https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/st-pauls-rawtenstall/?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=pmc&utm_content=email-1

Attendance/Holiday information

Attendance to school is compulsory, all children must attend every day unless they are ill.

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.

What to do if my child is ill.

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 where illness and viruses start to unfold.

- The NHS have a helpful guide should you wish to use this. [Is my child too ill for school? - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](https://www.nhs.uk)
- Please can you ensure that your child does not attend school for 48 hours after they have last vomited or had diarrhoea.

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.

Can you authorise my child's absence?

As many of you are aware, 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.

**MOMENTS
MATTER,
ATTENDANCE
COUNTS.**

Holiday list



Earlier this week, I sent out our new holiday dates for the 2025-26 school year. These dates are crucial for planning purposes, and I kindly ask that you keep them in mind when considering any future family holidays or trips.

It's worth reiterating our school's policy on attendance during term time. As you're all aware, we place a high value on consistent attendance and its impact on our pupils' educational progress. With this in mind, I must remind you that leave during term time will not be authorised. This policy is in place to ensure that our pupils receive the full benefit of their education and don't miss out on valuable learning opportunities.

Should unauthorised leave be taken during term time, it's important to note that this will result in a penalty notice. This measure is not one we take lightly, but it's necessary to maintain the high standards of attendance that contribute to our pupils' success.

I understand that planning family time is important, and I hope that by providing these dates well in advance, we can work together to ensure that holidays and family commitments align with the school calendar wherever possible.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns about this or any other matter, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Here are the quick links to -

- [2024-25 Holiday list](#)
- [2025-26 holiday list](#)

Additional information

ARE YOU WORRIED ABOUT A CHILD WHO MAY BE BEING NEGLECTED...



If you are a young person, you can contact 2-10pm, 365 days a year.
Phone on 0800 51 11 11
Text on 07786 51 11 11
Email: talkzone@lancashire.gov.uk



NSPCC

If you are an adult or professional, call 0300 123 6720



For more information
www.nspcc.org.uk/what-is-child-abuse/types-of-abuse/neglect/



Lancashire Family Hubs

For more information, scan the QR code or visit www.lancashire.gov.uk/children-education-families/family-hubs/



Healthy Activities and Food Programme (HAF)

For more information, scan the QR code or visit <https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/children-education-families/school-holiday-activities/>

because **FAMILY MATTERS** *life*

Time out for parent courses



*Believing in you
Believing in Better*

Call or text 07877 714693

4X 2hr Sessions

Scan to book - in the drop down box, please make sure you select the course and date required

**HANDLING
ANGER IN
THE
FAMILY**

Promoting healthy tips with our children & family members and strategies to handle anger better.

September 17, 24, & 1st, 8th October 6.30pm - 8.30pm
November 5, 12, 19, 26th 9.30am - 11.30am

ASD

Understanding autism and the way it affects your child. Support and strategies to help the family relationships.

June 4, 11, 18, 25th 6.30pm - 8.30pm
September 17, 24, & 1st, 8th October 12.45pm - 2.45pm
November 5, 12, 19, 26th 6.30pm - 8.30pm

ADHD

Understanding ADHD and how it affects your child. Support and strategies to help the family relationships.

June 4, 11, 18, 25th 9.30am - 11.30am
September 17, 24, & 1st, 8th October 6.30pm - 8.30pm
November 5, 12, 19, 26th 12.45pm - 2.45pm

**THE
TEENAGE
YEARS**

The Teenage Years can sometimes be a challenge. This course explores the issues affecting teenagers & their parents.

June 4, 11, 18, 25th & July 2nd 6.30pm - 8.30pm
September 17, 24, & 1st, 8, 15th Oct 1st, 8th 9.30am - 11.30am
November 5, 12, 19, 26th & Dec 3rd 6.30pm - 8.30pm



Lancashire
Adult Learning



Homemade Christmas

A fantastic FREE online event!

Wednesday 11th December | 6pm - 7:30pm

Connect and Keep Learning with
Lancashire Adult Learning!

Give your time to us and we will give you
and your family an evening of crafting
and festivities as you will learn how to
make edible treats, Christmas crafts &
decorations.

Nothing is nicer than giving a homemade
gift at Christmas.



