St Paul's C of E Primary School Newsletter

Love God, Love Ourselves, Love Others, Love Learning



Friday 13th February 2026



Well half-term is finally here! I've officially completed a full half-term as 'Acting Headteacher' and I can't thank you enough for all of your kind words and support. We pray that Mrs Roberts (new Headteacher) has a smooth recovery and look forward to welcoming her to St Paul's.



It's been a lovely half-term but my goodness me, I'm certainly ready for a rest, as are the other staff and pupils.

I won't be going anywhere warm and exotic but I am looking forward to spending some quality time with my family - especially my 2 year old Granddaughter Nellie!

I hope you all have a lovely half-term break . For the many parents who are working during this period - GOOD LUCK!

Year 2 had a great experience on Thursday. They took part in a 'Great Fire of London' workshop, as part of their History topic.

Click on the arrow to see all the pictures.























Comment from Mrs Moody - 'The children loved it, they made 'wattle and daub' walls. They had to weave the sticks first to build the wall then mix mud, straw and water together to make the daub before putting it onto their walls. They then had to design and build a new bakery for Thomas Farriner in the classroom using clay and other materials' .

Polite Notice about dogs

It has been brought to my attention that at pick up time on Wednesday, there were some parents standing at the main gate with dogs - whilst this is not against any rules, apparently some pupils were frightened and didn't want to walk past the dogs. Luckily a kind parent took it upon herself, to return to the school grounds and escort some of the anxious pupils out.

Another parent emailed school to let us know about this 'Act of kindness' and I would like to personally commend this parent on their thoughtful actions. Thank you also to the parent who emailed - not to complain, but to highlight the kind actions of this parent!

Moving forward, if you do have dogs - could you please stand well back from the main gates to allow people to pass without coming into contact with the dogs.

Just a reminder - dogs are not allowed on school grounds.

Holidays in Term time



Who doesn't love a cheap holiday?

At St Paul's, we understand the importance of taking a family holiday. We also understand that holidays are incredibly expensive during school breaks.

We fully support the campaigns against rising holiday prices during peak times - this would not only help out families but also school staff, who can only take holidays during peak times. Unfortunately there are no signs of the travel industry taking steps to reduce holiday costs for families with children in school.

If you do choose to take your child/ren out of school for a family holiday for more than 4 school days, we have no choice but to issue a penalty notice and fine.

I often hear rumours that schools use the money from the fines, as revenue.

Money from the fine issued, **DOES NOT** go into the school budget. In fact we have to complete a lot of paperwork and get nothing in return.

Pupils who go on holiday during term time miss valuable learning and we will not send home work that the child has missed - teachers already have a lot to do and it is the responsibility of the parents to ensure that the child does not miss out on crucial learning.

We only ever authorise a holiday in term time, for exceptional circumstances - unfortunately family weddings, religious pilgrimages and parent's holiday patterns do not count as exceptional circumstances.

It is important for parents and carers to be aware that any parent/carer who has parental responsibility for a child or who lives with and cares for the child (e.g. a step parent) could be subject to enforcement action (penalty notice or prosecution) where the child is absent from school without permission.

If you do make the decision to take your child out of school for a holiday, we ask that you are honest with us and do not 'ring in sick'. If we suspect that you are on holiday and are unable to make contact, we will carry out a home visit for safeguarding reasons.

If a holiday is 'extended' beyond the 4 days requested, we will ask for original proof of flights - screenshots will not be accepted as proof.

Please do not ask your child to lie regarding a holiday taken in term-time. This is not fair on the child and does not set a good example of honesty. We would never make a child feel uncomfortable for taking a holiday during term ti

We have taken the decision to add an extra day onto October half term this year and 2 days onto the May half term holiday in 2027, to allow more flexibility for flight times etc. Please check the school calendar on the website for more information.

