St Paul's Catholic Primary School

Newsletter

Friday 13th November 2026

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

Dear Parents and Carers,

This week, on Wednesday, we marked Remembrance Day with a special service led by Father Clement and the Year 6 Chaplaincy Team. Across the school, children have been learning about the importance of remembrance and why we wear poppies. They decorated their own poppies and shared thoughtful prayers, messages and reflections, showing care and respect for those we remember. We are very proud of the kindness and thoughtfulness our children have shown. We will remember them.

Earlier on in the week, on Tuesday, we received a visit from our OPAL assessor who completed our final OPAL audit and awarded us the platinum level which is an outstanding achievement and the highest award level. This award would not have been possible without the support of our entire school community. Thank you to our parents and carers for your ongoing encouragement, generous donations of resources, and enthusiastic participation in events such as our Parent Play Day. Your support has played a vital role in the success of the programme. A special thank you must also go to our dedicated staff team and our OPAL Lead, whose hard work, creativity and determination have driven this journey forward. Their commitment to providing rich, engaging play opportunities has made a remarkable difference to our children's daily experiences. OPAL has truly transformed playtimes at St Paul's with children are more active, imaginative and engaged in their play, and we have seen children develop confidence, resilience, creativity and social skills through the high-quality play opportunities.

Throughout the week it has been lovely to welcome parents and carers to our open phonic sessions in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2. We hope you found these useful. We do have a range of resources and information on our website about our phonics scheme, St Paul's Catholic Primary School - Phonics & Reading. Reading is such a powerful tool and unlocks a lifetime of learning and enjoyment, thank you for your ongoing support at home in this area of the curriculum.

Finally, just a reminder that we have school photos on Monday, all children should be in full school uniform for this. Wishing you all a lovely weekend.

God bless,
Mrs Worton-Geer
Executive Headteacher



Autumn Term Dates 2026

Monday 16th November	School photos (full school uniform for all children)
Week commencing 16th November	Road safety week
Week commencing 16th November	Year 2 charity week
Tuesday 17th November	2:40pm – Year 3 topic sharing afternoon for parents
Wednesday 18th November	2:40pm – Year 4 and Year 5 topic sharing afternoon for parents
Wednesday 18th November	Year 6 parents SATs meeting and workshop (maths) 9am
Monday 23rd November	9:30am - EYFS open morning, presentation and school tours for new Reception and Nursery applicants 2027
Tuesday 24th November	Yr 5 and 6 Mass at St Paul's Church (9am)
Monday 30th November	10:30am – Start of Advent Mass – parents invited
December 2026	
Week commencing 1st December	Year 4/5/6 reconciliation in school with Fr Clement
Wednesday 2nd December	10am Choir performing at Waltham Cross Pavillion
Wednesday 2nd December	4pm Choir performing at Crocodile Pub
Friday 4th December	Santa funrun for Carers in Herts and Herts Young Homeless
Tuesday 8th December	2:40pm – Parent and Parish Advent Service led by Chaplaincy Team
Wednesday 9th December	Christmas lunch
Thursday 10th December	Choir Trust Carol Service 2pm St Augustine's Church, Hoddesdon (choir will be transported straight from the pantomime to Church)
Thursday 10th December	Whole School Pantomime
Friday 11th December	Year 5 Trust Maths challenge (selected children)
Monday 14th December	9:00am End of term awards (by invite)

Broxbourne Council's safer parking campaign

Every morning and afternoon, the roads around our school become some of the busiest in the area. Children are arriving and leaving on foot, many of them small enough to disappear completely behind a parked car.

That is why we are supporting Broxbourne Council's campaign to encourage safer parking outside schools.

We know the school run can be stressful, and it is easy to think that stopping for a moment on the zig-zags, or pulling half onto the pavement, will not do any harm. But a car parked in the wrong place can stop a child from seeing oncoming traffic, stop a driver from seeing a child and force families with pushchairs and younger siblings out into the road. It only takes a split second for a child to be seriously hurt or worse.

We are asking everyone not to park:

· On the pavement

· On yellow lines

· On the zig-zag markings outside school

· On or within 10 metres of a corner or junction

· Across residents' driveways.

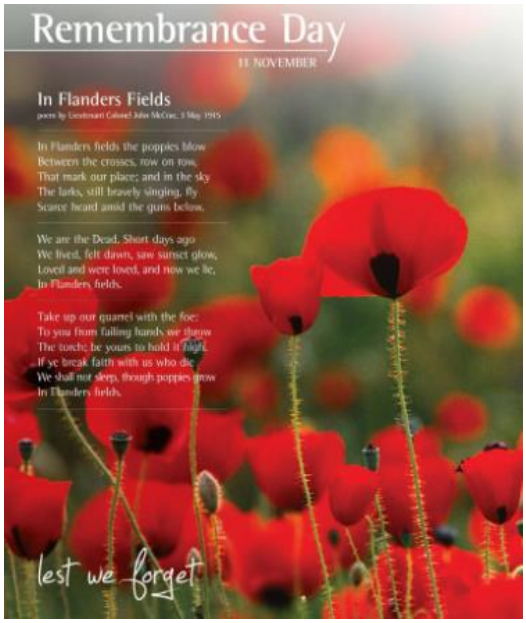
Broxbourne Council has produced a powerful short film showing why this matters so much. Please take a few minutes to watch it: https://youtu.be/Ta56qMaeA0M

