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

www.stpaulsnelson.co.uk

School News Date: October 17th 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,

Visit from Imran Kotwal

Our friend Imran Kotwal came on Wednesday to lead an assembly on the Islamic version of the creation story. Obviously we usually have daily Christian worship in our school but on Wednesday took time out for Imran's assembly. Imran then ran workshops with Years 5 and 6 throughout the day. As always, his sessions were very informative, engaging and well received by the children.

Staffing News



Miss Riley, from our school office, is leaving us at half term. She is going backpacking around the world. What a wonderful opportunity - we will miss her!

…but there's a solution to the vacancy…our Y3 Polar Bears teaching assistant, Mrs Hughes, has been successfully interviewed for the office admin vacancy so Mrs Hughes will leave her class TA job and takeover from Miss Riley after half term. Next week, the new class TA, Mr Whittaker, will work alongside Mrs Hughes in class, until Mrs Hughes moves to the office after half term, so that he can get to know the class and routines before starting "properly" after the holiday.

We are hopeful that Miss Shearer, the permanent Polar Bears' class teacher, will be well enough to return to work after half term. She is planning to come in to see how she manages for two days next week (Thursday and Friday). On those days, Miss Shearer will teach alongside Mr Wiseman.

Mrs Ali, teaching assistant in our EAL group in the mornings and in Y5 in the afternoons is leaving us at half term for promotion to a post at Pendle Vale College. Good luck Mrs Ali!

Harvest and non-uniform day



Thank you so much to those parents who have been sending in food for harvest (tins and packets). If you haven't had chance to send anything in, please do so anytime up to next Wednesday. The food (and a £1 donation for non-uniform day next Friday) will all go to Colne Open Door charity, a charity which has helped our school families out on many occasions.

Toileting EYFS children



Thank you to the majority of parents who sent their child into Early Years school-ready, being clean, dry, able to dress and feed themselves etc. If your Early Years child is still not toilet trained, hopefully you are busy training them and have already

taken up the advice offered by school and the school nurse. There are 9 days (with the weekends) over half term for parents to work hard at getting children clean and dry. Staffing changing children who have come to school in nappies/pull ups/ not toilet trained has become unsustainable. Staff in EYFS need to be teaching children the basics of reading, writing, number etc not changing nappies. Therefore, if your child soils or wees at school, we will send for parents to come into school and change their child (unless they have profound special needs and we have already agreed it's appropriate for the staff funded through those children's EHCP to change them).

Medical Tracker



We are currently trialling a medical tracker which informs parents if there are any medical issues/ bumps or scrapes in school. It's a good system – but sometimes too much of a good thing! There are lots of buttons which staff click and sometimes there is a lot of information and it is worded in a certain way which makes the incident sound far worse than it really is – so please don't panic if you receive a notification. Staff are still being trained on how much information to include/ how many buttons to click. Bear with us! We'll review if it's helpful in a couple of weeks.

Behaviour



Over the last couple of weeks, I have been referring to behaviour and parenting and I will continue to do so most weeks because good behaviour is so important. Of course, most of our children are wonderfully well behaved – we expect no less at St Paul's! Most of our parents are firm when they need to be, work brilliantly with us and stand no nonsense. However, we are noticing rising numbers of parents who won't address poor behaviour and even reward children with gifts, sweets, bribes and promises of treats when staff have just told the parent about some naughty behaviour. It's not good to be rewarding a child who has been naughty just for a "quiet life"! That behaviour will worsen if unchecked. Please be unafraid to be firm –

you are not helping your child by allowing poor behaviour. If you need any help with parenting your child, Mrs Entwistle and Mrs Ralph in our Rainbow Room will support you. Thank you, as ever, to all the parents who are always firm when they need to be, and are always 100% supportive of school. Of course most of our children are brilliantly well behaved.

Taking Up Support



Sometimes school will offer support, from the range of professionals with whom our Rainbow Room and SENDCOs have contact, in order to support parents in a range of situations or difficulties affecting their children. Sometimes parents turn down that support, saying they've heard it all before or that the crisis has passed and they now don't need it. One of the professionals we work with recently commented that if we went to the doctor and he/she said we needed to take some medication for eg a poorly heart, would we really decide that we knew better than that professional and refuse the help? Support through school is not offered lightly. A lot of work will have gone into sourcing that support - and some expense incurred in terms of professionals' fees, whether paid for by the Education Authority or directly by school. We do not offer support unless we feel it's important. Just like medication from a doctor, there may be a bit of trial and error finding the right kind of support (just like a doctor might trial different antibiotics to cure an infection) but the right package will be found eventually so please persevere. It is really important that parents fully and wholeheartedly engage with support which is offered to help them and their children.

PARENT GOVERNOR ELECTION- NEW GOVERNOR

Mrs Ayisha Ali was the only applicant for the parent governor vacancy (the deadline for applications was today at 11am) so Mrs Ali is duly appointed. We don't need to vote as there are no more applicants. Mrs Ali is a teacher and assessor with an interest in SEND and she has been a governor at a nursery previously. Therefore, coupled with her experience of being a mum of a child in our school, I think Mrs Ali will be a very good addition to our governing board. Welcome Mrs Ali!

Open evening 13th November 4-6pm

We are holding an open evening for the parents of early years children considering St Paul's for their child in September 2026. If you know anyone who is thinking of sending their child to St Paul's, please tell them about our open evening. There will

be a headteacher talk from me, an opportunity to look around school and talk to staff and also an opportunity to meet the new headteacher who is starting in January. Other senior staff and early years staff, including our SENDCO, should be there to answer any questions parents might have.

Dates for the diary

Friday 24th October – Non uniform day with donations to Colne Open Door (payable via ParentPay)

Tuesday 21st October – Parents evening

Thursday 6th November – School disco

Tuesday 11th November – Year 3 Blackpool Zoo trip

Thursday 13th November – Open evening for Reception admissions (4-6pm)

Have a great weekend everyone.

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

Yours sincerely,

Julie Wood

Headteacher

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کرنے کے لئے یہاں موجود ہیں۔