



# St Paul's Church of England Combined School



Growing in strength, wisdom and faith  
School Values: Courage, Respect, Hope, Enjoyment, Community

## Summer 1<sup>st</sup> Half

### Prayer

Dear God,

Thank you for light and warmth. Thank you for the sun. Thank you for the gifts of nature and for the annual cycles and seasons. Today, give us that grace again, to see you as the Creator, the One who lifts us up to be with you forever, even now.

Amen

### Staff Training

Last half term, staff undertook training in the following areas:

Safeguarding – updates and scenarios; teaching ambitious vocabulary across the school in all lessons; developing pace and challenge; developing the use of LSAs; developing modelling in all subjects; pupil premium; school development plan; developmental drop ins; making effective judgements in Reading, Writing and Maths.



### British Values Focus

#### Tolerance

The British value of tolerance is sometimes paired up with the value of mutual respect. The focus of this value is to teach children to show empathy and understanding of the values, ideas and beliefs of others. It includes understanding of the importance of identifying and combatting discrimination.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/to pics/zyg2xbk/articles/z9dpn9q#zwgyydm>

## School Value Focus - Community!

### Community – Value Focus

This half term our school value focus is community. We will be focusing on community in assemblies and in class.

### Community – Bible Quote

“Let us think about how we may encourage one another to love and to do good deeds, encouraging one another.”

Hebrews 10 v 24-25

## Growth Mindset – Effective Feedback

Listening to feedback is an incredibly important skill all children must learn. Once they listen, they can learn from the feedback. Listening to feedback is the best and fastest way for children to learn, grow and thrive in all areas of life now and in the future.

When children can listen to and learn from feedback, they become more confident, more capable, more resilient, more flexible, and more successful navigating the complexities of life in every domain, than children who don't have this skill. They also learn how to consider others' feedback, how to communicate effectively with others, and how to persevere.

Remember the 5:1 rule: 5 positive comments about what they are doing well to every one corrective feedback.

- Highlight the positive before correcting behaviour or work
- Acknowledge and validate their perspective on their behaviour or work
- Prepare them for feedback and remind them of the fact that editing work or learning from behaviour is an important part of learning
- Be succinct, constructive and explicit in explanations – focus on the how (they can edit work or change behaviour for the better)
- Be objective and consider the effort put in.

Remember to consider the phrase and encourage children to remember...



### Growth Mindset

Focus/es for this half term:

EYFS & KS1 Effective Learning Dinosaurs	KS2 Effective Learning Behaviours
Solveosaurus	Confident Challenging Ourselves Positive Critical Thinkers Effective Communicators Determined

## Art of Brilliance Concepts Linked to Community!

### Happy Families

**When your family is in a good place everyone wins. No, I'm not talking about going to Skegness or Spain on holiday, I mean, when they're all feeling good.**

Happier parents... carers... brothers... sisters.... grandparents....all tend to have more time and patience.

They are more helpful, create healthier meals, wash your PE kits, read you bedtime stories and put the funny voices on when reading them... and all the gazillions of other things that families do.

Note: all these things don't just happen. They can make already busy lives a whole lot busier. Which is why you can make such a difference.

Being the best version of you goes a long way to helping the rest of your family become the best version of them.

What could every member of the family do to make each other say wow?

### Social Animals

**Fact: human beings are animals. Most of the time, we're civilised creatures and treat each other with respect (although sadly not all the time). Interestingly, we're also known as social animals – we've evolved to need the company of others.**

This probably stems back to thousands of years ago when we needed a little help to fend off a sabre-tooth tiger because they were, well, tigers with sabre teeth. Sabre teeth?

Despite needing to connect with other people, we generally spend our days mingling with the same small circle of people – essentially our families and friends. Until one day we move house/job/go to university and find that we're actually quite a long way away from our families and friends and indeed need to make new friends (it's okay, you can keep your family).

Being friendly comes easier to some people than others. But we all benefit from being able to get along with others – which means getting to know them first..