DFE Guidelines 2024 'Working together to improve school attendance'

KEY UPDATES:

• Holidays during term time will not be authorised. There is no longer an 'approved holiday' code for registers. The 'DfE does not consider a need or desire for a holiday or other absence for the purpose of leisure and recreation to be an exceptional circumstance.' This now also includes parents/carers requesting holidays to be authorised during term time due to working patterns.

• The number of sessions that count towards a 'Fixed Penalty Notice' has been reduced from 20 sessions, to 10 sessions. Each school day has 2 sessions, morning and afternoon. This means that any unauthorised mark in any given 10 week period can count towards a Fixed Penalty Notice being submitted to the Local Authority. This can be any combination of any instances where absence has not been authorised. This includes; unauthorised absence, unauthorised holidays, being late to school once the registers have closed. Please note that if a family reaches their 3rd FPN submission in a 3 year period, families will be subject to the prosecution process and could be taken to court.

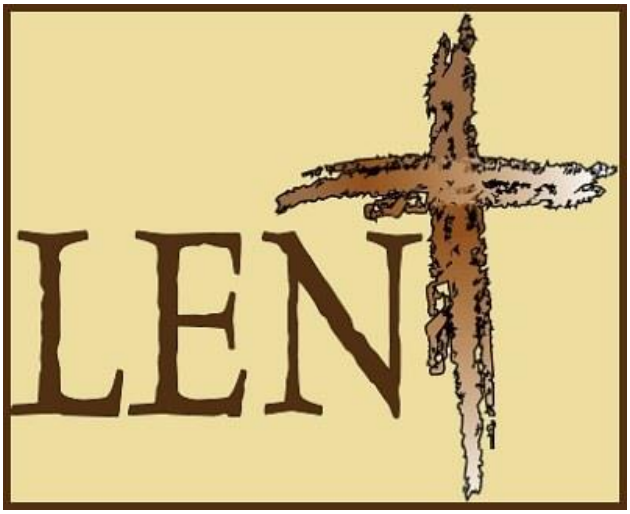
• The amount of the penalty notice increases from £120 to £160 (if paid within 28 days) and £60 to £80 (if paid within 21 days) for the first penalty notice issued to a parent in respect of the same individual child in a 3-year period.

• It sets the amount of any second penalty notice issued to the same parent in respect of the same individual child within 3 years of the date the first penalty notice was issued to £160 to be paid within 28 days. No discount is offered.

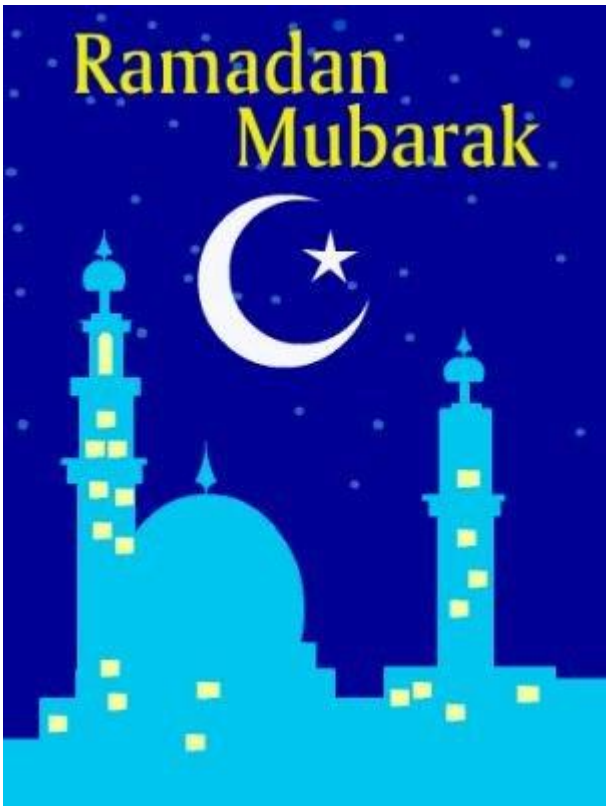
• Further absences will proceed for prosecution in the Magistrate Court for the same parent in respect of the same child within 3 years of the date of the first penalty was issued

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/65f1b048133c22b8eecd38f7/Working_together_to_improve_school_attendance__applies_from_19_August_2024_.pdf

The beginning of Lent and Ramadan



This year the timings of the beginning of the Christian period of Lent and the Islamic period of Ramadan are closely aligned.