For more information visit www.lal.ac.uk

Open to anyone aged 19 and over living in Lancashire. The Zoom link will be emailed to you before the start of the event.



This week we have been learning...



Brilliant Berries

Berries have had an amazing week, the children really enjoyed watching 'Cinderella' from Just Imagine in the hall on Wednesday, some of the Berries children even got up on stage with the cast to join in with the performance, we are so proud!

We have been continuing to practise our nativity, which we filmed today and will be sending out our invites to watch the performance in class on Monday, we hope you can all attend.

We have also enjoyed our Christmas Dinner together this week and are starting to get very excited about all the lovely festive activities coming up.

Christmas party - Wednesday 18th December

Our Christmas party takes place next Wednesday afternoon. Your child can wear their party clothes to school (please ensure they are suitable for playing outside, this includes suitable footwear please), Please also bring a disposable plate with some party food of your choice for your own child to eat, clearly labelled and covered (cling film or foil work best!). No citrus, sesame or nuts please due to allergies within our school. We will eat this after the party in the afternoon (after lunch).

Dates for your diary

- School closes - Friday 20th December at 1.35pm.

Have a fabulous weekend,

Mrs Taylor and Mrs Coleman

[Amazing Acorns](#)



We have had a busy week in Acorns! Phew...we are so ready for Christmas and enjoying the countdown, there are some very excited children!

On Wednesday, we thoroughly enjoyed every minute of the panto, 'Cinderella', the children behaved so well and are a credit to our school.

We were so excited to final preform our performance of a 'Miracle in Town' to you on Thursday and we are so incredibly proud of all the children, they have taken the nativity in their stride and learnt their line and songs impeccably. Well Done Acorns on your first school nativity, you superstars!!

In English, we have been working on our new story, 'Stick Man' by Julia Donaldson, we have created missing posters for Stick Man and described him, hopefully someone will find him soon and return him to his Stick Family Tree. We have also created our own stick men using sticks and pipe cleaners, we love them!

In maths, we have been learning about the number 10, we have been counting objects and recognising numbers up to 10. Rosie Posie our cheeky fairy jumbled up our number line and we

have been putting it back into order each day, it is tricky work. Practise our counting at home, we could do ten jumps? Hops? Or even find 10 objects at home! We love to learn anywhere.

In topic we have been using natural resources to create different pieces of art. We have been looking at the 4 different seasons and the changes that we might see throughout the year, the children had lots of great ideas and are working so hard.

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Dates for your diary

- School closes - Friday 20th December at 1.35pm.
- Our PE day will remain on a Monday next half term, please send PE kits into school.

Have a lovely weekend

The EYFS team

[Awesome Ashes](#)



What a busy week in Ashes class this week, with the countdown to Christmas in full swing! Our Christmas pantomime was amazing on Wednesday morning, the children enjoyed Cinderella with plenty of booing and cheering! This was followed by a lovely Christmas Lunch with crackers and party hats (thank you Mrs Hindle and the catering team). Our Infant Nativity was a huge success, with the children saying how much they had enjoyed the singing, dancing and acting. It was lovely to see their confidence grow throughout our rehearsals over the past few weeks. We had quite a few tired boys and girls (and staff today!)

Christmas party - Wednesday 18th December

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Dates for your diary

- School closes - Friday 20th December at 1.35pm.
- Our PE day will change to Tuesday next half term, this is due to our Sports Coach teaching our indoor session each Tuesday. Please bring kits into school each Tuesday to get changed in school.
- Our last Forest School was today. It was great to finish our Science work about the seasons of Autumn and Winter in the Forest.

Have a lovely weekend

Miss Fielding

Super Sycamores



What a fabulous and busy week in Sycamores! Mrs Edwards and I were so proud of all of the children in the Nativity, remembering their lines and when to get on stage as well as singing all of the songs.

The panto in school, on Wednesday was magical and the children loved joining in.

There is no PE on Tuesday due to Sycamores Christmas party and after the holidays PE will return to being on a Friday. Please bring PE kit on Fridays in a named bag.

Just a reminder to bring named cardboard boxes on Monday for your child to use next week for our DT lessons.

In Science lessons we have carried out our smell and taste test. The children have enjoyed smelling and tasting lots of new foods as well as learning new vocabulary linked to different flavours.

