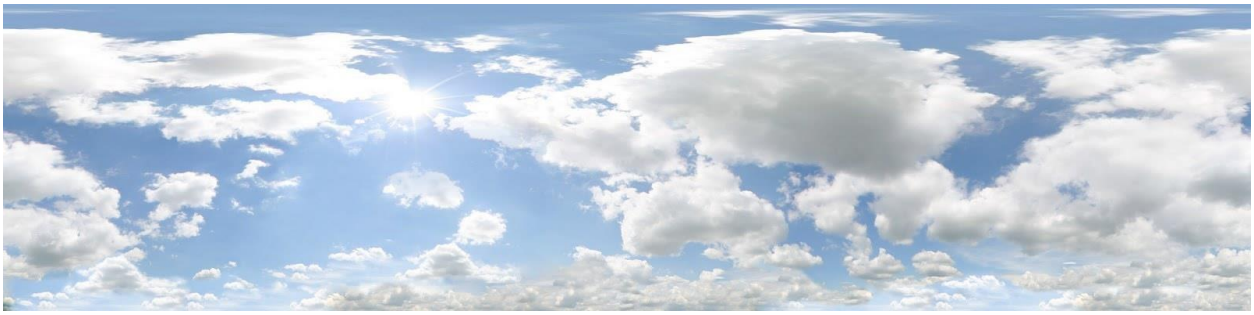
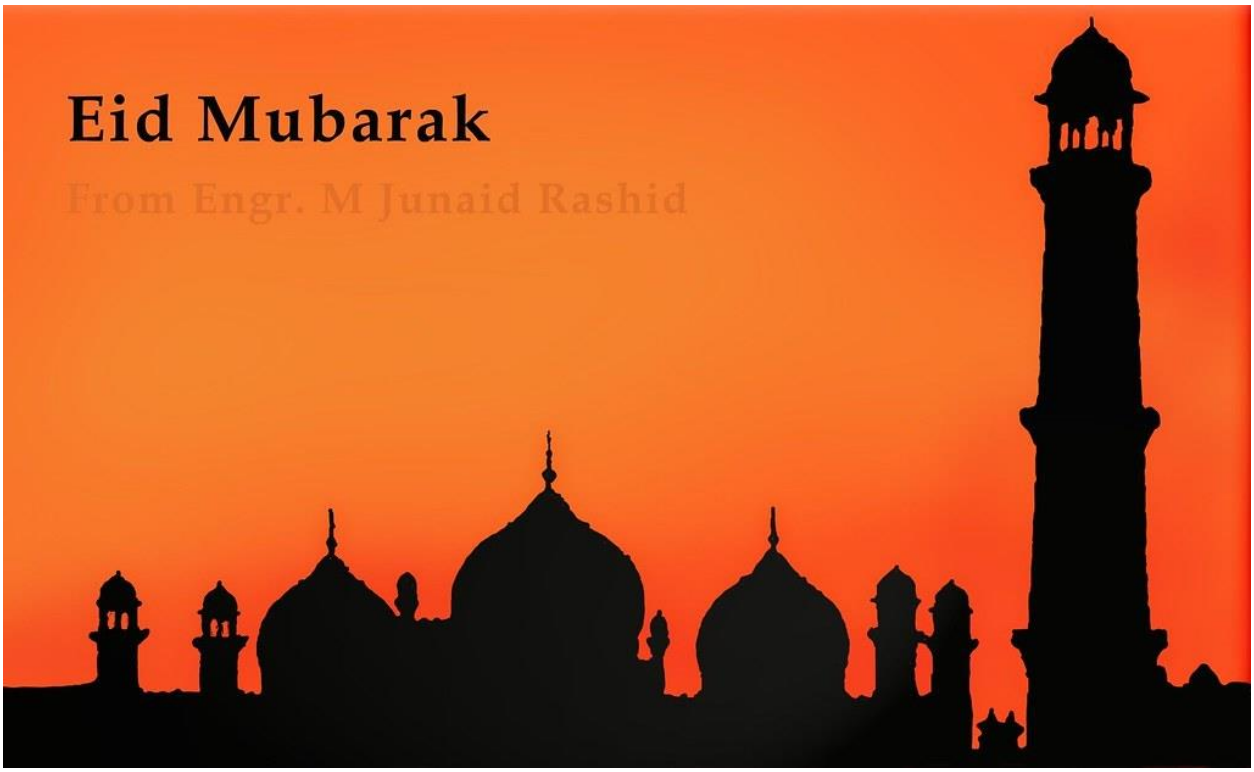
St Paul's C of E Primary School Newsletter 20th March 2026

