

BENDISH LANE BUZZ

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF ST PAUL'S WALDEN SCHOOL, WHITWELL ISSUE 1- 14SEPT 2018

Dear Parents,

We would like to welcome you all back to school and I hope you all had a great summer. Our whole school value for this half term is "Responsibility". We felt that this is appropriate as we are electing our School Council members, House Captains and our Year 6's become buddies. Our school value will form the basis of our PSHE sessions and our assemblies.

NEWSLETTER HIGHLIGHTS!

You will find the following items in this newsletter:

- School Council
- Vacancies for lunchtime staff
- Athletics
- Communication
- Village Voices Community Choir
- Assemblies
- Good to be Green
- Mobile Phones
- Bag2School
- Attendance
- The Importance of applying for Free School Meals
- Secondary School open days
- Autumn Term Diary Dates
- Academic Year dates

School Council

We will be electing our school councillors next week. If your child would like to be a member of the School Council, they will be asked to write a short speech to present to their class. A meeting will be held the following week where they will be able to share the views of their class.

Vacancies for lunchtime staff

We are currently recruiting additional lunchtime supervisors, working 5 hours per week (12.00-1.00pm). If you are interested, please let Mrs Adshead know.

Mathletics

Once again this year we are funding Mathletics subscriptions for all of our pupils. Log in details will be coming home shortly for our new pupils. Mathletics is available via the app store, google play, and also via your web browser.

Communication

In order that the appropriate person can deal with any queries you may have in the most timely and efficient manner, please direct all general enquiries to the school office by telephone or email: admin@stpaulswalden.herts.sch.uk. This should include any absence notifications, pupil collection or pick up information, holiday requests and details of medical appointments.

Please contact your child's class teacher in the first instance if you need to speak about your child's learning or happiness at school.

Village Voices Community Choir

The Village Voices choir is led by Theresa Johnson and meets at the school every Thursday during term time from 7.30-8.30pm. The music is varied and anyone can join; no previous experience or audition is required. The choir is open to all ages

and costs £2 per family per week. New members are very welcome – please just come along one Thursday evening!

Monday	8.00am Tennis Club 3.15-4.30pm Stay & Play 3.30-4.30pm Football Training (Yr 3-6)
Tuesday	8.00am Apex Street Dance Club 3.15-4.30pm Arts and Crafts Club 3.25-4.25pm Netball Club (Yr 2-6)
Wednesday	8.00am Trampoline Club 3.30-4.30pm Gymnastics Club
Thursday	8.00am Basketball Club 8.00am Yr 6 Maths Club 3.15-4.30pm Mathletics Club
Friday	8.00am Art with Mindfulness 8.00am Yr 6 Maths Club 3.25-4.25pm Multi Sports Club

Assemblies

We are changing the format of our assemblies due to the amazing amount of awards and certificates our children achieve!

- During our Monday school assembly, children will be awarded their Star of the Week award. It is a celebration of the individual where they will have the opportunity to talk about something they feel they are good at or enjoy, either in or out of school. The Stars of the Week will have the opportunity to sit on Top Table regardless of whether they are school dinners or packed lunch.
- Tuesday and Wednesday assemblies will be linked to our values and events in school.
- Our Thursday assemblies (to which parents and grandparents are invited every week) will now include presentation of birthday cards, Gold Book and Mathletics certificates (Silver and Gold). Class assemblies will also continue to be held on Thursdays.
- Friday assembly will continue to be our House assembly and Singing assembly.

Good to be Green

Good to be Green is a positive behaviour approach using a Green, Amber, Red system. Each child starts each morning and afternoon session on "Green". Children who manage to stay on "Green" for a day will earn a house point token as a reward. These will be added up weekly and at the end of the half term a trophy will be awarded to the winning house.

As part of our new behaviour strategy, which we are currently trialling, children will complete reflection sheets as part of the behaviour process. A copy of the reflection sheet will be sent home to parents in book bags at the end of each day so that parents are also aware of any difficulties their child might be experiencing. Further details and consultation with parents regarding this new scheme will follow in the next few weeks. If you have any concerns, please speak to your child's teacher.

Mobile Phones

Should you feel it necessary for your child to have their mobile phone in school in readiness for their journey home after school, all phones must be named and handed into the office at the beginning of the day for safekeeping and collection at 3.15pm.

Dream - Believe - Succeed

Bag2School

We are holding a Bag2School collection on 10 October to raise money for our school. Please collect your unwanted items. The more our bags weigh, the greater amount we can raise! They will accept the following 'good quality' items for RE-USE:

- Men's, Ladies' and Children's clothing
- Paired shoes (tied together or elastic band around)
- Handbags
- Hats
- Bags
- Scarves and ties
- Jewellery
- Lingerie
- Socks
- Belts
- Soft toys
- Household linen
- Household curtains
- Household towels
- Household bedding (bed sheets, pillow cases and duvet covers)

They **DO NOT** accept:

- Duvets and blankets
- Pillows and cushions
- Carpets, rugs and mats (including bath, shower and toilet mats)
- Soiled, painted, ripped or wet clothing
- School uniforms with and without logo
- Corporate clothing and workwear
- Textile off cuts, yarns or threaded material

Attendance

Please note children should be at school between 8.50am-9.00am where they can take part in early morning learning. Registration is at 9.00am, and registers close at 9.15am. Doors into school and the Willows gate are both locked at 9.00am. If your child arrives after 9.00am, please sign your child in at the school office. Please endeavour to get children to school promptly.

The Importance of Applying for Free School Meals

If you are registered for Free School Meals you could also get help with costs of school trips and music lessons.

For every single child registered for Free School Meals, our school will receive an extra **£1300** this year in the school budget. Therefore even if your child is in our Willows or Rowans class and entitled to universal infant free school meals, if you meet the criteria below, please do apply to receive other benefits for you and the school.