Dates for your diary

- Tuesday 17th December - Alders and Sycamores Christmas Party. Please wear your party clothes (suitable for playing outside, this includes suitable footwear) and bring a disposable plate with some party food of your choice, clearly labelled and covered (cling film or foil work best!). No citrus, sesame or nuts please due to allergies within our school. We will eat this after the party in the afternoon.
- School closes - Friday 20th December at 1.35pm.

- Forest school Thursday 9th January 2025
- PE - Friday 10th January 2025

Have a lovely weekend.

Mrs De Boutemard

[Outstanding Alders](#)



What an amazing week we have had. The children got to watch a Cinderella performance by Just Imagine on Wednesday. It was incredibly magical. The children loved it.

I am so proud of the children and all of the hard work they have put into our nativity. I am sure that you can all agree it is a very daunting experience getting on stage in front of so many people. They all blew me away! They were brilliant.

Curriculum news

In Maths this week we have continued learning about fractions. We have continued working on halves and quarters. In English we have been writing our own version of 'The Way Home for Wolf'. The children have had to set the scene, say how their character got distracted and lost, what the dangerous situation was and who helped their main character.

In PE, we have finally learnt all of the moves to our dance, we danced to the song 'Kung Fu Fighting'. Ask your child to show you their moves.

PE - After Christmas we have got the sports coach so PE will be on a Tuesday. Please make sure your child has their PE kit in school for the first day back. Thank you.

Our Forest School day will also change but I will let you know the dates in next weeks newsletter.

Dates for your diary

- Tuesday 17th December - Alders and Sycamores Christmas Party. Please wear your party clothes (suitable for playing outside, this includes suitable footwear) and bring a disposable plate with some party food of your choice, clearly labelled and covered (cling film or foil work best!). No citrus, sesame or nuts please due to allergies within our school. We will eat this after the party in the afternoon.
- School closes - Friday 20th December at 1.35pm.

Kind Regards

Miss P Cavaney

[Enchanted Elms](#)



This week we have been looking at calligrams and shape poems. The children have researched their own animal and collected facts about them. They will be writing their own shape poem next week.

In maths we have been looking at 3d shapes and what 2d shape make up 3d shapes. In geography we have compared old and new playground. The children have designed their own playgrounds and what they would like to see on a playground.

Christmas party

Due to the carol service being on the same day, please can your child/children bring Christmas clothes to get changed into after the carol service. We are asking that all children bring a plate/Tupperware of party food for their own consumption on **Thursday 19th December**. NO NUTS OR CITRUS AND NO FIZZY OR ENERGY DRINKS

Dates for your diary

- Junior Christmas Carol Service - Thursday 19th December 2024 in St Paul's Church at 9.30am
- Lower Key Stage Unit (Elms and Maples) Christmas party - Thursday 19th December 2024
- School closes - Friday 20th December at 1.35pm.
- P.E is back to normal after Christmas. **Tuesday** outdoor and **Thursday** Indoor.

Have a lovely weekend.

Miss Cowgill

[Marvellous Maples](#)



Maples have had a busy and productive week. We have completed our DT project and the children will be bringing them home next week. They have produced some amazing products including moving levers and linkages and I'm sure you will be very proud of the effort they have put into them.

There will be no Forest school session on Thursday as this is the same time as our Christmas party. Please send your child in with a change of clothes and a plate of food for the party.

The Junior Carol service will be at Church on Thursday @ 9.30am. All parents and carers welcome. All children need to come to school in uniform for the service.

PE kits and any other items will be sent home to wash, ready for the new term starting.

Reading is an ongoing issue in Maples class. We have half the children in class reading less than 3 times this week and some of them had not read at all. We cannot stress enough the importance of reading and how this can help in so many aspects of your child's learning. Please encourage your child to read at home and sign their reading record.

Have a great weekend.

Miss Yates

[Dazzling Elders](#)



On Monday, the juniors enjoyed watching the infant nativity, followed by our annual trip to the pantomime on Wednesday. The children were exceptionally well-behaved, and it was a delight to see them having such a great time.

In our Geography lesson this week, the children have been using atlases to locate and name mountain ranges. In Maths, we have continued looking at time focusing on using 24-hour clock.

