

Headteacher



Dear Parents & Guardians,

The season of **Advent** is well underway at St. Paul's and I would like to share some of the events we have been taking part in this half term before we finish for the festive period.

During whole-school worship, pupils have been focusing on the Christian Value **Trust**, revisiting Psalm 18.2, 'My God is my strength in whom I trust.' Pupils have reflected on how our friends will support us and how it is important to be trustworthy and not gossip. One way of deciding if it is news or just gossip is to ask yourself these questions before you speak: Is it true? Is it kind? Is it helpful? Is it anything to do with me? Our children decided that if you're not sure of these things, then perhaps the 'news' is really gossip and you shouldn't spread it. Good advice!



Worship group

Our newly formed worship group, consisting of pupils in Year 5 and Year 6, have been busy carrying out a survey about our worship time in school. The results indicated they really enjoy the peaceful and calm atmosphere, singing hymns and learning through Jesus' teachings and stories. They also indicated they would like to have more involvement in acting out the bible stories. The group are also looking at new displays for the corridor walls.

Prayer group

This term our prayer group (Ruby, Madeline, Rosa and Ava from Year 6) have been attending the Church café every Tuesday morning from 10-10:30am to chat to parishioners and write and share prayers with the group. They have recently updated our school prayer to reflect out Christian vision, 'Thrive in the Gift of Life'. Here it is;

Dear Lord,
Bless our school so we may thrive together and achieve all our ambitions. May we serve and respect each other through Jesus' love and guidance.
Amen

Thank you to all the pupils and to Mrs Napier for giving the pupils an opportunity to support this valuable community event.

Advent Service

What a wonderful evening we enjoyed in, a rather chilly, St. Paul's church last week. The children sang brilliantly, with confidence and enthusiasm, and explained the themes of Advent: hope, peace, joy and love, so clearly. The Candle song, performed by our school choir was so heart-warming. We are so looking forward to seeing them perform at the King George's hall in March next year. Thank you for attending and filling the church to the rafters. Our school council have chosen to send your kind donations to support the global problem of wildfires. [Wildfire Appeal \(worldlandtrust.org\)](http://worldlandtrust.org)

Thank you to Mrs Hayward for coordinating and to all the KS2 staff for making this such a wonderful evening.

Nativity

This was truly amazing! I think we have the best KS1 singers in the country. All the children had a great time and clearly we have some future stars of the stage. Thank you for providing costumes, they all looked amazing and for your generous donations to our local charity St. Catherine's Hospice in Lostock Hall.



School Council

Following on from the Clean Air Crew launch event earlier in the term (A South Ribble funded event of local environmentally friendly businesses attended by some school councillors), the team have been busy this half term looking at the problem of 'Idling' and raising awareness in our community.

Idling refers to any time a car engine is running, but the car is not moving. It heavily increases the amount of exhaust fumes emitted into the air. Pupils have been out on Croston Road surveying the situation before school starts. They have recorded their findings and can report that the number of cars 'Idling' has reduced. They have also acknowledged good practice to those switching off their engines. Well done councillors and keep up the good work. **Warning: They will be out in force in the new year!**

[PROJECTS | southportecocentre](#)

Staffing update

As already communicated, Mrs Hoare will be leaving us at the end of term. Once again I would like to thank her for all her support and efforts with the children over the 7 years and wish her all the best for the future. Mrs Telford will begin her role as the class new teacher in January. We are currently in the process of recruiting for the teaching position in Year 5 to cover Mrs Porters maternity. I will keep you updated.

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.

Wishing you a peaceful Christmas and a new year full of hope and promise. From all the staff at St. Paul's:

Merry Christmas!

Best wishes,

Mr J Eccleston

Head Teacher