



Summer Term 2017

July 2017

It gives me great pleasure to be sharing such a vibrant and celebratory end of year newsletter with you. I am sure you will agree, upon reading, that this year has been a very successful one at St. Paul's. The partnership between our delightful pupils and their supportive families, our hardworking and talented staff, as well as our dedicated Governors, continues to ensure that our children receive fantastic opportunities and outcomes, both educationally and socially. Our children make us proud each day; the comments and feedback to us following the end of year pupil reports supports this shared success. As we prepare to welcome new families to St Paul's, this is also an opportunity to say good bye and good luck to our Year 6 pupils who are moving on to their new secondary schools. They have been great ambassadors for our school and I am sure they will continue on to successful futures. We will miss you all! Many thanks to you all for your continued support.

Have a safe and relaxing summer break.

Mrs S Sinclair, Headteacher

Growing in Faith

Thank you for sharing in so many opportunities this year which have supported the faith journey of our children. Your generous support of our Cafod appeals, Fairtrade awareness and fundraising, our Mini Vinnie group, as well as our Christmas and Lenten liturgies and Feast Day Mass, all promote our school Mission Statement and remind us of the importance of mutual support and values of respect, love, forgiveness and hope. The work that our KS2 children have undertaken this year about Oscar Romero reminds us to "aspire not to have more, but to be more." 'More Than Dance' delivered an inspiring workshop for Year 5 & Year 6 children based on this theme. This is a great message for us all and one which we hope we continually share. Your generosity in supporting Billingham Foodbank was amazing and this will now become an ongoing collection. Many thanks to Fr Butters for his continued support of our school. Please continue to remember many of our families who need our prayers as well as our Parish community, especially the sick and housebound.



Amazing Artists

Mrs Lankford has been running an after-school art club throughout this year. Recently 8 children from our school were selected to display their work at an annual Art exhibition at Northfield School. Their work was displayed alongside other primary schools and the works of GCSE children from Billingham schools. Each age category received an art award and art folio from the Mayor of Stockton. Congratulations to Romy in Y3, the winner of the primary category this year with her beautiful mono-print. Many thanks to Mrs Lankford for her dedication and for nurturing the talents of our children.

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Sporting Success

We were delighted when two of our Y6 pupils were shortlisted for awards at the Stockton School Sports Awards. Isabel was nominated for the outstanding performance and commitment she has made on the athletics and cross country track, as well as her performance in swimming this year. Isabel has shown she is also a fantastic team player and has represented the school at football, netball and tag rugby. Isabel's hard work and achievement meant she was awarded Highly Commended and was runner up in the Under 11 Female Sports Achiever of the Year. Clemency was nominated for Young Sports Leader of the Year. Clemency earned this nomination for her organisation and dedication to sport in school. She has played an active role in encouraging other children to take part in competitions and has organised Lunchtime Clubs and Level 1 competitions amongst other things. She is also a dedicated sports person herself and has represented the school in cricket, netball and football. We were delighted when Clemency won her category. To have the hard work and commitment of both pupils recognised at such a prestigious event is a fantastic achievement.



Green Fingered Gardeners

Congratulations to some of our Year 4 pupils who have been such keen gardeners this term. They have worked with Mr Steve Henderson from Billingham Environmental Learning Partnership (BELP) and have grown potatoes, beetroot, onions, garlic, lettuce and tomatoes. Their products smell and look delicious and we hope they enjoy sampling their products.



Friends of St Paul's

This group of parents continue to make such a tremendous contribution to the success of our school. This year's fundraising events have ensured that our ICT facilities in school have been updated as well as providing refreshments for our school Feast Day. We are very grateful to them for their hard work and dedication in ensuring that facilities and experiences for all our children are enhanced. Please look out for the September newsletter – everyone is encouraged to make a contribution to the group – many hands make light work!

Please see below for an initial list of events already planned for September and October. More details and events will follow in the new term.

Friday 8th September – Y6 Crucial Crew

Tuesday 12th September (5-6pm) – A presentation by Mr Ramsey, Headteacher of St Michael's Catholic Academy, and Mr Rochester Year 7 Head of Year, for Parents and Carers of Y5 and Y6 children.

Monday 18th – Friday 22nd September – Y6 Bikeability – Bikes needed in school each day.

Tuesday 19th September (2-3pm) – NSPCC Parent/Carer information workshop about On-line safety. Everyone welcome and encouraged to attend.

Friday 29th September (1.45-3pm) – Macmillan Coffee Afternoon

Monday 9th – Friday 20th October – Y3 Swimming each morning

Thursday 12th October – Friends of St Paul's Disco

Monday 16th and Wednesday 18th October (3.40 – 6.10pm) – Parents Consultation Evenings

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Academy

In April 2016 our school became part of St Thomas of Canterbury Catholic Multi Academy Trust. Since then, Directors of the MAT Board, Governors of the Local Governing Bodies of St Paul's, St Joseph's and St John the Evangelist and school staff have been developing effective partnerships to ensure that pupils at our schools receive the best opportunities and outcomes. In September some of our children, from each of the schools will be working together to produce an Academy Logo. As the year progresses there will be further opportunities for our pupils to begin to work in partnership with each other.

