

St Paul's Catholic Primary School Newsletter



Friday 25th September 2026

'Our school is a place of learning, a place of love'

Dear Parents and Carers,

The month of September seems to have flown by, and it has been wonderful to see how positively all of our children have settled into their new year groups. They have made such a fantastic start to the new academic year, and we are incredibly proud of them. At the beginning of this week, we welcomed parents and carers into school for our OPAL Parent Play Day. It was lovely to see so many of you joining in and experiencing our OPAL provision alongside your children. Thank you for your overwhelmingly positive feedback and for taking the time to share your thoughts with us. We are extremely proud of our OPAL provision and the opportunities it provides for children to develop independence, creativity, resilience and positive relationships through play.

In school, we have also been focusing on embedding our new Behaviour Curriculum. This is an important part of our commitment to ensuring that all children understand our expectations and are explicitly taught the behaviours and social skills they need to thrive. The children have also been voting and putting themselves forward for the different pupil voice roles and our groups are now formed – see below in the newsletter for an update

Next week, we will begin a very special week of celebrations as we lead up to the feast day of our Trust Saint, St Francis of Assisi. We are currently celebrating the Year of St Francis, making this a particularly special time for our school and Trust community. St Francis reminds us of the importance of living simply, caring for creation, loving others and being peacemakers. Throughout the week, the children will take part in a range of activities, reflections and celebrations linked to these themes. We look forward to seeing our school community come together to learn more about St Francis and consider how we can live out his example in our own lives. As we enter the month of October, our Chaplaincy Team will also be leading a Parent Rosary Breakfast every Friday at 8:45am. We warmly welcome parents and carers to join us for a time of prayer, reflection and fellowship as we pray the Rosary together.

Finally, thank you for taking part in our parent survey before the summer holidays, the results and next steps can be found below. Thank you, as always, for your continued support and for the wonderful partnership you share with us. It has been a very positive start to the year, and we look forward to all that the coming weeks will bring. God bless,

Mrs Worton-Geer

Executive Headteacher



Autumn Term Dates 2026

September 2026	
Week Commencing 28th September 2026	SEN IEP meetings with class teachers and parents (parents of SEN children will be sent a day/time)
	St Francis of Assisi week (our Trust Saint)
Tuesday 29th September 2026	2:40pm – Reading afternoon with parents/ carer in school
October 2026	
Friday's in October	8:45am – Parent Rosary Breakfast led by Chaplaincy Team
Thursday 1st October 2026	Launch Black History Month
Friday 2nd October 2026	CAFOD Harvest Fast Day
Friday 2nd October 2026	9:15am – Year 5 Harvest festival service to parents and school community
Week commencing Monday 5th October 2026	Cycle to school week
Tuesday 6th October 2026 Thursday 8th October 2026	Parents evening – please book via Arbor (see the office if you are having difficulties booking)
Monday 12th October 2026	9:30am - EYFS open morning, presentation and school tours for new Reception and Nursery applicants 2027
Week commencing Monday 12th October 2026	Rosary morning led by Chaplaincy Team (in school)
Tuesday 13th October 2026	2:45pm – Year 5 PGL meeting for parents
Thursday 15th October 2026	Year 6 Trust Maths challenge (selected children)
Friday 16th October 2026	St Luke House Feast Day – celebrations for St Luke house led by House Captains in school
Sunday 18th October 2026- Wednesday 21st October 2026	PGL year 6 trip
Monday 19th October 2026	Whole School History and Geography Project Week
Tuesday 20th October 2026	Enrichment morning (in school)
Friday 23rd October 2026	Non-uniform day for a donation towards our building fund
Monday 2nd and Tuesday 3rd November 2026	INSET day – school closed to children
Wednesday 4th November 2026	Children return after half term
Wednesday 4th November 2026	Year 6 parents SATs meeting and workshop (reading) 9am

Reminders

Coats and Welly Boots

Please ensure your child has a named coat and a pair of named welly boots in school every day. You may also like to provide a change of socks.

Term Dates 2026-2027

Our dates for 2026-2027 are now on our website [St Paul's Catholic Primary School - Term Dates](#)

More news and information...

Online Safety

Please find an online safety guide below. further support can be found via our website [St Paul's Catholic Primary School - Online Safety](#)

Spotlight

Year 4

Year 4 have been looking at teeth as part of their science work. They enjoyed making a model of the mouth and then they shaped marshmallows into the different types of teeth

Year 2

In Science, Year 2 have been learning about the characteristics of living things. The children explored how we can tell if something is living, dead or has never been alive and enjoyed a treasure hunt to find and identify examples in our environment.

Here is a list of helpful sites that you may be interested in.

- [CEOP Online Safety](#)
- [Net Aware](#) - find out about the games your child is playing online
- [National Literacy Trust](#) - ideas for helping your child's literacy
- [Think! Road Safety](#) - Road Safety information site
- [Barnados](#)
- [ChildLine](#)
- [Rainbow Trust](#) - provides support for children with a life threatening or terminal illness
- [NSPCC](#)
- [NHS Oral Health Advice](#) - oral health and tooth brushing
- [Catholic Church in England and Wales - Catholic Bishops' Conference](#) (cbcew.org.uk) – Catholic Bishops website

Lord, help us to follow the example of St Francis.

Help us to choose what is good rather than what simply makes us comfortable.

Help us to notice people who need our kindness.

Help us to care for the beautiful world You have given us.

Amen.

