



8th September, 2023

Dear Parents, Carers and families,

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.

Good communication is so important to assist in the smooth running of the day to day life of our school. I aim to ensure that a School Newsletter is shared with parents and carers each month, and class teachers will share your child's class newsletter at the beginning of each new term. 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, rather than waiting for the monthly newsletter. I hope you find the information helpful; thank you for your support and co-operation with any requests.

Class welcome event: Wednesday 20th September

If your child is in **Nursery, Reception, Year 1, Year 2, Year 3, Year 4 or Year 5**, 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 or come back to school any time before 5.30pm. 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. The event will run from the end of the school day until 5.30pm so you can drop in any time!

Year 6 Parents' Information Meeting: Wednesday 20th 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 are able to attend.

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

If you have children in other year groups and would like to also attend the Class Welcome event, then you can do this before the meeting.

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. Our Homework policy is available on our school website.

Uniform:

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 has to bring something to school which cannot be carried eg: 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.

The school holds pre-loved school uniforms for parents to access. Parents are invited to donate their child's uniform when they no longer need it if it is in a good enough condition for another child to benefit from. We kindly request that items are laundered before donating. As part of our environmental sustainability pledge, we encourage all families to make best use of pre-loved uniform sales where items can be sourced at £1 per item or you may choose to make a donation. Pre-loved uniform will be sold each month (dates to follow), or you can request to purchase items if needed at a different time.

Cost of Living concerns:

No doubt we are all aware that cost of living increases will be impacting many families. If you feel that there is anything you need to speak to myself or Mrs Peacock about then please contact us. Any conversations will be treated sensitively and we may be able to help or signpost you to further support. Mrs Millington and Mrs Sharkey always treat any emails or phone calls confidentially. We will continue to share any information we receive about supporting families on our Facebook page or through texts or emails.

In conjunction with FareShare, our parish SVP group run a Food Hub every Friday from 1-5pm in The Medway, Sidlaw Road, Billingham (next to Holy Rosary Church) which is open to everyone. It costs £2 to purchase 10 items and there may be some additional items of frozen food available which cost 50p.

Safety around our school:

Please ensure that you are parking safely, legally and considerately when you come to school. You will know that we always encourage an 'active travel' journey to school, so even if you have to travel by car, please park a short distance away from school which will ease congestion and make the school drop off and pick up much safer. Ensure that your child is close to you and does not run ahead. Bikes and scooters should be pushed once inside the school grounds. If you could encourage your child to stay on the path please that would be helpful to avoid wet, grassy shoes coming into school on a morning! Thank you.

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