

Headteacher



Dear Parents & Guardians,

It was lovely to see all our pupils back in school last week after their Christmas holiday. They have settled back into their school routines really well. This month's update brings news from the month of December and we look ahead to some events we have planned this half term.

Our worship value this half term is 'Perseverance' and through bible stories and learning about modern day acts of perseverance, our children will understand the importance of keeping going and not giving up.



December 2023

We all enjoyed a wonderful season of Advent with so many memories in school. The first Sunday of Advent saw our school choir sing carols during the service held in the hall at St. Paul's church. Thank you to all who were able to join us. The KS2 advent service looked at the themes of hope, peace, joy and love in a packed out St. Paul's Church. The pupils performed songs, poetry and delivered their readings with confidence. We enjoyed the amazing Nativity performances by all our KS1 children with the school hall full on both occasions. I have shared with the children a thank you letter we received from St. Catherine's Hospice. Altogether we raised £233.97. Thank you for your kind donations.



Year 5 enjoyed a trip to the Octagon Theatre in Bolton to watch a performance of 'Around the World in 80 days' as part of their English unit. Towards the end of the term they also took part in the Narnia Experience at All Saints Church in New Longton—this was a magical experience!

Our Christmas lunch was just delicious. We sat all 187 pupils in the school hall to enjoy a feast with all the trimmings. Everyone was dressed in their festive jumpers whilst we ate and listened to Christmas pop songs. I was needed in the kitchen, so I donned an apron and cap to serve the mash and roasted potatoes!

The final week of term saw a visit by Father Christmas to the children in KS1 and all children were given a special Christmas gift by our FOSPS team—thank you so much. The team also funded the Christmas disco's during two afternoons.

The term ended with a wonderful Christingle service held at St. Paul's Church. A group of children, representing all the year groups in school, explained the meaning of the Christingle by constructing one for all to see. It was wonderful to see our school choir perform 'Candle song' in the church setting. Thank you to Mrs Napier for organising this lovely event. We are still collecting the donation boxes &



envelopes for the Children's Society—please have them in by 31st January. Again, thank you for your generosity.

Forest School Update

This half term Year 2 and Year 5 will take part in Forest school provision (Year 5 will begin on the return of Mrs Almond). We have an exciting project in the planning looking ahead to Lent and Easter as we have received some of your Christmas trees which we will re-use for something special!

Looking ahead into January 2024 and beyond.

We began the new year, celebrating Epiphany (6th January). This is a special festival which takes place 12 days after Christmas and commemorates the visit of the wise men or three Kings who came to the Christ child. Members of the worship group supported our collective worship by sharing the gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh and explaining the significance of each. The season of Epiphany lasts for five Sundays.

This half term some members of Year 4 are taking part in the after school dance club and Year 5 and 6 have the opportunity to use our Well-being Wednesday facility by joining in with Yoga and mindfulness techniques at lunch time. Both these clubs are run by our partnership with the South Ribble Sports team.

The Word Guerrilla

On the 1st and 2nd February we welcome 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 is mental health and well-being and will lead nicely into the following week which is Children's mental health week. You can see some of David's work at: [Word Guerrilla - Poetry, Performance, Workshops](#)



Staffing update

We welcome Mrs Telford to the team and the children in Reception class have already settled very well to this change. We are in the process of recruiting for our Year 5 maternity post and I will inform you as soon as we have made the appointment.

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