

“Every child is a unique child of God.”

WHINMOOR



ST. PAUL'S

19/07/2018

Dear Families,

As we come to the end of a busy and successful year at Whinmoor St. Paul's, on behalf of Governor's and staff, may we wish you a happy, safe and restful summer holiday. This year has been a year focussed on raising standards, (particularly in maths and writing) celebrating success, helping our children develop their confidence and resilience and continually moving forward on our improvement journey.

We are delighted to inform you that our SAT results in Y6 evidence a rise in Maths attainment by 14%, bringing us in line with provisional National results. Reading is also in line with provisional National and our Writing results are approximately 10% higher than provisional National. In Y2, Maths outcomes have risen by 20% and Writing and Reading are well above National results for 2017. Alongside this, the Phonics Screening Test, which took place in Y1, evidence that 86% of children reached the National standard, compared with 77% last year and our standards in Reception Class evidence great progress over the year with 78% of children attaining a Good Level of Development. Well done to all our children and thank you to families who have supported us in so many ways, particularly with making sure that homework has been completed and handed in. It has really made an impact. All results will be uploaded onto our website in the next few days.

We are delighted that these results reflect that we are moving forward with pace and we thank you all for your continued support. The Year of Maths has certainly had an impact and we will continue to build upon this success in the forthcoming year. We found out this week that many of our children who took part in the Manga High competition, were awarded gold medals (12 in total) and school will receive £110 in Amazon vouchers towards new maths equipment. This is great news and again, we thank you for your support.

As the year draws to a close, on Tuesday, we say goodbye to a wonderful and talented group of children, who we will miss very much. Our Y6 children have made us so proud, taking on roles and responsibilities, modelling how to live by the core values of the school and really moving forward in their learning. We believe they are prepared and ready for the next step, and we hold them (and of course, their families) in our prayers, as they begin High School. For some of our families, they will also leave us as their only or last child moves on and for some families, we say goodbye, as they move to new homes in other towns, cities or parts of Leeds. We invite all our wonderful families to stay in touch with us – please come along to our fairs and events and remember where we are. You are part of our community and are always welcome.

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Moving forward:

Our Christian Values linked to British Values for Life

From September, we will be focussing on one Christian value each half term, linked to British Values. These values will permeate all areas of our curriculum and behaviour. We believe this will help our children gain a greater understanding of what the value means in terms of how we live our lives and the impact it has on others. This year, our Christian Values will focus on:

Autumn 1 – Creation
Autumn 2 – Hope
Spring 1 – Humility
Spring 2 – Service
Summer 1 – Trust
Summer 2- Thankfulness

British Values

Democracy - *Justice/Friendship/Peace*
Rule of Law - *Justice/Friendship*
Individual Liberty - *Peace/Justice/Wisdom/compassion*
Tolerance and Respect - *Compassion/Forgiveness/Friendship/Wisdom*

We will be changing our main entrance hall display each term to reflect our journey throughout the year, with our first display entitled, *'Being, Belonging, Becoming. Growing in God's Love.'* Please let us know what you think.

Attendance and Punctuality

Within the St. Paul's community, we all want our children to succeed. Children only get one chance at school and this chance is affected by not attending school every day and on time. When children do not attend or are late, they often struggle to keep up with school work and miss out on the social side of school life. Poor punctuality and attendance can often affect their ability to make and keep friendships, which is such a vital part of growing up. Lateness not only affects the child, but other members of the class, as the teacher often has to stop the lesson and go over key learning points. Each week, the class with the highest attendance get a reward towards an end of term party and at the end of the year our 100% attendees get certificates and awards too.

Doors open at 8.40am and children can come straight into class and begin their learning tasks. At 8.45am the bell rings and doors close at 8.50am. At this stage, you need to bring your child to the school office and sign them in. If your child is poorly and unable to attend school, please inform us by ringing school by 9am at the latest. Please rest assured that if you send your child to school and they become poorly, we will always ring you and let you know. It is vital we have updated contact numbers, so will send out updated sheets in September. Thank you.

