

St. Paul's C.E. Primary School (Crompton Street - Walkden) NEWSLETTER –

Dated: Friday 20th October 2017

Dear Parents / Governors,

Events in school

Over this term we have had a number of events happening in school. Please have a look on the latest events section of the school website where photographs of the activities can be seen.

www.stpaulscrompton.org.uk

Some of these events included a visit to school by the Life Education centre, Year 6 visit to Stockport Air raid shelter, Year 1 animal workshop, Year 5 trip to Catalyst, debt awareness sessions for Year 5 and Year 6, Year 3 visit to church for Experience Harvest, Year 5 and 6 pupils taking part in Bikeability sessions as well as Mr Lennox from Walkden High School visiting to speak to Year 5 and Year 6 parents and children.

Harvest Week

Thank you to everyone who supported our Harvest week and made it a big success. We are pleased to let you know that we raised a grand total of £414.81 which will be used to continue support for our sponsored child, Winston and a donation which has been sent to The Joshua Tree to assist in the valuable work of this charity. Many thanks to all the parents, friends and family members who came to support our harvest service in church and helped us to get to church. We are really grateful.

Shoeboxes

Thank you again to all families who supported the shoebox appeal this year. Your donations are very much appreciated. Mr Boyden collected these yesterday and passed on his thanks to everyone – a picture is on the school website.

After School Clubs

By now you will have booked on Parentpay if your child wished to start one of the clubs that are taking part after the half term break. All before and after school clubs will begin on Tuesday 31st October and end on Friday 1st December.

There are spaces available in some of the existing clubs and if your child would like to take part please log into parent pay and book as usual. If you have any questions please contact the school office.

Water Bottles

As we are a healthy school, please can you ensure that water only is in the children's water bottles. This is due to the effects on children's teeth of drinking juice throughout the day. Your support with this would be much appreciated.

Reading at home – 100 book lists

Please find attached the 100 book lists for each class.

Uniform and jewellery

As our Uniform policy states please can you ensure that all jewellery is removed for

school, including earrings. Any children having had their ears pierced during the summer should now be able to remove the piercings and will be asked to do so. This is for health and safety reasons and children wearing earrings will be asked to remove them following the 6 week piercing recommendations. As we are approaching winter too please can I ask that all children are in correct named school uniform, including red school jumpers or cardigans as well as school coloured tights and socks. Since we also play out in all weathers please can I also ask that all pupils have a warm winter coat and appropriate school shoes, with named hat, scarf and gloves, for being outside. Thank you.

Sports

Our school football and netball teams have begun their games for this season and have done a fantastic job representing school. Thank you to everyone involved in this, including Mr McCarthy, Mr Hunter and the lunchtime coaches from Edstart who have been training the teams.

Parent's Evenings

Many thanks to all parents who attended the recent parents evenings and completed the school questionnaire – we do appreciate your feedback. Outcomes from this will be published on the school website as soon as analysis is complete. If you were unable to attend please arrange an appointment time with your child's teacher as soon as possible.

Poppies

We will be supporting the Poppy Appeal and poppies will be on sale in school up to Remembrance Sunday after the half term break. Donations of at least 50p are recommended.

Children in Need

This year we will be supporting children in need on Friday 17th November. Children will be encouraged to make a minimum donation of £1 and to dress up in spots in connection with this year's theme of 'spotacular'.

Fire Service visit

Many thanks to the fire service who kindly provided a workshop for Year's 5 and 6 to remind them of the dangers of Bonfire Night and Fireworks.

Christmas Fair

In preparation for this year's Christmas Fair on Friday 1st December, we will be holding three non-uniform days when we ask children to bring an item for the Fair in return for not wearing their school uniform. The dates for these are:

Friday 10th November – Toiletries

Friday 24th November – Chocolate

Friday 1st December – Bottles

Many thanks in anticipation.

Attendance

The overall attendance for this half term is 96.8%. The target of 96.5% is challenging and we appreciate your efforts in getting your children into school. Thank you to the children who have attended so well.

Please can I ask that you DO NOT book holidays for children in school time in line with DfE guidance.

The harsh reality is that if a child misses 1 week of school for a holiday, they miss 27 and a half hours of teaching time and 55 hours of teaching if they have 2 weeks holiday. Aside from the fines that we issue for unauthorised holidays, the impact that missing this amount of teaching time has on the child is massive, from confidence to being unsure in their learning when they return to school. As I am sure you can appreciate, just as if you had to catch up

with 55 hours of missed work on top of what you need to do everyday it is not an easy task for a child to do. I am also sure you can understand that we cannot re-do that amount of teaching for every child that goes on holiday during school time. Thank you for your cooperation with this.

Parents Forum

Many thanks to the parents who contributed to the parents forum, either by attending or sending ideas. Suggestions from parents to continue to improve our school are really important and we do value them.

We have now had authorisation from the school governors to go ahead with further work on the area outside of the juniors in order to try and stop standing water when it rains heavily. We have had all drains work completed and this has not solved the problem so an alternative approach has been recommended which we will now follow and hopefully solve the problem! We will also be updating the website with further useful information for parents ie what to do if your child is ill....and including a downloadable version of the school prospectus with all this useful information in.

Another suggestion was also a further visit by Pop Connection/Pop UK as we had in 2015. I will discuss this with church as this is a joint event funded by school and St Paul's Church.

Any letters sent home will also now be put onto the school website for referring back to.

Please do come to our next meeting if you feel that you have further ideas to share.

Mr O's online Safety Corner

With research suggesting that more than a quarter of primary school children, some as young as 5, have sent rude or explicit

messages, Sexting can be a scary word, however children do need educating about the dangers of it. Help make the conversation less awkward by following these tips from the NSPCC:

- outline your expectations and explain the rules of having a mobile, tablet or smartphone
- ask them what they feel is acceptable to send to people, if they'd be happy for you or a stranger or other children to see certain photos. If the answer is 'no', explain that the image, video or message is probably not appropriate to send
- make sure they're comfortable saying no, that they know their body is private and being asked to share explicit images is inappropriate
- explain to them about the importance of trust and consent in a healthy relationship. Tell them that it's not ok for someone to make them feel uncomfortable, to pressure them into doing things that they don't want to do, or to show them things that they're unhappy about. Let them know that they can speak to you if this ever happens
- look at Childline's advice about relationships and online safety together.

Open Mornings

Many thanks to all parents and friends who came to support our class workshops and we hope that you found them useful. We hope you enjoyed sharing what your children have been learning in class, whilst looking at their books and taking part in the joint activities.

Outdoor Equipment

Please can I remind you that school's outdoor equipment is for use only during

supervised school sessions. It should not be used before and after school for safety reasons as we risk assess the weather and surface before every use. There have been a number of occasions where children have been asked to come off the equipment before and after school and parents have chosen to ignore the request potentially putting their children at risk, especially if the weather is wet.

Evergreen Before and After school Club

Evergreen have been providing our before and after school club now for the last half term and numbers are growing day by day! If you would like to find out more about the before and after school care they provide please contact Anna on anna.irving-foley@ecdn.net or pop in during the times they are in school from 7.30am – 8.45am and from 3.30pm – 6pm.

And Finally

As this is the last newsletter of our Autumn first half term can I please thank you all for your continued support. School will re-open for the second half of the Autumn Term on **Tuesday 31st October 2017** at 8.45am

We look forward to seeing you after half term. Enjoy the break.

Kind regards

Yvette Sullivan
Headteacher