

St. Paul's Church of England Primary Newsletter

Friday 15th December 2023

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

Headteacher news

Why don't you get all cosy, grab a mince pie, a warm drink and blanket to read this week's newsletter...

Well this week has been very busy, but amazing and has put everyone in the Christmas spirit. This week we have had a Christmas Nativity with the Berries class. which was truly beautiful. The infants had their show stopping Light's Camera Nativity which was wonderful and brought lots of cheer to us all. The infants have had an awesome North Pole experience and the juniors have been to the pantomime which was great fun.

Thank you to our budding musicians who performed in our Music concerts this afternoon. I think we may have some very talented musicians - some only starting lessons in September! We're very proud of each of you!

All of which I hope has created many wonderful memories for all of our school family.

Just a friendly reminder that school closes for the end of term at 1.35pm on Wednesday 20th December 2023.

School re opens for the Spring term on Monday 8th 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!

We do have more plans starting in the spring term the first one will start on Thursday 18th January 2024. More information will be posted at the start of the new term.





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.

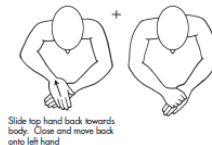
There is more information on the childcare support available to parents on the [Childcare Choices](#) website, where they can explore the early education entitlements and other government help with childcare costs.

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 'Merry Christmas.'



Happy/Merry



Slide top hand back towards body. Close and move back onto left hand

Christmas

Dates for your diary...

- **Monday 18th December - Acorns, Berries and Ashes Christmas party**

- **Monday 18th December- Elms and Maples Christmas party (Amended date)**
- **Tuesday 19th December - Sycamores and Alders Christmas party**
- ***Tuesday 19th December Junior Carol Service at St Paul's Church 2pm***
- **Wednesday 20th December - Elders, Willows & Oaks Christmas party**
- **Wednesday 20th December - *End of term closure at 1.35pm***
- **St Paul's Church Carol Service Sunday 17th December 11am with festive refreshments after**

School reopens for the start of the Spring term on Monday 8th January 2024.

Do you want to raise funds for school in a way that does not cost you anything?

Just letting you know that St Paul's CE Primary, Rawtenstall are now registered with easyfundraising, which means you can raise FREE donations for us every time you shop online. Over 7,000 brands will donate to us when you use easyfundraising to shop with them – at no extra cost to yourself! These donations really mount up and make a BIG difference to us, so we'd really appreciate it if you could take a moment to sign up and support us. You can even book your next holiday through them. It's completely FREE and only takes a moment. You can find our easyfundraising page at

https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/st-pauls-ce-primary-rawtenstall/?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=pmc&utm_content=gs-email1 Thank you so much!

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



A massive thank you to everyone who contributed by donating items and buying raffle tickets for our Christmas hampers. We raised an amazing £587!! A draw was done live this week on the PTA Facebook page and all winners have been contacted.

We are truly grateful for your continued support over the past year and on behalf of the PTA committee, I would like to wish all parents, carers and staff a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



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😊 Thank you for your support 😊

Kath McArragher - PTA Chair

This week we have been learning...

Amazing Acorns



The build up to Christmas is always so busy and the children have worked super hard this week. The children performed in their nativity on Tuesday and I am sure that you will agree they were amazing. I am so proud of them.

We had some special visitors from Just Imagine and the children took part in 'The North Pole Experience'. It was magical and the children became official North Pole Helpers.

We have started to write our own version of 'Farmer Duck' starring lots of new animals.

I cannot wait for the Christmas celebrations to continue next week.

- **Acorn Christmas Party** is on Monday 18th December. *No food needed thank you! Children are welcome to come to school dressed to party!*

Brilliant Berries

An exciting week for Berries. We enjoyed watching the KS1 nativity and danced to their beautiful singing. We loved watching the Christmas performance in the hall and particularly liked meeting Santa. Thank you to all of our parents who came to watch our nativity and stay and play session. The children had an amazing time.