Please visit the Academy tab on our school website to find out more about our Ethos and Mission.

Staffing

As we draw to the end of a very busy year we would like to say thank you and goodbye to Mrs Butler and Mr Farley. Both teachers have been a fantastic asset to our school and we wish them good luck in their future teaching roles.

Miss O' Kell will return to teach Class 1 in September, and we welcome Miss Beth Meredith to our teaching team who will become our temporary Year 5 teacher from September. Miss Wilberforce will be teaching Year 6 during the coming academic year. Mrs Maria Wilson will re-join the teaching staff and will be working in our additionally resourced provision alongside Mrs Irvine.

Academic Success

Our children deserve considerable recognition and praise for their hard work and great outcomes this year. We are delighted that our externally validated tests and judgments (Early Years, KS1 and KS2 SATs and Phonics Screening) are very positive and reflect the hard work of our children. Well done children – I am sure you will continue to work really hard next year. Thanks also to you, their families, for working in partnership with us to support this learning journey. We are currently reviewing our Homework Policy as we recognise that the support we ask from you could be tailored more effectively to the needs of our pupils.

Attendance and Punctuality

We would like to congratulate the children and say a big thank you to all parents and carers for your tremendous efforts in helping us achieve a whole school attendance of 96.03% this academic year. This figure shows that many of our children have the best opportunity to benefit from their time in school. Please remember that children should be ready to come into school at 8.50am on a morning. Punctuality is so important to ensure that the day gets off to a smooth start. Thank you for supporting this.

From September, we ask that all pupils use the Thames Road entrance into school. Key Stage 1 pupils should use the path around the outside of the nursery to go into their playground, Key Stage 2 pupils should come into their playground through the green gate next to the Childcare facility.

Website

Thank you to those parents who provided constructive feedback about our new website. We are delighted with it and hope you agree it is very user friendly and a really useful way to keep in touch with school life. Please do take the time to have a browse over the summer if you have not done so already at www.stpaulsrc.org.uk

We will be updating information about After School Clubs when we return. In September we will be launching our Twitter feed to enhance our communication with you!

School Meals and Packed Lunches

The price of a school meal will remain at £2.05 per day/£10.25 per week. Universal free school meal entitlement continues for children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2. Even though you do not have to pay for school meals for pupils of this age, or if you prefer to send a packed lunch, please let us know if you think you are eligible for free school meals as the school can claim additional funding which will be used to support your child's education. The free school meals checking service can give you confidential advice on this matter 01642 526606

If you are providing your child with a packed lunch, we ask you to consider healthy options. All packed lunches should contain fruit or vegetables. Only one treat like a cake or biscuit should be included. A drink should be provided – water, fruit juice or squash please, no fizzy drinks.

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Important Dates

**PD Days Academic Year
2017—2018**

1st September 2017

4th September 2017

21st June 2018

22nd June 2018

23rd July 2018

The children return to school on
Tuesday 5th September 2017.

Uniform

Children may wear summer uniform up
to October half term, weather per-
mitting.



Award Winners 2017

Congratulations to our award winners this year! The children are nominated for the awards by all school staff. The winners are:-

Tait Award

The Tait Award was donated by the Tait family in memory of Jim. The award is to recognise sustained effort and willingness to take part in all aspects of school life. The winner this year is Theo Linton.

Kilvington Award

The Kilvington Award is in memory of Mrs Marian Kilvington, a former Deputy Head teacher at the school. Mrs Kilvington had a passion for all things 'Literary'. The award is in recognition of these qualities. The winner this year is Jamie Collicot Year 5.

Gallagher Award

The Gallagher award is in memory of Mr Joe Gallagher, the first Deputy Head Teacher at the school. He had a keen interest in sport and this award recognises sporting qualities including sportsmanship and willingness to support and encourage others. The winner this year is Millie Haswell Year 5.

Mason Family Award

The Mason Family Award is to recognise good citizenship. It acknowledges children who display qualities including kindness and consideration. The winners this year are Jacob Harris in KS1 and Madelaine Rayment in KS2.

The Light of St. Paul

Mrs Connolly donated this award to the school to recognise children who overcome challenges and continue to embrace the values of the school. The winner this year is Gracie Wilson from Year 4.

The Spirit of St. Paul's

The Spirit of St. Paul's was donated by Ian Richardson to recognise a pupil who models the school mission statement in their daily lives. The winner this year is Clemency Crawshaw from Year 6.