



**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 29<sup>th</sup> November 2024**



It has been a very busy few weeks here at school and we can't quite believe that December is almost here! Please look out for all the special events which are happening at school during this festive season, dates are on the planner given out at the end of the last academic year and in September for our new parents as well as being on our website. We look forward to seeing you and thank you in advance for your continued valuable support.

We are excited to announce that our School Council is now up and running, with the help of Mrs Scudder! Their first newsletter is attached at the end which will introduce all the members to you and give you details of their fundraising focus this year 😊.

Kind regards

**Mrs Rhodes and Mrs Sukonik**



## **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](mailto: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.*

## **Christmas Fair:**



The PTA elves have been hard at work organising the Christmas Fair, taking place on **Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December** (next week!) straight after school.

There's a rumour that Father Christmas himself will be in the building checking his list to see who has been naughty or nice – get your tickets now from the PTA so that you are guaranteed a slot to see him – if you can't find the link the PTA have sent out, simply scan the QR code on the poster outside

school. There will be lots of stalls and games to play in the school hall as

well as the big raffle where you can be in with a chance to win some fantastic prizes just in time for Christmas!

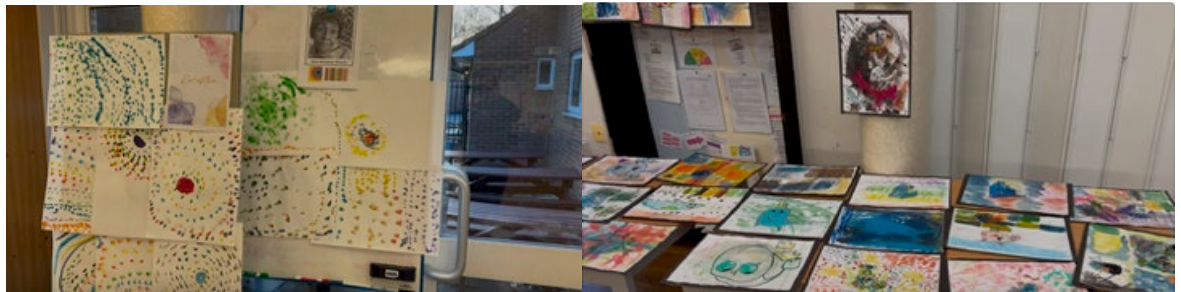


Also available for our children with sensory or SEN needs is a quieter slot earlier in the day. This can also be booked via the PTA. As this is a much quieter session, only children who are on the SEN register or with specific needs known to the school, can book in.

Please do come along and support this fundraising effort for school!

### Black History Month Exhibition:

Thank you to everyone who came along to the children's exhibition celebrating Black History. They have all been working so hard and it was wonderful to see so many of you after school.



### KS1 Nativity a reminder:

On **Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> 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 18<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:admin@st-paulinus.bexley.sch.uk) by **Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> 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.

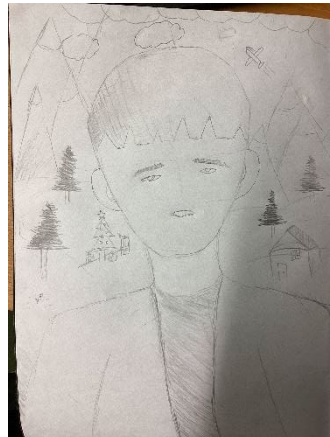


### Christmas Post Box

If your child would like to send a Christmas card to their friends in school, our Christmas post box will be open from Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.

### News from Year 6:

Year 6 have been celebrating their art work this week by focusing on using pencils to create portraits and self-portraits. They have been considering scale and placement using guidelines and mirrors to help with accuracy. We are very impressed with their focus and attention to detail and hope that they are proud of themselves!



### News from Year 5:



Year 5 had an exciting trip to the British Museum to deepen their understanding of Ancient Greece. They explored the stunning Greek temples and took part in a series of fun and challenging quizzes. The children had the opportunity to see statues of various Greek gods and goddesses, learning about their myths and significance. The trip was a fantastic way for them to bring their classroom





learning to life and explore the fascinating world of Ancient Greece in more detail!