Friday 20th March 2026



Love God, Love Ourselves, Love Others, Love Learning





*1 - **Eid Mubarak to all our families celebrating today!***

Important message from Mr Marsden - Chair of Governors

Dear Parent / Carer,

I am pleased to inform you, Mrs Jo Roberts, Headteacher will commence a phased start W/C 23rd March.

After the Easter holidays, she will increase her time in school and hopefully by W/C 20th April, she will be working full time.

May I take this opportunity to sincerely thank you for the support that you have given to Mrs. Cregg during her time as Acting Headteacher.

Rod Marsden

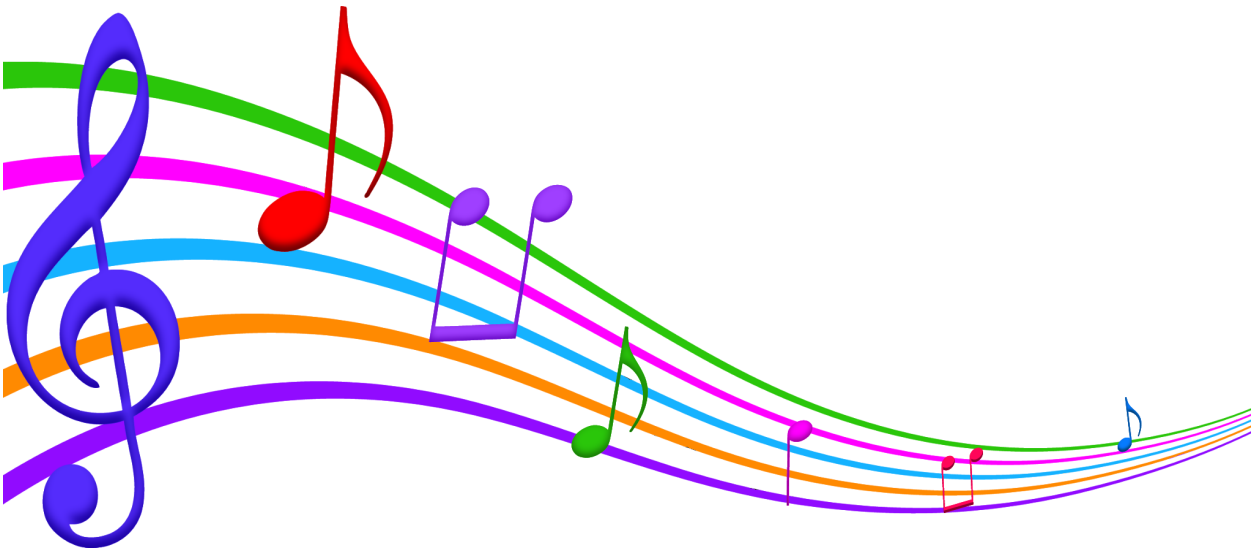
Thank you to all pupils who took part in our Eid card competition. Your entries were amazing!



2 - All pupils who entered, will receive a certificate and small gift.

Our winners are..... Habib (Leopards class) and Hawa (Seahorses Class). Well done!

