

24th May 2024

Dear Families

It's been such a busy half term here at St. Paul's. We are looking forward to the half term break. In anticipation of the start of the holiday, headteachers met with TVP on Monday to discuss the actions they are putting in place this afternoon to help prevent large groups of pupils gathering and causing a disturbance. I also wrote to parents this week regarding this. I really appreciate your support with ensuring that our children don't participate in such gatherings.

On Wednesday we held a very successful careers fair for Years 8, 10 and 12. Our Year 10 Geographers completed fieldwork trips in the Ouzel Valley Park. Rain did not stop our activities this week! Public examinations appear to have gone well this week. Our Year 9 Duke of Edinburgh students went off on their practice expedition yesterday and return tomorrow. I hope the weather is kind to them.

Students who live in the local area continue to contribute to the CHILL project (Children's Lives in Changing Places). On 9<sup>th</sup> May they attended the launch of their 'zine', a wellbeing and safety pack they have been instrumental in creating. The pack has been created to raise awareness and provide support for young people and to go some way to ensure the young people in the Woughton area feel listened to. The zine can be accessed via this [link](#).

On Monday, pupils attended a policy discussion at Woughton Community Hub Council Chambers. Here, discussions were had as to how to take the Children's Lives in Changing Places research forwards and make positive change for young people in Woughton and Milton Keynes. Pupils contributed their thoughts and ideas in a very mature and considered way speaking in front of Parish and City Councillors, the Mayor of Milton Keynes, Councillor Marie Bradburn, and various representatives from a range of organisations across the city including SMK Gateway and Community Action. My thanks go to Sophie, Ellie and Rihanna who spoke so confidently at this important event.

This week our Student Council and Student Leaders have visited our Finance, HR and Reprographics teams to say thank you for all their hard work behind the scenes. They read out a speech and gave out handwritten cards and cakes.

Our Maths Department has launched a 'Number Heroes Competition' for students in Year 7 and 8. The competition is all about promoting numeracy and showing how numbers can be used in various fields of life. We are asking children to let their imagination soar and create a picture of how they would use numbers in their dream job or hobby. Details can be found on itslearning and the competition closes on 5<sup>th</sup> June so the half term holiday is a great opportunity for children to think about their entries.

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We return to school on Monday 3rd June for the final part of the Pentecost Term. Year 10 students will continue with their programme of university visits. On Tuesday evening Governors are attending a training session led by Mrs Eastwood and Mrs Maw focusing on evaluating St Paul's as a Catholic School. Also on Tuesday a group of staff are attending a training session in preparation for our plans to introduce T Levels as part of our Sixth Form curriculum offer in September 2025. Exciting times for our Sixth Form as I can confirm that we have finally submitted planning permission for our Sixth Form block having saved up the money required!

Congratulations to Mrs Bradley who joins our Leadership Group in September. She will continue in her role of SENCO and Head of Emmaus and will strengthen our commitment to inclusion.

I wrote to all parents this week to outline our focus after half term on safe movement around our school site and corridors, as well as an emphasis on our expectations of uniform and equipment. I very much appreciate your support as we continue our work to teach children to make the right choices. Please can you remind your child on the first morning back that they will need their lanyards!

A reminder that our Day of Culture takes place on Friday 5th July and we have asked children to start thinking about what culture they would like to represent and get their outfits ready. This year we would like students to be involved in a fashion show and cultural dance performances. This may involve a few rehearsals after school. In addition, we would love to have cultural displays on tables for all to see. If parents would like to be involved in these cultural displays please get in touch with Mrs Ajala to see how we can make this possible. Our community is looking forward to an amazing day!

As we approach the half term break many of us will feel the pressures of the cost of living crisis even more than usual. This week we share an updated list of places to eat where children can eat free or at a reduced price when adults eat. The information has been collated by Money Magpie and is updated regularly so do check before you head out: <https://www.moneymagpie.com/save-money/where-can-kids-eat-for-1-or-less-this-may>

Finally, staff have witnessed some of our younger students running across local dual carriageways. We will introduce this in a PHSE lesson early next terms and I have asked tutors to go through the dangers of this today but please can you reinforce this at home.

I hope that you all have a lovely Bank Holiday weekend. I'm off to Scotland to visit my son who is in the RAF so I'm very excited! I look forward to welcoming your children back to school on Monday 3rd June.

Yours sincerely



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Headteacher

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