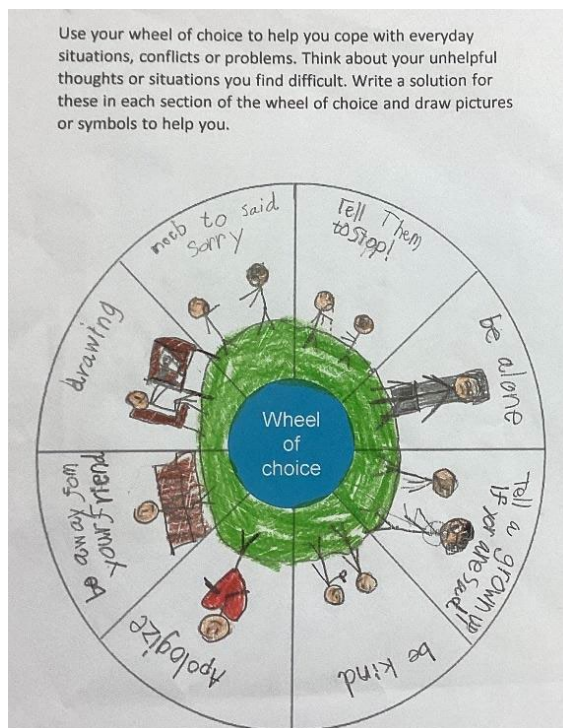
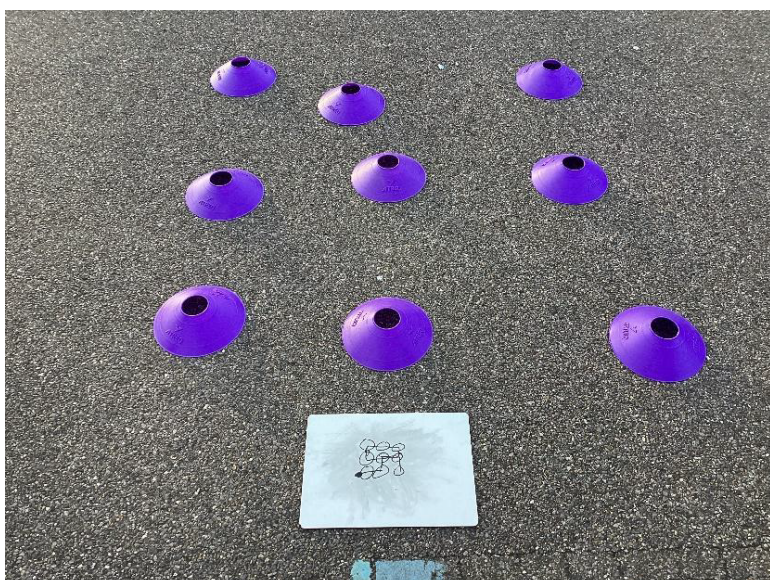
### News from Year 4:

Year 4 are thoroughly enjoying their PE topics of orienteering and levels and directions. During levels and directions lessons, year 4 have practiced moving their body with purpose and flow using low, medium and high levels. They then transferred their learning onto apparatus. In science, the children completed a science experience to investigate the affect mass has on volume. They continue to use the iPads to practice times tables on Times Table Rockstars.



### News from Year 3:

Year 3 have loved taking part in their orienteering this past week, learning how to navigate around a space following maps. They set each other some very challenging courses to follow! In PSHE we have been working to understand how we respond to difficult emotional situations using our own wheels of choice.