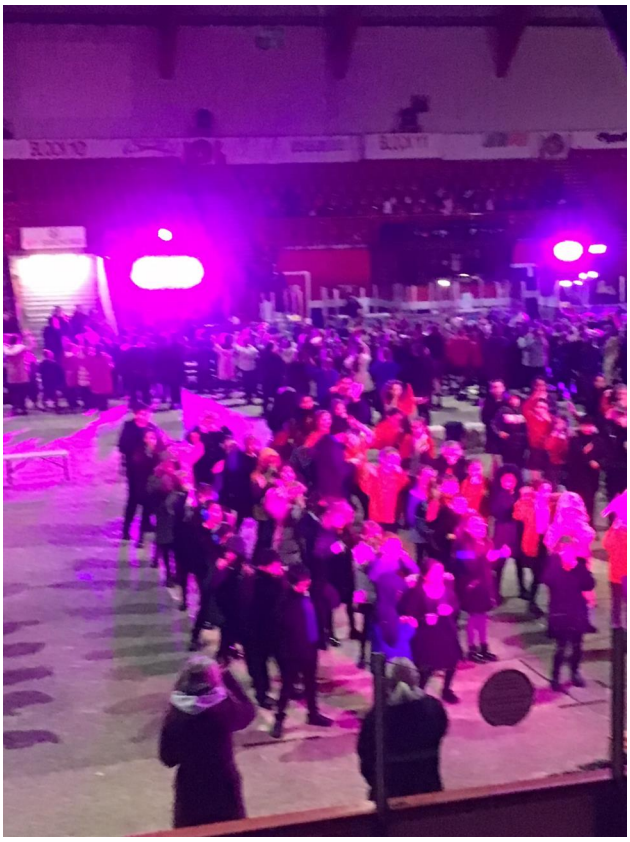
We are super proud of all our 'Let's go sing' members. They performed at Blackburn Ice Rink on Monday, alongside many other local schools and did us proud!














HAWKS
BLOCK 9
BLOCK 10
BLOCK 11


HAWKS
BLOCK 9
BLOCK 11

Thank you to all our amazing staff, who gave up their own time to attend this event and supervise the children. Thank you also to the parents who attended the event - I'm sure you all enjoyed it!

Stay Strong, Get Vaccinated

Information for parents to protect their children through vaccination

We know your child's health is your top priority and so protecting them from serious disease is incredibly important. That is why the NHS offers a free childhood vaccine programme, safeguarding your child from certain illnesses.

Vaccines work by causing the body's immune system to remember the specific infection targeted in each vaccine. If your child comes into contact with an infection and they have had their vaccines, your child's body will recognise that infection and quickly respond to fight off diseases like measles, mumps, rubella, whooping cough and more.

Illnesses like measles can spread very easily between children who are not vaccinated, and such infections can have a huge impact on your child's life. They can miss out on school due to time spent unwell, be hospitalised, and even experience life-long complications and disability. In some cases, these infections can tragically cause death

.

Recent data shows that in 2024[1] , over 2,900 measles cases were confirmed in England, the highest figure in decades. As a result, the UK has lost its World Health Organization (WHO) measles elimination status. Vaccination rates also remain well below the 95% target needed to prevent outbreaks.

Lancashire County Council

Health experts warn that falling vaccination rates are putting more children at risk of severe illness and long-term complications, many of which are entirely preventable through the free NHS vaccinations programme.

Vaccination remains one of the most effective public health interventions, second only to clean water. Immunisation protects millions of children from severe illness, longterm complications and death globally each year.

We understand that you may have questions about vaccine safety and effectiveness.

All routine childhood vaccinations offered by the NHS have an excellent safety record.

As well as directly protecting vaccinated children, many vaccines also reduce transmission across the population, helping to protect those who are too young or too vulnerable to be vaccinated.

[1] Parents urged to protect children through vaccination campaign - GOV.UK [1]

What's new in 2026?

For the first time, the NHS is offering free protection against chickenpox as part of the routine childhood schedule through the MMRV vaccine. This single injection protects against:

2

- Measles
- Mumps
- Rubella
- Varicella (chickenpox)

The second dose is now offered earlier, at 18 months, to ensure children are fully protected before starting school.

Parents: What should you do?

Check your children are up to date with their recommended vaccinations and to **book an appointment** through their GP practice when invited so they are not put at an unnecessary risk.

