



Wolviston Mill Lane, Billingham, TS22 5LU



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St Paul's
Catholic Primary School

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2nd February 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to remind everyone of several important expectations that help us keep our school community safe, respectful, and running smoothly.

Parking and Drop-Off/Collection

We must insist that parents and anyone dropping off or collecting children **do not use Wolviston Mill Lane, do not park in the staff car park unless they have explicit permission from school, and do not stop or park on the entrance to Wolviston Mill Lane.**

The only exception of this is parents dropping off for Breakfast Club and collecting after Wraparound.

On Friday, a member of staff was unable to leave school quickly in an emergency because vehicles were blocking access from the staff car park and the exit out of Mill Lane. This situation could have had very serious consequences. Emergency vehicles would not have been able to reach the school if required.

In addition, local residents have contacted the school to report vehicles blocking or partially covering driveways, as well as restricting access to their properties. This is understandably causing frustration and must stop. We ask everyone to show consideration for our neighbours and ensure that driveways and access routes are always kept clear.

We fully appreciate that the ongoing building work is making the situation more challenging; however, everyone must work together to ensure safety and maintain positive relationships within our community. We have contacted the Local Authority Traffic Enforcement Team and requested their support to help manage and monitor the area.

Punctuality

Further to my letter last week, I would also like to remind parents of the importance of ensuring that children arrive at school on time every morning. Being punctual helps children start the day calmly, settle into routines, and ensures that no valuable learning time is missed. When children arrive late, it causes disruption to the class and can have a negative impact on their confidence and learning.

Please ensure that your child is in school and ready to begin their day promptly.



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Smart Watches in School

A reminder that **smart watches must not be worn in school**. A simple wristwatch is acceptable, but devices that include any of the following features are not permitted:

- Cameras
- Recording functions
- Messaging or communication features
- Electronic games

These items can cause safeguarding concerns, distractions in lessons, and issues with data protection.

Personal Items in School

To ensure a calm and focused learning environment, we ask that children do not bring additional personal items from home unless specifically requested by their class teacher. This includes Pokémon cards and other trading cards, toys, and excessive keyrings or attachments on school bags.

These items can easily become lost or damaged and often lead to disagreements or distractions during the school day. Keeping personal belongings at home helps all children to remain focused on their learning and reduces the likelihood of upset.

Birthday Sweets

We know that many families like to mark birthdays by sending in sweets to share with classmates, and while this is a thoughtful gesture, we must ask that sweets are not brought into school. If parents would like to celebrate in this way, it must be arranged outside of school.

Although well-intentioned, bringing in sweets can place unnecessary pressure on other families to do the same and can result in children receiving a large number of sweets over the year. To support children's wellbeing and encourage healthy choices, we ask that birthday treats are not sent into school.

A reminder about previously shared dates:

Wednesday 11 th February	4.45pm – Phonics 5.15pm - Shine	Phonics information session for all Y1 parents Shine launch for all N2 Nursery parents. <i>Separate letters with all the information have been emailed home</i>
Tuesday 17 th February	2.45pm	Y5 and Y6 Celebration of the Word – families welcome



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Thursday 19 th February	2.45pm	Y1 and Y2 Celebration of the Word – families welcome
Thursday 5 th March	All day	World Book Day – letter to follow
Monday 16 th March and Tuesday 24 th March	3.40pm - 6pm	Parent Consultation evenings <i>Letter to follow</i>
Friday 20 th March	2.45pm	Reception Class Celebration of the Word – families welcome
Friday 27 th March	2.45pm	Y3 and Y4 Celebration of the Word – families welcome

Other dates:

10th February: **Safer Internet Day** – Learning will be based around the theme of ***'Smart tech, safe choices – Exploring the safe and responsible use of AI'***
Children will explore the impact of AI on all of our lives.

9th – 13th February: **Children's Mental Health Week** – The theme for the week is ***'This is My Place'*** highlighting the importance of children feeling happy, safe and ready to learn and play.

18th February – **Ash Wednesday** - Ash Wednesday is the day that begins Lent, a special 40-day period when Christians take time to reflect, pray, and prepare for Easter. In school or church, children may receive a small cross made of ashes on their forehead. These ashes are usually made by burning last year's Palm Sunday leaves. Fr Adrian will lead a service in school for the children and staff. The ashes remind us of two things:

1. We are loved but not perfect – everyone makes mistakes, and Lent is a time to grow, try again, and make better choices.
2. We want to be closer to God – the cross shows that we want to follow Jesus by being kind, forgiving, and thoughtful.

Ash Wednesday is not a sad day. It is a fresh start, a chance for families and children to think about how they can help others, pray more, and show love in everyday ways.

23rd– 27th February - HALF TERM
3rd – 17th April – EASTER HOLIDAYS

Thank you for your cooperation and continued support in keeping our school safe, respectful, and focused on learning.

Yours sincerely,

S. C. Sinclair

Sheena Sinclair
Head Teacher



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