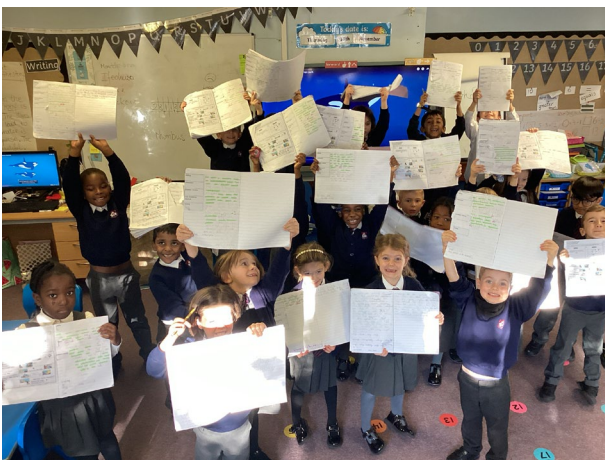
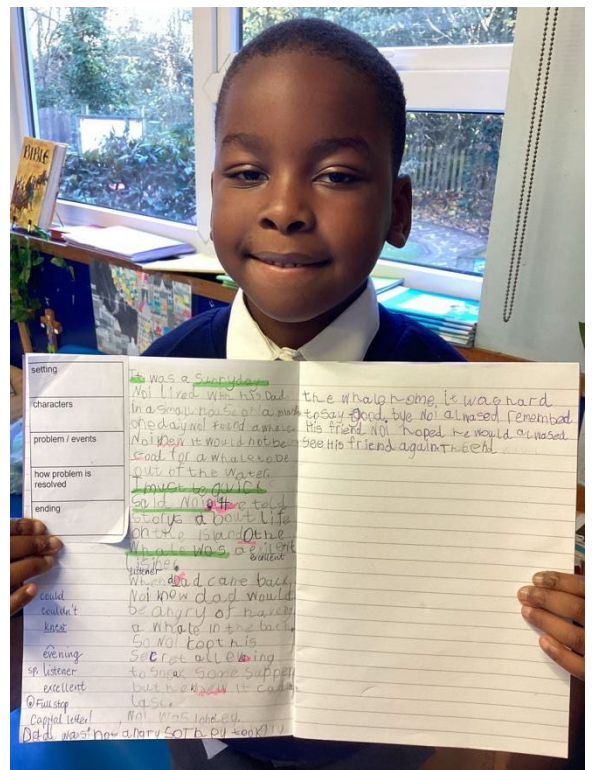
## News from Year 2:

We took part in a Circle Time activity to discuss any challenges and worries we have every day, as part of our Anti Bullying Week. We enjoyed listening to each other with respect and learning the difference between being bullied (STOP: several times on purpose) and someone making a bad choice one day.



## News from Year 1:

In Year 1, the children explored the touching story of The Storm Whale, diving into themes of captivity and the importance of freedom in the wild. Through thoughtful discussions, they examined why the whale should return to the ocean rather than remain confined. Each pupil had a go at crafting a narrative describing a setting, characters, problem, solution and an ending. All of the children did an excellent job using some of the newly learned words and expressions.



## News from Reception:

Year R had an exciting start to last week as they went on their very first educational visit. The children's behaviour was impeccable as they walked and travelled by bus to Trinity Baptist Church in Bexleyheath. Once there, we were met with a very friendly and familiar face – Mrs Roach! She explained to the children what will happen to their Christmas shoeboxes next and presented us with a certificate. Thank-you to all the parents and children for the donations made and a very big thank-you to the parents, grandparents and parent helpers who accompanied us on our visit - we are very grateful!



## Up-coming diary dates:

Date	Event
Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> December	Y5 Class Assembly
	Y2 attending church
Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> December	Y1 Trip to Hall Place
6 <sup>th</sup> December	PTA Christmas Fair There will be no after school provision on this day.
Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> December	Y1 attending church
	<b>Wild Hair Wednesday</b> £1 donation
Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas jumper and lunch day!
Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup> December	KS1 Nativity to parents, 2pm & 6pm
Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> December	2pm whole school carol service at St Paulinus Church
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> December	<b>Children finish at 1:30 for Christmas holidays – no afterschool provision</b>
Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> January 2025	Children return to school
Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup> January	Y4 Class Assembly
Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> January	Y6 Class Assembly (repeat)





# School council

St Paulinus are proud to present the school council representatives for 2024-2025.



Gracie

Xaira

Mikayla

Amelia

Lois

Harry



Toni

Olivia

Ariella

Elsie

Toni

Shiloh

This year, the school council will be working with Mrs Scudder to raise money to make improvements in the school. We would like to have a fence built along the car park to allow parents into the playground at the end of the day for collection. In making this improvement, we hope to build an even stronger bond between parents and teaching staff.

Estimated cost: £1600

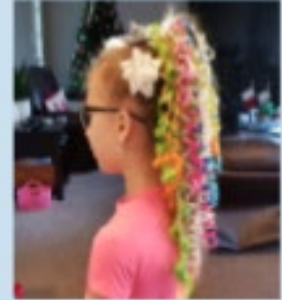
Suggested works:



Please see below about our first fence fundraiser.

## *Wild hair Wednesday!*

Wednesday 11th December



*WOW* us with your *WILD* hair!