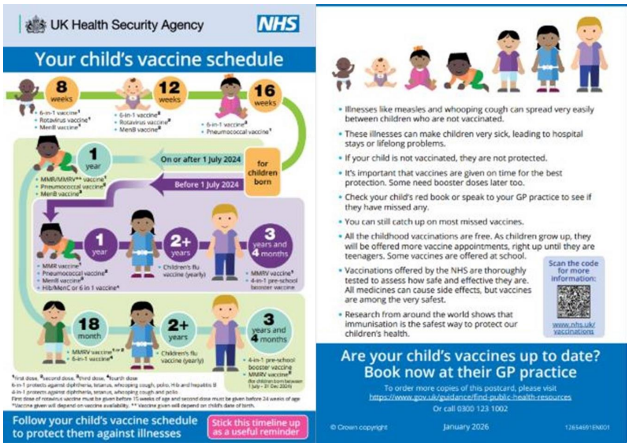
If you do have any questions, do not hesitate to speak to your GP or health visitor, they will be happy to discuss vaccines and guide you through the vaccination schedule. Although it is

[1] https://www.gov.uk/government/news/parents-urged-to-protect-children-through-vaccination-campaign

important that vaccines are given on time for the best protection, if you or your child have missed a vaccine, simply contact your GP anytime to check if you can catch up

.

Separately, **spread the message** within your family, friends and your wider community circles about the benefits of vaccination and **help** more children access the protection they need.



For more information, please visit:

NHS vaccinations and when to have them - NHS[2] [3]

Why vaccination is important and the safest way to protect yourself - NHS[4] [5]

Thank you for your support! We have raised a substantial amount of money, through the sale of our Gingerbread sock biscuits!



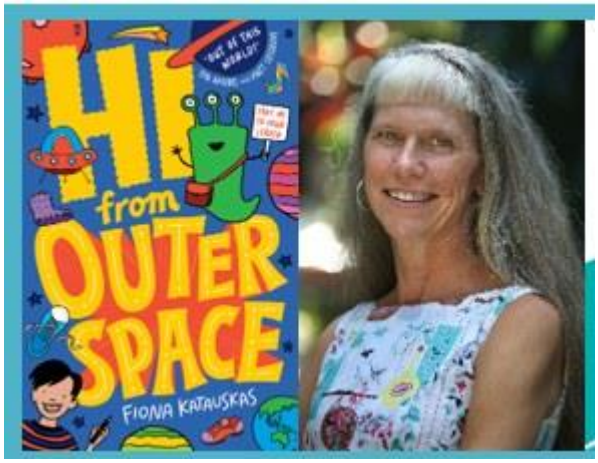
[2] https://www.nhs.uk/vaccinations/nhs-vaccinations-and-when-to-have-them/
[3] https://www.nhs.uk/vaccinations/nhs-vaccinations-and-when-to-have-them/
[4] https://www.nhs.uk/vaccinations/why-vaccination-is-important-and-the-safest-way-to-protect-yourself/
[5] https://www.nhs.uk/vaccinations/why-vaccination-is-important-and-the-safest-way-to-protect-yourself/

Well done to our kitchen staff, who have achieved a 5 star food hygiene rating!



Whilst we have been keen to keep our school lunches affordable, we are having to apply an increase to school lunches. The new price will be £2.90 per day. Please note, we have previously not applied the suggested price increase, advised by Lancashire. The new advice is to increase lunches to £3.10 but we understand that money is tight and we want all our pupils to benefit from our nutritious meals. This price increase will take effect from 13th April 2026.

On Tuesday the FBA (Fantastic Book Awards) children had a virtual author visit through Lancashire Library Services.



The Author was: Fiona Katauskas

Fiona lives in Australia as it was 9pm for her. Only a few schools attended today so we were very lucky to have all of our questions answered.

Fiona spoke about her job at The Guardian Newspaper as a cartoonist (politicians illustrations). Lots of talk and a worksheet on how to create and draw an Alien and the children have been invited to send any drawings, as she would love to see them.

Her book is about an Alien called Hi who comes from the Planet Wendy who befriends a little girl called Alex and her dog. Fiona enjoyed the illustrations as she based the dog on her own dog Paddy and Alex is based on herself as child. Fiona often thought of funny jokes and stories which she included in her book. Her favourite subject at school was History and English, Fiona has always enjoyed reading and writing.

She also spoke about the long process of getting a book published and how she was told the good things but also the parts that needed to be edited or removed. 6 months for the first draft

about a year for a publisher to get back to her and a further 3 months for the editing to be sorted and the book to be signed off to print.

It was a great talk, perseverance was key and how not to give up.

Mrs Rayson

The Busybees made some Gingerbread men!



3 - They have been learning to retell the story:

'Run, run, as fast as you can - you can't catch me, I'm a Gingerbread man!'

