



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



Tuesday 25th February 2025

Last term was a whirlwind of monitoring: lessons, curriculum delivery and content for the staff but the effort that children have put into their learning has really stood out – well done everyone for your commitment to your learning this term.

As we return after the half term break, there is a renewed focus on our school values and ethos as we begin to think, what does it mean to be a member of our St Paulinus community? We will be talking to all the children and using our parent focus group to record your viewpoint as well as continuing to work on our understanding of British Values through worship and PSHE lessons.

Please do keep an eye out for diary dates – there are lots of educational visits and special services and events planned for next term.

Thank you to all our staff for their hard work and support this last term, your enthusiasm for teaching and our children has not been dampened by a term of dark mornings and evenings as we've all come in and out of school although I know we are all looking forward to brighter Spring days being so close!

We hope you all enjoyed a refreshing break over the half term and look forward to continuing to work together to support our school community.

Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it.

Proverbs 22:6

Mrs Rhodes

Mrs Sukonik

Principal

Assistant Principal

Parent's evening:

We look forward to welcoming you into school for Parent's evening on Tuesday 18th and Thursday 20th March. Appointments will shortly go live on MCAS for you to book your 10 minute slot with your child's class teacher to discuss their academic progress. Please do make sure that you receive email confirmation of your booked time, although we will do our best, we cannot guarantee we will be able to accommodate those of you without appointments on the evening. If you are experiencing issues with MCAS, please contact the school office to see if the booking has confirmed for you.

SEN 1:1 Parent's meetings

If you have a child who is receiving additional support to access the curriculum, you will shortly be invited to a virtual 1:1 SEN meeting with their class teacher and the SENCo. Each class will be given an allocated day so that we can arrange teacher cover but flexible timings within each slot will be offered. Please contact the ladies in the school office as soon as possible as this will be booked directly through them.

Parent Focus Group:

Staff and Governors are keen to work closely with parents and carers to help shape the future of our school. If you can spare an hour and would like to be part of a group helping to play a key role in the consultation process, ensuring the school considers a range of views and feedback before making strategic decisions, please join us on Wednesday 12th March. This very first session will be looking at Parental Engagement across the school. We very much look forward to talking with you all.

Calling all artists - exciting new competition

Just before the half term break, we sent out information to you all about this exciting competition. See the attached poster for more details – we look forward to seeing your fabulous work!



News from Year 6:

Year 6 have been working incredibly hard to complete their assessments and we are very proud of their efforts.

Over the last three weeks, we have been thinking about and creating structures, using spaghetti and marshmallows to build them. The children have had to consider stability, shape, structure and purpose as well as thinking about how they can problem solve when it comes to withstanding weight being applied or having to hang in the air. The children have thoroughly enjoyed designing their own towers and have been really creative when considering its purpose, weight and height as well as the land it is built upon.

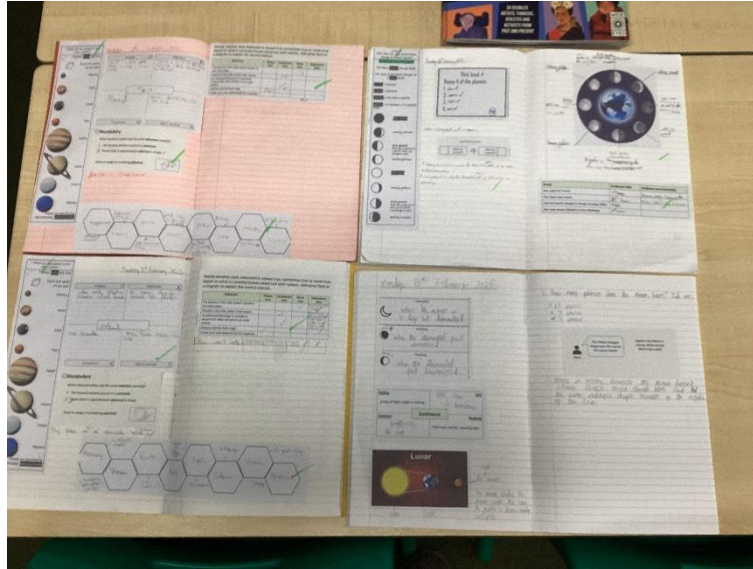
We have also been focusing a lot on our emotions and have made emotion maps to demonstrate different feelings we have and what actions can lead to these. They have helped us to really understand what may trigger us to feel happy as well as sad and what we can do to help us move through emotions.



