



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

Friday 13th December 2024



It is hard to believe we are almost at the end of another term here at St Paulinus and what a busy term it has been! We have enjoyed class assemblies, our wonderful exhibition of children’s work to celebrate Black History, an amazing Christmas Fair and just this week – Wild Hair Wednesday. The children have all been working hard on their learning as well as KS1 children having fun preparing for their Nativity and everyone joining together to practice carols for our service at the church next week.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the PTA for their tireless efforts to organise a wonderful event for the children in the Christmas Fair. It is easy to underestimate all the hard work and preparation that goes on in the background to organise these events, they have worked non-stop for weeks so that all children had a wonderful time at the Christmas Fair. I am sure you appreciate their efforts as much as we do. Father Christmas was a very welcome visitor and the idea of taking a train ride to visit him was inspired! Thank you to all the staff who also either volunteered their time or came with their own children to spend their money to support this event.

We have a little sad news to give out this week – Mrs Carter will be leaving St Paulinus at the end of the Autumn Term. She has been a valued part of the school community for many years and I know the children will miss her greatly. We thank her for her hard work for the children at the school and know she will be greatly missed but we wish her the best for the future.

On a happier note, we are very much looking forward to welcoming Mrs Hobin-Brady back from her maternity leave. She will be coming back to work after the February half term, but you will see her around for a few days here and there as she completes a handover to ensure a consistent and smooth transition back into her role.

In our collective worship recently we have been thinking about advent and the waiting of this season of the year. We have thought about ways we can bring hope, joy, peace and love to our community. So we leave you with one of the bible verses we have looked at recently from the Psalms:

Psalm 130:5: I wait for the Lord, my whole being waits, and in his word I put my hope.

Mrs Rhodes and Mrs Sukonik



Christmas Post Box

If your child would like to send a Christmas card to their friends in school, our Christmas post box continues to be open until Thursday 19th December.

Please make sure that the child’s name and year group are on the envelope so that our Y6 Christmas Elves can deliver them! Children will be given time

in the morning to ‘post’ them into the box. Please do not put sweets, chocolates or gifts into the cards, we will not be able to hand them out.

Christmas Fair:

What a roaring success the PTA Christmas Fair was! So many fun activities culminating in a train ride to see Father Christmas. There was the opportunity to create reindeer food, buy a personalised Christmas decoration, take part in the raffle, buy some Christmas themed food and watch a dance performance. Many thanks again to everyone who contributed to the fair through volunteering their time, turning up and taking part or donating prizes for the raffle.



Wild Hair Wednesday:

Many thanks to all those who supported this fundraising event – the children looked fantastic and managed to raise £115.20 which will go towards our ever growing fund for student councils fencing project. Our thanks also go to Mrs Scudder for organising the event and Thomas Forster in Yr6 for being our photographer.



KS1 Nativity a reminder:

On **Tuesday 17th of December**, there will be **two** performances of the KS1 Nativity for parents and carers to attend, one at **2pm** and then again at **6pm**. There are limited tickets per family for each performance so that every parent / carer can attend. **Children will need to attend both performances, coming back to school for 5:30 so they can get ready for the 6pm show.**



School Carol Service:

As a whole school we will be attending a special carol service on Wednesday 18th December at 2pm in church. If you are able to come along, you will all be very welcome. Once we have walked the children back to school, we are happy to dismiss the children early to parents who have attended the service to prevent you waiting around.

If you will be attending the carol concert and would like to pick your child up early, please email confirmation of this to the school office on admin@st-paulinus.bexley.sch.uk by Tuesday 17th December at 3pm so that the class teachers can organise their class before they leave for church.

Members of the support team will bring children out in their classes to the gate. We may not be able to release children early to parents without this written confirmation. We will not be able to release children directly from the church due to the sheer number of people. Children whose parents are unable to attend, will be released as usual at the end of the school day.



Reminder:

It's that time of year when colds and sickness run wild throughout the school! Do check that your contact details are up to date with the lovely ladies in the office in case we need to ring you. If your child is particularly unwell, please keep them at home so that they can recover – just leave us a message stating the reason why on either the school main line 01322 523236 or on admin@st-paulinus.bexley.sch.uk

If your child is unwell with vomiting and or diarrhoea, they must not return to school until it has been 48 hours since the last time they were sick or had a loose bowel movement.

