



“Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them” (Romans: 12,6)

St Paulinus CE Primary Newsletter

Friday 5th July 2024

Welcome to the last few weeks of the Summer term, it's hard to believe the year is almost over! Thank you all for your positive comments which we have received since distributing our OFSTED report. I am very proud of all of the staff and children for the consistent efforts they put in to make each and every day a fantastic learning opportunity.

Fundraising!

Our Fun Run this year was a tremendous success and raised a grand total of £1724. As agreed with our school council, half of this money will be given to Cancer Research UK but the rest will be spent on making the ponds in our woods safe for the children to use. We are so grateful to you all for your support and we know that the children will really benefit from being able to use the woods. Hopefully the grounds afternoon on Friday 12th will help to clear even more of the woodland so it can all be used, we look forward to seeing as many of you as possible – don't forget your tools and your bug spray!

Our **next school fundraising project** will help finance a change to the way we dismiss children at the end of the school day! We have had costings to fence off the carpark area and provide a safe walkway through to the KS2 playground. This will enable you to come into the school and collect your children from their classroom doors at the end of each day – something we have been really keen to implement and we know from speaking to you, you would really value that safe interaction with your child's teacher each day. We're hoping to raise a whopping £2000 to complete the project, so please keep an eye on our newsletters for details of the school's future fundraisers – every little bit will help!

We are starting with a fantastic idea from Erin, Imogen, Eva and Ethan in Y6 – '**Dress Like Your Parents Day!**'. They are asking all children to come to school on **Friday 19th of July**, dressed as their parents, there will be a special activity and assembly on the day for everyone too. Erin, Imogen, Eva and Ethan will be on the gate in the morning, dressed as their parents, with buckets asking for a **£1 donation** to the school fundraiser. We think it's a brilliant idea and we can't wait to see you all dressed up!

Sports Day!

On Monday 17th June, we had our KS1 & KS2 Sports day in the beautiful June sunshine. Thank you so much if you were able to come and support the children, they all had a fantastic day and it was clear from your feedback, you also had a good time. Special thanks to both Mrs Cusselle and Miss Childs for their organisation and planning. Points were awarded to each of the Houses, with the winning house colour receiving 100 points. The Sports day results are below for each Key Stage:

KS1:

100 points	75 points	50 points	25 points
1 st Red	2 nd Yellow	3 rd Green	4 th Blue

KS2

100 points	75 points	75 points	50 points
1 st Blue	2 nd Yellow	2 nd Green	3 rd Red

The overall totals for each house colour will be revealed at the end of term!

Our own Sporting Hero!



We are super proud of Ethan in Y6, he represented the South East in trampolining at the London Youth Games which was held in Camden earlier this year. We are told that he performed to a very high standard and that his points contributed to the overall South East score. Well done Ethan, you are a fantastic role model for us all!

News from Year 6:

As usual, the last few weeks in Y6 have been action-packed. We had a lovely day at Rochester Cathedral on 18th June, for the Y6 Transition Day. The class took part in various activities reflecting on their time at primary school, as well as the new adventures



ahead. The day culminated in a short act of Worship. They also met up with Y6 classes from Holy Trinity, St Paul's Cray and Old Bexley and made some new friends during the day. Thank you to Mrs Rutter and Mrs Joynes who gave up their time to come with us.



We have also had great fun with YR, trying out the fantastic new playground equipment so generously purchased by the Y6 parents. There were so many goodies in the box that it was hard to know what to try first!

News from Year 5:

Year 5 have been having a brilliant time focusing on developing and creating their own structures. They had to consider what the purpose of a structure is, how we make it secure and stable as well as fit a design brief. The children worked over a span of a few lessons to design and build their structures, finishing with an evaluation that described what steps they would take next to improve their work. They worked incredibly hard to think about the best shape and the materials that they had available in order to create their piece.



News from Year 4:



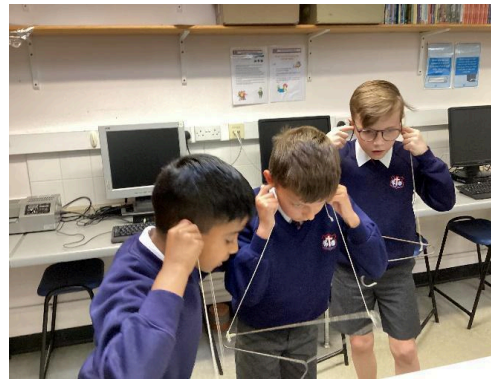
Year 4 flew to the moon last week when they worked hard on their behaviour in the lunch hall, ensuring that they kept their voices low, everyone was polite and they then cleared up after themselves. An ice-lolly treat was much appreciated.



They have finished their art project using the 'ombre' painting

technique and are continuing to embed their cricketing skills in PE. They really enjoyed the Sports Week, particularly trying out different activities and all loved flying the kite!