Awesome Ashes



This week we have had a super busy, tiring but exciting week. The children had three brilliant Nativity performances which they should all be so proud of themselves for you were all amazing!! We had our Christmas lunch where we got to pull our Christmas crackers, design party hats and enjoy a sing-along. We also had a very special visit from 4 important people. We had a North Pole Experience with Sparkle the Christmas fairy, Noelle the Christmas nutcracker, Nutmeg the chief Christmas elf and Santa Clause himself! They helped us to remember to be kind and caring to others especially at Christmas time. When we came back to the classroom Santa had left us all a gift to open and Sparkle the fairy left us some sparkle dust. We have had an amazing time this week and are looking forward to the last few days of term next week.

- **Ashes Christmas Party** is on Monday 18th December. *No food needed thank you! Children are welcome to come to school dressed to party!*
- **Note for January 2024:** *Next half term we have our PE sessions with the sports coach. Our **PE days will be on a Tuesday** for next half term only. Please come dressed in your PE kit on Tuesdays.*

Super Sycamores



This week the children in Sycamores amazed me with their Nativity performance. Mrs Atherton and I were very proud of all the children's hard work, courageous attitude and enjoyment!

We enjoyed watching Just Imagine's North Pole Experience on Wednesday, which was a super treat after all the children's hard work in the performance.

- **Sycamore Christmas Party** is on Tuesday 19th December. Please provide a plate of food for your child to enjoy E.g. sandwich/wrap, crisps, dessert, popcorn - Please remember no citrus, sesame or nuts. *Please label and wrap your child's paper plate. Children are welcome to come to school dressed to party!*

Outstanding Alders



This week Alders have been super busy. We have really enjoyed performing our nativity to all of our families, the children in school and the children in nursery. Miss Poston and I are super proud of the children, they did a fantastic job of learning their lines and songs. A big well done! We also enjoyed the pantomime and especially enjoyed seeing Santa. We have also been busy creating our Christmas cards and calendars.

- **Alders Christmas Party** is on Tuesday 19th December. Please provide a plate of food for your child to enjoy E.g. sandwich/wrap, crisps, dessert, popcorn - Please remember no citrus, sesame or nuts. *Children are welcome to come to school dressed to party!*

Enchanted Elms



This week the children have finished writing their Biographies about Mary Anning. They have done a fantastic job, especially as it's their first time learning about and writing one. In maths we have been recapping o'clock, half past, quarter past and quarter to. In history we have finished looking at Iron age and comparing it from Stone age. We have now completed our work on the Stone age and can't wait to start learning about the Romans next term. We also visited King Georges Hall to watch Aladdin, it was a great success and the children were impeccably behaved throughout.

- **Elms Christmas Party** is on Monday 18th December. Please provide a plate of food for your child to enjoy E.g. sandwich/wrap, crisps, dessert, popcorn - Please remember no citrus, sesame or nuts. Party clothes can be worn for the whole day. Children will also need their packed lunches/school lunch as well. The children have chosen to watch **Home Alone 1** and **Dr Seuss How the GRINCH Stole Christmas**. Please let your child's class teacher know if you do not want your child to watch either film, as they are rated PG.
- **Junior Carol Service** is on Tuesday 19th December 2023 at 2pm at church. We look forward to sharing the Christmas story with our parents and carers.

Marvellous Maples



Maples enjoyed the Panto at King Georges Hall in Blackburn on Wednesday and it was great to see all of the smiley faces. Everyone has been busy rehearsing our carol service, ready for next Tuesday at 2pm in St Paul's church. Please see the email sent on Thursday as a reminder about Maples Christmas party on Monday.

Next half term Maples are starting a new class novel, *The Boy Who Grew Dragons* by Andy Shepherd. To support your child's learning in English and Guided reading lessons, it would be ideal if you could provide a copy for your child. The book is currently on sale on the World of Books website at £3.70 with free shipping. This book is the first in a series of books which engages children in the reading for pleasure.

Thank you for all your support this term and have a lovely Christmas.