Reminders



- The classroom doors open at 8.50am, with the exception of the Butterflies and Busy Bees, who open at 8.45am. They close at 8.55am promptly. If you arrive after this time, you must take your child to the main entrance and sign them in. Please **do not** knock on the classroom door or try and gain the attention of a member of staff to open the door.
- Please remember to phone the office before **9am** if your child is going to be absent. We will phone you, if we don't hear from you and will conduct a home visit if we are unable to make contact with you.
- Please ensure that we have up to date phone numbers for your chosen contacts.

- Long hair MUST be tied back at all times.
- Earrings cannot be worn for PE. We are unable to cover earrings with plasters, so any pupils who are unable to remove their own earrings will not be able to participate in the lesson. Any earrings worn in school (not for PE), should be small studs or sleepers.
- We are a **NUT FREE** school. Please ensure that your child's packed lunch does not contain any items, which may have nuts in. This includes: chocolate spread, any Kinder products containing hazel nuts and peanut butter. We have some pupils who have severe nut allergies and their lives could be put at risk, should they come into contact with nuts of any type.



- Monday 23rd March - Eid Celebration - Pupils are invited to come to school in non-uniform.
- Tuesday 24th March - Parents Evening in the hall. EYFS parents evening will take place in the EYFS classrooms - please note appointments are strictly limited to 5 minutes.
- Thursday 26th March - Y3 & 4 Easter Production 2.15pm - Y3&4 parents welcome to attend
- Friday 27th March - Annual Easter Egg Hunt and Easter competitions.
- Friday 27th March - 3.30pm School closes for 2 weeks for Easter Break
- Friday 3rd April - Good Friday
- Sunday 5th April - Easter Sunday

- Monday 6th April - Easter Monday

- **Upcoming Family Fun Events (Please book on ParentPay to secure your place, as places are limited):**
- **Thursday 23rd April 1.05pm-3.15pm - Engineering challenge for parent and child**
- **Tuesday 5th May 1.15pm-3.15pm - Art explorers for parent and child**
- **Monday 18th May 9.15am-11.15am - Common childhood illnesses for parents only**
- **Thursday 2nd July 1.15pm-3.15pm - Summer crafts activity for parent and child**

Easter Crafts - Good fun was had by all!

Easter Crafts

lal.
Lancashire
Adult Learning

A FUN INTERACTIVE CRAFT SESSION INSPIRED BY EASTER FUN!

FAMILY WORKSHOPS FOR PARENTS, GRANDPARENTS AND CARERS TO ATTEND WITH CHILDREN TO LEARN TOGETHER!

St Paul's CoE Primary School
Tuesday 17th March
13:15 - 15:15

Please scan the QR code to register your attance
















HAPPY
EASTER


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Easter bonnet competition













All Easter bonnets will be judged on Friday 27th March, by Mr Marsden (Chair of Governors).

Prizes will be awarded for creativity and effort. Please ensure that your child does most of the creating!

Design an egg





EASTER EGGSTRAVAGANZA!

DECORATE-AN-EGG COMPETITION





27th MARCH 2026

THEME: BE AS IMAGINATIVE AS YOU LIKE!

PRIZES: AWARDED FOR CREATIVITY, EFFORT, AND ORIGINALITY.

ALL AGES WELCOME–LET THE DECORATING BEGIN!

All Eggs will be judged on Friday 27th March, by Mr Marsden (Chair of Governors)

Please ensure that your child does most of the creating!

Remember to use hard boiled eggs – we do not want any 'eggsplosions'!

Please check your notifications regarding free parent workshops on Wednesday afternoons.



Thank you to all the parents who attended this week's parent workshops.

Wednesday 25th March

How to make time with your child really count 2.30-3.30pm

Rather than wasting time feeling guilty or anxious, if parents can learn to enjoy and make the most of the time they spend with their children, everyone will benefit.

How to set technology rules and boundaries the whole family can live with 3.30-4.30pm

Find how to set practical technology boundaries for the whole family.

Keep your eyes peeled for an app message with booking details.

Have a lovely weekend everyone



St Paul's Church



Please click on the link to find out more about St Paul's Church.

Fr Guy is due back from Sabbatical on 1st April.

We look forward to his return.

Kind Regards

Michele Cregg

Acting Headteacher