**Conversations work best when you listen to the other person (rather than just waiting your turn to speak).**



**What can we do to  
make our families  
say wow?**


# Resilience Role Models

## April

*"We need to see more people with a learning disability in the media" "It's so important. We deserve equal opportunities like you all do, jobs like you all have. We need to be celebrated because we're people, we exist."  
George Webster*

### Resilience Role Model April

## George Webster



Positive  
Hope  
Empowering  
Community



### Growth Mindset – Resilience Role Models – April

#### George Webster

Find out more about George Webster here:

[St Paul's Church of England Combined School - April - George Webster](#)


## May

*"To bring about change you must not be afraid to take the first step. We will fail when we fail to try."  
Rosa Parks.*

*"What really matters is not whether we have problems, but how we go through them. We must keep going on to make it through whatever we are facing."  
Rosa Parks.*

### Resilience Role Model May

## Rosa Parks



Bravery  
Courage  
Integrity  
Respect



### Growth Mindset – Resilience Role Models – May

#### Rosa Parks

Find out more about Rosa Parks here:

[St Paul's Church of England Combined School - May - Rosa Parks](#)



# School Events



## Easter Service

A huge well done to Finches and Sparrows for leading such a beautiful Easter Service at St Paul's Church. You shared a wonderful message of hope, spoke with confidence and courage, and truly brought the meaning of Easter to life. The whole school sang beautifully, and it was lovely to see the enjoyment and enthusiasm in every part of the service.

Thank you to all the parents and carers who joined us—it was fantastic to celebrate together!





# School Events



## World Book Day

What a fantastic World Book Day! From the moment the school gates opened, there was an undeniable buzz of excitement as children and staff arrived in their wonderful book-themed costumes.

We started the day with a whole-school assembly featuring a lively retelling of the classic children's story *We're Going on a Bear Hunt*. With enthusiastic participation from both pupils and staff, the assembly set the tone for a day dedicated to the love of books.

The fun continued with a spectacular costume parade, where children and staff showcased their incredible outfits inspired by their favourite book characters. It was wonderful to see such creativity and enthusiasm!

*"The parade was fun. I was trying to identify all the characters."*

As part of the celebrations, teachers swapped classrooms to read their favourite books to different classes. This was a fantastic opportunity for children to hear stories they may not have encountered before, shared by teachers with a real passion for reading.

*"I loved it because the story was one that my mum used to read to me."*

A special highlight of the day was a surprise visit to each classroom from Mrs Dennis and Miss Jones, who delighted the children by sharing a poem. Their engaging performances brought poetry to life.

We always love the opportunity to spend time with a different class. In the afternoon, older children paired up with younger ones to share stories. It was wonderful to see children engaged in books together, fostering a love of reading across the school.

We are incredibly grateful for the generous book donations from families, which made our afternoon book swap possible. Every child had the chance to choose two books to take home and enjoy, spreading the joy of reading beyond the classroom.

*"I loved being able to keep the books I chose."*

Thanks to everyone's generosity and support, we also raised a brilliant £265 towards improving the selection of reading books for Key Stage 2. This will help us continue to foster a love of reading by providing them with exciting and engaging books.

Finally, a huge thank you to everyone who participated and contributed to making World Book Day such a memorable event. We look forward to many more days filled with the magic of reading!



# School Events

## Author Visit

On Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> March, Key Stage 2 were fortunate to have a visit from the author Philip Kavvadias. He held an engaging assembly where he shared how he generates ideas for his books, often starting with illustrations before building in the details of the story. He also gave the children a sneak peek into the features of his upcoming fourth book, displaying several of his drawings and asking their opinions on which designs they preferred.

The children were totally captivated and there was real excitement when he invited them to contribute their own ideas for his new book and even submit designs for the book's cover!

This was a great opportunity for the children, and everyone was left feeling inspired by Philip's creativity, enthusiasm and passion for writing.



