

Through the love of God, we protect our school community. Together we trust, hope, persevere and flourish on life's great adventure.

December events at St Paul's

Thank you to everyone who has supported all the events in school this half term- it's been a really busy time! In line with our school vision, our whole school community have had lots of new experiences and have flourished through a range of experiences including the following:

Coffee, chat and wrap!

Parents for KS1 and KS2 came to school to help out with our Christmas preparations. It was a great opportunity to get to know one another better, enjoy a chat and help to make this Christmas events at St Paul's a great success! Thank you again to everyone who gave up their time to come and help.



Reception class Nativity

Reception class performed 'Whoops-a-daisy Angel' to a full house! The pupils worked very hard rehearsing the performance over the past few weeks and this shone through in the wonderful performances they gave-well done Reception class!



Christmas performances

Our whole school Christmas performances were a fantastic success, and the pupils did themselves proud, well done to all the children for all the hard work they put into the rehearsals and performing on the day. It was clear to see their love of the performing arts and confidence growing as the week went on.

Snowman Live!

Pupils from Year 6 visited the Kings Hall in Ilkley to watch a live orchestra performance of the Snowman.



Christmas Fayre

Thank you to everyone who supported our Christmas Fayre in school last week which was officially opened by Right Reverend Nicholas Baines, Bishop of Leeds. Children and families enjoyed a wide variety of games and stalls at the fayre along with delicious refreshments and a special visit from Santa Claus himself!



In total we raised £878 from the event, and this will go towards further enhancing our resources within school to support our pupils. All tickets to the Fayre included entry into our school raffle and all winners have been contacted to collect their prizes from the school office. Thankyou again for the support from all the parents who helped with the preparations for the fayre and on the day.



Design a decoration winners

Reception	Oliver
Year 1	Mila
Year 2	Rowan
Year 3	Nevaeh
Year 4	Ayla
Year 5	Harvey
Year 6	Amelia

Pupils across school entered our 'Design a value based decoration' competition. The entries were all very creative and picking overall winners was very difficult. Thank you to all the pupils who took part.



Bag2school

We also collected bags of unwanted clothes and textiles this month as part of the Bag2school initiative. As a school we received payment based on the total weight of everything brought to school that day and raised £55.

Thank you to everyone who contributed towards this.



Sports

A group of KS2 pupils represented St Paul's at a local Sports4all competition. Pupils took part in archery, netball and golf and came away with the first prize trophy-Well done everybody who took part!



Community

All of our pupils have made Christmas cards and decided where they would like them to be sent. We have now delivered the cards to the local food bank, Salvation Army, Care Homes and given them to families, staff and governors. We are really proud to share our kind thoughts through this gesture at this special time of year.

Sponsored Athlete Visit

Thank you to all the pupils who took part in our sponsored sporting event earlier this half term. We received a total of £2371.13 in sponsorship money to help purchase new gymnastics mats in school. The event was a great success and it was clear we have a lot of aspiring athletes within the school!



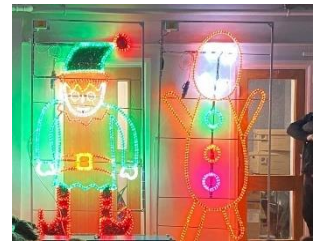
Carol and a Cuppa

Our school choir entertained some VIP guests in school on our last day whilst Year 6 pupils provided the refreshments. It was lovely to see so many members of our wider community come and join us in school and we hope this can continue in the future.

Christmas Lights Winners

The winners of Wibsey's 'Design a light decoration' competition were rewarded during a Collective Worship with a preview of their winning entries.

The lights are on display as part of Wibsey's Christmas lights that were officially switched on at the start of December. Well done to Elise and Ava for their fabulous designs!



Staffing update

Congratulations to Mrs Riley-Beck who is expecting her first baby! Mrs Riley-Beck will be starting her maternity leave during the Spring Term 2024.



