



**Amadeus**  
Primary Academies Trust

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



# **St Paulinus CE Primary Newsletter**

**Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> October 2024**



Welcome to the last newsletter of this half term. It's been a whirlwind of special services, fundraising and volunteering – not to mention all the truly fantastic teaching and learning we've begun! We'd like to say a massive thank you to everyone who has volunteered their time this term, whether that is supporting in class, running PTA events or clearing grounds, we really do appreciate your time and effort. Thank you to all the children for such a positive start to the new academic year, you've all really embraced your learning and it's been fabulous to see how much extra effort you have put into your optional homework projects – so many volcanoes Y3! Lastly but by no means least, thank you to all our staff for your dedication and enthusiasm, it really has been a very busy term and you've worked incredibly hard.

No matter what your plans are for this half term break, we hope you have a restful and blessed time together. We look forward to opening the gates and welcoming you back on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November.

Kind regards

Mrs Rhodes and Mrs Sukonik

## **Macmillan Update!**

All the pennies have been counted and the final amount calculated! You raised an **amazing £373** for Macmillan Cancer Support – we completely smashed our already ambitious target of £250. Your generosity is truly fantastic, **thank you all.**



## **A small reminder:**

Please can you make sure that children have their names in all items of clothing as they do remove coats and jumpers during the day, it can be very difficult to reunite them with the right people if they are not named.

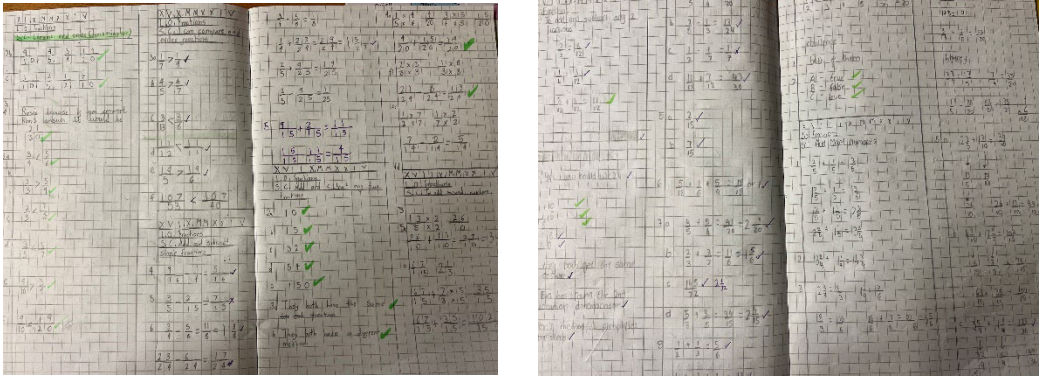
## **End of day pick up:**

If you need to make alternative arrangements for pick up at the end of day, please let the office know in plenty of time so that they can communicate that to the teacher who is dismissing at the gate. No child will be dismissed to someone who is not their parent/carer unless there is a prior arrangement. We appreciate your patience and understanding that we are trying to keep all the children safe.