Please do still apply even if your child would prefer to bring in a packed lunch!

If you feel that you may qualify for additional financial support from the county, you can apply by telephoning the customer service centre on 0300 123 4048 or online at www.hertsdirect.org/freeschoolmeals. Mrs Joyce or myself are available, in confidence of course, if you need any initial help or advice with the application process.

In order to get financial help you need to be receiving one of the following benefits:

- Income support*

- Income-based Job Seeker's Allowance*
- Income-related Employment Support Allowance*
- Child Tax Credit, with a taxable income of no more than £16,190 and not in receipt of Working Tax Credit*
- Pension Credit (Guarantee Credit)*
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999*
- Child Tax Credit - payable at a rate higher than the family element (this is more if you also have a child under one year old).
- Working Tax Credit, Housing Benefit or Council Tax Benefit (not including second adult rebate).
- Working tax credit during the four week period immediately after employment finished or after you start to work less than 16 hours per week.

* Some help may be available if you receive these specific benefits only.

Secondary School Transfer for Current Year 6 children

Applications for secondary admissions for September 2017 are now open until 31 October 2017. Your child should have received a 'Moving on' booklet which will provide further details. Admissions information is also available here: <http://www.hertsdirect.org/services/edlearn/admissions/>

Open Days/Evenings are as follows:

Hitchin Girls' School	Tues 25 Sept 5.30pm-8.00pm Thurs 27 Sept & Wed 3 Oct – 9.30am-11.30am
Hitchin Boys' School	Tues 25 Sept 6.00pm-8.30pm Tues 25 Sept & Thurs 27 Sept 9.15am-12.30pm
The Priory School Hitchin	Thurs 4 Oct 6.00pm-9.00pm Tues 9 -Mon 15 Oct 9.00am-11.30am book appointment on website.
Thomas Alleyne Academy, Stevenage	Thurs 13 Sept 6.00pm-9.00pm
The Barclay School Stevenage	Thurs 4 Oct 6.00-9.00pm
Roundwood Park School, Harpenden	Thurs 27 Sept 5.30-8.30pm
Sir John Lawes School, Harpenden	Wed 3 Oct 6.00pm-9.00pm
St George's School Harpenden	Fri 5 Oct 6.15pm-9.30pm Tues 9 Oct 9.00am & 11.30am
Sandringham: St Albans	Wed 19 & Fri 21 Sept and Mon 1 Oct & Tues 2 Oct 9.00am-10.45am by appointment

Thank you for taking the time to read our first newsletter of 2018-19.

Best wishes

Nancy Adshead
Acting Headteacher

ST PAUL'S WALDEN SCHOOL - Diary Dates Autumn Term 2018

Monday	10	September		Bikeability Week
Wednesday	19	September		KS2 Olympic Legacy Event
Wednesday	19	September	8.00pm	PTA Meeting – The Bull
Friday	5	October	9.00am	Harvest Festival Assembly
Wednesday	10	October		Bag2School charity collection
Wednesday	10	October	PM	KS1 “Dear Zoo” trip
Saturday	13	October		RHS Soup day tbc
Thursday	18	October	2.45pm	Rowans Class Assembly
Saturday	20	October	7.30pm	PTA Quiz night (Village Hall) - tbc
Monday	22	October		Individual and sibling photographs
Thursday	25	October	5.15pm	PTA Film Night
Monday	29	October		HALF TERM
Monday	12	November	4.00-6.00pm	Parent Consultations
Wednesday	14	November	4.00-7.00pm	Parent Consultations
Wednesday	14	November	2.45pm	Oaks Class Assembly
Thursday	22	November	2.45pm	Willows Class Assembly
Saturday	1	December		Christmas Fair
Thursday	6	December	5.15pm	PTA Christmas Film Night
Saturday	8	December		Village Panto
Wednesday	12	December	9.00am	KS1 dress rehearsal
Wednesday	12	December	2.00pm	KS1 performance
Tuesday	18	December	6.30pm	KS2 Sing-a-long
Thursday	20	December	2.00pm	End of Term
Friday	21	December		Occasional Day–School closed
Tuesday	8	January 2019		First day of Spring term

In addition to the above dates, we would also like to warmly welcome parents and grandparents to attend our weekly Celebration Assemblies on Thursdays at 2.45pm.

Dream – Believe – Succeed

St Paul's Walden School

TERM DATES FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2018/19

Autumn Term 2018

Staff Inset Training Day:	Monday 3 September Tuesday 4 September
School starts for pupils:	Wednesday 5 September
Half-Term:	Monday 29 October to Friday 2 November
Last Day of Term:	Thursday 20 December at 2.00pm
Occasional Day closure:	Friday 21 December

Spring Term 2019

Staff Inset Training Day:	Monday 7 January
School starts for pupils:	Tuesday 8 January
Half-Term:	Monday 18 to Friday 22 February
Last Day of Term:	Friday 5 April at 2.00pm

Summer Term 2019

School starts for pupils:	Tuesday 23 April
Bank Holiday:	Monday 6 May
Half-Term:	Monday 27 to Friday 31 May
Last Day of Term:	Wednesday 24 July at 2.00pm

Please note that the Inset training day which was due to be held on 3 June 2019 will be rearranged.

The school office will usually be open on Staff Training Days but check the current newsletter for confirmation. However, members of the teaching staff will not generally be available.

These dates have been fixed in consultation with the Pre-School. We will endeavour to keep these dates fixed but occasionally new or unavoidable circumstances could arise which would mean that a training day or the "occasional day" has to be rescheduled. Such decisions are not taken lightly and any such change will be communicated to all families in good time.