

# St. Paul's Church of England Primary Newsletter

Friday 8th 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...

This half term has been very busy, but very special. With the final days of term almost upon us, there are so many events that we are looking forward to, helping to create lots of wonderful memories for our school family.

## Parking

We seem to have a number of parents who are parking inappropriately and causing hazards for pedestrians. We are very lucky to have the few spaces that we have as many schools do not have this luxury. I know it is busy at pick and drop off, but this does not mean that parking in the accessible parking area without a blue badge, parking on the corner kerb next to the clothes bin, parking on yellow hazard lines, parking in the staff carpark and across neighbour's drives is acceptable. For the few that do this, please refrain from doing so. We do photograph and send photographs of your registrations and parking to the police and council. If you wish to avoid a fine, please park appropriately.

Any parents who are parking inappropriately and are approached by a member of staff should show the same courtesy and respect our members of staff give to you. Any abusive conversations/reactions will result in a ban from accessing school grounds.

A huge thank you to the majority of parents who set a good example to our children, park appropriately and drive responsibly in our school grounds.

## 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 24 hours.**

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.**

## 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 'baby.'



## Dates for your diary...

- **Tuesday 12th December Infant Nativity 1:30pm & 6pm for parents - Ticketed event only**
- **Tuesday 12th December - Choir to sing at Hillview Nursing Home**
- **Wednesday 13th December - KS1 Just Imagine performance and Christmas dinner**
- **Wednesday 13th December - Berries Nativity 2pm**
- **Wednesday 13th December - KS2 Panto**
- **Wednesday 13th December - PTA Hamper raffle drawn live on PTA Facebook**
- **Thursday 14th December- Junior Christmas dinner**
- **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

## Forest School timetable - Autumn 2

Week starting 11/12/2023

- Monday - Alders
- Tuesday - Elms
- Wednesday - Elders
- Thursday - Willows
- Friday – Maples

## PE Timetable - Autumn 2

<u>St. Paul's PE.</u>					
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Amazing Acorns			Indoor PE		
Awesome Ashes	Indoor PE				
Super Sycamores			Indoor PE & Outdoor PE		
Outstanding Alders				Outdoor PE	Indoor PE
Enchanted Elms	Outdoor PE			Indoor PE	
Marvellous Maples	Indoor PE	Outdoor PE			
Dazzling Elders	Outdoor PE				Indoor PE
Wonderful Willows		Indoor PE with sports coach			Outdoor PE
Mighty Oaks	Swimming	Indoor PE with sports coach			

IF your child has outdoor PE they will need (weather dependant) sunscreen, water bottle, PE hoody.

All classes other than Acorns and Ashes will need to bring their PE kit and leave it in school. Acorns and ashes can come to school for the day in their PE kit which consists of navy blue shorts, tracksuit bottoms, white t-shirt, PE hoody/school jumper and pumps.

## 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](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



🎄👤 Don't forget to get your raffle tickets on Parent pay by Monday 11th December to be in with a chance of winning one of our 13 fantastic hampers. 🎄👤

We'll be drawing the winners on Wednesday 13th December at 7pm on Facebook live.

😊 Thank you for your support 😊

😊 Good Luck everyone 👍

Thank you for your continued support.

Kath McArragher - PTA Chair

This week we have been learning...

Amazing Acorns



Acorns are always so busy... we have had our first dress rehearsal this week with Nursery as our audience. The children were amazing and I cannot wait for you to see them next week.

In Maths we have been exploring the number 10 and ordering numbers to 10.

In English we have been writing about how the farmer might have felt at the end of our story 'Farmer Duck'.

#### **Acorns Events**

- **Infant Nativity** - Tuesday 12th December 1:30pm & 6pm. Please ensure your child is back in school for 5:30pm to get changed into their costumes. Parents can pick their children up from

classroom doors at approx. 2.30pm (after the afternoon performance) if parents have attended the afternoon performance. School is open as usual and BYT children will go to BYT as usual. **Please drop your child back at school at 5.30pm**, ready to change for the Nativity at 6pm.

