



# St Paul's News



"LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE"

OCTOBER 2024

## Our Christian Values

- To **persevere** with everything, we do.
- To show **respect** for each other and the world around us.
- To **forgive** others when they hurt us.
- To always be **honest** and tell the truth.
- To **serve** others.
- Give **thanks** to God for all he does for us.



We have had a busy month with a multitude of different activities going on. A big thank you to everyone for their generous donations of tins and packets of food which will be taken to Hastings foodbank on **Wednesday 6th November** by Miss Laskey and the Worship council.

Have a restful half term!

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# Attendance

"ALWAYS STRIVING TO BE BETTER"

**18 classes had their attendance above 95% this month.**

Overall school attendance this term is **95.2%** which is inline with the national average of **95.3%** to date. Please remember that in the event of your child being absent from school, it is your responsibility to let the front office know the reason for this through ringing in using Option 1 or leaving a message via Arbor.

**A big well done to all 11 classes that have an attendance above 95% so far this term!**

## Attendance this term

RLB	95.5%	2JS	96.9%	4AB	96.3%
RBCKC	94.5%	2LG	97.4%	5JM	94.4%
RKS	93.5%	3EL	95.8%	5ER	95.9%
1CD	94.4%	3AY	94.9%	5GH	96.3%
1RM	93.8%	3JB	94.3%	6CW	94.6%
1MCLB	95.4%	4VLTS	95.9%	6KG	93.6%
2HONH	95.8%	4HM	94.6%	6ECM	96.1%

2LG  
97.4%

# Year 4 Local Walk

This Term, Year 4 went on a local walk around the streets of St Paul's. They were given the question, **'Does the amount of people on a road have a positive or negative impact on the local environment?'**

On each road, we carried out a quality survey, looking at the buildings, and the amount of litter and traffic noise. Whilst doing this, we also did a pedestrian count. All of the children displayed great behaviour and were a real credit to the school.

Year 4

We enjoyed walking around the local area, people were happy and smiling.  
Cass



We enjoyed looking at the buildings in our area and what type they were.  
Scarlett

# Year 5

## SPOOKINESS, MYSTERY AND VIKINGS!

### Hastings Storytelling Festival

AS PART OF THE HASTINGS STORYTELLING FESTIVAL, YEAR 5 WERE FORTUNATE TO RECEIVE A VISIT FROM AUTHOR SOPHIE KIRTLEY.

SHE SPENT AN HOUR WITH THE CHILDREN AND SPOKE ABOUT HER JOB AS AN AUTHOR AND SHARED HER LOVE OF WRITING.

SHE SHARED WITH US HOW SHE CREATED A SPOOKY ATMOSPHERE IN ORDER TO MAKE HER BOOKS COME ALIVE.

SOPHIE SHOWED US HOW SHE USES A MIXTURE OF SPOOKINESS, MYSTERY AND THE VIKINGS IN HER NEW BOOK 'THE HAUNTING OF FORTUNE FARM'.



I LOVED THE WONDERFUL STORY THAT SHE TOLD US AND HER IDEAS. IT INSPIRED ME TO WRITE MY OWN BOOK. EVEN THOUGH I DON'T WANT TO BE AN AUTHOR, TRYING NEW THINGS IS GOOD.

EMILY - YEAR 5.

# Year 6 PGL



Much fun was had by all , even the adults.  
Miss McDonald will definitely go on PGL again!

# Year 6 @ School PGL



## HAVING FUN!



Pizza Making

Film afternoon

Games

Rounders

Pottery



Orienteering

Bench ball

# Maths

We had a fantastic re-launch for Times Table Rockstars this term. Thank you so much to all the parents and carers for their support. All of the children looked brilliant!



# Reading

## Reading Buddies

The children really enjoyed sharing a book with a child from a different class. It was wonderful to see the children interacting very respectfully and enjoying a range of books. The children were very positive about the session and are keen to do this again.



## Y6 Reading Fluency Project

We have successfully applied to take part in a Reading Fluency Research Project which is being funded by the Department for Education. A number of our Y6 pupils are taking part in this project which is already having a positive impact on our children's reading confidence.

## What on Earth Reading for Pleasure research project

We are delighted to have been voted to participate in a research project run by the Open University to explore the impact of reading magazines on children's enjoyment of reading. All our Year 5 pupils will receive four editions of the 'What on Earth' magazine to keep as part of the project.

<https://www.whatonearth.co.uk/>





# Worship

This week, our Worship Council led the Academy in a Harvest Service. Working together as a team, they looked at the word HARVEST and showed us that it is so much more than just about bringing food once a year. We were reminded that we need to look after the EARTH, SHARE with each other and that we can each become STARS and put others first.

