



ST. PAUL'S NEWS

'Life in all its fullness' John 10:10

NEWSLETTER 3 • 2023-2024



SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT

Each year the school produces a School Development Plan that sets out its priorities for the academic year ahead. This is shared with staff and governors and is frequently updated during the year to see that progress is being made. At St. Paul's, we choose three main priority areas and these are decided by looking across the curriculum and at data from the previous year. This year, our three priorities are:

- Develop the Music and French curriculum.
- Further embed Accelerated Reader across the school to improve attitudes to reading
- Increase knowledge, understanding and use of times tables across the school

This doesn't mean that this is all we will look at during the year - but these will have a particular focus! We always welcome parents and carer's feedback on these areas and would encourage these to come through in the parent council or by talking to Mr Johnson.

WEEKLY
NEWSLETTER

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Message from Mr Johnson • P. 2

Young Voices • P. 2

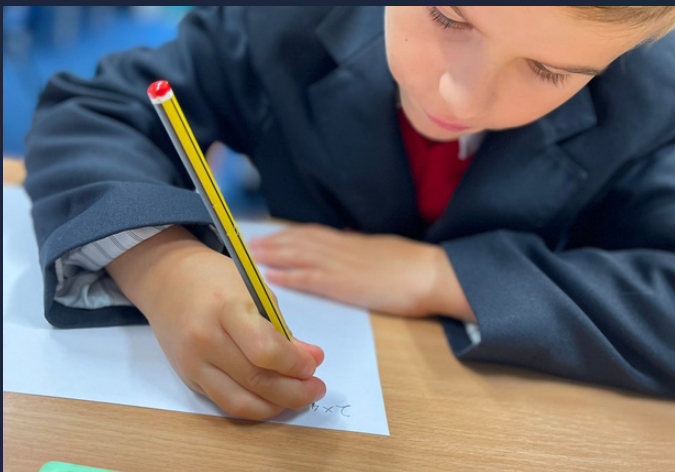
A View From The Classrooms • P. 3

MESSAGE FROM MR JOHNSON

Another exciting week of learning draws to a close and I am thrilled to see how the children are exploring their topics with real depth. Whilst spending time in classrooms this week, I was astounded by the level of knowledge that the children are able to use to support their conversations. A group of children from Maple Class told me about the living condition during the Industrial Revolution and how people's lives and health were affected, whilst Beech Class enlightened me about the Ice Age by explaining the difference between 'extant' and extinct'. These conversations reflect the knowledge-rich curriculum that we offer the children and the high expectations that all teaching staff have of the children in their class. This week, we sent out our new Schofield&Sims homework books. These are designed to support the maths learning that takes place in the classroom. If you would like additional resources to support with maths at home, I would strongly recommend logging onto either Mathletics or Times Table Rockstars. As always, we encourage all children to read for at least twenty minutes a day. The countless benefits of reading for pleasure have been widely documented and I would always encourage parents and carers to prioritise reading.



J Johnson



TIMES TABLE ROCKSTARS

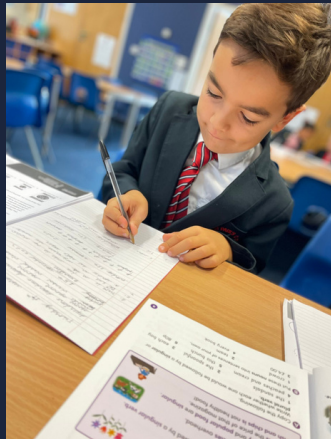
Across the school, the children have been working hard to re-call, at pace, their multiplication facts. Our priority has been to ensure that the children gain a conceptual understanding of multiplication so they can comprehend 'why' and 'how' the times table functions, rather than just 'what' the answer is. As the children become faster at recalling multiplications of 0 -12, they will be able to solve more complex maths in much less time. This is because the core understanding has already been established. They will exercise this skill like second nature, enabling them to focus on the more difficult aspects of the task. In your child's contact book, you will see a running record of their times table score. We are hoping that you see the impact of this teaching. Furthermore, Times Tables Rockstars is a gamified, child friendly approach that takes the boredom out of learning times tables. Children are inspired to become 'rockstars' through fun yet structured daily practice. Around school, we are celebrating the success of the children with regards to this. We are particularly looking at the increased speed of re-call and the amount of time that each class puts into their times table practice.

A VIEW FROM THE CLASSROOMS



BIRCH

OAK



BEECH

MAPLE