Our Science workshop on sound was really engaging. We never knew that so many everyday objects could make such amazing sounds!



News from Year 3:

Year 3 have been very busy working on creating playscripts linked to the book *The Lost Thing* by Shaun Tan. The class have practiced their performances in



the sunshine and demonstrated their courage performing for others. Y3 have been so eager to tell everyone in school about this special book, they have really enjoyed their learning on this!

News from Year 2:



Year 2 have enjoyed Sports Week and particularly Friday Football and creating a collage picture in Art.

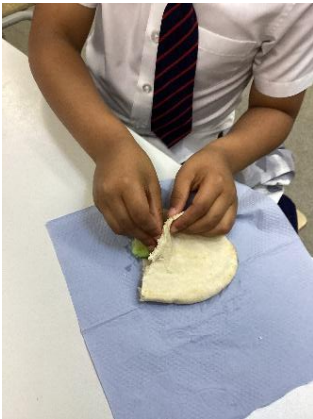


News from Year 1:

Year 1 had an amazing trip to Greenwich Observatory last week. They took part in a Seasonal workshop and a Space Exploration show. They learned lots about the different planets and the conditions on them and how the Earth's tilt affects the weather. They were exceptionally well behaved and were excellent ambassadors for the school while travelling on the bus and in the Observatory



We also have been doing cooking in DT as part of our learning about a healthy balanced diet. We have been perfecting our cutting and slicing skills and worked with adults to carefully cut out our vegetables. We then had to prepare our pitta with our fillings such as peppers, tomato, cucumber, chicken and our very own homemade dressing! We had a fab time and would love to show you some of our cooking skills at home!



News from Reception:

Wow, what a buzzy few weeks it has BEEN! Year R read the book *Winnie The Pooh Saves The Bees* and they are starting to become quite the bee experts! They have made bee posters to help persuade people to save the bees, as well as learning all about the lifecycle of a bee and how a bee makes honey. They have learnt lots of new vocabulary including pollen, nectar, honeycomb, hive, larva, cell and pupa. We are now very much looking forward to our upcoming visit from Ruxley Bees, where we can further deepen our knowledge.



Continuing with our focus on insects and minibests, we have started looking at *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*. The children have been focusing on the lifecycle of a butterfly and looking at how they migrate in various parts of the world. The



children have also begun to write their own Very Hungry Caterpillar Books, using all of the phonics they have learnt so far. Next week our real life caterpillars should be arriving, so we look forward to watching how they metamorphosise into butterflies!



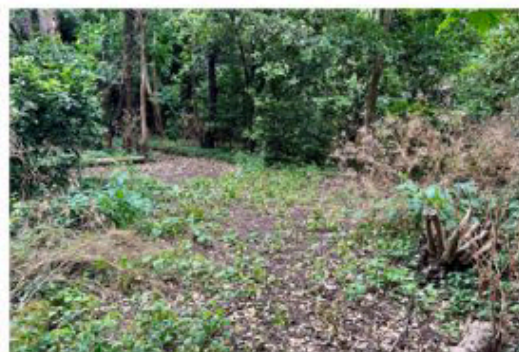
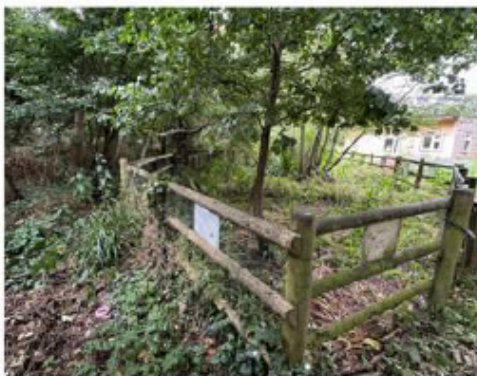
St Paulinus Garden Rescue!

Friday 12th July 2024 at 1pm



Please come and help us clear the overgrown woodland area so the children can use it. All are welcome, please can you bring your own tools, gloves and bug spray!

Do not hesitate to contact us if you need more information.



10 WAYS GAMING CAN SUPPORT POSITIVE OUTCOMES in Children and Young People

Gaming, of course, is phenomenally popular with children and young people. In 2021, for instance, more than three-quarters of teenagers played online games, with almost 70% of primary school aged children doing likewise. If enjoyed in moderation and supported by a healthy routine (staying hydrated, good sleep habits, taking breaks and so on), gaming can actually benefit a person's mental health. As long as we stay alert for potential risks, games can be much more than what we see on the surface: they can be a way to socialise, an avenue for creativity and a route to solving problems. Check out our top ten tips on how gaming online can sometimes work to your child's advantage ...

ARCADE

THE FEEL-GOOD FACTOR

Gaming is so popular because at the base level, it's enjoyable for the player. Succeeding in any game or contest releases dopamine in our brains: the 'feel-good' chemical that makes us happy or excited. Those emotions can be incredibly beneficial for mental wellbeing – as long as young players don't become reliant solely on playing video games to make themselves feel happy.