As an Academy, we are forging a link with the Hastings Food Bank so we can support those that are less fortunate than us and is a practical way that we can 'Let our lights shine'.

Our Worship Council will be taking our donations up to the Food Bank and then they will show the rest of the Academy what happens once our food is received there.



## Our Worship Council leads the Harvest Service.

Fun to do! I enjoyed cooperating with everyone- I'd like to do it all over again.

Maya- Year 5

I enjoyed speaking out loud to the whole school  
I'm looking forward to taking the food to the food bank  
Griff -Year 4



# Sports @ St Paul's

## Netball

The girls are on a roll at St Paul's!!  
Today we had the girls netball team compete in two matches.  
They won both of their games which is incredible considering 6/8 have not played in a netball match for the school before.

4-0 against Silverdale  
5-3 against Blacklands

## Football

A great start to a competitions this year with our girls qualifying for the Sandown tournament.

### Game 1

3-0 win vs Robsack

Lucia  
Bettie  
Lacie

### Game 2

3-0 win vs St Leonards

Lucia  
Bettie

## X Country.

Another successful sports event with 30 of our pupils taking part.

The running club at school has meant we have a lot of new runners this year.

**Year 3** Seb & Leo both finishing in the top 20 in the year 3/4 race with Griff from year 4 finishing 7th.

**Year 3** Aleen was the star of the year 3/4 girls race coming home in 2nd inches behind a year 4 girl.

Oona did 3EL proud finishing 16th.

Lucia was the best year 4 girl in the race finishing 12th.

**Year 5** is where we are strongest with Lacie and Connor coming in 2nd Viv 4th. Max & Musa had a great race finishing 11th & 12th and Tom not too far behind in 14th.

**Year 6** boys' race was thrilling with Eyad just running out of steam on the last straight coming 4th and Hunter and Leo finishing 12th & 19th

The girls didn't disappoint as Jaz flew round to come 3rd and Frankie 5th.

Special mentions for taking part for the first time and completing the race

Paige, Sienna, Jaxon and Josh from year 3  
Sophie, Harper, Roxy and Emily from year 4  
Vika, Harlan-Rain and Mahad from year 5

All running for the 1st time.

Also from year 6 Mae had her best result ever and Sav C and Emmy represented the school with big smiles.

Thank you to Mrs Fairweather and Miss Morley who's help was. as always. much needed.

Also, Mrs Lewis finally arrived after a detour to Sandown

Mr McGowan

# Wellbeing- Yellow Day

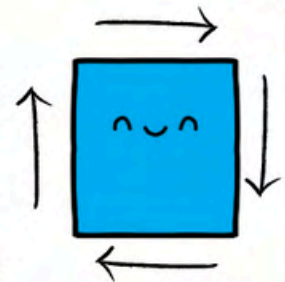
## World Mental Health Day - Thursday 10th October

The school was a sea of yellow in support of 'Hello Yellow' Day. The special day is organised, every year, by the charity '**Young Minds**' to raise awareness about mental health and to provide our young people with strategies and techniques to help them maintain positive mental health. We welcomed Sarah Church to lead an assembly to KS2 pupils about mental. She is a mental health practitioner who supports our school. All the pupils also discussed the importance of explaining how we feel and asking for help when it is needed in their lessons.



### Square Breathing

- Imagine you're drawing a square with your finger in the air.
- Breath in while counting 1, 2, 3, 4 as you draw the top line and then pause.
- Breath out while counting 1, 2, 3, 4 as you draw the line down the side and then pause.
- Breath in while counting 1, 2, 3, 4 as you draw the bottom line and then pause.
- Breath out while counting 1, 2, 3, 4 as you draw the line up the side to make the square.



### Finger Breathing



- Use your index finger to trace around the edges of the fingers on your opposite hand.
- Count 1, 2, 3, 4 and breath in as you go up the first finger.
- Count 1, 2, 3, 4 and breath out as you go down the finger.
- Repeat until you have traced up and down all five fingers, breathing 1, 2, 3, 4 in and 1, 2, 3, 4 out each time.

### Young Minds

Young Minds have many helpful ideas and strategies to help you support your child with any anxiety or worries they may have.

<https://www.youngminds.org.uk/>

### Senior Mental Health Lead

Miss Watson is St Paul's Senior Mental Health Lead. If you have any concerns/worries about your child's mental health, please contact her.

[lwatson@stpaulsceaacademy.org](mailto:lwatson@stpaulsceaacademy.org)

# Safeguarding

## What Parents & Educators Need to Know about IN-GAME CHAT

### WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Video games are continuing to grow in popularity – including, of course, among children and young people – and the emergence of gaming communities has been accelerated by the inclusion of chat functionality across many different titles. While in-game chat isn't inherently a bad thing, it can create some concerns about online safety and the people that children might be interacting with.

