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St Paul's
Catholic Primary School

Head Teacher: Sheena Sinclair

Deputy Head(s): Rachel Miller

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4th September 2026

Dear Parents,

Thank you for helping the start of term run so smoothly. It has been a pleasure to welcome our children and families back to school and very rewarding to see how quickly children have settled into the routines and responsibilities of their new classes.

Thank you also for your co-operation to ensure that the beginning and end of our school day is as safe and smooth as possible. It is essential that all parents, and those bringing your child to or from school, park safely. Whilst I know that the volume of parked vehicles from the contractors on site make parking extremely challenging, it is not acceptable to park on the yellow lines at the end of the lane or in any other places which cause obstructions and compromises the safety of the children, their families, other pedestrians or road users. Please think before you park and consider safety over convenience. Please share this message with all who need to know.

This year we are very excited to build upon our enriching curriculum. Each year group from Year 1-Year 6 will take part in an enrichment afternoon each week. Our Enrichment Curriculum provides children with a wide range of exciting experiences that go beyond the normal curriculum, helping to bring learning to life and broaden their horizons. Through opportunities such as sport, the arts, outdoor learning, community projects, leadership roles and clubs, the children will develop confidence, resilience, teamwork and new skills, ensuring they develop as well-rounded, curious and engaged learners. Over the course of the year, the children will rotate to new activities each term. We are working with Active Futures Teesside and Robbie from Infinity to help support our enrichment opportunities.

Good communication is so important to assist in the smooth running of the day-to-day life of our school. We aim to share lots of news about school events on our school Facebook page and will also send monthly information letters to help keep you well informed. Please ensure all your contact details are up to date so that we can also send notifications via the app, text or email. Next week we will circulate your child's class newsletter which will provide more detail about the curriculum and class timetables for certain events. Teachers will also use 'Seesaw' to share homework or general information. Hopefully, this ensures that we have good communication between home and school. If you do need to update us about anything, you can use the school email address office@stpauls.bhcet.org.uk or phone school directly.

The purpose of this letter is to share some information with you that I would like you to have as soon as possible. I hope you find the information helpful; thank you for your support and co-operation with any requests.



In Him we Live and Move and Have our Being

INFORMATION FOR NEXT WEEK

PE Uniform is required for the following classes on the following days:

Nursery – Tuesday

Reception – Monday

Year 1 – Thursday

Year 2 – Friday

Year 3 – Monday* and Tuesday

Year 4 – Monday

Year 5 – Friday

Year 6 – Wednesday and Thursday*

*Year 3 and Year 6 will be taking part in an enrichment session with Active Futures Teesside which will focus on practical game situations. This is part of our enrichment offer (see above)

Year 1 will require outdoor clothing (old jogging bottoms/waterproofs/wellies) for Forest School every **Monday** and **Year 4** will require the same each **Thursday**. Depending on the weather and bearing in mind it may be muddy and wet, please send appropriate clothing in a carrier bag for your child to change into...the older the better and things you don't mind getting a bit muddy.

Year 6 Parents' Information Meeting: Tuesday 15th September

If your child is in **Year 6** there are statutory assessment tests which take place towards the end of the year. Mrs Wilson, Year 6 class teacher, would like the opportunity to talk to parents about their curriculum to ensure that you are well informed.

The Y6 meeting will begin at 4.30pm will take 30-45 minutes.

If you intend coming to this meeting, please email the school office to let us know you can attend.

Children should not attend this meeting but can be supervised at school if required – just let us know via email.

Nursery – Year 5 Class welcome event: Tuesday 15th September

We would like to invite you to come into school to meet your child's class teacher, see your child's classroom and some of the learning that happens. You can come in at the end of the school day (from 3.30pm) or come back to school any time before 5.00pm. This is an informal drop-in session, not a formal Parent's Consultation meeting. You may bring your child with you to this event and move from one class to the next if you have more than one child. Once we move into our new school, we will of course, be inviting you in to have a look around. We can't wait!

Homework:

Home learning expectations are shared by class teachers via Seesaw. Thank you for supporting your child's learning journey by ensuring that home learning activities are completed and that any resources or books are returned on the correct day. We know that many children thrive because of regular support at home, with reading, spellings and number work/times tables. Homework should not impact negatively on home life, as we appreciate how precious time is, but the 'little and often' support from home really does make a difference.



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Uniform/Water bottles:

The children have returned to school looking very smart. We always encourage children to take responsibility for looking after their belongings, but inevitably jumpers and cardigans do get left behind or mislaid. **PLEASE ENSURE THAT ALL CLOTHING IS LABELLED WITH YOUR CHILD'S NAME.** Any uniform which is unclaimed and not labelled will be placed in a box in the porch. Book bags, back packs etc are not needed each day at school. We have very limited storage space. If your child must bring something to school which cannot be carried e.g.: a packed lunch box if they are cycling to school themselves, or a change of clothes for an after-school club, then a bag is clearly useful. Otherwise, children should only bring their reading folders/plastic book bags and a water bottle.

Our school uniform policy is available on our website.

A polite reminder that children should not wear nail varnish; jewellery, other than a watch, should not be worn and earrings must be removed before school (this includes nursery children). Clear, silicone retainers can be worn. Several children are still wearing earrings, bracelets, necklaces and nail varnish. Please ensure they are removed by Monday. Thank you for your co-operation.

We now have a new supply of school water bottles. If your child requires a new water bottle, please email the school office and we will provide one. The cost of a replacement bottle is £3.00 or a new lid can be purchased for 50p, this is the cost we purchase them. Please ensure that your child's name remains on their bottle. A 'Sharpie' type permanent marker pen is a great investment – a very easy way to pop names on school uniform and water bottles! Water bottles should only contain water or diluted, sugar free squash. Please don't send in other types of water bottles for classroom use.

Attendance and Dates:

Please remember to notify the school by 9am if your child is unable to attend for any reason. All requests for a leave of absence or an appointment, must be completed using the forms available in the entrance porch or on the website. In line with our school attendance policy, parents may receive a penalty notice fine if your child does not attend school and their absence is unauthorised. The Government set our attendance expectations which schools must follow, and the Local Authority are responsible for ensuring our compliance.

I will be sending a letter very soon, with events and dates for the term ahead, but just an early notification that we have booked the pantomime, Pinocchio, at the Princess Alexandra Auditorium at Yarm School for Y1-Y6 pupils in December.

Please remember that Friday 9th October is a Professional Development (PD) day. Children will not attend school on this day.

Half term is Monday 26th October – Friday 30th October (inclusive)

Christmas Holiday is Monday 21st December – Friday 1st January (inclusive)

Children return to school on Monday 4th January 2027

Walking home from school:

Please inform school via the office email if your child has permission to walk home without an adult at the end of the day. Please include any information you think we need to know eg: specific days, whether a one-off or their normal routine etc. You don't need to do this every time, just let us know the arrangements and update us if anything changes. We won't allow a child to walk home unaccompanied unless we have been notified by parents.



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Mobile Phones:

Mobile phones must be handed into the school office at the beginning of the day and collected at the end of the day. Please ensure your child only brings in a phone if they really need it eg: they are walking to or from school unaccompanied by an adult. Children know they must switch their phones off before handing them in and only put them back on when they leave. They must not use their phones at all when on the school premises. Please reinforce this message at home if applicable.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter. As always, if you wish to discuss anything further, then please contact me at school.

Yours sincerely



Sheena Sinclair
Head Teacher