

13<sup>th</sup> September 2024

Dear Families

We have had an excellent week at St. Paul's. The children have really come back with a determination to do the best that they can. They are focused and engaged, and a significant number of green stamps have been awarded. Teaching staff have been issued with a handheld device so that they can record red and green points immediately as they walk around the classroom and work with individuals and small groups. This is helping to facilitate discussions about what stamps have been awarded for and to reinforce our high expectations. If your child achieves 60 green points in any one week you will receive an email. This will invite your child to see me in my office to receive a special Headteacher certificate. Your child will automatically receive an additional 5 points from me when you receive this email.

We marked the start of this academic year with a Mass of welcome yesterday. This was a lovely occasion to formally welcome everyone back to school and to welcome new members of our community. It was a bit of a logistical challenge fitting everyone in to our two locations as we are full to the brim with students in each year group, especially Year 7 and Year 12!

Thank you to all parents who have supported our car park management by collecting their children a few minutes after the end of the day or at locations a little way from school. The car park has settled down but remains busy between 3.30 and 3.45pm. Please can I ask that everyone is respectful of our neighbours and avoids parking across driveways and blocking entrances as this will avoid me receiving lots of complaint emails on a regular basis! I am also aware that there has been an issue with one or two Z&S buses being late in the mornings on a regular basis this week. We are speaking to the owner of the company to reiterate that lost learning time due to lateness of the buses is unacceptable. We will monitor this very carefully.

Please make sure that if your children travel to school by bus they get an All in 1 MK card. Milton Keynes Council charges £5 to purchase the card but you will be able to make some excellent savings by using it. Application forms are available from the school office.

Next week I begin my annual examination review meetings with each Head of Department across the curriculum. This is an opportunity to review examinations outcomes from summer 2024 and to identify any areas of learning to implement for next year. On Monday and Wednesday, Year 7 have their CATs tests. These are computer based cognitive ability tests that provide us with diagnostic information, baselines and targets for the future. If you are a Year 7 parent, please reassure your child that these tests (or more like quizzes) are nothing to worry about and they don't receive any 'results' and there is

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no pass or fail. Year 7 also begin their days of recollection next week. Our Chaplaincy Leader and form tutors will lead a day with each form that is designed to deepen spirituality and enable children to deepen their faith. It is also a really good opportunity for Year 7 form groups to work with each other in a different context. On Thursday morning members of our Governing Board are in school to continue their training on monitoring and evaluating the Catholic Life of our school. Mrs Eastwood is leading this essential training for them. Finally, on Friday Mr Maw is continuing with Year 6 parent tours so that prospective families can see our school in action. We have a further opportunity for prospective Year 7 parents to visit the school at our Open Evening on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> October from 6.00 to 8.00pm.

On Monday we begin the launch of our new learning platform for pupils. This will be available on the School website under the 'logins' tab. It will be called 'St Paul's Sharepoint'. Pupils will need their school username and password to log in. At the moment pupils will not be accessing subject specific materials, these sections will open over the next few weeks. Please encourage your child to access this learning platform as it will have access to their online Office accounts and, in the future, additional learning materials.

Earlier this week you will have received information about vacancies for Parent Governor positions at St. Paul's. Please do consider this and don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions about this role.

A list of lost property is attached. Please contact the school office or ask your child to collect any items you might recognise.

Have a lovely weekend.

Yours sincerely



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Headteacher

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