



Dear Families,

Welcome back to the new school year at Whinmoor St. Paul's. We hope you have enjoyed having time to spend at home with friends and family and have recharged the batteries ready for a happy and successful school year ahead. A particular welcome to our new families as we settle the children into the new school year. It is wonderful to welcome you into our school family. During the holidays, we have worked hard to improve the school environment, with electronic gates, CCTV, a new signing in system installed, new fences completed, several outdoor paths repaired and a mini crossing painted between the school and the Bungalow - renamed by the children the Hive; (a hive of activity) - Thank you to the Diocese for supporting us in this work as we continue to ensure the safety of our school community. Alongside this, we were delighted and so grateful to welcome 45 volunteers from British Gas, who worked for several days to completely clear the 'Nature Area', which had overgrown and was no longer fit to be used. We still have work to do to get it ready for use by the children, but we are working on this and are delighted we will soon have a brilliant outdoor learning space to use to support our children as they move forward. Thank you so much to the volunteers and to Mr. Hawes for coordinating much of this work over the summer break.

**The start of the school year** is always a good time to go over our standards and how we can work together to support our children. Our behaviour policy, founded on the 'Golden Rules,' is a simple policy based on positivity, clear boundaries and consistency. They are listed below. Please spend some time reading them with your child and discussing their importance in creating a safe, fair, calm and happy environment in which all our children can flourish.

### **Our Golden Rules**

We are gentle  
*we don't hurt others*  
We are kind and helpful  
*We don't hurt anybody's feelings*  
We listen  
*We don't interrupt*  
We are honest  
*We don't cover up the truth*  
We work hard  
*We don't waste our own or other's times*  
We look after property  
*We don't waste or damage things*



## **Our Christian Values linked to British Values for Life**

Throughout this year, 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. We believe this is a positive step for the future; Please let us know what you think.

### **Christian Values:**

Autumn 1 - WISDOM  
Autumn 2 - PEACE  
Spring 1 - FRIENDSHIP  
Spring 2 - FORGIVENESS  
Summer 1 - COMPASSION  
Summer 2 - JUSTICE

### **British Values**

Democracy - *Justice/Friendship/Peace*

Rule of Law - *Justice/Friendship*

Individual Liberty - *Peace/Justice/Wisdom/compassion*

Tolerance and Respect - *Compassion/Forgiveness/Friendship/Wisdom*

## **Uniform**

Thank you to all our families who have sent the children in full uniform. They look so smart and ready to learn. Our full uniform list can be found on our website or pop into our office for a paper copy. As we move forward and continue to raise our standards, 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, for instance 'tram lines'

## **The Year of Maths**

We are really excited to introduce 'The Year of Maths,' to our school community. Please see the additional newsletter sent out tonight from Mrs. Wilson, our leader of maths.

## **Attendance and punctuality**

At St. Paul's, everything we do is underpinned by the Christian ethos of valuing each child as a unique child of God and we seek to fulfil the spiritual, mental and physical capabilities of **every** child – *the future adult members of our society*.

We want our children to achieve in an ever changing world of work and we believe that every lesson counts towards their achievement. 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.

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 imperative we have updated contact numbers so if you have changed your phone number or address, please pop into the office and give us this new information.

### **Collecting your child**

We must know who is allowed to collect your child if it is not you. We will never hand a child over to a person we do not know. Please make sure the class teacher knows who will collect your child each night.

If your child is in Years 5 or 6 and you allow them to walk home on their own, we need a letter stating this and signed by the parent or carer before we can allow the child to leave school unaccompanied. .

Please remember that there is now a private club, 'Candystripe,' which provides before and after school care on site. Please call in the office for more information.

### **Dates and Deadlines**

Our consultation evenings for parents and carers (from Reception to Year 6) will take place on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> of October. Further details to follow.

Next week, we hope to send you dates regarding our Harvest Festival celebration, Christmas worship and productions so that you have plenty of time to book time off work, should you be able to join us.

Finally, your children are the most important gift from God and we promise to support, guide, help and treasure them all we can. If you need a word, please catch the teacher either at the beginning or end of the day and arrange a time to talk. Thank you for your support and we look forward to a fabulous year ahead.

Miss McBride

Head teacher