More news and information…

Online Safety

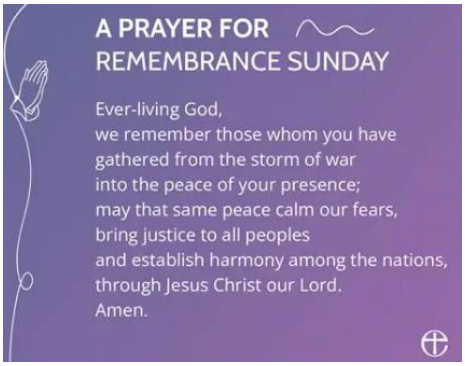
Please find an online safety guide below about Overwatch 2. Further support can be found via our website St Paul's Catholic Primary School - Online Safety

Spotlight



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



Our Parish Church – St Paul's Mass times

Saturday – 5pm
Sunday – 9am and 11am
https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/cheshunt/

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

OVERWATCH 2

A long-awaited sequel to 2016's massively successful Overwatch, this is a futuristic shooting game with a focus on teamwork and strategy which gives it an extra dimension to the majority of titles in the genre. Its cast of characters is diverse and memorable, while there's a definite (and rewarding) learning curve to players improving their skill. Created by established developers Blizzard Entertainment, Overwatch 2 is free to play, with an emphasis on competitive multiplayer action – meaning that children may want to play the game even more simply because their friends have it.

AGE RATING PEGI 12

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

MULTIPLE PASSWORDS

Overwatch 2 supports convenient cross-play across consoles and PC – as long as users link all their devices under a unifying account on the Blizzard battle.net platform. This has other benefits (preserving a player's original skins for use in the new game), but if your child *does* want to link their accounts, be warned: the process can be extremely tricky and requires multiple passwords.

VOICE CHAT

As a shooting game which focuses on fast-paced, competitive play, teamwork is central to getting the most out of the Overwatch 2 experience. Many players use voice chat to coordinate with other users – often with friends, but sometimes also with strangers. In either case, this means your child is in contact with others, who may – for example – use offensive language in the heat of the moment.

IN-GAME PURCHASING

Like many free-to-play games, Overwatch 2 offers in-game purchases for unlocking its colourful skins. While new characters arrive as part of a free 'battle pass' each season (normally lasting around three months), players can unlock them much earlier by buying a premium version of the pass. There are also in-game bundles (with varying costs) themed around certain characters or events.

VIOLENT GAMEPLAY

Overwatch 2 heavily features combat, although the on-screen shootouts are relatively sanitised. Most of its characters are of a fantastical nature (there's a gorilla scientist with a laser weapon, for instance, and a DJ on roller-blades who fires sound energy), but some – such as Reaper, an assassin in a wraith-like metal mask – are a little on the darker side and could unnerve younger players.

Advice for Parents & Carers

ASSIST WITH ACCOUNT LINKING

If your child is trying to link their accounts from different devices together, it might be wise for you to help them set it up. Not only should it enable the process to run more smoothly (and save you being asked for the passwords for each account), but you'll also be able to make sure that the website for linking is correct. We've put the right web address under the expert's bio at the bottom of this guide.

MONITOR COMMUNICATIONS

Playing Overwatch 2 with friends is almost universally the most popular way to enjoy the game. If your child if playing with a new friend they only know online – or a stranger – you may want to monitor the chat to make sure they aren't being exposed to anything unsavoury. You might also decide to adjust the in-game voice chat settings so only confirmed friends can speak to your child.

USE IT AS INSPIRATION

Overwatch characters represent many races, nationalities, gender identities and sexual orientations. This eclectic roster of heroes offers a superb jumping-off point for discussing racial, sexual or gender diversity with your child. Whether it's finding Nepal on a globe together or talking about non-traditional relationships, the game could be an excellent conversation starter.

LIMIT IN-GAME SPENDING

The loot boxes featured in the first Overwatch have been replaced by a rotating storefront – so users only have a set time to purchase a skin or item before it becomes unavailable. Your child can still earn plenty of items, however, through the free battle pass. In any case, we'd advise removing any payment methods – or at least setting limits in advance – if you're worried about in-game spending.

WATCH SOME GAMEPLAY

Overwatch players fight with an array of weapons and explosives, but the battles are presented in a way that forgoes blood, gore or dismemberment, regardless of the mode or characters selected. The game also usually avoids the word "kill" – referring to "eliminations" instead. Watching footage of Overwatch 2 on YouTube could help you decide whether it's suitable for your child before they play.



Join the

Bauble Brigade

Every ticket brings us one step closer to preventing homelessness

Be part of something magical this Christmas!

Spread festive cheer and help Herts Young Homeless raise vital funds by selling Christmas Raffle tickets to your friends, family, neighbours or colleagues.

Every ticket sold helps create brighter futures for young people facing homelessness — plus there are brilliant prizes to be won, including a Warner Bros Family Studio Tour, restaurant vouchers, champagne and more!

Taking part is as easy as hanging a bauble on your tree! Scan the QR code below to sign up, we'll then send you a festive fundraising pack in the post with everything you need to get started. Including a pre-paid envelope to send the stubs back afterwards!

As a special thank-you, every participant will receive a homemade Bauble Brigade gingerbread bauble to hang on their tree.

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Herts Young Homeless

Please note, if you are under the age of 18 you must be supervised by a responsible adult when taking payments for raffle tickets.