

BENDISH LANE BUZZ



THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF ST PAUL'S WALDEN SCHOOL, WHITWELL ISSUE 4- 1 DEC 2017

Dear Parents,

Welcome to December and our new school value of the month which is courage. Courage is the perfect value for our school for December, as we want to give all of our children the skills to be confident in dealing with challenges.



Following on from our work on friendship and Anti-bullying week, courage is a well-timed school value for us, as we want to make sure that all of our children have the skills and confidence to manage with any problems they face with learning or relationships. Our Christmas performances will no doubt also provide an opportunity for our pupils to give their best and show their bravery in front of our school community. So, our image for courage this month shows penguins picking their moment to dive into the cool waters and reminds us that even animals show courage and bravery too.



St Paul's Walden School Growing Together Garden

Please join our new Facebook page!



BBC Children in Need Thank you!

Thank you for supporting our Children in Need fundraising. We raised a grand total of £136.91. Well done everyone!

Christmas Fair



It is only one more sleep until our school Christmas fair. Come along at 2.00pm on Saturday 2 December to hear our choir open the event. There will be stalls, refreshments and Father Christmas in attendance.

Looking forward to seeing you there!

Please bring in any last minute donations of mince pies or cakes for the cake stall. Thank you.



The Santa Trap and Handwriting competition launch

To get us all in the festive spirit, next week the school will be focusing their learning around 'The Santa Trap' by Jonathan Emmett & Poly Bernatene. The book is all about a boy called Bradley Bartleby, who is bad, very bad, and Santa knows it! Each class will be using the book differently, linking it to the curriculum to offer children the chance to put all their writing skills into practise and have some Christmassy fun in the process!

We will also be using this week to launch our termly handwriting competition. A winner will be chosen from each class for the best handwriting or most improved handwriting award. This will be awarded in Celebration assembly on a Thursday.

NEWSLETTER HIGHLIGHTS!

You will find the following items in this newsletter:

- SPW School Growing Together Garden Facebook page
- BBC Children in Need Thank you
- Christmas Fair
- The Santa Trap & Handwriting Award
- Easyfundraising.org.uk
- Before and After School Clubs – Spring term
- School Photographs
- School Uniform
- Rural Schools football tournament review
- Spidwick Chronicles review
- Athletics
- Christmas events in school
- OFSTED Parent View
- The Importance of applying for Free School Meals
- Attendance

REMINDERS

Sat 2 Dec	2.00-4.00pm Christmas Fair
Wed 13	5.15-7.00pm PTA Film Night
Fri 15	9.15am KS1 Dress rehearsal 1.30pm KS1 Christmas Performance
Sun 17	Candlelight Service at All Saints' Church St Pauls Walden
Mon 18	6.30pm KS2 Christmas Story Sing-a-long
Tues 19 (non-uniform day)	Christmas Party Christmas Lunch 2.00pm End of Term
Thurs 4 Jan	First day of Spring Term 2018
Next newsletter published: 8 Feb	

easyfundraising.org.uk

Fundraising for St Paul's Walden School PTA, Whitwell

How it works is really simple - With easyfundraising you'll be able to raise free donations when you shop online, without it costing a single penny extra. We also raise an extra £1 for inviting you if you haven't already joined.

Here's your invitation link, just cut and paste it into your browser!! : <http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/invite/A2XK84/>

easyfundraising.org.uk



If you are buying something, just remember to visit the retailer (such as Amazon, John Lewis, M&S) via [easyfundraising.org.uk](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk). Once you've ordered, the retailer makes a donation to your chosen good cause. It's a lovely way to give something back for free!

School Photographs



School photographs have arrived today and will be sent home with your child on Monday 4 December. Please return orders direct to Pret-a-Portrait by the Earlybird deadline of 14 December to qualify for their discounted price.

Dream - Believe - Succeed

School Uniform

You may have heard that unfortunately Hawkins of Hitchin will be closing on 13 January 2018. However, the good news is that we have now sourced an alternative uniform supplier and further details will follow before the end of this term.

Before and After School Clubs - Spring Term 2018

We will be sending out booking forms for our Spring term clubs next week. Please note all children must be registered before they attend their first club session.

Rural schools football tournament review by Harry C



This football tournament was in Baldock and we finished 5th overall - the highest St Paul's Walden has ever finished in this tournament. We scored two goals. Best ever! We all participated and tried very hard against the better teams who have won consecutively. On astroturf the other teams could move faster to attack and probably train more than once a week.

Spiderwick Chronicles review by Charlie & Dylan M

This term the Oaks have been studying the Spiderwick Chronicles. We have been choosing lots of unusual creatures to write explanations about. We definitely recommend this book.



Mathletics

We are thrilled that 35 children have achieved a silver and 9 have achieved gold this term. A very special well done to Indi, who has achieved gold three times!

Mathletics is suitable to use on a computer, ipad or tablet. If your child has lost their log in, please email Margaret at admin@stpaulswalden.herts.sch.uk.

Christmas events in school

Mrs Johnson and the school choir started off the Christmas season at Emily's tea shop wowing the audience the a wonderful rendition of 'The Holly and the Ivy' and of course our St Paul's Walden favourite 'Ruldoph the Red Nosed Reindeer'. Do come and see the choir at our Christmas Fair on Saturday 2 December.

Please see the reminders on the front page of our newsletter giving dates and times of our forthcoming Christmas events.

On the last day of term (Tuesday 19 December), we will have our annual Christmas party in the morning followed by a whole school Christmas lunch. On Tuesday 19 December, children can come to school in non-uniform for the whole day.

Due to the way the Autumn term dates have worked out this year, we are not able to run our Christingle service at All Saints' Church. However, we do look forward to our next Christingle service in December 2018.

Update from our governor visit from November 2017

Each term, governors join us in school to see our school in action and find out how we strive to continually improve our school for our pupils. During this term already, governors have joined us for visits focussing on pupil personal development and behaviour, curriculum development and also maths.

During November three members of our governing body (Sue Carter, Vicky Walrond, David Rowsell) visited our school to see our maths sessions, speak to children and also to work alongside our maths subject leader, Miss Pegler. The highlights from the visit are noted below:

- Children demonstrate an enthusiastic approach to maths. Pupils work effectively with learning buddies.

- Questioning is used to tease out children's understanding and encourage explanation
- There is a positive learning atmosphere. Children say: 'If it's tricky, keep trying'; 'I love maths because it is so challenging'.

OFSTED Parent View - ACTION REQUIRED



We would strongly encourage you to complete this questionnaire each academic year. So far this year we have only 7 responses. Please log on to complete the OFSTED Parent View questionnaire which we are using as our annual parents' questionnaire. We would like to get as many responses as possible so that all parents in our families are represented. Each parent can register their views.

Please register with an email and a password at <http://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk>. Once your login has been activated it takes only a couple of minutes to complete answers to the short questions about aspects of the school.

Your views are important in helping us to know what is going well and where improvements and developments can be made, and also show prospective parents the strengths of our school.

When our school is notified of its next Ofsted inspection, the views expressed by parents on Parent View will be taken into consideration.

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.

Attendance

Our school attendance from Monday 6 November – Friday 1 December is 97.5%. This is fantastic - well done everyone.

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.

Many thanks for taking the time to read our newsletter. I look forward to seeing you at our events during the rest of this term.

Best wishes

Louise Phillips
Headteacher

Dream - Believe - Succeed