ACHIEVEMENT & PRIDE

A sense of achievement is incredibly important to all of us and can be particularly valuable to someone who's feeling unhappy or distracted. It's easy to get caught up in our thoughts, which can sometimes take a negative turn. So even achieving something small – like finishing a difficult level in a Mario or Sonic game – can feel like conquering Everest and give us renewed optimism.

SOCIAL SALVATION

Gaming can be an incredibly social activity. When playing online with trusted friends, what usually start out as chats specifically about the game can often develop into conversations about school and life. Even if they've had a bad day, simply knowing that a friend is there, on the other end of their headset, can provide young gamers with a sense of security and some welcome laughs.

TEAMWORK MAKES THE DREAM WORK

In many online games, teamwork is crucial to winning. Often, people who are struggling with their mood tend to feel like they fail or let others down a lot. Working as a team with trusted friends or family in a game can reinforce a young person's self-importance: striving for a common goal and succeeding together can remind them that they're an integral part of something bigger.

REAL-WORLD RELATABILITY

Because many major releases are shooting or action games, when some people hear "gaming" they think of guns, explosions and violence. What's less recognised is how many titles explore relatable issues such as overcoming anxiety or coping with grief. These games allow young players to understand their emotions more deeply and realise they aren't alone in how they might be feeling.

A DIGITAL COMFORT

Video games can provide a reliable constant. No matter what happens in school or between friends, playing a favourite game is something that youngsters can look forward to all day and can help them de-stress. Let's not forget, games are fun – and, when approached safely, an interactive activity in which the player has a degree of control over what happens next can feel immensely reassuring.

PROBLEM-SOLVING PRACTICE

It can be difficult for young people to handle the feeling that nothing is going right or that their problems are insurmountable. Gaming can help alleviate that by presenting challenges to be overcome, either solo or alongside trusted friends. Defeating a powerful monster or solving a tricky puzzle reminds young gamers that even the most daunting obstacles can be faced and conquered.

THE GREAT ESCAPISM

A certain amount of escapism is fabulous – allowing us to temporarily park some stress while exploring a world other than our own. For children, gaming can be like reading a novel or watching a film: a moment in the day when the fantastical becomes real, firing their imagination and immersing them in a story. Who wouldn't want to venture to the stars? Or battle monsters to save the planet?

TRIED & TRUSTED

There can be reassurance in repeating tasks. It often promotes a controlled outcome, which is ideal when life feels overwhelming or out of control. Replicating an experience, such as playing the same level of a game over and over to perfection, gives the player a sense of control and familiarity: it's like listening to a favourite song that always makes you feel happy or confident.

ENCOURAGING CREATIVITY

Inventiveness is a huge part of many modern games: in Minecraft and Roblox, for example, players regularly dream up amazing structures or new ways to play. Using our imagination to create something (whether digitally or physically) is massively beneficial for the brain; that's why Lego is sometimes used in the medical sector as both a stress reliever and a brain injury rehabilitation tool.

Meet Our Expert

Daniel Lipscombe is a writer who specialises in technology, video gaming, virtual reality and Web3. Author of 15 guidebooks for children on games such as Fortnite, Apex Legends, Valorant, Roblox and Minecraft, his work has also been published in the likes of PC Gamer, Kotaku, Pocket Gamer and VG247.



Source: https://www.ofcom.gov.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0024/234806/childrens-media-use-and-attitudes-report-2022.pdf

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Important date for Y6 Diaries!

The **Y6 Leavers service** will take place on **Sunday 7th July** at St Paulinus Church. During this service, our church family will officially wish our young people good luck as they leave primary school before the presentation from Governors. **Children will need to be in full school uniform and arrive at 9:45am.** We look forward to seeing you all there.

Up-coming diary dates:

Date	Event
Sunday 7 th July	Year 6 Leavers service @ St Paulinus Church
Tuesday 9 th July	Year 2 visit to the beach!
Wednesday 10 th July	Year 4 to Church
Tuesday 16 th July	Year 6 Production 2pm and 6pm
Wednesday 17 th July	Year 3 to Church
Friday 19 th July	Dress Like Your Parents Day! £1 donation
	6pm Year 6 Leavers Disco
Tuesday 23 rd July	Year 6 Leavers Assembly 11am – Y6 parents welcome
Tuesday 23rd July	Last Day of Term – 11:30 finish for Y6 (& siblings) 1:30 finish for rest of school
Monday 2nd September	INSET DAY – school closed to children
Tuesday 3rd September	Welcome back to school
	New reception parent meetings
Wednesday 4 th September	New reception parent meetings
Thursday 5 th September	Reception start school
Friday 27 th September	MacMillan Coffee Morning