- **Christmas Party** Please note the change of date for Maples Christmas party - Monday 18th December. Please provide a plate of food for your child to enjoy. No sesame, nuts or citrus please. Please come dressed in your party clothes (no make-up or high heeled shoes)
- **Junior Carol Service** is on Tuesday 19th December 2023 at 2pm at church. We look forward to sharing the Christmas story with our parents and carers.

Dazzling Elders



Elders enjoyed the pantomime at Blackburn, on Wednesday, and we were very proud of their fabulous behaviour. In RE we have been reading a story about Papa Panov and thinking about how the trinity is represented within it. The children had some great ideas and are really beginning to understand the concept of the Holy Trinity. The children have also been using some creative art skills to make Christmas cards for some residents at a local nursing home.

We're really looking forward to sharing some festive cheer at our carol service on Tuesday.

Thank you for all your support this term and we wish you all a happy Christmas.

- **Forest School - Monday 18th December** - Forest school session in the morning
- **Junior Carol Service** is on Tuesday 19th December 2023 at 2pm at church. We look forward to sharing the Christmas story with our parents and carers

- **Elder's Christmas party** - Wednesday 20th December. Please provide a plate of food for your child to enjoy. No sesame, nuts or citrus please. Please come dressed in your party clothes (no make-up or high heeled shoes)

Wonderful Willows



It has been another busy week in Willows! We were very proud of the impeccable behaviour of the class at the pantomime this week. As always, they were a credit to our school. A few reminders for next week: On Tuesday we would like to invite you to join us at church for our annual Junior Carol Service at 2pm. Our class party is next Wednesday. The children may come to school in their party clothes and should bring a plate of party food (no citrus, nuts or sesame please) and a drink.

When return in January, Willows will be beginning their swimming lessons. Our first session is on the first Monday back. Please ensure you have read the swimming letter your child should have brought home. If they have not done so, please do not hesitate to ask for a copy at the door. We will also be beginning a new class novel after the holidays. This will be 'Streetchild' by Berlie Doherty. It is most helpful if the children can have their own copy of the novel for text marking in English and Guided Reading sessions. Second hand copies can be picked up for a couple of pounds on Amazon and other online bookstores.

Finally, may we take the opportunity to thank you for your support this term. It has been lovely getting to know the class and we look forward to continuing our hard work in the Spring Term.

Kindest Regards Mrs Cooper and Mrs Todd

- **Willows Christmas party** - Wednesday 20th December. Please provide a plate of food for your child to enjoy. No sesame, nuts or citrus please. Please come dressed in your party clothes (no make-up or high heeled shoes)
- **Junior Carol Service** is on Tuesday 19th December 2023 at 2pm at church. We look forward to sharing the Christmas story with our parents and carers.

Mighty Oaks



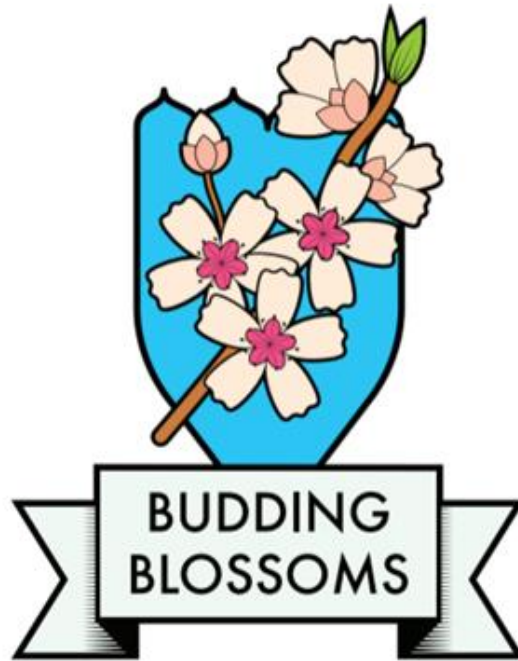
It's been a lovely run up to the end of term this week with the start of the Christmas celebrations in school. The panto visit to King George's Hall was a great success and the children were impeccably behaved throughout. We have also been busy rehearsing for the Carol service, which takes place on Tuesday at 2pm in St Paul's Church. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Next Wednesday is the Christmas party - your child will need to bring their own party plate of food (no nuts, sesame or citrus) and can come to school dressed to party.

