

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

St Paulinus CE Primary Newsletter

Friday 20th December 2024

There is just time for one last catch up with some of the work our classes have managed to fit around Nativity rehearsals, carol singing and Christmas card making in our final newsletter of 2024!

However you are spending your Christmas break, on behalf of us all here at St Paulinus, we'd like to thank you for all your support this first term and wish you a very peaceful, blessed festive season. We look forward to seeing you all refreshed and raring to embrace the new term on Monday 6th January.



For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.

Luke 2:11

Mrs Rhodes and Mrs Sukonik

YR

What a festive end to the term Year R have been having. The children have been having a wonderful time 'preparing the home' for Christmas and our classroom now features a fully decorated 6ft tree and fireplace, with stockings and tinsel galore. The children have also been busy writing letters to Father Christmas, as well as creating special crafts and keepsakes to take home. Presents aside, we know Christmas is all about sharing time with our loved ones and we hope that all members of the St Paulinus community have a magical Christmas time. See you in 2025!



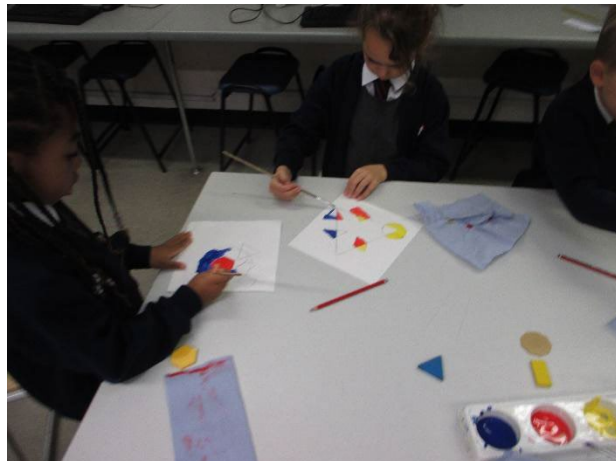
Y1

Last week, the Year 1 class set out on an exciting *Tree-mendous Tree Trail* at Hall Place Gardens. The children explored to find evergreen trees, followed by a thrilling *Gingerbread Hunt Adventure*, where they collected ingredients to bake their own gingerbread cookies. The day was full of fun and learning, with plenty of interactive activities, thanks to the dedicated helpers and volunteers. At the end of the day, the children enjoyed making and baking their own delicious gingerbread treats. A truly memorable adventure!



Y2

We enjoyed our visit to the cinema and during our Art Lessons we learnt all about the primary colours. We experimented with shape and colour with excellent results.



Y3

Year 3 have had a great time this week creating their lovely Christmas cards during art. We have also been continuing our work in Maths on division, using lollipop sticks to create groups from a two-digit number.



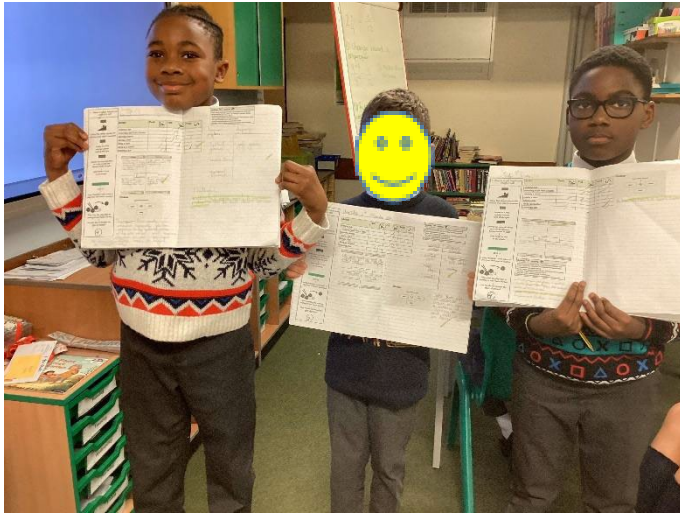
Y4

In literacy, year 4 have written newspaper articles about the seal population in the River Thames. In art, they finished their drawing topic using wax crayons and watercolor to create detailed images. We then moved onto our new painting topic. Using cardboard, pupils made a textured surface. They then used primary colours to mix secondary and tertiary colours. In maths, they continued to calculate multiplication and division sentences.



Y5

Year 5 have kicked off their exciting learning journey into forces! So far, they've been



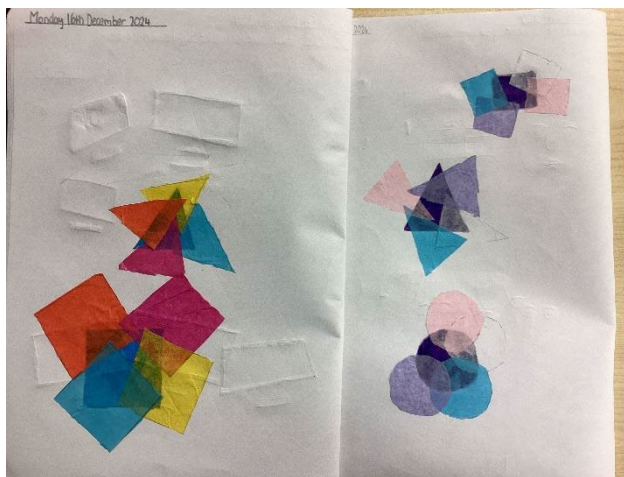
exploring the concepts of friction and air resistance, two key forces that affect how objects move. In their lessons, they have learned about the factors that impact friction, including the types of surfaces in contact and the weight of the objects involved. They discovered that smoother surfaces create less friction, while rougher surfaces increase it. Year 5 will continue to investigate other forces in the coming weeks, and we can't wait to see how they apply what they've learned in their hands-on experiments!



Y6

Year 6 have been focusing on different styles of art this half term and have spent this week considering how we can use collage to create a piece of work. They have learnt that a collage is a piece of art made from different pieces of paper, photos and other materials. We also considered that collages might also have painting and drawing on them and artists spend time arranging the materials and trying out different ideas, before sticking them onto a surface. Year 6 used this information and thought out a simple shape and ways that they could use tissue paper to superimpose different version of it on top of one another. The children thought really carefully about their colours and how they would work together, ensuring that the final piece looked effective. All of year 6 worked really hard on this and were really determined to create a piece of art work using the collage style.





Merry Christmas

Up-coming diary dates:

Date	Event
Monday 6th January 2025	Children return to school
Wednesday 8 th January	Y6 in church
Wednesday 15th January	Y4 Class Assembly
	Y5 in church
Wednesday 22nd January	Y6 Class Assembly (repeat)
	Y4 in church
Wednesday 29 th January	Y3 in church
Wednesday 5 th February	Y2 in church
Sunday 9 th February	Reception class welcome service at the Church
Tuesday 11 th February	Safer Internet Day
Wednesday 12th February	Y1 Class Assembly
	YR in church
Monday 17 th – Friday 21 st February	Half Term



AFTERSCHOOL GYMNASTICS CLUB

Afterschool Gymnastics at St Paulinus School continues Tuesdays 3.25pm – 4.20pm, within the school hall, during the school term time only.

Starting back Tuesday 7th January 2025 – 11th February 2025

This 6-week course for £42.00

Spaces will have to be limited and available for all students in Reception- Year 6.

Children will use a variety of equipment, learning and developing their gymnastic skills, core balance and strengthening in a safe, fun, familiar environment.

Led by Lynsey & Marie, fully qualified British Gymnastics Coaches.

Please email tonylins2008@aol.com for booking details.



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.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College