

“Every child is a unique child of God.”

WHINMOOR



ST. PAUL'S
C of E Primary School

Dear Families,

Welcome back! We hope you had a relaxing holiday and are feeling refreshed and rested. It was wonderful to welcome our children back into St. Paul's on Tuesday morning. A very special welcome to our new families – already the children are settling in beautifully and becoming familiar with our routines. A big thank you to our older children who are spending time with the new starters, especially over the lunchtime period. They are a credit to their families. School has been an oasis of calm this week and we are looking forward to a happy and successful year ahead.

Over the holidays, Mr. Allen painted many areas in school and it is looking clean and fresh. Our thanks to Mr. Barley and Mr. Allen for all their sterling work in continuing to clear and construct our Nature Area. We are so grateful to British Gas workers, who spent 2 days volunteering in school, supporting us. What a difference it has made. Please look on Twitter or the school website to see how much it is coming on.

The beginning of the school year is a great time to go over our standards and how we can all work together for the wellbeing and success of our children. Please talk to your child about our 'Golden Rules' – rules for life.' These rules form the basis of our positive behaviour policy and are at the heart of all we do.

Consistency and boundaries are vital for success and safety, both in and out of school. Thank you to the many families who have sent the children back to school on time and in full uniform, smart and ready to learn. High expectations, high attendance and SMART starts to the day, in terms of uniform and punctuality really do make a difference to attitudes and outcomes for children and we ask that you support us in this.

Values

This half term we will focus on Creation, (our Christian Value) and Democracy and Respect (our British Values) – we will consider how we are all responsible for playing our part in creating a wonderful school, taking care of each other and of our environment, respecting the world God created, taking care of our Nature Area, voting for our first School Councillors, Sports' Captains and a new role to school, our first Eco-Warriors. Please talk to your children about how we have introduced these values this week. The children have been involved throughout the whole process.

The Joy of Reading and The Magic of Maths

Last year we focussed on the Year of Maths and saw our Math's outcomes soar, which was wonderful. This year, we will focus on The Joy of Reading and The Magic of Maths. Mr Ratcliffe and Mrs. Wilson want to actively involve our families on this journey – more details to follow.

Healthy Meals

Many of our families enjoyed a taster of school meals at various events last year and commented on how tasty, well cooked and nourishing they were. If you wish your child to have a school meal, they are free to all pupils in Reception and Key Stage One and cost £2.15 per day for children in Years 3 and 4 and £2.20 for children in Years 5 and 6. Please note this is a 5p increase from last term and still represents excellent value. If you think your child may be entitled to free school meals, please pop in or telephone Mrs. Burns (school office) who can advise you. If your child brings packed lunches, we ask that you pack a healthy meal for them and do not send chocolate bars, sweets or fizzy drinks. Water is always available and it is helpful if you send your child with a labelled water bottle, so that they can refill it throughout the day.

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Volunteer helpers

If anyone would like to volunteer in school, to help us in a variety of ways, including art, crafts, sport clubs, hearing children read etc, please come to the office and ask to speak to Mrs. Brew. We would love to hear from you. Safeguarding checks, in line with Leeds City Council recommendations are in place and we can talk you through the process.

Friday morning Celebration Worship/Assembly

We are always delighted to welcome parents and carers to our celebration worship/assembly on Friday mornings, 9am to approximately 9.30am. It is wonderful to hear what the children have been up to and share their celebrations and rewards, both in and out of school. This year we ask that mobile phones are switched off and out of sight during this time. This means that we can all focus more on what we are celebrating with our children. As always, no photos may be taken of the children. However, if your child is getting a special reward and you want a picture of them on their own, please ask us. Thank you.

Dates for your diary:

Some main dates for your diaries, more details to follow:

Friday 21st September - Jeans for Genes day.

On this day we help raise funds for those children in the UK effected by life altering genetic disorders. It is a non –uniform day and children (and staff) may wear jeans to school. We ask for a donation of £1.

Friday 5th October – Harvest Festival 9am.

Monday 15th October – Individual School Photos.

Thursday 8th November – Year 3 Trip to the Central Library.

Friday 16th November – Children in Need. Details to follow.

Thursday 13th December – FS1 & FS Christmas Performance – AM.

Year 1 & Year 2 Christmas Performance – PM.

Friday 14th December – Christmas Jumper Day.

Christmas Fair.

Monday 17th December – Year 3 & Year 4 Christmas Concert – PM.

Year 5 & Year 6 Christingle Concert – Early Evening.

Wednesday 19th December – Christmas Party Day.

Thursday 20th December – School Carol Service – PM.

Thank you again to all our families who support us in giving the children the best start we can. We are privileged to have your children with us at Whinmoor St. Paul's and will do all in our power to give them an excellent year, full of exciting learning and great opportunities.

Miss McBride
Head teacher.