#### DIFFERENT TYPES OF CHAT

There are a number of ways that gamers commonly chat with one another online. As the name would suggest, in-game chat happens within the game itself. There's also party chat: a group voice conversation that console users can have with anyone on the same platform. This tends to be more commonly used by players who already know each other. Finally, many gamers – especially on PC – will chat via a third-party app such as Discord.

#### BULLYING AND ABUSE

While some in-game chat can turn toxic because of how a match plays out, others turn that way because of people who engage in trolling – in essence, behaving in an offensive and abusive way simply to cause pain or get a rise out of whoever they're talking to. These trolls often lean on racial slurs, anti-LGBT sentiment and other hateful rhetoric; they normally feel most confident preying on younger, more impressionable gamers.

#### POTENTIAL FOR PRIVATE CHAT

If a player would like a re-match with a stranger after meeting them in the game, they can send a friend request, or use the party chat together in the future. For the most part, this is harmless – but it might lead to messages being exchanged in private. This could then escalate to the sharing of private information, and potentially attempts to manipulate or scam younger players.

#### COMPETITIVE ATMOSPHERE

Certain games are very competitive, and players can sometimes get upset if they feel a teammate is underperforming, an opponent won unfairly, or they're just a bad loser. This can lead to unpleasant messages that stray away from playful 'trash talk' and wander into the territory of bullying. Some players have been known to get incredibly abusive in situations like this, and the impact of this on a young gamer's emotional wellbeing could be severe.

#### CONTACT WITH STRANGERS

Whether it's text- or voice-based, in-game chat is frequently open to all players to use. Many games default to making it an opt-in function, but some don't, meaning a child could start seeing messages within the game from people they're playing with, regardless of whether they know those individuals or not. While most strangers won't necessarily have ill intent, there are some who may behave inappropriately when chatting to a child – intentionally or otherwise.

#### DANGER OF GROOMING

It's been reported that some young gamers have encountered older players online who pretend to be a lower age to manipulate children, sending gifts in exchange for chatting and sending photos. Just as on any messaging platform, it's good to advise young people to avoid speaking to strangers; emphasise that they shouldn't accept gifts from anyone online that they don't know.

## Advice for Parents & Educators

#### LOCK-DOWN IN-GAME CHAT

In-game chat can often be disabled in the game's settings. This allows children to play without risk of contact from strangers – but it will need to be done in each individual game. Text chat appears in the corner of the screen in many titles, so it's normally easy to take a quick glance and see what's being said. With voice chat, explain to children what behaviour is inappropriate, so they can spot the dangers themselves.

#### CONSIDER OTHER CHAT OPTIONS

If a child wants to play with people they know, consider using party chat or a third-party service like Discord. This allows everyone involved to chat on a private server and even enjoy each other's company while playing different games. It's also far more secure, as anyone looking to join will need to request and be granted access – normally by whoever is hosting the chat.

#### REPORT POTENTIAL OFFENDERS

Most games offer a robust means of reporting other players, so you can flag an account as potentially harmful. This normally leads to the account not being matched with yours in the future and, if that person's conduct breaks any of the game's rules, they may be banned from playing entirely. This is done within the game itself, so each title has a slightly different process, but these tend to be designed for simplicity.

#### COMMUNICATION IS KEY

Make sure children understand the differences between being competitive and being abusive. Talk about what constitutes unusual or inappropriate behaviour from strangers online. Be clear that if anything ever concerns or worries them, they should tell a trusted adult as soon as possible. Empower children to identify the risks of in-game chat for themselves and reassure them they won't get in trouble for seeking help if anything goes wrong.

### Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is the Editor in Chief of @GRecon and has been working in the games media industry for five years. He's also a parent and therefore understands the importance of online safety. Writing mainly about tech and fitness, his work has been published at sites including IGN, TechRadar, and plenty more.

Source: See full reference list on guide page at: [nationalcollege.com/guides/in-game-chat](https://nationalcollege.com/guides/in-game-chat)

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www.stpaulsceaacademy.org

# Crazy Hair Day

**Crazy Hair day made a massive £465!  
Big thanks to everyone involved.**

**It was great to hear even a couple of teachers donned a mad hair do!  
We really appreciated the support of the parents and carers in making the effort.**

**St Paul's Together [PTA]**



# Mrs Allen

## A few words from Mrs Allen...

I would like to take this opportunity to wish all pupils and families the best going forward.

I have been privileged to work with many wonderful children over the past ten years at St Pauls and have seen so many overcome challenges and let their **light shine**.

I know I will miss working with the pupils, staff team and families but feel confident going forward as we welcome the new SENCO.