Both Lent and Ramadan are periods of fasting, spiritual reflection, self-discipline, and acts of charity that strengthen faith and community.

As Muslims worldwide prepare to mark the beginning of Ramadan, the holy month of fasting, Christians are getting ready to observe Lent – 40 days of fasting and reflection leading up to Easter. While these two religious practices differ theologically, they share significant commonalities, providing a valuable opportunity for interfaith dialogue and mutual understanding.

For Muslims, Ramadan is one of the five pillars of Islam, a sacred time dedicated to fasting from dawn until sunset, enhancing prayers and engaging in charitable acts. Ramadan is more than just abstaining from food and drink, it's about cultivating self-discipline, spiritual renewal and fostering empathy for the less fortunate.

Likewise, Christians observing Lent commit to fasting and self-denial as acts of penance and spiritual preparation for Easter. Many traditionally refrain from eating meat on certain days and often forgo personal luxuries. Both traditions emphasise self-restraint, making this a time for introspection and moral growth.

At St Paul's we respect both religions and on behalf of all of our staff, I would like to wish our families, who are observing either event, a peaceful and reflective journey.

COMING SOON!



We will be supporting World Book Day at St Paul's on Thursday 5th March 2026. This is always a fun day where we celebrate our love of reading for pleasure.

In school we invite children and staff to dress up. This year our theme is WORDS! Come dressed as any appropriate word you can think of. This is basically anything – your favourite book, book character, superhero or even just to add prompts or hints to your word. You can be as simple or as creative as you feel but as usual, we don't expect parents to spend huge amounts of money and if your child does not wish to participate, they can of course come in school uniform as normal. Your child should try to display the word and come in a costume that is suitable to sitting at desks and playing out.

Throughout the day we will be celebrating reading and your child is welcome to bring a book from home to read and enjoy.

Kind Regards

Mrs A Roberts

Assistant Headteacher







We have author workshops booked in for the following half term – more information to follow.

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.
- If for any reason, we have to make the decision to close school - you will be informed as soon as possible via the SchoolApp. Please make sure that you have access to this app, as we use the messaging facility frequently. If you need any assistance with this, please speak to a member of staff from the office.
- Full uniform must be worn at all times, this includes appropriate footwear - not trainers. Trousers, skirts and dresses should be black, with white polo shirts.
- 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.



- Friday 13th February - Finish for half-term. We return to school on Monday 23rd February
- Tuesday 24th February- Reception children heights and weights check
- Wednesday 25th February - School nurse drop in 9am - 10am
- Wednesday 4th March - Y5 trip to Halle Orchestra
- Thursday 5th March - World Book Day - dress up as a 'word'
- Wednesday 11th and Thursday 12th March - Viking Experience days Y4
- Wk com 16th March - World Down's Syndrome week
- Monday 16th March - Owl visit Y2
- Monday 16th March - Go Sing at Blackburn Ice Rink
- Wednesday 18th March - Y1 parents meeting after school - Phonics Screening Test
- Wednesday 18th or Thursday 19th March - Eid
- Friday 27th March - 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):**
- **Tuesday 17th March 1.05pm-3.15pm - Easter craft activity for parent and child**
- **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-11.15amCommon childhood illnesses for parents only**
- **Thursday 2nd July 1.15pm-3.15pm - Summer crafts activity for parent and child**

St Paul's Church



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

Kind Regards

Michele Cregg

Acting Headteacher