News from Year 5:

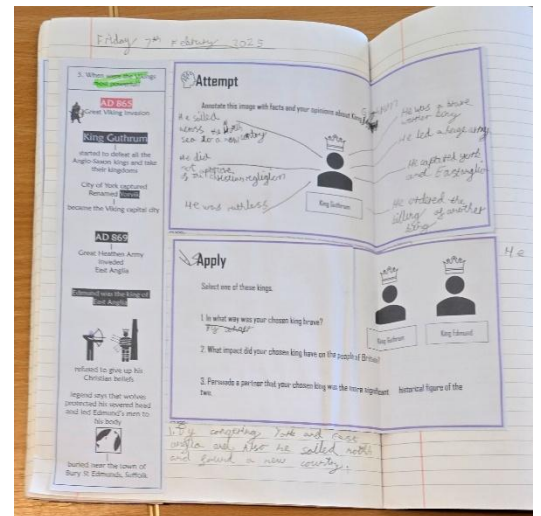
Year 5 have been exploring the wonders of space and have officially become astronomers! In their science lessons, they've been learning all about the planets in our solar system. They now know the order of the planets, from Mercury all the way to Neptune! One of the most exciting facts they discovered is that Saturn has around 82 moons—how amazing is that?!

They've also been studying the moon and its phases. While the moon doesn't actually change shape, it appears to change depending on whether it is waxing or waning. This happens because of the way sunlight reflects off the moon as it orbits the Earth. It's been an out-of-this-world experience for Year 5, and they're excited to share all their new knowledge about our universe!



News from Year 4:

Year 4 have been diving into the fascinating history of the Viking incursion and invasions of Britain! Over the past few weeks, Year 4 pupils have been learning about the Vikings' dramatic journey to Britain, their fierce raids, and the lasting impact they had on the country. Through exciting activities such as creating Viking longships, acting out key battles, and exploring Viking myths and legends, the children have gained a deeper understanding of this thrilling chapter in history. It's been an engaging and interactive experience, and the students are excited to share their newfound knowledge with the school community.



News from Year 3:

Year 3 have been continuing their learning about rocks, delving deeper into the rock cycle of the earth and how the three types of rocks are connected. Did you know that the rock cycle never ends and some rocks take millions of years to form?

In History we have been growing our understanding of the Romans and getting to know the Celts and early Britain after the Iron Age.

News from Year 2:

In year 2 we have enjoyed learning about measurements. We hunted for objects that were longer than a meter in the classroom. On Thursday 6th February we enjoyed a live event with author Joseph Coelho inspired by his picture book 'Our Tower'.



News from Year 1:

In the Year 1 assembly, the children showcased several exciting topics! They started by discussing how to write a recount, focusing on using the past tense to describe events accurately. Then, they solved some fun maths problems, practicing addition and subtraction with numbers up to 20. They also took an imaginative journey through the world's most extreme climates, learning about the harsh conditions in places like the Sahara Desert in Africa and Rainforests in South America and Antarctica. Next, they visited the exciting kingdom of animals, discovering amazing creatures from all over the world. A big thank you to the parents, families, and children for their support and enthusiasm – everyone was so excited to be part of year 1's assembly!



News from Reception:

Year R have had a very creative fortnight before half term, full of painting, collaging and crafting. From our book *The Wonder*, we have been focusing on things that we wonder about and have started to ask questions. We have also painted pictures to show off our great imaginations and we have also looked at tea-staining paper to create a muted brown effect.