Up-coming diary dates:

Date	Event
Tuesday 17 th December	KS1 Nativity to parents, 2pm & 6pm
Wednesday 18 th December	2pm whole school carol service at St Paulinus Church
Thursday 19 th December	CRiBS Christmas Production to children (kindly funded by the PTA)
Friday 20th December	Children finish at 1:30 for Christmas holidays – no afterschool provision
Monday 6th January 2025	Children return to school
Wednesday 15 th January	Y4 Class Assembly
Wednesday 22 nd January	Y6 Class Assembly (repeat)
Sunday 9 th February	Reception class welcome service at the Church
Monday 17 th – Friday 21 st February	Half Term



Advisory Service for Autism

Parent/Carer Drop in session

 **Wed 15th January 2025, 10 AM - 12 PM**

**Crayford Community Centre
175 Townhall Square
DA1 4FN**

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

SAFETY OVER THE FESTIVE SEASON

The holiday season, marked by Christmas and New Year, brings joy and togetherness but also presents unique safety challenges for children, families and educators. From busy holiday shopping, traveling and family gatherings to managing digital activity during school breaks, staying safe during this period requires heightened awareness. This guide offers practical tips to help families and educators maintain a more secure and fulfilling festive period.

1 MONITOR DIGITAL ACTIVITY

Children spend more time online during school holidays, increasing exposure to potential dangers such as cyberbullying, inappropriate content and online predators. Balancing screen time, avoiding harmful websites and ensuring children engage positively online can be difficult without proper monitoring tools. Set clear boundaries, encourage open discussions about online safety and use parental controls to manage content exposure and screen time effectively. Regular check-ins and positive reinforcement around digital habits encourage safe online behaviour.

2 PRACTICE FIRE SAFETY PROTOCOLS

The incidence of house fires increases during Christmas due to greater use of candles, cookers and electrical decorations. Open flames, electrical overloads and the need for quick response plans can make fire safety challenging. Ensure smoke detectors are operational, keep fire extinguishers on hand and teach children how to respond in case of a fire emergency. Avoid leaving cooking unattended and use fire-safe candles to prevent mishaps.

3 CREATE TRAVEL SAFETY PLANS

More families tend to travel during the holidays, resulting in busier roads, increased traffic accidents and weather-related hazards. Weather conditions, road rage, fatigue and busy airports can all compromise travel safety. Pack emergency kits and adhere to seatbelt laws. Plan routes in advance and allow extra travel time to avoid rushing and mitigate risks on busy roads.

4 BEWARE OF ALLERGIES

Holiday meals often involve many foods that may contain allergens. Cross contamination, unclear labelling and lack of allergy-friendly options can lead to severe reactions. Communicate any allergy needs to hosts, provide safe food alternatives and carry necessary medications like antihistamines or EpiPens. Teaching children how to advocate for themselves and recognise dangerous foods also contributes to safer celebrations.

5 PREVENT THE SPREAD OF ILLNESS

Cold weather and seasonal socialising can increase the spread of viruses like flu and COVID-19. Crowded gatherings, schools out of session and frequent travel can lead to higher infection risks. Emphasise hygiene, encourage vaccination, disinfect surfaces and isolate symptomatic individuals. Communication with children about proper hygiene practices is essential to reduce the spread of illness.

6 STAY VIGILANT ON THE ROAD

Increased holiday traffic heightens the risk of accidents for both drivers and pedestrians. Distracted driving, pedestrian safety and inclement weather can complicate road safety. Encourage pedestrian safety practices, avoid distracted driving and never drive under the influence.

7 MAINTAIN SAFE DECORATIONS

Festive decorations such as Christmas lights and candles can pose electrical, fire and choking hazards if mishandled. Frayed wires, topping Christmas trees, small ornaments and open flames can be difficult to control, especially in busy households with children. Inspect and maintain decorations, secure Christmas trees, place fragile or small items out of reach and ensure candles are never left unattended. Testing smoke alarms and using flame-retardant decorations can significantly reduce risks.

8 SET BOUNDARIES FOR GIFTS

Some toys and gadgets can present choking, sharp-edge or safety risks, particularly for young children. Ensuring that gifts meet safety standards and are age appropriate can be complex with so many options available. Inspect all toys carefully and ensure any tech devices have parental controls. Setting expectations around safe gift use and discarding packaging that poses a risk also helps to prevent accidents.

9 ADDRESS STRESS & FATIGUE

Holiday pressures can lead to burnout, which affects both physical and mental health. Overpacked schedules and a lack of downtime can cause stress and fatigue, leading to accidents or poor decision making. Incorporate rest, maintain regular routines and seek support to reduce stress. Encourage activities that promote relaxation to create a healthier, happier holiday experience for everyone.

10 DRINK RESPONSIBLY

Alcohol is commonly present at holiday events, raising concerns about safety and supervision. Excessive alcohol consumption can lead to accidents, impaired judgment and lack of supervision for children. Designate responsible adults, limit consumption and provide transportation alternatives for guests. Teaching moderation and modelling responsible behaviour in front of children ensures that celebrations remain positive and secure.

Meet Our Expert

James Whelan is a chartered health and safety consultant with 10 years of experience in promoting family and community safety. Specialising in risk assessment and preventative strategies, he has worked with educational institutions, public health agencies and community groups to deliver safety education and training.



The National College