## News from Year 6:

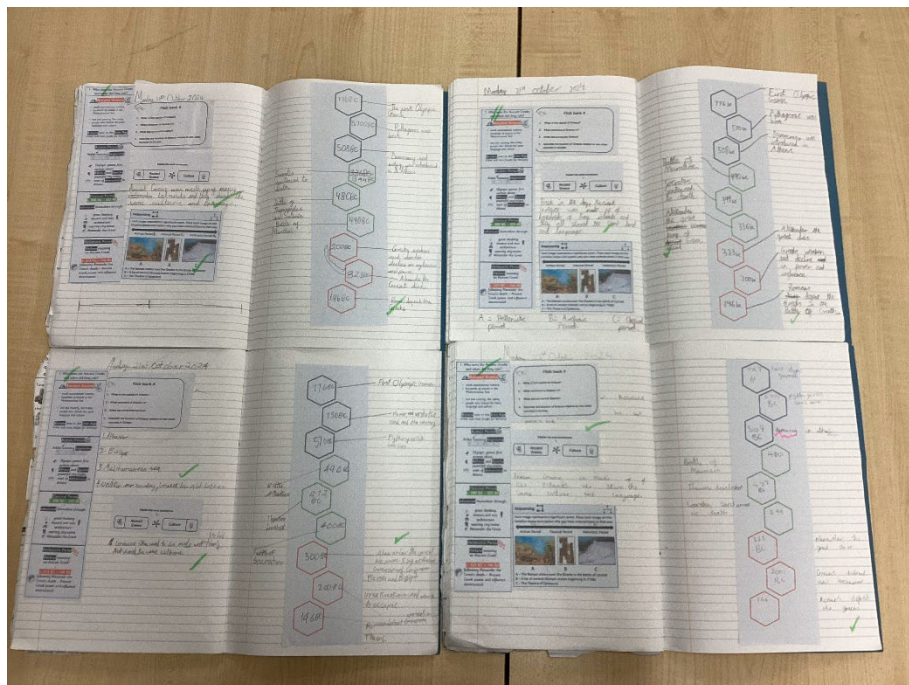
Year 6 have spent the last week finalising their learning for this term in preparation for their residential trip this week! We have spent lots of time trying to secure our understanding of simplifying fractions, equivalent fractions and adding any fractions together! They should be very proud of their resilience and attitude to learning!

We hope you have enjoyed seeing their residential adventures over on the school's Instagram page!



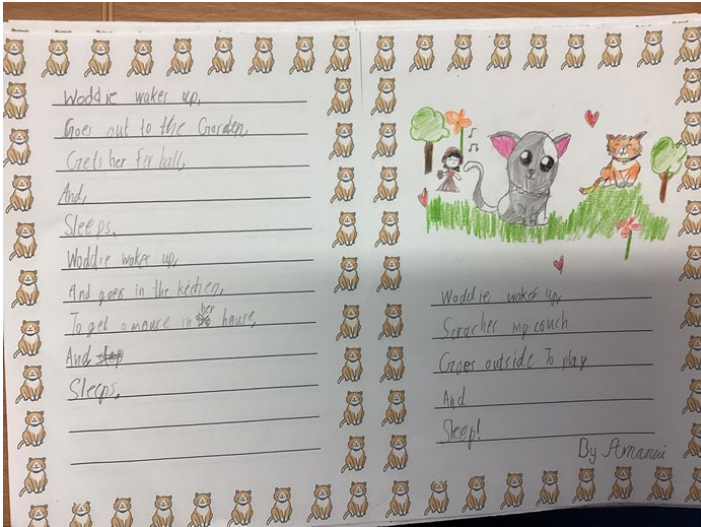
## News from Year 5:

Year 5 has had a fantastic half-term filled with exciting learning experiences! As we wrap up this term, we're thrilled to announce that we'll be diving into the fascinating world of the Ancient Greeks. The children are especially enthusiastic about this topic, and we can't wait to share their discoveries with you over the next eight weeks. Stay tuned for updates on their adventures in learning!



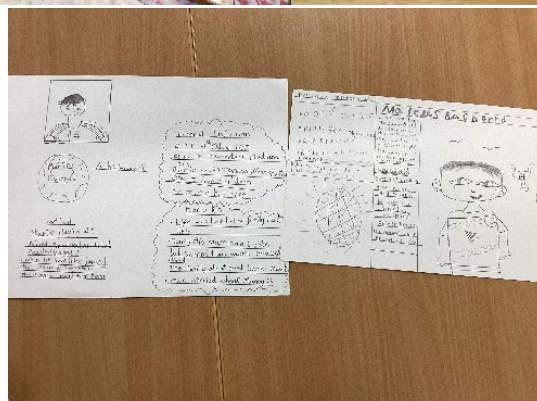
## News from Year 4:

Year 4 enjoyed recreating the poems of Benjamin Zephaniah as part of their Black History Month project. The class listened to Benjamin reading 'The day in the life of Danny the cat' and then created their own Danny the cat poems. During DT the children have been looking at different types of hinges and made their own hinge joint using card and paper. In maths, the children have been using the inverse operation and column method to check their answers. In science, the children went on a hunt for flowering and non-flowering plants around school.



