



“...Let us remember that, as many hands build a house, so many hearts make a school.”

## ST. PAUL'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

3<sup>rd</sup> September 2018

Dear Parents/Carers,

Another academic year starts with pace and purpose at St. Paul's; a theme that I hope to continue throughout the course of the next twelve months.

Welcome to the families that are new to St. Paul's. We are delighted that you have joined us and look forward to developing strong and open relationships with you.

Whilst it may have been a restful break for you, it has been a busy period of time for the staff, with much work completed during the holidays including: painting public areas of the school including the ICT suite, a new sky lantern in Mrs Bunn's office, new lighting throughout the corridors, hall and office areas, continued development of the new outside area and a skip load of rubbish cleared from around the school. My thanks to the caretaking and cleaning staff for making sure the school looks its absolute best!

### Meet the Teacher

Communication was sent during the holidays regarding Meet the Teacher events. For those that may have missed it, please note that these meetings will be held on **Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> September 2018** with meetings starting at 3.15 pm, 4.00 pm and 4.45 pm, in the classrooms. Please choose a meeting time that you can attend and hear about your child's journey for the year ahead – there is no need to pre-register.

### Breakfast Club

Breakfast Club started at St. Paul's in 2015 has grown rapidly over that period. Due to the increased numbers of children, it has been necessary to employ an additional member of staff to allow for further supervision and activities; we have also changed the opening time at the request of parents. This does result in a small price increase and Breakfast Club will now be charged at £3.50 a session or £6 for siblings. It is essential that you now book in advance for a place at Breakfast Club as we will no longer be accepting drop in's on the morning. In addition to this, please note that if you are in arrears of £15 or more, you will be unable to book a place in Breakfast Club until this has been cleared. On that note, if you are in arrears from last year, can I ask that this is cleared before **Friday 7<sup>th</sup> September 2018**.

### School Uniform

Thank you to those Parents/Carers that have ensured their children returned to school in full school uniform. Please note that I am expecting blazers in school every day, for every child, to ensure that our high standards are maintained. Can I also ask that bows and other hair accessories are not brought into school. Hair ties or Alice bands should be red, black or white only, in line with the uniform policy.

### Homework

There was much discussion and debate around homework last year between Parents/Carers, Staff and Governors including the format that it takes and the benefit of it. We have made some changes to homework and all homework will now be online using Mathletics, Times Tables Rock Stars and Spelling Shed. All three of these have apps that can be used on a variety of devices or through the websites themselves. This allows for tasks to be set for individual children by teaching staff and the level of challenge to increase or decrease depending on different needs. You also have the option to set more homework using any of these apps. For those that are unable to access the internet at home, we will be opening the ICT suite on a Wednesday



afternoon between 3.30 pm and 5.00 pm, for parents to supervise their children in order to access these sites in addition to offering a homework club that children can sign up to.

In addition to this, we will be asking that children read at least four times a week and the termly family project makes a return, due to a large number of parental requests. This will be a project set in the first week back each term and due in before the Show and Share at the end of the term; this may include undertaking research about something your child has not yet learnt about.

### **Birthday Sweets**

I spoke with a number of parents/carers in July about the large amount of sweets and doughnuts that are given out for children's birthdays. Whilst the sentiment is very much appreciated, I feel that in line with the Healthy Snack Shack and teaching children about being healthy, this is not something we can continue to do as a school. Can I ask that, instead of sweets and treats, that you consider donating a book to your child's class library or the school library, which can include a donation message.

### **Social Media**

As ever, I will be Tweeting and posting on Facebook with messages, photos and announcements. If consent for your child's photograph to be used has changed, please let us know. You can find us on Twitter by searching for @StPaulsSwanley and on Facebook by searching for closed group St. Paul's Church of England Primary School.

### **Contact Books/Reading Records**

Your child will be coming home over the next few days with a book that can be used as both a reading record book and a contact book. Please use this to write any messages to class teachers or ask any questions; **these will be checked daily by staff**. All children should be reading at least four times during the week and this should be recorded in this book. Reading is the key to accessing the curriculum and continued learning and we would really appreciate your support in making this happen.

### **New Entrants – September 2019**

Although we have only just welcomed our new starters for this year, it is essential that we turn our eye to September 2019 and children starting school at that time. If you have a child, or know of a child starting school then, please come along to one of our open sessions on:

Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> October 2018: 2.00 pm – 3.00 pm

Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> October 2018: 9.30am – 10.30am

Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> November 2018: 9.30am – 10.30am

Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> November 2018: 2.00 pm – 3.00 pm

Please contact the office if you would like to book a place for one of these tours and feel free to share these dates with neighbours, friends or relatives looking for a school place.

I am brimming with excitement about this academic year and the curriculum. As ever, if you have any question, comments or queries please come and see me; my door is always open and if I don't know about something, I can't help.

Yours faithfully,



**Mr B Hulme**  
**Headteacher**