

St Paul's Catholic Primary School Newsletter—November

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we approach the end of November during these strange times that have become almost normal, I would like to thank you and your families for your continued support of everything we do at school. We are all too aware that much of our school day is very different to the days we would normally expect to have in school, however the appreciation that is shown through your kind comments as well as your generous support is very welcome.

It has now been confirmed that our local area will move into Tier 3 from 2nd December, once the national lockdown ends. This means a continuation of restrictions in various forms. As this is further discussed locally and within the Trust, please be assured that I will keep you updated with any changes to our current routines. Thank you for continuing to observe social distancing around school. I know we all want to work together to reduce the likelihood of the spread of the virus. As a school we continue to place the highest importance on our health and safety routines as we strive to keep everyone as safe as possible.

This newsletter contains lots of information about events in school over the coming weeks. We know that our Christmas preparations during Advent and our Christmas celebrations will be very different this year. As always, I know that our fantastic team of staff will do everything possible to ensure that our children still experience the joy and blessings of the season of Advent and the excitement of preparing for Christmas. It is a special reminder to us all however, to remember that :



The first Christmas was pretty simple.

It's okay if yours is too.



Our children will shortly be creating a special treat for our families to share—look out for 'St Paul's

Christmas Wishes' coming your way soon....

In the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any queries or concerns

Sheena Sinclair, Headteacher

Parent Consultations

During the week commencing 30th November and 7th December, we invite you to book an appointment for a parent's consultation telephone call with your child's class teacher to discuss your child's academic progress. We will use the booking system we have previously used for parents' evenings. The site will go 'live' today at 5pm—you will get a text message alert when this happens and then you can book your preferred time. When you have your telephone call from school, it may appear on your phone as a withheld or unknown number.

Christmas Parties

We feel that the traditional Christmas party celebrations can still go ahead this year. Each class will have their own 'party day' where children may come dressed in their own clothes. Unfortunately, we are unable to have a shared table of party food so our school cook, Vicky, will make some special Christmas biscuits as well as an ice-cream for each child. If your child has food allergies then we will discuss this with you to ensure all children can enjoy something safely. The dates for parties are:

Tuesday 8th December—Early Years Monday 14th December—Year 5

Wednesday 9th December—Year 3 Tuesday 15th December—Year 6

Friday 11th December—Year 4

Wednesday 16th December—Year 6

Thursday 17th December—Year 2



Christmas Dinner

Children who normally bring a packed lunch are invited to stay for Christmas Dinner on Thursday 10th December. Please let the school office know if your child would like to have a school meal on this day, The cost is £2.20 for children in Y3,4,5 and 6. All children may wear Christmas jumpers or Christmas colours on Christmas Dinner Day. An email with further details will follow.

Mabel

Mabel has loved learning more about being part of our St Paul's School family.

She is now happy and confident in her welcoming role on a morning and she is clearly happy with a quick pat or stroke or even a little wave!

Mabel won't be in school every day (as she needs a little rest every now and again), but she will be here most days.

The children have been so excited to have our school dog —here are a few of their comments:

"Mabel makes me happy"

"If you're feeling anxious or worried, Mabel can help you feel better"

"Mabel has made me more confident with dogs"

"It's good if you don't have your own dog at home because we have Mabel at school"

"Mabel makes me want to come to school even more because there's something extra-special to look forward to"



Faith in Action

Last year, for the first time at St Paul's, we set up a Faith in Action group. This group is part of a national organisation and the Y6 children who form this group try to live out the values of their faith through their actions. Over the year they will collect merits towards a certificate and pin badge. This year our Year 6 Faith in Action team would like to remind our children that during Advent they may like to wear their special Advent badges—many children will already have these at home from previous years. If your child doesn't have one but would like one, then they can buy one for £1. The money raised will go to Cancer Research which is the group's chosen charity. Badges are available from Tuesday 1st December; money should be brought straight into class bubbles where it can be put straight into a collection pot.



Christmas Post

In line with our risk assessments, we are restricting items that come from home into school. Therefore, this year we politely request that children bring only one Christmas card into school for their whole class and in lieu of the cost of cards, they are invited to make a donation to the Billingham Food bank. This will be a wonderful gesture of support and care for those less fortunate. There will be a collection box in each classroom for cards and food items. Once opened, the cards will be displayed in classrooms.



ADVENT

+A Different Kind of Waiting