- **Panto** is on Wednesday 13th December 2023 - Just Imagine are coming into school for a North Pole experience.
- **Christmas Dinner** is on Wednesday 13th December 2023.
- **Acorn Christmas Party** is on Monday 18th December. Tuesday 12th December *No food needed thank you! Children are welcome to come to school dressed to party!*

### Brilliant Berries

Berries have had lovely week. We have enjoyed exploring money and the number 10. We have been finding out some more information about penguins. We discovered that they use their flippers to swim and like to eat krill and squid. We have been continuing to look at the Christmas story. We particularly enjoyed making Christmas hats and wrapping presents.

### Friendly reminders:

- **Berries Nativity** Wednesday 13th December at 2pm Parents of Berries children welcome to join the Nativity at 2pm
- **Christmas party** Tuesday 12th December *No food needed thank you! Children are welcome to come to school dressed to party!*
- **Panto** is on Wednesday 13th December 2023 - Just Imagine are coming into school for a North Pole experience.

### Awesome Ashes



This week have been very busy in Ashes. We have been practising our Nativity and had our first showing in front of Bright Futures Nursery! In RE we have been making beautiful Christmas wreaths and in forest school we tried to make a bridge for the three Billy Goats to cross.

### Ashes events

- **Infant Nativity** - Tuesday 12th December 1:30pm & 6pm. Please ensure your child is back in school for 5:30pm to get changed into their costumes. Parents can pick their children up from classroom doors at approx. 2.30pm (after the afternoon performance) if parents have attended the afternoon performance. School is open as usual and BYT children will go to BYT as usual. **Please drop your child back at school at 5.30pm**, ready to change for the Nativity at 6pm.
- **Panto** is on Wednesday 13th December 2023 - Just Imagine are coming into school for a North Pole experience.
- **Christmas Dinner** is on Wednesday 13th December 2023.
- **Ashes Christmas Party** is on Monday 18th December. Tuesday 12th December No *food needed thank you!* Children are welcome to come to school dressed to party!

### Super Sycamores



This week in Sycamores we have been designing, making and evaluating our structures in DT. Our design criteria was to make a structure for a traditional story. We made castles for Jack and the Beanstalk, bridges for the Troll in the Three Billy Goats Gruff and a cottage for Goldilocks! We enjoyed being out in the sunshine on the field, it was very frosty so we investigated how we could make the ice melt quicker. In Maths we have finished our work on time. We also enjoyed our first dress rehearsal of our Nativity 'Lights Camel Action' yesterday.

What a busy, enjoyable week! 😊



## Sycamore Events

- **Infant Nativity** - Tuesday 12th December 1:30pm & 6pm. Please ensure your child is back in school for 5:30pm to get changed into their costumes. Parents can pick their children up from classroom doors at approx. 2.30pm (after the afternoon performance) if parents have attended the afternoon performance. School is open as usual and BYT children will go to BYT as usual. **Please drop your child back at school at 5.30pm**, ready to change for the Nativity at 6pm.
- **Panto** is on Wednesday 13th December 2023 - Just Imagine are coming into school for a North Pole experience.
- **Christmas Dinner** is on Wednesday 13th December 2023.
- **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. *Children are welcome to come to school dressed to party!*.

## Outstanding Alders



This week we have really enjoyed practising the nativity and we are really looking forward to having an audience.

At forest school we enjoyed our last session and had lots of fun getting really muddy on the mud slide. In math's we have been learning to tell the time. we have learnt quarter past and quarter to. In English we have been looking at persuasive writing and are planning our own persuasive poster. In history we have been thinking about our key question for the week - How did Rosa's action lead to life of people getting better?

## Alders Events

- **Forest School** - Our last session was on Monday 4th December. Our next forest school session will be Monday 15th January.

- **Infant Nativity** - Tuesday 12th December 1:30pm & 6pm. Parents can pick their children up from classroom doors at approx. 2.30pm (after the afternoon performance) if parents have attended the afternoon performance. School is open as usual and BYT children will go to BYT as usual. **Please drop your child back at school at 5.30pm**, ready to change for the Nativity at 6pm.
- **Panto** is on Wednesday 13th December 2023 - Just Imagine are coming into school for a North Pole experience.
- **Christmas Dinner** is on Wednesday 13th December 2023.
- **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



Elms this week have been learning about Mary Anning's life and putting themselves in her shoes. What would it have been like to live then?

In Maths the children have been solving worded problems - Division. They have really persevered with this. We have been plotting where you can find remains of Stone Age in the UK.

