

"Every child is a unique child of God."

WHINMOOR



ST PAUL'S

C of E Primary School

Dear Families,

11.01.24

Happy New Year to all of our families! It has been wonderful to welcome our children and families back to school this term. Thank you to all those families who have made sure their children are in the correct school uniform and are on time. This makes such a positive contribution to their 'readiness to learn.' Our prayers are for decent weather and good health to all our school community, as we move through winter and into the spring. We have so much to look forward to over the next few weeks.

Congratulations to Miss Murphy - A Winter Wedding

Our warmest congratulations, love and best wishes go to Miss Murphy our lovely Year 2 teacher. Miss Murphy married her fiancé on the 23rd December and will now be known as Mrs Normington. We wish you many years of happiness!

Message from Mrs Sharkey - Worship Committee:

Mrs Sharkey is looking forward to working with our new worship committee members this term to promote our Christian Values, collective worship and to revamp our Reflection Areas around school. So far, the worship committee have planned and led some fabulous whole school workshops, selected our values for this year and designed Christmas cards for the Seacroft Parish. Mrs Sharkey would like to thank our previous members for their hard work and their contributions. Throughout the spring term, members will be undertaking some fabulous projects including creating a worship book to celebrate worship around school, evaluating our class workshops and leading a whole school collective worship on the importance of the Trinity to Christians. Keep an eye on our Twitter page and school website for all the most recent news from our amazing worship committee!

Message from Mrs Lindley - Eco-warriors:

Mrs Lindley would like to welcome the new Eco Warriors to their role and is looking forward to working alongside them to make our school a more eco-friendly environment. I would like to thank the previous Eco Warriors who have led their classes in saving electricity, water and ensuring the paper and card were saved for recycling. This term we are looking forward to watching the nature area bloom and grow, alongside welcoming the birds and insects back. The Eco Warriors will be taking part in the RSPB Big Schools' Bird Watch in which we will take part in a national survey of the bird population. We will be going out to litter pick in our local area to share our love of the environment within the wider community. It will be another exciting term in which we will be helping people to see how important it is to care for our world and everything in it.

Message from Mrs West - Well-being Ambassadors:

At Whinmoor St Paul's we have nominated pupils from Years 4, 5 and 6 to be our Wellbeing Ambassadors. These children successfully applied for these important positions, to support us in raising the profile of wellbeing across the school. They will also support their teachers when delivering work as part of Children's Mental Health Week. The children are passionate and willing to make a difference and are a true asset to our school.

Message from Ms. Reynolds – School Council:

Ms Reynolds would like to thank our School Council members from the autumn term for the wonderful work they did and a warm welcome to the new members for the spring term. The school council represent the children within their classes and get the opportunity, through regular meetings, to express their opinions and make decisions regarding education and life within school. Last term the children represented the school by helping start to design a new mural for the playground. They also advertised and raised money for Children in Need with their tasty bun sale. This term the children will decide on the charity they would like to support and how they will achieve this.

Message from Mrs Wallis – Sports Leaders:

A big well done to our newly elected Sports Leaders, who have been nominated for the spring term ahead. This term, our aim is to further develop our physical activity during the school day with a particular focus on promoting positive playtimes and lunchtimes. During the term ahead and as the weather improves, we will refresh our active playtimes. We will fill playtime equipment boxes with lots of new equipment for each class, ready to be enjoyed, allowing the pupils to support us to create a timetable for our 'Craze of the Week' developing games which they can promote with their peers and ensuring equipment is outside on the playground. This will be a job for each of our Sports Leaders to manage on a daily basis.

Scooters and bikes

Children are welcome to use their scooters or bikes to ride to school, with your permission and support. However, they must not be used on the school grounds, for health and safety reasons. We also ask that children do not play football or use the play equipment before or after school. These are the times when our school is most busy, filled with families, children, prams, pushchairs and a key time when unnecessary accidents can happen.

Attendance

At Whinmoor St Paul's, we believe that high levels of attendance and a punctual start to the school day are important for all children. Promoting excellent attendance is the responsibility of the whole school community: staff, pupils, parents, carers and governors. All children should be at school, on time, every day the school is open, unless the reason for the absence is unavoidable. Occasionally your child may be reluctant to attend school, we encourage families to discuss any concerns they have with the class teacher in the first instance. Staff are always happy to meet with you to talk through any concerns or questions you may have in regards to attendance.

Reminder - Weather:

As we move into the spring term, we will always endeavour to keep our school open. However, if we have a serious snowfall overnight and are not able to open, we will inform families as soon as possible by sending a text, sending a tweet and uploading information onto the school's website. We will also inform local radio stations. In line with government guidelines, we ask that home learning takes place, should we need to close school. Work is uploaded each week onto the website, under class pages. Alongside this, we ask that children read during the day. We also ask that children take part in a snow activity which families feel is age appropriate, from drawing a picture of a snowy day through to building a snowman and taking a photo to share with us on Twitter. Whatever families feel is appropriate. Most of our children love the snow and it is wonderful to see them having fun! For the vast majority of snowy days, school will be open, so please remember that if children wear wellington or winter boots to school, they will need a change of shoes for the day. Either their black school shoes or pumps. If you can send a peg (labelled with your child's name) to keep the wellies together, we would be grateful.

As always, we thank you for your continued support at this time and look forward to a productive and joyful term, as we head into spring.

Mrs Vaughan
Headteacher



Whinmoor St Paul's CofE Primary School, Whinmoor Crescent, Whinmoor, Leeds, LS14 1EG
Tel: 0113 2657250 Email: office@whinmoorstpauls.co.uk
Website: whinmoorstpauls.co.uk
Headteacher: L Vaughan BA (Hons)





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