I will miss the St Pauls family and wish each and every one of you all the best.  
Mrs Allen



**We would like to thank Mrs Allen for her commitment and dedication to the SEND children at St Paul's over the last ten years. We would all like to wish her all the best in her retirement.**



— HAPPY —  
*Retirement*

# ST MATTHEW'S CHURCH

St. Leonards-on-Sea, East Sussex

A festive poster for a Christmas craft morning. The background is a light beige color with a white scalloped border. It is decorated with various Christmas-themed illustrations: a red gift box with a white bow, a green and blue ornament, a red and white bell, a yellow Christmas tree, a red and white star, a green and white ornament, a red and white gift box, a red and white nutcracker, a gingerbread man, a red mug with a white snowflake, a red and white candy cane, and a green and white star. The text is centered and reads:

JOIN US FOR OUR  
**CHRISTMAS  
CRAFT MORNING**

Saturday 30 November  
from 10am to 12noon

St Matthew's Church  
St Leonards on Sea, TN38 OTN

Please drop in and join us to make some  
Christmas crafts and enjoy some seasonal  
refreshments.  
We have something for everyone!

FOR MORE INFO GO TO  
[www.stmatts.co.uk/christmas](http://www.stmatts.co.uk/christmas)


# Is your child starting school September 2025?




St Paul's CE Academy is a popular and forward-thinking Church of England Primary school that sets personalised children's learning and Christian values at its heart.

We are a three - form entry school who aim to be a beacon of light for the community where every child is encouraged to discover their talents and achieve their potential.

Staff and Governors are committed to meeting the needs of all children and ensure that the children's curiosity and talents are cultivated allowing them to flourish.



We have well-resourced ICT, a Performing Arts Centre, BMX track, Forest School, outside gym and large grounds for sport, skateboarding and play.



St Paul's CE Academy Nursery provides early years care and education for 2, 3- and 4-year olds. We welcome all families to our setting. We believe that children should learn in stimulating surroundings where qualified staff provide an inspirational curriculum tailored to each individual child.

*We look forward to welcoming you to St Paul's CE Academy, a member of the Diocese of Chichester Academy Trust (DCAT).*

*Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> November 9.30am to 10.30am & 6.30pm to 7.30pm*

*Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> November 9.30am to 10.30am*

*If you are unable to attend on either of these dates we will arrange another one at the beginning of January, check our website for details.*

To book a place, please visit our website:  
[www.https://www.stpaulsceaacademy.org/](https://www.stpaulsceaacademy.org/)

**"Let your light shine"**



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## SCHOOL CROSSING PATROL



**URGENTLY  
REQUIRED**



Catherine, the School Crossing Patrol on Amherst Road has left so we are urgently seeking to provide a School Crossing Patrol.

We are looking for either one person, or two to job-share who are over 18 years of age and who will be trained and equipped by the County Council to help the children cross the road safely. Working hours are 08:30 to 09:00 in the mornings and 2:55 to 3:25 in the afternoons. The pay is £11.59per hour.

Although you would only work during term times we spread the monthly pay over the year. This works out at approximately £318per month.

There must be someone in the community that is able to help with this very important task, parents, grandparents or other family members or friends. Please consider this important community safety task even if you can only do mornings or afternoons

### **CAN YOU HELP?**

If you are interested or know of anyone who would be suitable for this position, please contact Peter Hooper, Area Supervisor, on 07786 171462 or email: [peter.hooper@eastsussex.gov.uk](mailto:peter.hooper@eastsussex.gov.uk).

# Key Dates

**Friday 25th October** - End of Term 1

**Monday 4th November**- Start of Term 2

**Tuesday 5th November Parents Evening** -3.30pm- 6.00pm

**Thursday 7th November Parents Evening** -4.30pm- 7.00pm

**Monday 11th - Friday 15th November**- Anti Bullying Week

**Friday 15th November**- Children in Need

**Wednesday 20th November 9.30am and 5.30pm** -New Reception cohort 2025/26 meetings

**Thursday 21st November**- Choir- Tenors Unlimited - White Rock Theatre

**Friday 22nd November 9.30am** -New Reception cohort 2025/26 meetings

**Friday 6th December- 8am**-MacMillan Big Breakfast

**Monday 9th December at 2pm & Wednesday 11th December at 9.30am**- Reception  
Nativity

**Tuesday 10th December at 2pm & Thursday 12th December at 9.30am**- Year 1 & 2  
Nativity

**Wednesday 11th December at 2pm** - Year 3 Christingle

**Thursday 12th December at 2pm**- Year 4 Christingle

**Wednesday 18th December**- Christmas Jumper Day and Lunch

**Friday 20th December at 10am**- KS2 Carol Service

St Paul's CE Academy,  
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We'd love to hear some feedback  
from you as well as any new  
ideas for things we could include  
in our St Paul's News. Please send  
any comments to  
office@stpaulsceaacademy.org