## News from Year 3:

In year 3 this week we have loved celebrating Black History Month by looking at the work of Sir Frank Bowling and creating our own "dripped paintings" in his famous abstract style. We have also made informative posters about our significant figure, Marcus Rashford.



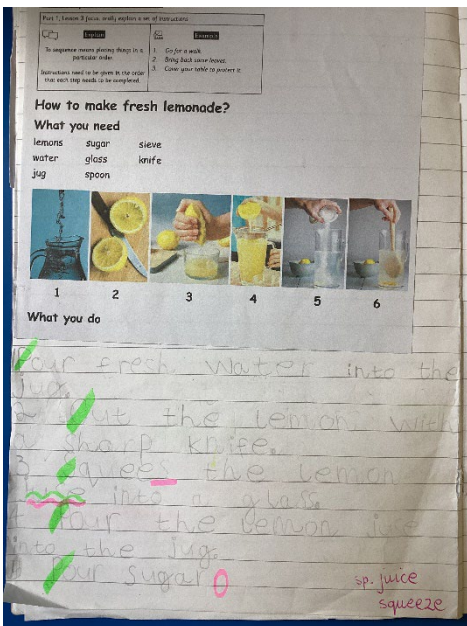
## News from Year 2:

In Design and Technology, year 2 have been cooking again! We made 'crunchy, crispy, delicious, herby and nutritious' pitta bread crisps – delicious!



## News from Year 1:

In Year 1, pupils embarked on a fun and flavourful journey as they learned to write a set of instructions with imperative bossy verbs for making delicious lemonade! From squeezing juicy lemons to stirring in sugar, each instruction brought them closer to tasting their creation. With creativity and teamwork, they not only learned the art of writing but also enjoyed the sweet reward of their homemade lemonade!



## News from Reception:

Year R have been getting very crafty and are all working hard to create a new craft for each sound they learn. So far, we have made:

a for apple, b for bat, c for caterpillar and d for doughnut. We look forward to continuing our way through the rest of the alphabet!

We are also having a great week learning all about Diwali. We have made rangoli patterns using colourful



rice, created our own salt-dough diya lamps and applied makeshift mendhi on cardboard cut-out hands. To all of our families soon to be celebrating, Shubh Diwali!

## St Paulinus Poetry Day Winners

Yet another fantastic example of poetry writing here at St Paulinus, this time from Y2!

My Pet Rabbit  
by Poppy W.- year 2

It's a rabbit, very cute and sweet  
It is very purry  
It runs in a hurry

It is very funny  
It is also called a bunny  
It eats carrots  
It is not afraid of parrots.



### Poppy Appeal:

Poppies are still on sale in school when we return after half term and are available in the office and during break time on the playground every day up to and including the 11<sup>th</sup> of November.

### Anti-Bullying week:

This will run from the 11<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> of November with a variety of activities each day. This year's theme is **Choose RESPECT**, in school we will have discussions about what it means to disagree respectfully, how to avoid resorting to bullying, and how we can all choose to lead by example. We hope you will support us and join with us in choosing respect!



### Odd Socks Day!

On Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> November we will be celebrating Odd Socks Day as part of our week long **Anti-bullying work** – see the flyer at the end of the newsletter for more information.

### Christmas Poster competition:

It's never too early to be thinking of Christmas! On Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November we are launching a new competition to design a poster for all the Christmas services which will be held at St Paulinus Church this advent season. Entries should be A4 sized and have your child's name and year group written on the back and can be in colour or black and white, they do not need to have any written information about services on there as the church office will add those details. **Closing date for all posters will be Friday 15<sup>th</sup> November.** Father Paul will then choose one winner and two runners up from all the entries received and announce them in worship

the following week – there is an amazing prize on offer for both the winner and runners up – good luck everyone!