### Elms Events

- **Forest School** is our last session on Tuesday 12th December 2023. Please make sure your child has waterproofs for this session.
- **Panto** Wednesday 13th December - every child will need to bring a packed lunch. No sesame, nuts or citrus please. If your child has free school meals, please contact the office if you wish school to provide the packed lunch.
- **Christmas Dinner** is on Thursday 14th December 2023.

- **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.
- **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



In Forest school the weather was a beautiful, cold day. Maples class have been carrying out a Science experiment to help our understanding about what causes evaporation and condensation. To support our Science learning about changes of state the children investigated the best way to melt ice. The children's ideas and enthusiasm to test out different ways for amazing. They quickly worked out that the more warmth they applied, the quicker the ice changed state.

### Maples Events

- **DOJO winners** - Maples children have a non-uniform on Monday 11th December for earning over 1000 dojos. Well done Maples!
- **Panto** - Wednesday 13th December - every child will need a packed lunch. If your child has free school meals, please contact the office if you wish school to provide the packed lunch.
- **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)
- **Christmas dinner** is on Thursday 14th December 2023.
- **Forest School** is our last session on Friday 15th December 2023. Please make sure your child has waterproofs for this session.

- **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 have had a lovely week. In our Spanish lessons the children have been revising counting to 20 and starting to learn numbers up to 100. They have enjoyed trying out their new counting skills. In our Science lesson, the children have been exploring pitch and planned and made a musical instrument/s that could make a high and low pitch. This week the year 4's have continued learning time and have been converting analogue time to the 24-hour clock and the year 5's have been drawing and measuring angles.

### Elders Events

- **Forest School** is our last session on Wednesday 13th December 2023. Please make sure your child has waterproofs for this session.
- **Panto** - Wednesday 13th December - every child will need to bring a packed lunch. No sesame, nuts or citrus please. If your child has free school meals, please contact the office if you wish school to provide the packed lunch.
- **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)
- **Christmas dinner** is on Thursday 14th December 2023.
- **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.

## Wonderful Willows



Another fantastic week in Willow's class. In our PE lesson we were blessed with a frozen yard so we actually managed to get the hockey putts out and attempt a different style of Ice Hockey. The children had a blast and thoroughly enjoyed the alteration. In our Spanish sessions we are trying to competently count to a hundred as well as say the date in Spanish, it is amazing how quickly they are picking up the new vocabulary. Ask them at home to show off their new talents.

### Willows Events

- **Forest School** is our last session on Thursday 14th December 2023. Please make sure your child has waterproofs for this session.
- **Panto** - Wednesday 13th December - every child will need to bring a packed lunch. No sesame, nuts or citrus please. If your child has free school meals, please contact the office if you wish school to provide the packed lunch.
- **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)
- **Christmas dinner** is on Thursday 14th December 2023.
- **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



This week, Oaks have been busy preparing for the Junior Carol Service, which is taking place on Tuesday 19th December at St Paul's Church at 2pm. We look forward to sharing the Christmas story with our parents and carers. In our learning about World War Two, we have been looking at the impact the war had on the people of Rawtenstall. The children have been researching soldiers who were killed as a result of the battle and looking at the old school registers, which showed children who were evacuated during the war. A real piece of living history!

Next week, Monday will be the last swimming session for Oaks class. I know it will be a session that all the children will enjoy.

### Oaks Events

- **Panto** - Wednesday 13th December - every child will need to bring a packed lunch. No sesame, nuts or citrus please. If your child has free school meals, please contact the office if you wish school to provide the packed lunch.
- **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)
- **Christmas dinner** is on Thursday 14th December 2023.
- **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.

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

*Let's* celebrate weekly awards

	<u>Learner of the week</u>	<u>Topic award learner of the week</u>	<u>Value winner</u>
Amazing Acorns	Ralph	Thomas	Elioth
Awesome Ashes	Bradley	Finlay R	Joseph
Super Sycamores	Henry	Noah	Eder
Outstanding Alders	Hareet	Ethan	Charlotte
Enchanted Elms	Sienna	John-Paul	Riley
Marsellos Maples	Rouven	Kane	Charlie
Dazzling Elders	Eris	Archie I	Sebastian
Wonderful Willows	Luca	Isabella	James
Mighty Oaks	Bella	Algo	Tabbi
Brilliant Berries		Theo	

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.