We have focused on Chicken Clicking and have been learning about the importance of staying safe online. We have also learned the importance of asking permission before buying anything online and knowing that we must not share personal details online. We have enjoyed crafting an array of Valentines gifts for our loved ones and hope they enjoy receiving them as much as we have enjoyed creating them!



Up-coming diary dates:

Date	Event
Monday 17th – Friday 21st Feb	Half Term
Monday 24 th February	Children back in school
Wednesday 26 th February	Y1 Church
Friday 28 th February	Coffee and chat! 9am
Monday 3 rd March	SEN 1:1 parent meetings
Tuesday 4 th March	SEN 1:1 parent meetings
Wednesday 5 th March	Ash Wednesday service 2pm in church
Thursday 6 th March	World Book Day – dress up
Monday 10 th March	SEN 1:1 parent meetings
Tuesday 11 th March	SEN 1:1 parent meetings
Wednesday 12 th March	9 -10am Parent focus group meeting
	Y6 Church
Tuesday 18 th March	Parent's evening
Wednesday 19 th March	Y5 Church
Thursday 20 th March	Parent's evening
Wednesday 2 nd April	Autism Awareness Day

	Y3 Church
Friday 4th April	End of term – children finish at 1:30 No afterschool provision
Monday 7th – 21st April	Easter Holidays
Tuesday 22nd April	Start of Summer term Children return to school
Wednesday 23 rd April	Whole school Easter service 09:15am in church



- Advisory Service for Autism

Parent/Carer Drop in session

An opportunity to speak to members of the Autism Advisory team for information and advice. For families pre or post diagnosis

🕒 Wed 26th February 2025, 10 AM - 12 PM

Crayford Community Centre
175 Townhall Square
DA1 4FN

For more information please visit
<https://www.bexleylocaloffer.uk/Services/5553>



Saint Paulinus CE Primary School

Calling All Emerging Artists ages 4-11!



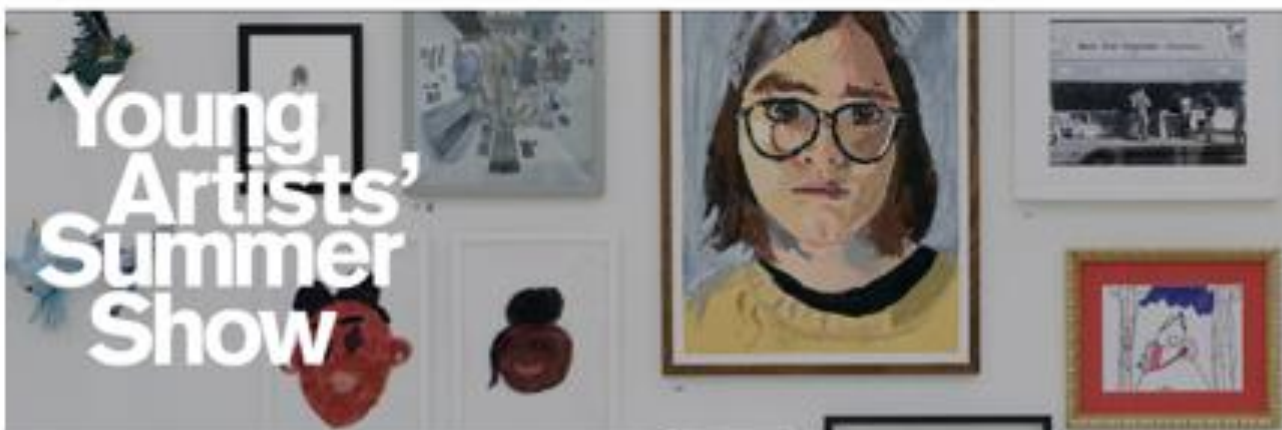
RA

Young
Artists'
Summer
Show

www.youngartist.royalacademy.org.uk

Are you ready to showcase your creativity and passion? The chance to enter this year's exciting art competition of the Royal Academy of Arts is here! We invite all emerging artists to participate in the competition. Make sure to submit your artwork to Mrs Budzowska-White by Friday 28th February 2025.

Whether you're capturing raw emotions, abstract visions, or a personal story, this is your moment to shine and share your unique perspective with the world.