### **Governor Event**

Our wonderful Governors are holding a Bingo Night on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> November in the school hall. Tickets are £10 per person and can be booked through MCAS by clicking on Governor Fund and paying £10. All the money raised will fund the fantastic people at CRiBS coming in to deliver RE lessons for everyone across the next school year. They are a massive part of St Paulinus life and we are very grateful that fundraising has enabled us to keep them this year. There will be a raffle on the night and please bring your own nibbles and drinks – further details are attached on the flyer at the end of this newsletter.

### **Look at our wonderful grounds!**

A huge thank you to the army of volunteers who gave up their time on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> of October and spend the day clearing the woods. The area is now so much more accessible to all of our children and we really appreciate your time and effort. If you would like to get involved in further days, please keep an eye out on the Instagram pages for both school and the PTA, as well as future newsletters.



**Up-coming diary dates:**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>
Friday 25 <sup>th</sup> October	INSET day – school closed to children
Monday 28 <sup>th</sup> Oct – Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> Nov	Half term School closed to children
Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> November	Children back in school Design a Christmas poster for Church launches
Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup> November	Y6 Church
Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> November	In school flu vaccinations
Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> – 15 <sup>th</sup> November	Anti-bullying Week
Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup> November	Odd Socks Day
Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup> November	World Kindness Day KS2 trip to Cinema
15 <sup>th</sup> November	Closing date for Christmas poster entries.
	Children in Need Day
Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> November	Governor's Bingo Night



# 10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators USING AND REVIEWING PARENTAL CONTROLS

Phones and computers are essential parts of children's lives, but with unfettered internet access comes a multitude of risks. While not foolproof, parental controls can help with this; filtering out inappropriate content, limiting the ability to spend real money, capping screen time and generally making devices safer for young people.

## 1 KNOW THE TYPES

While parental control software can apply to an entire device, it also pays to know about options on individual apps and websites. TikTok, for example, has Restricted Mode for limiting unsuitable videos, while Snapchat lets you keep an eye on who a child has been talking to. Check the settings of any new app young users want and review your options.

## 2 COVER ALL DEVICES

Knowing what parental controls cover is crucial, as remaining unaware can run the risk of 'blind spots' in the device's safety measures. Controls on a phone will apply whenever a child's on that device, for instance – but you'll want to ensure that parental controls are set up across any laptops, tablets and potentially other phones, too. Remember, buying a new device may require you to set everything up again.

## 3 DON'T NEGLECT SHARED TECH

While children often have their own devices, if you have a shared family computer or tablet, for example, you'll need to make sure that's not a weak point in your safety measures. Parental controls for your router, that cover everything connected to your Wi-Fi, are one option – or you can just be thorough with each device and online account. Just ensure that unprotected laptops, phones and tablets are password locked.

## 4 CONSIDER TIME CONTROLS

Even safe internet content can be harmful if it's viewed in excess. Not only are certain apps addictive enough to distract from other duties, but late-night usage can badly disrupt sleep, which is vital for adolescent brain development. Most parental controls offer some kind of time limit – either blocking access at certain hours or capping the number of minutes it can be used per day – so be sure to consider these.

## 5 BLOCK APP SPENDING

Seemingly free apps can sometimes include microtransactions; purchases that can be made using real money. While plenty of developers implement these fairly, some companies attempt to manipulate children into paying for additional features or content, which can soon add up to hundreds of pounds if a child gets carried away. Thankfully, iOS and Android's settings allow you to block in-app purchases, preventing any huge bills.

## 6 NO CONTROLS ARE PERFECT

Parental controls can be very useful, but they're far from infallible. Some unpleasant content can and unfortunately *will* slip through the net, so remember that setting up these measures isn't a substitute for taking an active interest in young people's digital lives. Talk to them, and make sure they're aware of the risks of the internet as well as its benefits.

