St Paul's Nelson CE Primary School
Hibson Rd, Nelson, Lancashire, BB9 0PY
School Tel: 01282 617035

www.stpaulsnelson.co.uk

School News Date: December 19th 2025

Our St Paul's Vision For Our Children:

Love God, Love Themselves, Love Others, Love Learning.

Nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God.

Our school Christian values are:

Love, Joy, Perseverance, Forgiveness, Justice, Hope and Respect.

They permeate through everything we do at St Paul's.

Dear Parents and Carers,



The magic of Christmas, thank you and goodbye

I wish all our children, parents, carers and families a wonderful Christmas. This week – my last – has been filled with Christmas wonder which I think only those who have ever worked in a school will understand.

Thank you to Mrs Maguire and Mrs Felters for organising the community Christmas carol singing on Monday, and to Mrs Hawkins for organising the choir. A good time was had by all!

We have had parties and a Christmas dinner this week – and lots of very excited children! Yesterday was my final candlelight carol service complete with children waving finger lights in the darkness and I must admit that I had a lump in my throat as I wished the children Happy Christmas one last time!

I would like to say a big thank you for all the cards, gifts and kind words from parents and children this week. Your kindness has meant so very much. Staff have been wonderful as always, and I know that things are afoot for today (Friday) and that Mrs Cregg has been plotting and planning with other staff because one little boy almost let the cat out of the bag, anxiously saying to me yesterday, “Hey, you can’t leave yet, we haven’t sung you your assembly song!” That’s one of the joys of working with primary school children – we laugh every single day!

I have worked in education for 39 years, 14 ½ of those years at St Paul’s, initially as deputy head, then as head. I’ve worked in several schools and for the Education Authority too but have been at St Paul’s the longest and I can honestly say that St Paul’s has meant the most to me. As I often say to our staff, this is not a job, it’s a vocation.

In the 14+ years I’ve been at St Paul’s, I have been truly blessed. The staff are wonderful: hard-working, knowledgeable, talented, driven to do the best for the children. They also know how to laugh and how to pull together as a brilliant team when “the chips are down”. They embody the Christian ethos of this school and I will really miss them. Look after them, mums and dads!

The children in this school are a blessing, even the little “characters”. Our children are known inside and outside school for their lovely manners, good behaviour, kindness and hard work. It’s been an absolute privilege to help shape their education and their lives.

There are also some “St Paul’s stalwarts” amongst our parents, carers and families, people I see around school and on the playground in the mornings often. There are parents and families who have endlessly supported school, supported staff and supported me. There have been lots of occasions when a lovely note, card, message or kind word has come my way, or the way of the staff, and that has meant the world. Thank you!

Finally, I have been blessed with great links with Reverend Guy, with St Paul’s church and with our governors. The governors here are very committed, very involved. Thank you to them all, most especially to Mr Marsden and Mr Seed who have both served as Chairs during my headship.

There have been some very tough times in this job but, as I come to the end of my career, it's a time to reflect on what has really mattered, what has been important. For me, it's children being encouraged to have a lifelong love of learning, thirst for knowledge, being readers for the rest of their lives, growing up to be good little people knowing the love of God. It's also been seeing staff grow, develop and flourish, those teachers who joined school as newly qualified and are now ready for leadership roles, those who were class teachers and now are senior leaders, those who have grown into the most skilled and experienced teaching assistants, those staff who have flourished in other roles.

These things, and the friendships I've had, are the things I'll take away with me. Thank you to the whole St Paul's community for 14 ½ wonderful years.

Have a wonderful, peaceful Christmas, everyone. Goodbye and good luck in the future.

Yours sincerely,

Julie Wood

Headteacher

New Year Dates

Monday 5th January 2026 – Inset Day

Tuesday 6th January 2026 – Return to school

Monday 12th January 9am-12.30pm Paediatric First Aid course – parents can book on ParentPay

ST PAUL'S CHURCH NEWS.

For any information regarding St Paul's church and what parents and children can access, please get in touch with Revd Guy on 615888 or guyjamieson@btinternet.com or officelittlemarsden@gmail.com or take a look at the parish website: www.nelsonlittlemarsden.org

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کرنے کے لئے یہاں موجود ہیں۔