

Headteacher



Dear Parents & Guardians,

We have started the new year very well with pupils quickly settled back into their routines and enjoying school life. We have lots going on this term, but to start, I will share what we have been up to so far and a few events to look forward to.

Worship value—'Community'

From the beginning of his ministry, Jesus called people into a community. His disciples had little in common, however they were all brought together as a single community, called to follow and learn together. This half-term, we are looking at this important value and challenging everyone to strengthen the bonds of St. Paul's community life, whilst always providing a warm welcome to newcomers and helping those in need. Our worship group will lead a special assembly to each Key stage later in the term.



Year of Prayer

We are taking part in the 'Year of Prayer' initiative organised by Blackburn Diocese which involves hundreds of Church schools praying the same prayer each week. The event started at the beginning of Advent last year and will run for a whole year. We have a special poster in our school hall which tracks our journey as we complete a new prayer during every Thursday's worship. The following link offers lots of information and resources including prayer walks in parts of Lancashire which you may find useful.

[Year of Prayer for Growth and Renewal | The Diocese of Blackburn](#)

Sports Update

Dance Club continues this half term for our Year 5/6's and will culminate with the annual competition which we are all looking forward to. Good luck everyone.

Pupils have taken part in the Indoor Athletics competition at Lostock Hall Academy, giving their all in every event—we are awaiting the final results with anticipation!

In school, the Sports Partnership team held an indoor athletics festival with most classes taking part in the event—they played games and learnt techniques in many disciplines.

Wellbeing Wednesdays— This term it is our Year 5 and 6's who have the opportunity to learn mindfulness techniques to support their mental health and well-being. This takes place every Wednesday lunchtime and is delivered by Tanya from the Partnership team.

Dance from the Heart training—Some of our KS2 pupils have taken part in the training ahead of the big event in June. They will now endeavor to teach the rest of us all the moves!

Children's Chaplains group

Our new Children's Chaplains group have been meeting each week with Mrs. Napier to learn about the role of a chaplain in school and complete a series of sessions before they qualify. They will look at:

- Exploring the tradition of chaplains.
- Exploring the skills and qualities need to fulfil the role.
- Building relationships.
- Leading worship.
- Leading prayer activities, the use of prayer spaces and classroom reflection

spaces.

Supporting others in their spiritual journey.

Supporting others with their mental health.

Servant leadership and Courageous advocacy. Fundraising and supporting the wider community.

They have designed their own logo for their lanyards to wear for the meetings. They also support our local parishioners at the Warm Café 10-10:30am every Tuesday in the Church hall at St. Paul's Church.



Father Paul & Father Ian

Thank you to Father Paul and Father Ian for supporting our school in leading worship on a Thursday morning in the absence of Father Matthew.

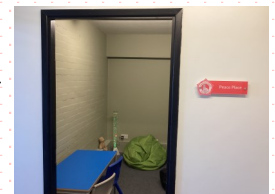


RSPB Big School Birdwatch

Classes have been taking part in the annual survey to record the different sightings of birds seen on our school grounds. Our Reception class have made fat feeders and placed them on the back field for the birds to enjoy. All the results are uploaded to the website to become part of a nationwide survey.

Peace Place

We have transformed a storage space into our new 'Peace Place.' This is now a dedicated area for pupils to use if they wish to spend some time in a calm space to help with their emotional wellbeing. The area is always available for all pupils in school.



Poetry Workshops

At the beginning of February we welcome David Bowden, aka The Word Guerrilla, to St. Paul's for his annual poetry workshops. He will spend two days in school working with every class to produce some performance poetry around our Christian vision 'Thrive in the Gift of Life'. These are always fantastic days in school with an endless buzz of amazing language being heard around the classes.

Children's Mental Health Week

This will take place from the 3rd February-7th February and this year we will explore the theme, 'Know yourself, grow yourself.'

Resources for families can be accessed on the link below.

[Families - Children's Mental Health Week](#)

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