



St Paul's
Primary School

EARLY YEARS NEWSLETTER

September 2024

Dear Parents,

Welcome to St Paul's Early Years! We are looking forward to getting to know you and your child over the coming year. Below you will find a lot of information about our curriculum, routines and events happening in school.

This half term's theme:

This half term our theme will be **We're off on a Space Adventure.**



During the unit, we will explore a selection of well-known stories including Whatever Next and Astro Girl. We will explore the planets and things found in space. We will design rockets and space vehicles and will even make our own space food!

A copy of this half term's overview is attached to this newsletter.

Reading:

At St Paul's we believe that reading is fundamental to children's learning and experience.

Each week your child will bring home a selection of stories to share with you.

Nursery children will bring home two books. A library book and a picture book from the Oxford Reading Tree Scheme.

Reception children will bring home three books. A library book, an Oxford Reading Tree scheme book and a Read Write Inc Phonics book.



The library book has been chosen by your child from our class library. It is a book for you to read to them. Sometimes they may wish to bring home the same book or a book that you have at home. Please read the story as many times as your child wants, talking to them about what is happening, what the characters are doing and encouraging them to join in with repetitive words and phrases.

Good roots run deep.

As well as your child's reading books, we will also send home a red reading log. This reading log will become a record of your child's reading at home and in school. We will record when your child has read with an adult in school and we ask that you tell us about their reading at home. An information sheet which will help you to complete the reading log is attached to the front of the red reading log.

Reading books will be collected in on Wednesday and sent home on Thursday.

Phonics:

Once the children have settled into the school, we shall begin our formal phonics lessons. **Nursery** will focus on listening to, and distinguishing sounds around them and using their voices to create sounds. **Reception** will begin the Read Write Inc Phonics programme.



We will be running a parents' workshop for Reception families focusing on how we teach phonics and reading on Thursday 26th September at 3:45pm in the Early Years Base.

Maths:

The children will have a daily maths session which will focus on different mathematical concepts including number recognition, counting, addition and subtraction and measuring.



During the first half term we shall also be looking at matching, patterns and positional language. More information can be found on the curriculum overview.

Homework:

Nursery will receive homework after Christmas. This will be linked to our topic work in class and will include a range of practical tasks.

Reception children will receive two pieces of homework each week. The first will focus on phonics and will be linked to our learning in class. Please talk to your child about each of the activities and encourage them to share what they have learnt in school. The second piece of homework will be linked to our learning in maths. Each week the task will vary and will include a selection of practical tasks and paper-based activities.

Homework will be set on Friday and should be returned on Tuesday.

Clothing:

Please ensure that **all** of your child's clothes are clearly labelled with their name, including their shoes and their coats. We will encourage the children to look after their possessions, but occasionally jumpers will become muddled. It is much easier to return clothing to the correct child if it is clearly labelled.

Good roots run deep.

During the year we will support your child to become increasingly independent with their clothing and shoes. Please help us by sending your child into school with clothes that they can easily manage e.g. Velcro shoes and not too many layers.

Wet weather clothing:

We do encourage the children to use the outside area in all weathers so please ensure that your child comes to school with a warm coat.

On wet days, your child is welcome to come to school in wellie boots. Please bring their school shoes in a plastic bag and we will happily help your child to change into their school shoes.

Toileting:

It is natural that during the children's time in school they may have a toileting accident. Often, they are busy in their learning activity and leave it too late to make it to the bathroom.

A spare set of clothes should be kept in school for us to change them into. This can be in your child's PE bag if they are in Reception or a separate bag. Please be assured that we are happy to change your child and will do our best to reassure them.

Collection from School:

Occasionally, you may need another adult, who is not on your contacts list, to collect your child from school. If this should occur, please ensure that you contact the School Office as soon as possible. It can be very distressing for both your child, and the adult collecting, if we need to check with the Office and do not dismiss them immediately.

Birthdays

We love celebrating the children's birthday's in school and as part of our assembly programme we will hold a monthly Birthday Assembly, where your child will be invited to blow out candles and talk about their birthday.



You are welcome to bring in a small packet of sweets for the class to take home e.g. Haribo. Please do not send in cakes or party bags as we cannot give them out.



Junk Modelling:

We encourage the children to create models using recycled materials such as cereal boxes and it would be great if you could bring in any of the following:

- Cereal boxes
- Egg cartons
- Clean yogurt pots
- Tubes (pringles, inside of kitchen roll etc.)
- Small boxes of any shape and size

Good roots run deep.

Please be aware that you might sometimes get your donation back in the form of a lovely creation.

Dates for your diaries:

26th September – Phonics Workshop for Reception Parents

30th September– 4th October – Science Week

10th October – Year 5 Harvest Service in St Paul’s Church at 10am

22nd October – Individual and Sibling Photos (school aged siblings)

25th October – Mufti day

28th October – 1st November – Half term

A full list of dates can be found on the school website.

Keeping up to date:

Please check our School Website as we regularly post pictures of the things we do here in school.

You will also receive an email every Friday from Mr Wright in which he shares news from around the school and information about upcoming events.

If you have any questions or queries, please speak to a member of the Early Years Team or email the School Office.

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