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C of E Primary School

Uniform

As we return to school in September, we ask for your full cooperation in ensuring your child wears correct school uniform. This identifies children as belonging to Whinmoor St. Paul's community and supports us in continuing to raise expectations and standards. Our full uniform list can be found on our website or pop into our office for a paper copy. We would appreciate your particular support with the following:

- school shoes – sensible black shoes, not trainers
- Jewellery - On health and safety grounds we do not allow children to wear jewellery. The exception to this rule is plain ear-ring studs in pierced ears. On any days that a child is participating in PE, games, swimming and other physical activities it is advisable to leave earrings at home
- Nail varnish is not permitted nor are 'extreme' haircuts, patterns in hair or large hair 'decorations' such as patterned bows, clips etc. Please keep to simple bobbles, head bands, in school colours.

Message from Mr. Ratcliffe as the holiday approaches: The importance of reading at home.

Shared reading is a fabulous chance to spend quality time with your child over the holidays and is also a vital part of a child's learning. Reading is probably the most important skill your child will learn. It opens up a whole new world of learning and imagination, and the more you help your child at home, the easier they will find it to develop this vital skill.

At Whinmoor St Paul's we ask that children in **all** year groups read aloud to an adult at least 3 times a week. Reading for just 10 minutes every day can make a vast improvement to your child's self-confidence, fluency and ability to access other areas of the curriculum.

Discussing the book and the choices of words the author uses, are as important to the process of reading and understanding as reading the words. This regular discussion will help your child with comprehension tasks and enable them to widen their knowledge of interesting vocabulary. We look forward to hearing what they have been reading with you, upon their return in September.

Message from Mrs. Wilson as the holiday approaches: The importance of maths at home

The holiday's present a great opportunity to let children practise their math's learning on a day to day basis. Please encourage your children to use their maths knowledge in everyday life situations, for instance working out prices at the shops, counting out money, telling the time. It would be really helpful if they can also keep practising the basic skills which they have built on over this year, for instance practising their Times Tables. Using opportunities to practise over the holidays really does make a difference and enables children to make a great start in September.

We would love to see the children enjoying their reading, writing and maths' activities over the summer, so if you would like to upload pictures to Twitter, #AlwaysLearning, we'd be delighted.

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School Lunches and Packed Lunches

We all know the importance of having a healthy, balanced meal at lunchtime and we hope many of you have had the opportunity of sampling our school meals at parent consultation nights' and our recent 'Meet and Greet,' night. The school dinners are high quality, nutritious and prepared on the premises by Mrs Barrow and her team. If you wish your child to have a school meal, please inform our office staff who will give you further details. If you prefer your child to have a packed lunch, we ask for your support in packing a healthy lunch, which does not include chocolate bars or fizzy drinks. In school we have several children with severe allergies, so please ensure that you do not pack any food which contains nuts as we need to safeguard all our children and will continue to be a nut-free school. Great advice on healthy lunches can be found on the following website:

<https://www.nhs.uk/change4life/recipes/healthier-lunchboxes>

Water is always available in school and we ask that, at the start of the term, you send your child to school with a labelled water bottle, which can be refilled during the day.

Twitter

Thank you so much to our wonderful families who took part in the #summeratstpaul's competition. It was lovely to see so many of our families enjoying this lovely weather out of school time. We have put a display up in the entrance hall – please do pop in and take a look. We know how much families enjoy following us on Twitter and we would love to see more pictures being uploaded over the holidays of our families enjoying their holidays. Please do share.

PTFA

Thank you so much to our PTFA for their unfailing support in fundraising to support us in getting our Nature Area ready for next year. We are so grateful for the generosity of our families and our community. We hope to get lots of work done over the summer and we are grateful to British Gas for coming in for a day, to help us with some of the work. We will be sending dates of our autumn term PTFA events very soon.

School closes for the summer at 3.15pm on Tuesday 24th July and our doors reopen for children at 8.40am on Tuesday 4th September, with the exception of our Y6 children, who are welcome to come into school by the main entrance at 8.30am.

Have a wonderful summer, thank you for your continued support and may God bless us all as we break up for the holidays.

Miss McBride
Head teacher