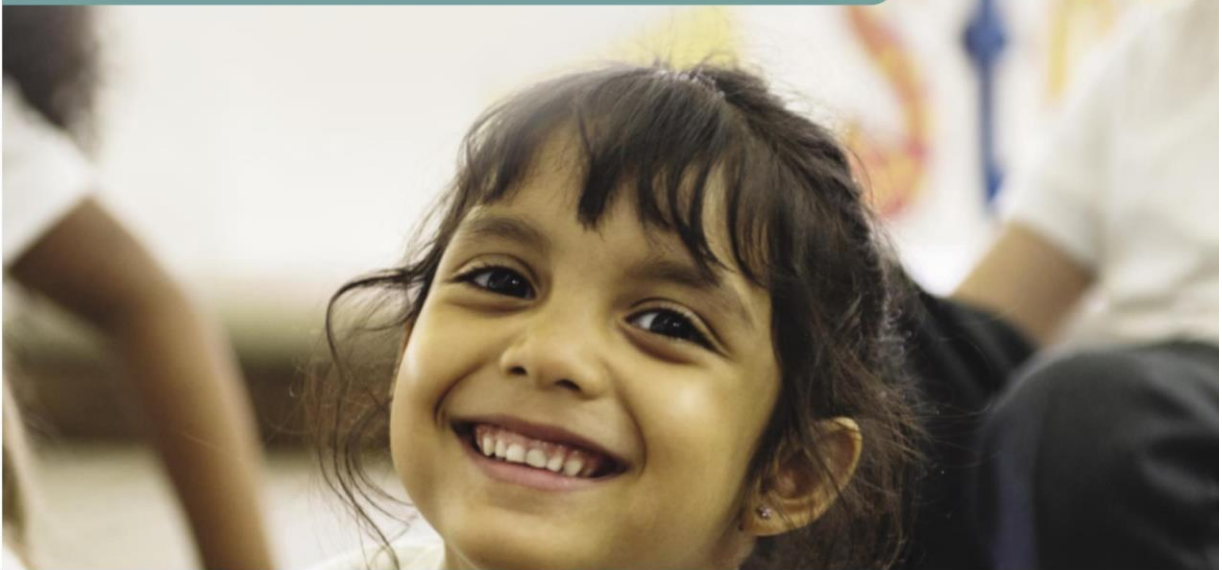
[National Databank - Lancashire County Council](#)

<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/vt08?>

[lancashire.gov.uk/childcare](https://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](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**

## **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](#) ([stpaulsrawtenstall.co.uk](http://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

**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

<u>AUTUMN TERM 2024</u>	
Staff Training Days	Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> and Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> September 2024
<b>Re-open</b>	<b>Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2024</b>
Mid Term Closure	Monday 21 <sup>st</sup> October - Friday 25 <sup>th</sup> October 2024 (inclusive)
<b>Re-open</b>	<b>Monday 28<sup>th</sup> October 2024</b>
Closure after school on	Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> December 2024
<u>SPRING TERM 2025</u>	
<b>Re-open</b>	<b>Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2025</b>
Mid Term Closure	Monday 17 <sup>th</sup> February - Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> February 2025 (inclusive)
<b>Re-open</b>	<b>Monday 24<sup>th</sup> February 2025</b>
Closure after school on	Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> April 2025
<u>SUMMER TERM 2025</u>	
<b>Re-open on</b>	<b>Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2025</b>
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)
<b>Re-open on</b>	<b>Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2025</b>
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







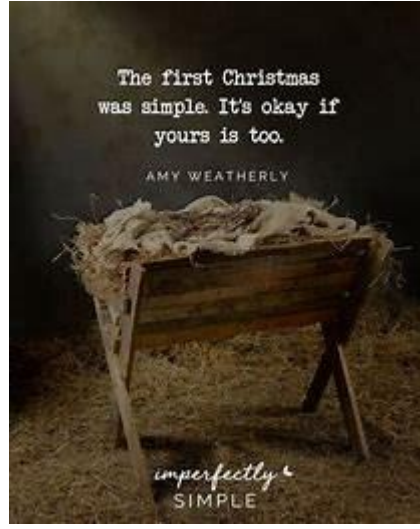



## St Paul's Church news



For anyone wanting to get into the festive spirit. All our St Paul's school family are all warmly welcomed to our Christmas Carol Service on Sunday 17th December at 11am. The service will be followed with Festive refreshments and time to just be... at this very busy time of year.

## Reflective Friday



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