ENJOYMENT

Community

Courage

# School Events



## Music Concert

The Owls and Firecrests Spring Music Assembly was a delightful celebration of talent and courage. We were treated to a fantastic selection of songs, from hits by Lady Gaga and Bruno Mars to musical theatre performances, all sung beautifully by the children. It was also a joy to see the wide range of musical instruments played, including piano, French horn and guitar. We are incredibly proud of the students who performed solos and duets, showing great bravery in front of their peers. The assembly was made even more special by the whole-class performances: Owls sang a moving WW2 song in perfect harmony, while Firecrests took us on a lively journey to South Africa with their energetic rendition of *Shosholoz*.





# School Events



## Finches' Energise success!

Many congratulations to the children in Finches who recently participated in the Energise performance at the Wycombe Swan along with other local schools. The children in Finches were absolutely amazing and each demonstrated the school values of Courage, Hope, Enjoyment, Respect and Community in their attitude as they participated in the rehearsals and finally the two evening performances in front of their supportive and delighted parents and carers. The lessons this exciting opportunity has taught them has been evident within their attitude towards their learning, developing their resilience to accept new and exciting challenges.

Thank you to all the parents and carers of the children in Finches for your support, providing costumes, helping to learn the songs, bringing the children into school early to attend rehearsals and finally enjoying their performance on the night.



# School Events



## Year 6 School Trip – World War 2

Year 6 had an unforgettable trip to the Lincolnsfield Centre last term, where they stepped back in time to experience life as WW2 evacuees. Immersed in history from the moment they arrived, the children took part in a wartime school lesson, learning just as children would have during the 1940s. They also practised extinguishing a fire caused by a bomb using traditional buckets and hoses – an authentic glimpse into the challenges of the era. The children explored various types of bomb shelters and discovered how families took refuge during air raids. A visit to a reconstructed 1940s house allowed them to experience what everyday life was like on the Home Front. The day was full of hands-on learning, and the students left full of enthusiasm, eager to delve deeper into their WW2 studies.



# School Events

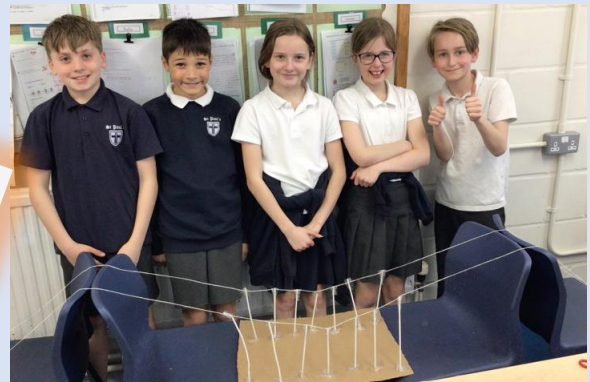
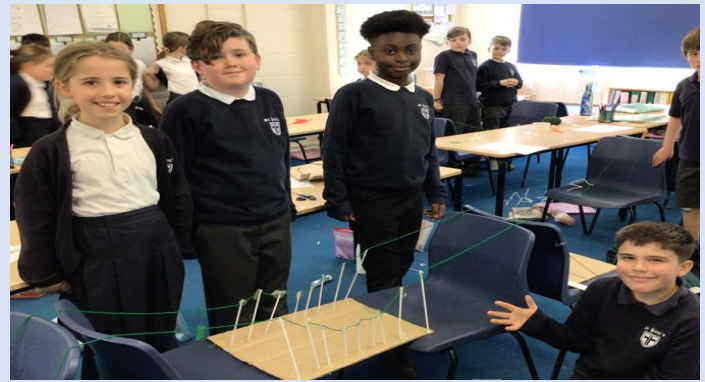


## Firecrests

Firecrests had an exciting and engaging Spring Term full of hands-on learning! In Science, they explored the effects of air resistance by designing and testing their own parachutes – combining creativity with investigation. In Design and Technology, pupils took on the challenge of designing and building bridges, developing both their problem-solving and engineering skills.

In History, the children delved into the fascinating world of the Anglo-Saxons, even dissecting Anglo-Saxon poo to discover what people ate in the past – an unusual but memorable experience!