## 7 MIND THE GAPS

There'll undoubtedly be some gaps in parental controls, no matter how thorough you intend to be. For example, if you use router-level parental controls, bear in mind that these won't cover WiFi outside the home. For that reason, it's important to keep an open dialogue with children about the many unpalatable aspects of social media and the web.

## 8 KEEP THINGS SECURE

Some children can react poorly to parental controls and feel tempted to circumvent them. It's important to ensure that the passwords to these settings remain unknown to children, otherwise they can easily modify the restrictions without you knowing. Similarly, make sure your phone isn't left unlocked and unattended.

## 9 REVIEW CONTROLS REGULARLY

Parental controls shouldn't be a 'set and forget' deal. Not only can parental summaries provide you with a frequent overview of a child's digital life – to let you spot any warning signs – but companies often add new features, and some of these may be useful to enable (or disable). Regularly checking in ensures that if a child has found a way to wiggle out of the controls, you'll be the first to know.

## 10 KNOW WHEN TO LET UP

The parental controls you install on a computer for a seven-year-old probably wouldn't be appropriate for a child of 16 – and as young people approach adulthood, bubble wrapping the internet can do more harm than good. Consider relaxing parental controls as children get older, so they can learn to manage the risks of the internet themselves, without so many training wheels.

## Meet Our Expert

Alan Martin is an experienced technology journalist and the former deputy editor of technology and internet culture website Alphr. Now freelance, he has contributed articles to publications including the New Statesman, CNET, the Evening Standard, Wired, Rock Paper Shotgun, Gizmodo, Pocket Gamer, Stuff, T3, PC Pro, Macworld, TechRadar and Trusted Reviews.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College



# Odd Socks Day



## TUESDAY 12<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER

This year Odd Socks Day is taking place on the Tuesday of Anti-Bullying Week, to avoid a clash with Armistice Day. Odd Socks Day is a chance for schools to celebrate Anti-Bullying Week in a positive way by asking pupils and staff to wear odd socks to school. There is no pressure to wear the latest fashion or buy expensive costumes. All you need to do to take part is wear odd socks, it could not be simpler!

Odd Socks Day will take place on the second day of Anti Bullying Week, Tuesday 12th November to help raise awareness for Anti-Bullying Week.

It comes with a pack for schools, including posters and flyers, and a pack for the workplace, to help you get involved. Find them [HERE](#).





ST PAULINUS GOVERNORS INVITE YOU TO:

# BINGO NIGHT

Get ready to shout "Bingo!" and join us for a night of fun and games raising money for the school!

Bring your own nibbles & drinks

**FRIDAY 22 NOVEMBER 2024**

**£10 A PERSON, PAY VIA MCAS**

CLICK GOVERNOR FUND

St Paulinus School Hall

**Doors open at 6:30pm for 7pm start**

Take part in the BIG raffle on the night to win extra prizes!

Cash only on the night

All monies raised will fund another year of CRiBS for the children



Part of London South East Academies Trust



# Steel Pan Bands

Fridays during term time  
1st session Friday 8th Nov 2024

**Family Steel Pans: 6 - 7pm**  
Come along with your whole family!

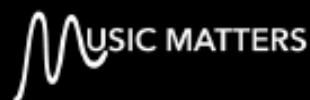
**Adults Steel Pans: 7 - 8pm**  
Just for the adults! Members to be 18+

**£66 per member per term - special family rates available!**



**Book here!**

Email [info@bexley-music.co.uk](mailto:info@bexley-music.co.uk)  
for more information



# Autism Advisory Service Parent/Carer drop-in sessions



**Bexley's Autism Advisory Team** will be available to have informal chats with parents/carers of children with a diagnosis of Autism or awaiting diagnosis. Advisory Teachers and Specialist Support Team from Early Years to Secondary School aged children.

**Date:** Wednesday 6th November 2024

**Time:** 10am—12pm

**Venue:** Crayford Community Centre

(Located above the library)

175 Townhall Square, Crayford DA1 4FN

**Bexley Autism Advisory Service** provides advice, support and training to schools and families. .