



## An update from Ms Sorohan

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to the last newsletter of 2018 and I'm sure you will be pleased with all the exciting news we can share with you today. It has been a fantastically busy term but as we move forward we look forward to celebrating the 175<sup>th</sup> birthday of St Paul's School – it was first opened on the 14<sup>th</sup> October 1844. We are planning lots of exciting learning to mark this historic occasion.

In the meantime, have a joyful Christmas and a Happy New Year.

## Dates for your diary

- School opens Monday 7<sup>th</sup> January
- Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> January – Google e-safety Parent Workshop
- Attendance Week – Week Beginning Monday 4<sup>th</sup> February
- Friday 8<sup>th</sup> February – Chinese New Year Celebrations
- School Closes – Friday 15<sup>th</sup> February for half term and re-opens Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> February. (Monday 25<sup>th</sup> February is a Teacher Training Day – school will be closed for pupils)
- School closes on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> April for the Easter holidays and re-opens on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> April

## Attendance

This term we launched a new initiative 'Attendance Week'. Congratulations to our winner for half term 2. The attendance week was very successful and we saw a huge improvement to the overall attendance and late marks.



The next attendance week will be week beginning Monday 4<sup>th</sup> February.

## Question you could ask your child at the end of the school day...

How did you help someone else learn something new today?



## The Ice Village – Miss Saleem's English class

Miss Saleem's English class enjoyed a day out in Manchester City Centre visiting The Ice Village. This showpiece attraction took the children into the Ice Cavern: a minus 10 degrees world made using 250 tonnes of ice, hand carved by specialist sculptors. All of the children thoroughly enjoyed this and returned to school and used this to write a recount.



## Maths Competition

During this half term, a group of year-six pupils represented our school in *National Young Mathematician Award*. The competition consisted of previously unseen mathematical puzzles that the children competed against other schools to solve. The pupils were assessed on their ability to solve the problems, the way they collaborated with each other and how they presented their findings. The team progressed from the first round to the regional final. Unfortunately, this is where their journey ended but all the children involved did a wonderful job of representing St Paul's.

Pupils' comments:

"It was fun and a change from our normal maths lessons"

"We had to use our problem-solving skills, logic and teamwork"

## Worship Leaders

Meet the St Paul's Worship Leaders, they will have the responsibility to champion worship in our school. This year the Worship Leaders will be focusing on evaluating worship and making suggestions on how we can improve, planning and delivering worship and putting together a whole school prayer.



## Year 5/6 Mr Davies's English Class



During anti-bullying week, selected pupils from years five and six were invited to attend a talk at Withington library with the author Alan Gibbons. During this highly entertaining session, he talked about his life, his family and his experiences as an author. He also discussed issues around bullying and how some of the characters in his stories have dealt with bullying.

## Sports Competitions this term

### Multi-Sports – Year 2 &3

Some of our year 2 and 3 pupils took part in a Multiskills competition at William Hulme Grammar School. Everybody had a great time, here is a quote from one of the year 2 pupils...

*"I liked throwing the ball at the net and counting how many points I got. I was nervous going to the big school because I thought I would have lots of work to do, but when we started the competition I had lots of fun!"*

### Mini Tennis

Well done to the Mini Tennis team who came 5<sup>th</sup> in the competition at William Hulme. Everybody had a really good time and showed great sportsmanship.

### St Paul's Year 5/6 Football team Vs St Cuthbert's

Some of our year 5/6 Football team played a match against St Cuthbert's this term. The match ended in a 5 all draw. Here are some quotes from the players...

*"The match against St Cuthberts was really fun and really exciting. Even though we drew, it was awesome. I would definitely do it again if I could!"*

*"I felt proud as it was my first ever competitive football match. I enjoyed it because I scored a goal. I was so ecstatic."*

## Early Years trip to Withington Library

All the children and staff in Early Years and some of our parents visited Withington Library to be part of a musical story session to celebrate its re-opening. They joined in acting out and re-telling the story and had tremendous fun.

Please do visit the newly vamped Withington Library with your children and let them choose books they enjoy.



## Year 1/2 Mr Callaghan

All the children in KS1 have had the opportunity to work with Mr Callaghan, a sports effectiveness specialist. The children work with Mr Callaghan on a Friday afternoon. The focus of the sessions is to build fitness levels in fun and engaging ways. Mr Callaghan has provided both the children and teachers with an extensive repertoire of activities that can be used at any time. The children have looked forward to and enjoyed the sessions.

## E-Safety Assembly

Key Stage 2 pupils had a visit from the team behind Google's new online safety resource *Be Internet Legends*. In an exciting and interactive assembly, the pupils learnt about safe online behaviours and the potential risks of using the internet. The assembly advised us all to be *Sharp, Alert, Secure, Kind, Brave* users of online technology. The messages of this assembly can be reinforced at home using the *Be Internet Legends* online game ([https://beinternetlegends.withgoogle.com/en\\_uk/interland](https://beinternetlegends.withgoogle.com/en_uk/interland)). Please see the diary section for details of the parents/carers online safety workshop keeping your family safe online.

Pupils' comments:

*"It was good and it made me feel more safe online"*  
*"I have changed my passwords to make them more secure"*



## Parent Workshops

### **Early Years**

This half term the reception parents were invited to a Parent Information meeting called 'Helping your child with their reading and writing'. The event was very well attended and the feedback was very positive.



### **Key Stage 1**

KS1 recently invited parents to attend both English and Maths workshops. The workshops were designed to give parents ideas and strategies for supporting their children with their learning at home. Both the workshops were well attended and the children really enjoyed sharing their learning with their parents. All year 1 children were given resource packs to take home.



### **Parent Forum**

This term we trialled a new Parent Forum, the new parent forum has been created to mirror our One Voice pupil sessions. All parents are welcome to the parent forum meetings, the next one will be held in the Spring term. Thank you to everyone who attended the last meeting, we had some really good suggestions from parents – we hope you like reading the quotes from children in this newsletter!

### **Suggestion Box**

Next year we will have a new Suggestion box on the wall in the hangar area. If you have any suggestions that you would like to share with school, please write them down and put them in the red box. We will try and open this as often as possible.

### **Did you know? Marble Jars / R-Factor**

Key Stage 1 and 2 classes use the Marble Jar reward system. Classes are rewarded with a marble for good class behaviour or 100% attendance. Once the marble jar is full, the class get to choose their reward 'R-Factor', this is usually done by a vote. Here are some examples of rewards that we have had so far...

- Challenge afternoon e.g. donuts from a washing line, origami whale, chop stick challenge
- Pyjama Party
- Afternoon Tea
- Baking
- Outdoor Challenges

### **Food Tasting**

We have been asked by Manchester Fayre to taste and choose new food items that will appear on the lunchtime menus across Manchester schools. Last half term Year 3,4,5 & 6 children tasted different fish dishes from 'The UK Foodhall' and 'Youngs'. After careful deliberation and scoring each dish on different factors, the children chose Sea Side Salmon fillets. These are now on our school menu every third Friday.

This half term we have started tasting different meat dishes – meatballs, burgers, bacon and vegetarian grill.



### **School Kitchen**

In November our school kitchen had a unannounced visit from the Food Standards Agency. The kitchen has been awarded a Food Hygiene rating of 5, which is the best score you can get. Well done to Mrs Savio and all the kitchen staff.

## Christmas Celebrations





