



St. Paul's Church of England Primary School
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18th September 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

Whole School Panto – Beauty and the Beast - Wednesday 13th December 2023

This year, we have organised for all children and staff to see Beauty and the Beast, starring soap star, actress and singer Shona McGarty (Whitney Dean from EastEnders), at the Orchard Theatre in Dartford, on **Wednesday 13th December 2023**.

This is one of the most exciting events on the St. Paul's calendar and we hope that all children will attend. The PTA has kindly paid for the coach transportation to and from the Theatre, which has considerably kept the cost as low as possible and we are very grateful for their generosity. We will therefore only be charging for the ticket price of the panto, which will be **£16** per child.

Payments should be paid via School Gateway under the payment 'Beauty and the Beast'. Please also ensure that you tick the 'consent' box option, to confirm your child's attendance. Payment does not need to be made all at once and can be paid in stages via School Gateway, with a £1 minimum payment each time. **Please can we receive the total payment, by Friday 1st December 2023.**

You may be aware that the Orchard Theatre has currently suspended events at the theatre during the months of September and October. As of now, we have been given no indication to suggest that the pantomime will not be happening and have been encouraged to continue with our booking process as normal. Of course, we will make you aware of and act accordingly, if the situation changes.

The running time will not be confirmed until a couple of days before the panto, but we currently estimate that the performance will finish at approximately 4.15pm. We will let you know our estimated time back to St. Paul's on the afternoon after the production via Schoolcomms; depending on the traffic leaving the theatre. Children must wear **full** school uniform. They are allowed to bring a bag of sweets and a non-fizzy drink and will be given an ice cream at the interval, which the school will pay for. Can I please ask that children do **not** bring book bags into school on this day.

Yours faithfully,

Mr James Johnson
Head of School