Our Parish Church – St Paul's Mass times

Saturday – 5pm

Sunday – 9am and 11am

<https://parish.rodow.org.uk/cheshunt/>



Website: [St Paul's Catholic Primary School - Home](#)

Contact:
01992 635060



Email address:
admin@stpauls373.herts.sch.uk

St Paul's Catholic Primary School
Parent Survey 2025–26: Key Highlights

Thank you to everyone who took the time to complete our parent survey. Your feedback helps us celebrate what we do well and identify where we can continue to improve. We are delighted that the results show parents have a high level of confidence in the school across almost all areas.

What parents told us

Children are happy and safe

- 94% of parents agree that their child is happy at school.
- 92% say their child feels safe at school.
- Both results are above the national average.

A positive learning environment

- 90% believe their child is doing well at school.
- 88% feel well informed about their child's learning and progress.

Strong Catholic values Parents were especially positive about the school's Catholic life:

- 96% understand and support the school's Catholic mission.
- 92% recognise the school's strong Catholic identity and ethos.
- 90% agree the school supports their child's spiritual and moral development.
- 92% feel staff are positive role models.

Areas where we perform above the national average

Parents rated St Paul's higher than the national average for:

- Children's happiness at school (+5%)
- Feeling safe (+2%)
- Responding to concerns (+11%)
- Children's progress at school (+3%)
- Communication about learning (+3%)

These results show that parents value the caring relationships, high-quality teaching and strong communication across the school.

Areas we will continue to develop

As a school committed to continuous improvement, we will focus on:

- Continuing to strengthen support and communication for families of children with SEND.
- Streamline communication platforms and partnership with parents including introducing our new parent forum (details to follow)
- Providing even more opportunities for pupils to participate in clubs and enrichment activities.
- Continuing to develop the curriculum so that children experience a broad and engaging range of subjects.

Thank you

We are grateful for your ongoing support and partnership. Your feedback confirms that St Paul's is a happy, safe and nurturing school where children are encouraged to flourish academically, spiritually and personally. We will continue to listen to parents and work together to ensure every child receives the very best education and care.



St Paul's Catholic Primary School

Pupil voice groups 2026-2027

<u>Wellbeing Ambassadors</u>	<u>Lighthouse keepers (Upper KS2 Y4/5/6)</u>
Year 1 - Sophia and Noah J Year 2 - Lailah and Alfie Year 3 - Siena Y and Ivan Year 4 – Trey and Maya Year 5 – Demi-Rose and Nicholas Year 6 - Eden and Harrison	Year 4 – Zuri, Isabella, Luke, Ethan C Year 5 - Neave, Ezriella, Ian, Raniero Year 6 - Elena, Lena, Gideon, Michael
<u>Chaplaincy team</u>	<u>Eco warriors</u>
Elsie Barin Zanna Luca Naeto Harrison Siena Ruby Annie	Daniel Elena Ethan Zanna Simon Zummine
<u>House captains</u>	<u>School council</u>
St John - Michael Robyn St Matthew - Naeto Myla St Luke - Elliot Annie St Mark - Elsie Freddie	Year 3 Marcin and Ronnie Year 4 Trey and Olivia Year 5 Kayleigh and Harrison Year 6 Barin and Ruby <u>Oracy ambassadors</u> Annie Naeto <u>Maths ambassadors</u> Year 3 – Matteo and Sienna Y Year 4 – Emilio and Olivia Year 5 - Lin and Sienna Year 6 - Minnie and Luca

MANAGING SCREEN TIME

According to the latest stats, people aged between 8 and 17 spend four hours on digital devices during an average day. Obviously, a new year is ideal for fresh starts and renewed efforts – so lots of families are trying to cut down their combined screen time right now, creating more moments to connect with each other and relying less on gadgets to have fun. Our top tips on reducing screen time are for everyone, so you can get your whole family involved in turning over a new leaf this year!

GET OUT AND ABOUT

If the weather's decent, spend some time in the garden or go for a walk. Even a stroll to the local shop would do: the main thing is getting some fresh air and a break from your screen.

TRY A TIMED TRIAL

When you're taking a screen break to do a different activity or a chore, turn it into a game by setting yourself a timer. Can you complete your task before the alarm goes off?

GO DIGITAL DETOX

Challenge yourself and your family to take time off from screens, finding other things to do. You could start off with half a day, then build up to a full day or even an entire weekend.

LEAD BY EXAMPLE

Let your family see you successfully managing your own screen time. You'll be showing them the way, and it might stop some of those grumbles when you do want to go online.

AGREE TECH-FREE ZONES

Nominate some spots at home where devices aren't allowed. Anywhere your family gathers together, like at the table or in the living room, could become a 'no phone zone'.

HOLD A SCREEN TIME AMNESTY

As a family, agree specific windows when it's OK to use devices. This should help everyone to balance time on phones or gaming with enjoying quality moments together.

BE MINDFUL OF TIME

Stay aware of how long you've been on your device for. Controlling how much time you spend in potentially stressful areas of the internet – like social media platforms – can also boost your wellbeing.

'PARK' PHONES OVERNIGHT

Set up an overnight charging station for everyone's devices – preferably away from bedrooms. That means less temptation for late-night scrolling.

SWITCH ON DND

Research shows that micro-distractions like message alerts and push notifications can chip away at our concentration levels. Put devices on 'do not disturb' until you're less busy.

TAKE A FAMILY TECH BREAK

Set aside certain times when the whole family puts their gadgets away and enjoys an activity together: playing a board game, going for a walk or just having a chat.

SOCIALISE WITHOUT SCREENS

When you're with friends, try not to automatically involve phones, TVs or other tech. Having company can be loads more fun if your attention isn't being split.

WIND DOWN PROPERLY

Try staying off phones, consoles, tablets and so on just before you go to sleep. Reading or just getting comfy in bed for a while can give you a much more restful night.

