

ST PAUL'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL



Summer Newsletter

July 2025

As another school year comes to an end and the summer holidays begin, we take a moment to reflect with gratitude on all the teaching and learning that has taken place both inside and outside the classroom. We give thanks for the talents shared, the challenges overcome, the respect and care shown, and the friendships that have blossomed. For the faith lived out in our daily lives, the hope that has lifted our hearts, and the love that has sustained us; we are truly grateful.

I feel incredibly blessed to be part of a community filled with wonderful children, dedicated staff, and supportive families. Your generosity, love, and care never go unnoticed. We also thank our wider school family: our Governors, who guide and support us; our parishioners, who keep us in their prayers and to Fr Adrian who has supported and developed the prayer and liturgy life of our school through the regular celebration of Mass. A special thank you to Fran and Claire for leading the Friends of St Paul's events: your efforts have enriched our school life in so many ways.

As we begin our holidays, may God bless our families with rest, joy, and cherished memories.

May we return renewed and ready to continue our journey together.

With every good wish,

Sheena Sinclair—Head Teacher

Virtues Award Winners 2025



We were very proud to be able to present our 'Virtues Awards' to recognise children in our school who are a shining example of the way to live our Trust Virtues.

We linked the Trust virtues to our school Mission Statement and in particular to our children's Mission Statement where we allow the words of St Paul to guide us and help us to show Justice and Compassion, to have Self-Belief and Confidence, to be Respectful, Responsible, Honest and Resilient..

It was by no means an easy decision, however this year's award winners are very worthy of such recognition.

Congratulations to the winners of this year's Virtues Awards: Emilia— Early Years , Sakshyam – Key Stage 1, Alice — Lower Key Stage 2 and Oscar – Upper Key Stage 2

CONGRATULATIONS YEAR 6



Year 6 took part in the Faith in Action award this year. In partnership with the Catholic Youth Ministry Federation, young people in Year 6 are invited to embark on a journey which encourages them to reflect on their faith, and challenges them to live out their faith in service to others.



Our pupils have made a significant contribution to school life throughout the whole of Year 6; being play leaders, sports leaders, members of the student council; embarking on charity fundraising for CAFOD, our Parish SVP, the Seafarers and Cancer Research UK, and supporting others in so many ways, they have certainly put their faith into action.

The children kept journals of their work alongside personal reflections, which were moderated by four members of our Parish community. Each pupil received a certificate and a PIN badge in recognition of their success.

Well done Year 6 for aspiring 'not to HAVE more, but to BE more'. (Oscar Romero)

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Academic Success

Our children deserve considerable recognition and praise for their hard work and great outcomes this year. We are delighted that our externally validated tests and judgements (Early Years, KS1 and KS2 SATs, Phonics Screening and Multiplication Tables check) are very positive and reflect the hard work of our children.

Well done children – I am sure you will continue to work really hard next year. Thanks also to you, their families, for working in partnership with us to support this learning journey. We look forward to sharing our results in the Autumn Term.

Remember to keep an eye on our school Facebook page and school website for details of school events and news. There will be lots of new dates and events being released in September, including information about your child's new class and an opportunity to meet your child's teacher.



<https://www.facebook.com/StPaulsBillingham>

School Reports

We are delighted with the feedback we have received from you about your child's school report. Knowing our children so well, we always strive to ensure that their end of year report is both a celebration of their achievements over the year and an opportunity for sharing their next steps. You will know that we place, at the heart of everything we do, opportunities to help your child live life to the full so we always *Educate the Whole Child* and celebrate holistic development. Thank you for your feedback.

Thank you!
❤️

School Uniform

When our children return to school in September they may still wear their summer uniform, if they wish. When you purchase shoes please ensure they are well-fitting, black school shoes. A polite reminder that tights and socks should be plain, not patterned, and our school jumper or cardigan is grey not red. Simple hair accessories like bobbles or slides may be worn, preferably in plain colours.