Rainbow Squad

Our Rainbow Squad childcare provision is now fully up and running and we have crammed in a lot of exciting activities this half term. Pupils have been enjoying a variety of activities this week including arts and crafts, games and spontaneous dance shows!

The Rainbow Squad childcare is available every Monday to Friday, 3:10pm to 5pm at £6 per day.

To reserve a place contact the school office.



Parent Questionnaires

At our parent consultation appointments in November, we asked for a questionnaire to be completed regarding life at St Paul's. We asked lots of important questions, linked to safety, your child's happiness, our curriculum and vision.

The outcome of the surveys was overwhelmingly positive, with some fabulous feedback. 98% of the responses strongly agreed or agreed that they would recommend St Paul's to another parent and that their child was happy at school- we are so pleased to hear this! In addition, 100% said that their child understood the importance of our vision and core values- which is fantastic! We were also able to connect with some families who had suggestions for how to improve their child's experience and we are pleased to say that we have been able to make some small changes that make a big difference. Thanks again for completing this survey to enable us to continue to grow as a school community.

Governance

Mrs. Isherwood and Mrs. Palmer would like to say thank you to all of the parents and carers that participated in our parent governor election.

The results were very close, with all three candidates receiving a similar number of votes.

The candidate with the most number of votes was Kelly Terry and we would like to congratulate her on her new role as Parent Governor for St Paul's.

Once again, a big thank you to the other candidates for the work they did to submit their statements and for their commitment to St Paul's- it's really appreciated.

We hope to see everyone that was involved in this important process at our events in school, helping us to go from strength to strength and build a flourishing community.

Attendance

As a school we aim for a whole school attendance figure of 97%, our current whole school attendance is 94.9%.

We understand there are times when you child may be ill and cannot attend and as a school we will support children to miss any work they may have missed out.

Unfortunately we continue to have families taking their children out of school during term time for holidays and this has a big impact on the children and the other pupils in class.

Please be reminded any unauthorised leave of absence during term time can lead to a fine being issued, this can also include days off from school where no acceptable reason has been provided.



School Uniform

We continue to have children wearing incorrect PE kits to school. Please be reminded the required clothing for PE days is:

- Navy shorts,(warmer weather) white round neck T-shirt
- Family zipped hoodie
- Plain navy or black track suit bottoms and trainers

Family hoodies can be purchased from <https://maduck.co.uk>, Tel: 01274 410816 or search for Mad Duck Ltd on Facebook.

For any family finding it difficult to afford a family hoodie, please speak to Mrs Moore as a payment plan can be agreed to help with the purchase of this.

Tax free childcare

If your child attends our Breakfast Club or Rainbow Squad afternoon childcare, please be reminded we can now accept payments via Tax Free Childcare.

What is Tax-Free Childcare? Tax-Free Childcare is a government scheme to support working parents with childcare costs. If eligible, you set up an online childcare account which you can use to pay your childcare provider directly. For every £8 you pay in, the government will pay in an extra £2. You can get up to £2,000 per child per year, or £4,000 for children with disabilities.

Am I eligible for Tax-Free Childcare? You will be eligible for Tax-Free Childcare if:

- Your child is under 12 years old, or your child is disabled and under 17 years old for Tax-Free Childcare.
- The child you're applying for usually lives with you – you don't have to be their parent
- You, and any partner, are working, and each earning at least the National Minimum Wage or Living Wage for 16 hours a week

You can also apply for Tax-Free Childcare if you're not working but expect to start a new job in the next 31 days.

You can't get Tax-Free Childcare and tax credits, Universal Credit or childcare vouchers at the same time.

How do I apply?

To check eligibility and to apply visit: <https://www.gov.uk/apply-for-tax-free-childcare>

Thank you to everyone who completed our after school childcare questionnaire, we will be updating parents very soon regarding changes to our offer to ensure we continue to support working families.

Dates for your diary

January

- 03 School reopens
- 10 Year 2 Interfaith visit to the Mosque
- 25 SEN coffee morning in school



February

- 08 Plumber Drummer Performance
- 09 School Closes for half term

Merry Christmas