£1 donation handed to class teacher.

*Larger donations welcomed.*

Normal school uniform must be worn.





# 10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

## SUPPORTING CHILDREN TO MANAGE CONFLICT EFFECTIVELY

Disagreement is a natural part of human interaction. This can seem particularly true when dealing with the sensitive issues that arise for secondary-aged pupils. This guide brings you 10 top tips which can help prevent conflicts arising or mitigate their impacts when they do.

### 1 INSPIRE RESPONSIBILITY

The best approaches to conflict resolution are restorative. This means that rather than adults imposing their own solutions on children who have had a disagreement, they should work with them. Allowing them to handle it can feel empowering to young people and will hopefully teach them to manage their own disputes as they move towards adult life.

### 2 ACTIVELY LISTEN

Remember to give every child the opportunity to voice their opinion, regardless of their age, stage of development, special educational needs, or other individual requirements. This can be done using a variety of different communication methods. For example, some children find it easier to express how they're feeling using pictures and drawings, while some prefer to write their ideas down.

### 3 BE CURIOUS

Demonstrating how to approach conflicts with a mature and empathetic mindset can set a good example to children, which can prove a useful skill for them later in life. Model this by asking inquisitive-yet-respectful questions about the issue at hand. Really try to understand where all parties are coming from, and share information between them when and where appropriate. This should encourage young people to mirror your behaviour, teaching them to be curious about the other sides of a conflict, and thus being more willing to hear them out.

### 4 PROMOTE DIFFERENCES

Children and young people may come from a range of different backgrounds and cultures or have protected characteristics which may cause them to see things from various angles. Having a school and community culture which celebrates and embraces diversity in all things – including diversity of opinion – means people are more likely to feel heard and understood.

### 5 BE SUPPORTIVE

Discussions may be sensitive or, in some cases, even trigger negative emotions. Pupils may have mixed feelings about the issue at hand. They could be nervous or anxious before even coming to the table to talk about it. Try and create a space where all parties feel safe, welcome and comfortable. Allow breaks and time-outs if the conversation gets heated, to prevent anyone from saying something they might later regret.

### 6 MENTALLY PREPARE

Think of how you can approach the conflict in a calm and regulated manner. Consider taking some extra time to prepare beforehand and finding somewhere quiet to relax. Even if you're not directly involved with the conflict, mediating can be a stressful experience in its own right. Make sure you're hydrated, fed and comfortable, and do the same for the young people involved. These may seem like insignificant factors, but it's important to remember that physical discomfort can trigger dysregulation, which can make it much harder to have a calm, productive conversation.

### 7 GET YOUR FACTS STRAIGHT

Make sure you have all the facts, figures and timelines of the situation prior to the discussion. This should be done as objectively as possible with the aim of resolving the ongoing issue. You may want to risk assess any problems that may arise and look for possible solutions during your preparation time.

### 8 STICK TO THE POINT

Make the reason for, and purpose of, any meetings or communications clear prior to setting them up. Provide an agenda. Act as a neutral chairperson who can keep all parties on track. Make sure everyone has a chance to air their concerns about the issue being discussed and try to avoid talking about unrelated incidents. Close off with some action points, detailing what everyone can do to resolve the conflict.

### 9 BE SOLUTION FOCUSED

It's often said that the art of diplomacy is about giving others ladders to climb down. This means the main aim of any meeting or correspondence should be finding mutually acceptable and amicable solutions. Parents, carers, teachers and pupils should be aware there may need to be a compromise for the common good – and, most importantly, the good of the children you're supporting.

### 10 DON'T IGNORE OR AVOID CONFLICT

No one benefits from allowing concerns and grievances to fester, as this can lead to further division and mistrust, and ultimately doesn't help the children involved. Use our tips to open meaningful lines of communication. These should help you find a suitable resolution and minimise the number of conflicts you're faced with mediating overall.

### Meet Our Expert

Catrina Lowri is a neurodivergent former SENCO and advisory teacher. She founded her company, Neuroteachers, to improve inclusion for neurodivergent people. She works with nurseries, schools, colleges and businesses providing consultancy, training and mentoring to create belonging and understanding for people with the full range of neurotypes.



#WakeUpWednesday®

The National College®

Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/supporting-children-to-manage-conflict-effectively>

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