Hairstyles should not be extreme—dyed or highlighted hair, shaved heads or tram lines are not allowed.

- **PLEASE LABEL ALL ITEMS OF CLOTHING**
- **NO EARRINGS MAY BE WORN IN SCHOOL, SO IF YOU INTEND HAVING YOUR CHILD'S EARS PIERCED PLEASE DO SO THE FIRST WEEK OF THE HOLIDAYS!**
- **PLEASE MAKE GOOD USE OF OUR PRE-LOVED UNIFORM**

Equipment for School

We do not require children to bring any equipment into school from home. All items needed are provided by school, including a reading folder or book bag and a school water bottle.

Children should only bring a bag from home if absolutely essential—space is very limited inside cloakrooms and it is much tidier and safer if bags are not cluttering this space.

Phones should not be brought into school unless essential e.g. : if your child is walking home alone, and must be handed into the school office on arrival. Thank you for your co-operation.

Friends of St Paul's

Our Friends of St Paul's deserve a special thank you for their tremendous contribution to our school. Not only do they provide fun events and activities for our children, but they also raise essential funds for St Paul's School and every child benefits. All parents are automatically members of FOSP so please do help at events when you can—many hands make light work!



Thank you for your generosity in supporting our events across the school year. Our recent sponsored orienteering event has raised over £1500.

School Meals and Packed Lunches

Our school catering team offer an excellent choice of menus for lunchtime meals. Menus are available on the school website under the Parents & Pupils tab and the cost is great value at £2.75 per day.

Children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 do not need to pay as Universal Infant Free School meals are available.

Please check your eligibility for free school meals (even if your child is in Nursery, Reception, Y1 or Y2) as the school may be able to claim some additional funding which can be used to support your child's education.

<https://www.gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals>

If your child is bringing a packed lunch, then please ensure that it contains a healthy, nutritious meal which includes fruit and/or vegetables and only one sweet treat. **NO NUTS** (Please see our packed lunch guidance on the website).



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Term Dates and Holidays

School re-opens after the summer on
Tuesday 2nd September 2025

PD Days:- Monday 1st September 2025
Friday 24th October 2025

Monday 5th January 2026 (children are not in
school on PD Days).

A copy of term time dates and holidays for
2025—2026 is available on the school website and in the
school porch. 2026-2027 dates will be available soon.

*Please avoid booking non-essential appointments
and holidays during term time. Our Attendance
Policy is available to view on the school website.*

School Building Project

Although there have been several hold-ups this year involving further land investigation works and a re-assessment of the mechanical and electrical facilities in the childcare building which is to be retained, we have been informed by the Department for Education (DfE) that the Contract Award for the new school building is on track for the middle of September 2025.

We will keep you updated on what will happen next...we are hopeful that this could be the beginning of exciting changes ahead.



Congratulations on 100% Attendance

A huge well-done to the children who
were at school every day for the full
school year.

Reception—Hollie, Arthur, Matilda & Miles

Year 1—Bradley

Year 3—Elliott

Year 4—Isaac

Year 5—Athia, Nina, Ana, Lacey, Austen,
Indy & Joseph W

Year 6—Toby

This is an amazing achievement and
means that they are getting the most out
of every day.

Our overall whole-school attendance for
the year is 96%

Year 5 have the highest attendance of all
classes at 97%

Happy Retirement Mrs Tattersdill



Mrs Tattersdill has been an inspiring presence at St Paul's for an incredible 25 years. Throughout her time here she has taught across a wide range of classes, bringing energy and dedication to every subject. Most notably, she has been the passionate driving force behind PE, ensuring our children stay fit, active and full of enthusiasm for movement. As she now retires, we celebrate her remarkable contribution and wish her all the happiness she so richly deserves.

We are delighted that Mrs Tattersdill will still support us during the next school year to ensure that PE, school games and competition remain high profile at St Paul's.

Thank you Mrs Tattersdill



Mabel celebrated her 5th birthday in July.

She loves being part of our school family too! Thank
you for all the pats and strokes!

