



St Paul's Church of England Combined School



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

Governor Newsletter - December 2025

A Message from The Chair

The beginning of a new school year is always a busy and hectic time and, having said goodbye to a number of valued colleagues at the end of last year, this term was always going to present a particular challenge. It is an absolute credit to all the staff that this has nevertheless been a successful term, with the children settling brilliantly into their new classes and continuing to demonstrate their enthusiasm for learning and for school life generally. This newsletter highlights a just few of the wonderful events which have taken place in the school over the last few weeks and helped us all get in the Christmas spirit!

Following the parent governor elections held earlier this term, we are very happy to welcome two new governors, Laura Forwood and Harry Palmer. Laura and Harry have thrown themselves into the role, taking on positions as Wellbeing and Development Governor respectively, along with working on various of the governor committees. We're hugely grateful to them and all the governors for the time and energy they continue to devote to the governing board. We still have a vacancy for a Diocesan governor, so if you know anyone who might be interested in undertaking this role, then please do get in contact.

An important part of our role as governors is listening to parents and carers, so thank you to all those who took the time to respond to the questionnaire at the end of last year. We've attached a summary of the results, along with details of how the school has acted on your feedback.

For now, we wish you all a lovely and relaxing Christmas and look forward to seeing everyone in the new year.

Ed Arnold, Chair of Governors





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◆ A Time To Give Thanks ◆

I wrote this piece shortly after Thanksgiving, the American public holiday held on the fourth Thursday of November, popular for gathering with friends and family to celebrate and be grateful for everything that is important to us.

It made me reflect on how much we have to be thankful for as a school community, including the brilliant staff and the environment in which our children are taught.

Staff and volunteers have put so much effort into improving the school in recent years and you will have all seen and felt how much more welcoming the school and nursery have become.

But sometimes we need help to achieve our vision, and that's where the Development & Maintenance Fund plays a crucial role. D&M money can be used to unlock Diocesan funds that would otherwise be off-limits. For every £100 we contribute, we can access roughly £750 of additional funding towards eligible large scale projects.

In recent years, our Development & Maintenance funds have contributed to projects such as the new nursery canopies, the replacement nursery boiler and all three phases of the school roof renewal.

But there is always more to do – and D&M giving is one of the most efficient ways in which you can give thanks.

Please [click here](#) to find out more and support the fund.

John Walton
Chair of the Finance, Premises, Health & Safety Committee





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❄️ Winter Wonderland at St Paul's ❄️

Winter Wonderland arrived at St Paul's thanks to Lubka, Santa, and their merry team of elves. The event transformed the space into a magical labyrinth where children enjoyed decorating biscuits, crafting bags and ornaments, meeting Santa, wrapping presents, and playing festive games.

From the moment they stepped into the room, we could feel a sense of eager excitement. The children embraced every opportunity, showcasing their creativity, sharing ideas, and most importantly, having endless fun. One child summed up the joy perfectly as they left, sharing "I'm now ready for Christmas."

A heartfelt thank you to Lubka and her team for all the preparation and effort that went into creating this special treat. All the children left the room with their bag of goodies to take home with them. It was an experience that has left lasting memories for everyone who took part.

Sam Moore, Chair of the Learning and Standards Committee





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🎵 iSing Pop 🎵

This is my absolute favourite event in the school calendar! A huge thank you to all the children, the teachers, our vicar Paul and the church team and of course, Sandy and the team from iSing Pop. It was another year of wonderful singing and a brilliant performance by all. What a wonderful opportunity it was to see our children growing in Faith and coming to together as a Christian community.

This year, with the proximity to Christmas, we were treated to a Christmas medley of carols which were fun for the audience to join in with at the end. We were also reminded of the Christmas story with animated clips between songs that were narrated by Sandy. It was good to be reminded of the true meaning of Christmas at a time of year when it is too easy to be consumed by the present buying and planning large meals. It was wonderful to see the happy, shining faces of the children, confidently singing their hearts out and reminding us what it is all about. Mind you, I am never sure how they remember all those actions they do, or how Sandy has the energy to guide them through it all!

Well done everyone – another exceptional year for iSing Pop at St Paul's.

Melanie Havelock, SEND Governor





❁ Nativities ❁

This year the Wrens and Kingfishers united to perform their nativity together at St Paul's Church, with Revd Paul delivering the welcome and blessing. This was a beautifully moving retelling of Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem and the birth of the baby Jesus, and the journey of the wise men following the star. The children were visibly enjoying being a part of the nativity, smiling and helping each other to find their way. The play was interspersed with joyful Christmas carols and songs, which created a wonderful happy celebration of Jesus' birth. Well done to all the Wrens and Kingfishers - you were brilliant! Thank you to all the teaching and support staff who brought this wonderful nativity to life.

Charlotte Zittel, Safeguarding Governor

It was wonderful to see both Robins and Swifts performing their Key Stage 1 Nativity show this year, with the children putting on two incredible performances across 2 days. The Robins were a superstar choir, with brilliant singing and excellent actions to go with. Swifts demonstrated themselves as triple-threat entertainers, with their combination of singing, dancing and acting on full display. A special thanks to Mrs Hamm and Miss Baldwin for their work in helping the children prepare for the show, and to the wider staff team who gave up their time in order to support.

The nativity also provided a fantastic chance to see the children continuing to grow in strength, as they all demonstrated personal courage in standing up on stage and performing to a sizeable audience on both occasions. Following the evening show, it was joyous to hear the children scream in their classroom backstage in celebration of their achievements. A big well done to all Key Stage 1!

Harry Palmer, Development Governor





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♦♦ A Safer Stratford Drive ♦♦

With the nights still drawing in, for a little while longer at least as we approach mid-winter, I wanted to thank parents and carers for respecting the additional parking, waiting and stopping restrictions outside the main gates over the past term. I, and the Senior Leadership Team, have observed that keeping this area clear has had a positive impact on students who can approach school knowing that they have a better view of vehicle movements.

Of course, making this positive change in the immediate vicinity of the gates has a knock-on impact elsewhere on Stratford Drive and in other surrounding roads. Visibility around the estate from a child's-eye view is not great and it would only take a moment's lapse of concentration from a distracted child to step out between vehicles and into your path. Thankfully such incidents are rare at St Paul's but, for the safety of all, particularly pupils and pedestrians, I would urge everyone to continue to drive slowly respecting the voluntary one-way system, and to park thoughtfully, particularly around the start and end of the school day, especially on these darker days and in poor weather.

Wishing you a healthy and safe Christmas,

John Walton
Health & Safety Governor

