

Headteacher



Dear Parents & Guardians,

It has been a busy first half to the spring term, it certainly feels more than only 5 weeks!

January 2024

We started the term off by looking at how we can be courageous in supporting a global issue— 'courageous advocacy'. We looked at all the problems in the world, for example: climate change, poverty, homelessness and thought about how we can make a difference, no matter how small it may seem.

School Council

As previously reported, members of the school council have recently been on a mission to help with our air quality. They have been making parents and carers aware if they have been car 'idling' - parking in your car with the engine running. Well done to the team for presenting their findings to the school and for making us more aware of this issue—You are all courageous advocates!



Children's Mental Health and well-being week

This year the theme was 'My Voice Matters' and we discussed the importance of speaking out and how this can make us feel good about ourselves. A group of pupils from Year 5 delivered assemblies on this theme to Reception, Year 1, 2, 3 and 4. I managed to see them all present their information to the children. They spoke with confidence and researched the topic very well—they all received a special headteacher's pencil and sticker.

Year 1 reading breakfast

Parents and carers of year 1 pupils—Thank you once again for attending this event if you could make it. Year 5 will be having their reading breakfast on the 8th March at 9.05am.

Year 4 dance club and Year 5/6 dance competition

Members of Year 4 have been enjoying taking part in dance club run by Katie from the South Ribble Active Sports team. She has also been training up the Year 5/6 dance troupe for the big competition in March— good luck everyone!

Wellbeing Wednesday—Mindfulness

To support our mental health and wellbeing, pupils have the opportunity to take part in these sessions run by Tanya from the South Ribble sports team. They take place on-line and children learn about 'being in the present', calm breathing techniques and positive feelings. This half term some pupils from Year 5 and 6 have engaged with these activities every Wednesday lunch time.



The Word Guerrilla

On the 1st and 2nd February we welcomed our resident poet David

Bowden (aka The Word Guerrilla) to St. Paul's for two days of poetry writing and performance. This year our theme was children's mental health and well-being and children produced a variety of written and performance poetry during these sessions —see the reading newsletter for more details.



Staffing update

We welcome Mr Spencer into Year 5 after the half term break. He will be covering the class during Mrs Porter's maternity leave. We wish him all the best as he joins the team and look forward to hearing the news of Mrs Porter's new arrival.

FOSPS Movie Night

Movie night organised by our PTA FOSPS was a huge success again, as children were invited to watch either Inside Out or The Bad Guys. Massive thank you to the volunteers of FOSPS and staff who supported the event and continue to raise funds for the school.

Looking ahead into February and beyond.

Our worship value during the next half term is 'Justice' and through bible stories and learning about modern day acts of justice, our children will understand the importance of fairness and having rules and laws that everybody sticks to.

Lent & celebrating Easter

During the break, it will be Ash Wednesday to mark the beginning of Lent. In 2024 Lent begins on Wednesday 14th February and ends on Thursday 28 March.

Lent is an old English word meaning 'lengthen' and is observed in spring, when the days begin to get longer.

The story of Lent is when Jesus went into the desert to fast and pray before beginning his work for God. He was tempted several times by Satan, but was able to resist. Lent allows Christians to remember Jesus's fasting in the desert. It is a time of giving things up and a test of self-discipline. There are many foods that some Christians do not eat in Lent, such as: meat and fish, fats, eggs, and milky foods. Some Christians just give up something they really enjoy, such as cakes or chocolate. See if you can give something up for Lent!

We will end the Spring term in Church for a special Easter service at 1:30pm —I hope you can attend.

Finally, if you have any queries or concerns do please get in touch with the office, your class teacher or myself.

Let us all continue to 'Thrive in the Gift of Life' at St. Paul's.

Best wishes

Mr J Eccleston

Head Teacher