Thank you for the medical forms that have been returned for Robinwood. Any outstanding forms need to be returned before the end of term.

- **Oaks Christmas party** - Wednesday 20th December. Please provide a plate of food for your child to enjoy. No sesame, nuts or citrus please. Please come dressed in your party clothes (no make-up or high heeled shoes)
- **Junior Carol Service** is on Tuesday 19th December 2023 at 2pm at church. We look forward to sharing the Christmas story with our parents and carers.
- **Spring term dates** - our indoor PE slot has now changed to Friday afternoon. Forest School will be the first Thursday back (11th January).

Budding Blossoms



Blossoms' have had a lovely week; we have been so busy getting into the Christmas spirit. We had a fabulous time at the Panto, 'oh yes we did'. We are enjoying practising the Christmas Carols ready for the service on Tuesday, it will be lovely to see all our parents and career there.

Please continue to read with your children, reading a wide range of texts will develop children's knowledge and understanding. Reading books are changed every Tuesday and Friday.

I wish you all a lovely Christmas and hope you enjoy your time together this season.

Kind regards

Mrs Taylor

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

Let's celebrate - end of term awards



St. Paul's end of term Awards.

	<u>Attainment</u>	<u>Exemplary behaviour</u>
Amazing Acorns	Bonnie	Hunter
Awesome Ashes	Bradley	Ayana
Super Sycamores	Lily	Emelia
Outstanding Alders	Santi	Amelia
Enchanted Elms	Evie	Nuala
Marvellous Maples	Ruby	Elise
Dazzling Elders	Ethan	Tilly
Wonderful Willows	Joseph	Dean
Mighty Oaks	Ellesia	Scarlett
Brilliant Berries	Kaira	Blake
Budding Blossoms	Charlie	Lucy

Every little helps...

Lancashire libraries are helping tackle digital poverty as part of the National Databank scheme.

The National Databank provides free SIM cards from Virgin Media O2, Vodafone and Three.

The SIM cards have mobile data, minutes and text. This scheme works with Good Things Foundation's network of local community partners including our libraries.

You can qualify for data from your local library if you are over 18, are from a low-income household, and:

- have no access or insufficient access to the internet at home
- have no or insufficient access to the internet when away from home
- cannot afford your existing monthly contract or top up

To benefit from the scheme, a recipient's device must either be unlocked or, if locked, be locked to O2, Vodafone or Three.

Ask about the scheme at your [local library](#).

You will need to make an appointment at the library to collect the SIM card.

[National Databank - Lancashire County Council](#)

<https://www.goodthingsfoundation.org/databank/>

Wraparound childcare parental survey

**Parents and Carers,
tell us about childcare
in Lancashire for your
school aged children.**



Scan the QR code or visit:
<https://online1.snapsurveys.com/vt082>

lancashire.gov.uk/childcare



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/>

Do Good December

This month, we're encouraging you to carry out small acts of kindness.

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.



Starting school in 2024...

For families living in the Lancashire area who require a primary school place in September 2023 you can now apply online via Lancashire's online system at:

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

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)

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

School Office: 01706 215893

School Holidays 2024/2025

AUTUMN TERM 2024

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

SPRING TERM 2025

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

SUMMER TERM 2025

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



St Paul's Church news



Come join us for

Christmas Make & Take

INCLUDING REFRESHMENTS

PRE-SCHOOL * JUNIOR AGE * CRAFTS * FUN * TAKE HOME

WHEN SATURDAY 23 rd DECEMBER 2pm to 4pm	WHERE St MARY'S CHURCH RAWTENSTALL BB4 8SQ
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Reflective Friday



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

On behalf of the Governors and all the staff in school. We wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. We hope that the festive period brings you all endless joy, happiness and magical memories for you and your family to treasure.

Mrs Charlesworth