



St. Paul's Newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 3

20th October 2017

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Friends of St Paul's Update

At the Friend's AGM this week, the difficult decision was taken to disband the Friend's of St. Paul's association owing to lack of support and too few nominations for elected committee positions. **The Friends therefore will not exist until such a time that a group can commit to the constitution of the organisation.** I would like to thank previous committee members for the time and dedication that they have given to the school over the years and to all parents who have supported events and fundraising. The accounts will now be closed and proceeds donated to the school in a lump sum. Due consideration will be taken before any of that money is spent and since it was raised for the children, naturally the children will be consulted for their ideas.

Attendance

Following the last newsletter, the first round of monitoring has been completed and first information letters have been sent regarding attendance.

If you have received one of these information letters, it is really important to remember that it is just that— **for information.**

It is provided so that, just in case you were thinking of, for example, taking an extended weekend break or a holiday in term time, you might consider the overall effect on your

child's attendance.

Clearly at the beginning of the year, each missed session will count as a bigger percentage because the total number of possible times you could have come to school is at its smallest.

But even just 5 weeks into term, represents 13% of the whole school year.

So in response to some of the feedback we have received...yes it is worth doing so early in the year,

that way we can start to spot and monitor patterns. This way we can support earlier and protect and promote the children's chances of achievement.

To those of you who received a letter because your child had been sick and who had followed school policy to keep them off for 48 hours, I sincerely thank you for helping to protect the health and welfare of other pupils and staff by minimising the risk of spreading the bug.

St. Paul's Catholic Primary School, Sundridge
Park, Yate. BS37 4EP Tel: 01454 866790
Headteacher: Mrs M Sewell
www.stpaulscatholicprimary.co.uk

Safeguarding Review-Report Outcomes

The review covered:

- Culture, ethos and values
- Leadership and governance of safeguarding
- Policies and procedures, including record keeping
- Safer recruitment practices
- Pupil voice

The Officer saw the following documents:

- Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy
- Risk assessments
- Sight of child protection record keeping
- Single central record
- Staff code of conduct

The SIA attended/observed the following:

- Breakfast club
- Lunchtime provision (hall and playground)
- A brief tour of the school the start of the day
- The SIA met formally with the following people:
 - Headteacher, teachers (5 staff in total)
 - TAs, lunchbreak staff, school cook (6 staff in total)
 - Pupil groups from KS1 and KS2 (total 19)
 - Chair of governors

In addition, the officer met

informally with other staff and pupils during the day.

Overview: The Head was open and honest and keen to use the visit to improve safeguarding provision. Pupils indicated clearly that they felt safe at St Paul's Primary and evidence on the visit endorsed this. The school has day to day safeguarding procedures which are fit for purpose. The school needs to develop a systematic approach to reviewing safeguarding and identifying future risks. A review of child protection record keeping needs an upgrade to ensure a comprehensive recording of each concern.

Strengths identified and observed during the visit:

- Good behaviour was observed around the school, outside on the playground and at breakfast club.
- Interviews highlighted that the staff, the Head and the Chair of Governors are committed to ensure safeguarding has a high priority
- Staff interviewed demonstrated a good knowledge and understanding of their training in respect to child protection and

reporting concerns

- Pupils were polite and friendly to a visitor. They were positive about almost all aspects of school life and reported feeling safe. School has taught them how to keep safe.
- Pupils have multiple ways of sharing concerns.
- Older pupils described the school's culture where difference and diversity is celebrated.
- Pupils indicated that they did not have concerns about bullying, but if there were any, they would be sorted out.
- The Head has a thorough and thoughtful approach to ensure the needs of individuals and their families are carefully considered.
- Breakfast club is well managed and is a safe start to the day.

I am sure you will agree this is a very positive and reassuring report. 3 of the 4 actions are now completed. The 4th action of "improving the strategic approach" will need some more time to be evidenced thoroughly.

Communication With School Staff

If you need to speak to a member of staff, please arrange to do so with them directly or via the school office. Whilst we always intend to be able to talk to you when you need, it is not always appropriate or convenient to do so. Equally, if a member of staff asks to speak to you, you can reasonably ask for a more convenient time.

Skipping Workshops



Congratulations to all pupils from all classes who participated so enthusiastically in the skipping workshops held this week. The demonstration assembly at the end of the day was a great showcase of your skills and confidence to try new things.

Praying the rosary

October is a month dedicated to the rosary. This devotion is an important feature in the Catholic prayer life of the school. This year, we took on an extra special challenge to be part of a project of "one million children praying the rosary".

This was an international target supported by the Cantenian Society who have provided us

with a class set of rosary beads.

On Wednesday 18th we joined children across the world all praying at the same time. Thank you to Mrs Rogers, the Chaplaincy team and Year 3 in particular for leading us in this project.

Kitchen Update

Although it has been very much business as usual front of house at lunchtime, it has been a tricky time with failing equipment in the kitchen. I'd like to thank Mrs Whitmore and her team for their patience and resourcefulness during this time and for reducing the impact of this on the children and the menus offered.

Please keep me handy!

Dates for your Diary

Friday 20th: Year 5 Class Assembly 3pm
End of Term 1

Mon 23rd - Fri 27th - School Closed

Monday 30th October: School Closed -INSET day– no
school for children

Tuesday 31st: Start of Term 2 for children

Tuesday 7th Nov: Parents' Evening 4.30-7.30pm

Wednesday 8th: Parents' Evening 3.45-6.30pm

Wednesday 20th December: End of Term 2

Thursday 21st December - Tuesday 2nd January -
School Closed for Christmas Holidays

Wednesday 3rd January: Start of Term 3 for children