



23rd July 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we reach the end of another fantastic year at St. Paul's Church of England Primary School, I want to take a moment to reflect on our successes and extend my gratitude for your ongoing support.

On a personal note, I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to each and every parent, who took the time to ask about my twin girls and shared in my early experiences of parenthood. Hearing your similar stories or words of encouragement, got me through many of the sleepless early days! Being part of such a caring community is truly special, and it's a feeling I cherish deeply. Thank you all from the bottom of my heart.

The arts have shone brightly at St. Paul's this year. Our annual Night of Young Voices choir concert was a resounding success, filling St. Peter's Church with beautiful music and proud smiles. The end-of-year production by Maple Class of "Peter Pan" was a true testament to the talent and hard work of our children and staff. Whilst the Nativity was as heart-warming and festive as ever.

Our sporting events this year have been nothing short of spectacular. The Olympic Parade and the Cross Country event, showcased our children's incredible spirit and determination. My favourite comment of the year coming out of this event was when a child remarked that if the children did not choose to 'step out of the boat', the teachers would be sure to push them out of it! These events, along with the Tough Mudder challenge, have not only promoted physical fitness but also teamwork and resilience amongst our children.

One of the most significant challenges I posed to our children this January was to "be curious, not furious." This mantra has fostered a culture of understanding and awareness, helping our children grow into more empathetic and insightful individuals. I am incredibly proud of how our children have embraced this challenge and demonstrated these values in their daily lives.

Our close links with the Compass Federation, have continued to strengthen, providing our children with enriching experiences. The Y6 trip to Swanley Park, football matches, the team-building day and the federation maths afternoon facilitated by Mr. Dickens, were all incredibly well-received. These events have helped our children build connections and prepare for their transition to secondary school. We will continue to build on this next year.

As we bid farewell to some cherished members of our school community, I want to express our deepest gratitude. We thank Mrs Slater for her hard work and commitment to our children. We wish her great success in her new role. We also wish Miss Cross the best of luck as she returns from maternity leave and embarks on her teaching career at St. Edmund's. Her warmth, knowledge, and kindness have made a lasting impact on our children, who are incredibly fortunate to have had her guidance.

To our Year 6 children, we wish you the very best as you move on to secondary school. Your journey with us, has been filled with growth and achievement and we are confident that you will continue to shine in your new schools. You represent the very best of St. Paul's. Please come back and share your success stories, we love hearing them. Remember, you always have a home to return to at St. Paul's. We also extend our gratitude to those parents who are leaving us, whether after many years or a short time, for their support and involvement in our school community. You have entrusted us with your children and that is a precious gift, which we do not take for granted.

As we head into the summer holiday, I wish you all a restful and enjoyable break. We are already looking forward to welcoming everyone back and starting another exciting year together. School will start again on **Wednesday 4th September 2024**.

Thank you once again for your unwavering support. Together, we continue to ensure that every child at St. Paul's can live life in all its fullness and step out of the boat with confidence and courage.

With warm regards,

James Johnson

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "J Johnson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "J".

Head of School