Firecrests had a truly fantastic term, filled with curiosity, creativity, and a real enthusiasm for learning.



# School Events

## Finches

During the Spring Term, Finches have been exploring the fascinating journey of the digestive system in Science. One of the highlights was a hands-on experiment that brought the process to life - using cheese biscuits, various liquids and a pair of tights to simulate how food travels through the body! The children had enormous fun while gaining a deeper understanding of how the digestive system works.



# School Events

## Holi Festival – Wrens, Kingfishers, Robins & Swifts

During the final week of Spring Term, EYFS and Key Stage 1 came together for a joyful morning celebrating the Hindu festival of Holi – a vibrant celebration of colour, love, equality, and the arrival of spring. The children took part in a range of exciting activities, including face painting, biscuit decorating, and designing their own colourful t-shirts.

The highlight of the morning was a fantastic colour run, where the children enthusiastically threw coloured powder, creating a rainbow of fun and laughter. It was a wonderful event full of energy and smiles – we absolutely loved every moment!



# School Events

ENJOYMENT

RESPECT

## Swifts

Swifts created some amazing Mother's Day cards last term. They spent time working on levelling up their vocabulary to ensure their messages truly reflected how much their mums mean to them. The result was a collection of thoughtful, heartfelt cards – each one a special tribute to their very well-deserving mums.



## Swifts

Swifts have a real love of learning. Here they all are finding synonyms for various words using a microphone and online thesaurus. They came up with so many alternatives to boring words like nice, kind, good etc. We look forward to seeing these in their writing from now on.



## Swifts

Swifts had a super day celebrating World Book Day at the start of March. We turned plain old potatoes into our favourite book characters. Is there anyone you recognise?

# School Events

ENJOYMENT

RESPECT

## Football

### **Year 5 Cup Match**

On Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> February, the Year 5 boys played their Cup Match against Juniper Hill, delivering an exciting and hard-fought performance. St Paul's made a strong start, taking an early lead with some impressive teamwork and skilful play. The boys demonstrated excellent communication on the pitch, showing real determination and giving 100% effort from start to finish. Despite their promising start and some outstanding moments of football, the game ultimately ended in a win for Juniper Hill. However, the boys showed incredible tenacity and resilience right up to the final whistle. They held their heads high and can be proud of the way they represented the school. Each player contributed brilliantly to the team effort and their individual performances made it a thrilling match to watch. Well done to all the boys.



### **Year 6 Cup Match**

The Year 6 team reached the quarter-finals of their Cup competition, playing a nail-biting home match against Burford on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> March. It was a tense and closely fought contest, with Burford proving to be tough opponents and the match pushing our team to their limits. From the first whistle, the boys displayed outstanding teamwork, skill and determination. They created countless chances with some fantastic shots on goal, while our defence remained rock-solid and our goalkeepers were impenetrable. Despite the relentless effort, the score remained 0-0 at the end of both full time and extra time, sending the match to a dramatic penalty shootout. Although penalties were not the outcome the team had hoped for, they approached the challenge with resilience and composure. It was a rollercoaster of emotions, with goals scored, shots missed and brilliant saves throughout. In the end, it was Burford who narrowly edged ahead to progress to the next round. While the result wasn't in our favour, every member of the Year 6 team should be extremely proud – not just of their high-level football, but of their sportsmanship, teamwork and unwavering spirit. They played with heart and represented the school with pride.

### **End of a Wonderful Football Season**

With the arrival of the Summer Term, we reflect on the end of football club and competitions for this academic year. It has been a real joy to be part of the journey, and both myself and Mrs Wingrove have thoroughly enjoyed supporting the boys and girls with their football throughout the year. We would like to take this opportunity to thank our amazing parent volunteers for their hard work and dedication – without their generosity and commitment, the football club simply wouldn't have been possible. Thanks to all their support, the children have had a fantastic season, and it's clear they have loved being part of football club. We wish the children luck next year in all their football endeavours.

Miss Sims and Mrs Wingrove