Submit a piece that you are truly proud of, on a separate page write a title of your piece and don't forget to write a brief description of the inspiration behind it.

This is not just about art; it's about expressing who you are and what you believe in.

Now in its seventh year, the Young Artists' Summer Show is a free, open submission exhibition for students aged 4-18 studying in the UK. Artworks are judged by a panel of artists and arts professionals, with selected artworks displayed online and on-site at the Royal Academy of Arts.

Kind regards,

Mrs Budzowska-White

Year 1 Teacher /Art & DT Leader

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

SUPPORTING CHILDREN TO RETURN TO ROUTINE

Most of us look forward to the school holidays as an opportunity to slow down and relax, stay up later, sleep in and generally approach life in a more leisurely fashion. However, this does mean that returning to normal school-day routines can feel like an uphill battle. Here are some practical tips to ease that transition, reduce stress and set children up for success.

1 START SMALL AND EARLY

Begin reintroducing elements of the school routine at least a few days before term starts. Gradually adjust bedtime, wake-up times and mealtimes to be more in line with school-day rhythms. Small changes can make a big difference in avoiding last-minute panic and helping children to readjust smoothly.

2 REVISIT THE SCHEDULE

Involve your child in mapping out their daily routine so they understand what's going to change. Visual tools like charts or calendars can help keeping to that schedule feel more engaging. When children understand and anticipate their personal timetable, they feel more secure and in control.

3 CREATE A SLEEP PLAN

Sleep can present one of the biggest challenges, as children can sometimes become night owls, prone to staying up late during the holidays. Limit screen time before bed and encourage winding-down activities like reading or listening to calming music. A restful night's sleep improves focus, mood and overall wellbeing, making mornings much smoother.

4 ENCOURAGE FRIENDSHIPS

Help your child to reconnect with school friends by organising playdates, catch-ups or arranging to go to after-school clubs. Re-establishing social bonds can make the return to school more exciting and less intimidating, allowing youngsters to focus on the positive aspects of the new term.

5 GRANT RESPONSIBILITY

Give children control over some aspects of the morning routine. Maybe they could be in charge of waking everyone up, serving breakfast or choosing the radio station that everyone listens to while getting ready. Something that gives them a sense of ownership over their morning schedule can help them view the task as one they've chosen to do, rather than being told to do it.

6 FOCUS ON NUTRITION

Make sure children are receiving balanced meals (with regular healthy snacks to boost energy and concentration), putting them in the best possible state to return to education. A nutritious breakfast is particularly crucial for a positive start to the day. Involve children in meal planning to make it enjoyable and collaborative.

7 COMMUNICATE OPENLY

Talk with your child about how they're feeling about returning to school: whether they're excited, anxious or a mix of both. Validating their emotions helps them feel supported and understood. Try asking them about the things they're looking forward to at school, such as seeing their friends again. Focusing on the positives can be useful for children struggling with change.

8 RECONNECT WITH LEARNING

Ease children back into a learning mindset by incorporating fun, educational activities into their home life. Reading a favourite book, playing games that involve maths or discussing an interesting topic can gently reawaken their focus and prime their minds to learn, which can have helpful impacts on their academic performance.

9 PREP TOGETHER

Turn preparation into a shared activity, to shoulder the responsibility together and provide support where needed. Pack school bags, lay out uniforms and plan lunch the night before. This not only reduces early morning stress but also gives children a sense of ownership over being ready for school.

10 BE PATIENT AND FLEXIBLE

Transitions take time, and every child adjusts differently: so, it's important to stay calm and supportive, especially if they're reacting adversely to the change in their daily life. Be ready to tweak routines as needed, and work with the child to make the return to education as easy as possible for them. Patience can go a long way to setting a positive tone for the new school year.

Meet Our Expert

Becky Dawson is an education expert with a focus on mental health and wellbeing. Passionate about empowering adults who spend time with and care for young people, Becky specialises in creating practical strategies that promote wellbeing and resilience in children during life's transitions.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

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

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