Please ask your child to convert the time at home to 24-hour clock to consolidate their understanding.

On Friday, TriKidz visited school, and Elders took part in a very active session led by the coaches. They replicated swimming by using resistance bands, cycled on adapted racing bikes (on static trainers) and ran. The coaches were very complimentary about how well the children engaged with the session and their effort. In the afternoon, our guitarists played in the Christmas guitar concert, which was fabulous.

Looking ahead to next week, the Junior Carol Service will take place on Thursday, 19th December, and we warmly invite you to join us. The service begins at 9:30 a.m. at St. Paul's Church. If you are able to accompany us on the walk to the church, please arrive at the school office by 9:15 a.m.

Christmas party - Friday 20th December

Our Christmas party takes place next Friday morning and the children. They will bring home a note on Monday with what snacks or drinks they have chosen to bring. Children are also welcome to come to school in non-uniform on Friday.

Dates for your diary

- Junior Christmas Carol Service - **Thursday 19th December 2024 in St Paul's Church at 9.30am**
- Christmas party - **Friday 20th December 2024**
- School closes - **Friday 20th December at 1.35pm.**

Have a great weekend,

Mrs Nolan

Wonderful Willows



It has been a bumper week in Willows class and were all starting to feel Christmassy. Monday saw the juniors watching the infant nativity before our annual trip on Wednesday to the panto. The children were impeccably behaved, and it was wonderful to see them enjoying themselves.

Next week, sees the Junior Carol service on Thursday 19th December, which you are all very welcome to attend. The service begins at 9.30am in St Paul's Church. If you are available to walk down to church with us, please come to the school office for 9.15am.

Year 6 pupils - Bikeability

Bikeability sessions will run once again for all our Year 6 pupils. This free, and very worthwhile initiative is run by Go Velo and will take place in the week beginning Monday 20th January 2025. All of our Year 6 pupils are invited to take part and in order to participate, they will need access to a bike and a helmet (please let us know if your child will need a bike for the session). **It is also important that your child can already ride a bike before taking part.** If you would like your child to take part, please return the form to school as soon as possible. The cut off date is **Monday 13th January**. We will assume that your child is not participating if the form is not back in school by this date.

Christmas party - Friday 20th December

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Dates for your diary

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- Christmas party - **Friday 20th December 2024**
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Have a lovely weekend.

Mrs Todd

[Mighty Oaks](#)



It has been a lovely week in Oaks class with our countdown to Christmas already beginning. Monday saw the juniors watching the infant nativity before our annual trip on Wednesday to the panto. The children were impeccably behaved, and it was wonderful to see them enjoying themselves.

Next week, sees the Junior Carol service on Thursday 19th December, which you are all very welcome to attend. The service begins at 9.30am in St Paul's Church. If you are available to walk down to church with us, please come to the school office for 9.15am.

Christmas party - Friday 20th December

Our Christmas party takes place next Friday morning and the children have been busy planning what goodies they are bringing to share with their friends. Children are also welcome to come to school in non-uniform on that day.

Bikeability

Bikeability sessions will run once again for all our Year 6 pupils. This free, and very worthwhile initiative is run by Go Velo and will take place in the week beginning Monday 20th January 2025. All of our Year 6 pupils are invited to take part and in order to participate, they will need access to a bike and a helmet (please let us know if your child will need a bike for the session). **It is also important that your child can already ride a bike before taking part.** If you would like your child to take part, please return the form to school as soon as possible. The cut off date is **Monday 13th January**. We will assume that your child is not participating if the form is not back in school by this date.

Swimming

Our last swimming session will take place on Monday 16th December. Please ensure swimming kits are in school on that day.

Forest School

Our last Forest School of the term is on Tuesday 17th December. Appropriate outdoor clothing and footwear will be needed.

Have a lovely weekend.

Mrs Lee

Have your circumstances changed? Apply for free school meals.



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.

St. Paul's Church Worship



Christmas
MAKE & TAKE

Crafts | Story | Refreshments
for
Preschool - Junior Age Children

Saturday 30th
November
From 2pm to 4pm

St Mary's Church
Rawtenstall
BB4 8SQ

FREE | NO NEED TO BOOK!



Reflective Friday



Hope you all have a wonderful weekend.

Kind regards

Mrs Charlesworth

