



# St Paul's Back to School Newsletter - September 2024

Welcome to St Paul's to our new families and welcome back to all our returning families! We would like to say a big thank you for your support as parents during our first week back in school.

Classrooms have been filled with smiles, joy, happiness and fun. This week our overall focus has largely been focused on settling the children into new routines, making new friends and reconnecting with old friends and their mental well being.

Year 3, who are brand new to our school, have enjoyed exploring their new environment and have been very grown up as they have been introduced to the many resources we have and the lovely learning activities set up for them. We are very pleased to welcome them to St Paul's.

We have also welcomed several new children and staff to St Paul's this term, all of whom have thoroughly enjoyed their first month and are looking forward to the year ahead. Miss Rolfe joins our Year 5 teaching team and Miss Denning joins our teaching support team this year.

We publish a School Newsletter at the end of each half term but please keep an eye on our school dojo and class dojo pages for daily updates.

Please congratulate your children for the great start they have made to what we are confident is going to be a great year at St Paul's!

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A snapshot of learning across the first week





## Meet the Teacher

Our Year 3 families had their meet the teacher evening in July. Year 4, 5 and 6 have meet the teacher sessions for families on Wednesday 11th September. This is a great opportunity to see the classroom, hear about your child's curriculum, year expectations and events throughout their school year. It is also an opportunity for you to have any questions answered by the teacher.

### **Wednesday 11th September**

Year 4: 3:30pm

Year 5: 4pm

Year 6: 4:30pm

*Please go to your child's classroom.*

## School Uniform

The children have looked smart in their school school uniform this week, thank you for your support. School uniform gives children a sense of belonging and creates a sense of identity. You will find our school uniform expectations on our website:

<https://www.stpaulsjuniorsomerset.org.uk/Parents/Uniform/>



Please ensure all school uniform is named and that your child has a waterproof coat everyday.

## Dog Mentor





CONGRATULATIONS  
NALA!



Nala is our St Paul's Dog Mentor. The Dog Mentor programme has built upon the benefits of the human-animal bond by providing children positive experiences with dogs that can help them educationally, developmentally, emotionally and socially.

Over the last nine years The Dog Mentor programme has been proven to have a positive impact on children in all areas including self-esteem, behaviour, peer relationships and better engagement skills. These improvements then result in improved academic achievement.

During June 2024, Mrs Owen's dog, Nala, was assessed by the Dog Mentor Programme and was awarded a licence to come into school and work with children. Staff were trained and the Dog Mentor Programme completed a risk assessment for Nala at St Paul's Junior School.

We envisage that The Dog Mentor will bring a positive influence into the school environment as a whole and look forward to the impact The Dog Mentor programme will have on our children. Please feel free to visit The Dog Mentor's website for more details and to see some of the schools that have introduced their dogs into school: [www.thedogmentor.co.uk](http://www.thedogmentor.co.uk)

If you **DO NOT** wish your child to take part in any activities with the Dog Mentor, please inform your class teacher or the school office. Please also contact us if you have further questions or concerns.

## SEN at St Paul's

At St Paul's we believe every child should be supported in a way that suits them best, with relevant adaptations and differentiation to ensure that all children can access their learning. Mrs Parfitt is our Special Educational Needs and Disability Coordinator. To find out more about SEND support at St Paul's, please go to: <https://www.stpaulsjuniorsomerset.org.uk/SEn/>

To contact Mrs Parfitt, please email: [senco@stpaulsjs.co.uk](mailto:senco@stpaulsjs.co.uk)

## Home Learning



At St Paul's we believe that education is a life-long process. A child's education does not cease when he/she leaves our school premises, learning at home is an essential part of good education. "Home Learning" is any work or activity completed outside lesson time, either alone, with parents, or others and homework make an important contribution to progress at school.

At St Paul's we use the software 'Doodle' as our little and often approach to home learning/homework. Doodle builds confidence and ability in Maths and English by creating every child a personalised work programme, tailored to their strengths and weaknesses. Teachers assign tasks each week which support the learning in class and are appropriate for each individual child's needs. Doodle tasks are set on a Friday and must be completed by the following Friday. Pupils are also encouraged (and rewarded) to be in the green zone, this is achieved by using Doodle little and often. Parents are encouraged to link to their child's account to monitor their child's progress. As Doodle is a personalised programme, tasks should be completed **independently** by a child, without adult support. Using Doodle for just 10 minutes a day is proven to help children make three months of progress in just one month!

We have a lunch time and after school Doodle homework club for children which parents can sign their children up for.

### How to get started

1. Watch the following video with your child/ren: [vimeo.com/506143677](https://vimeo.com/506143677)

2. Download the DoodleMaths and DoodleEnglish apps onto an Apple, Android or Amazon device. You can also log in to the Doodle programmes through Doodle's website (doodlemaths.com) on laptops and desktops by clicking 'log in' and choosing the correct programme. Follow the instructions in the video above for more information on how to log in

3. Use the username and password provided by your child's teacher to log in to the Doodle programmes (this will be provided in September)

### **Support for parent and carers**

○ Link your email address to your child's account by logging in to Doodle, tapping on the arrow icon in the top left-hand corner and selecting Settings > Parent details. Or, visit [parents.doodlemaths.com](https://parents.doodlemaths.com) and head to Manage > Subscriptions.

○ You'll then be able to view your child's progress by visiting [parents.doodlemaths.com](https://parents.doodlemaths.com) or downloading the free DoodleConnect app on Apple and Android devices. ○ Doodle are running free webinars to help parents get started with the programme. You can access them here: <https://doodlelearning.com/parent-webinars>

If you have any questions about Doodle, please visit <https://help.doodlelearning.com/en/> or speak to the Doodle Team by clicking on the green chat icon on [doodlemaths.com](https://doodlemaths.com). As always, please send your child's class teacher a dojo message if you have a questions or concerns about home learning.

## **Meet the Governors**



For our first Newsletter, we would like to introduce our Chair of Governors, Albert Owen.

**How long have you been a school governor at St Paul's? What led you to being a school governor?  
How do you make a difference to children in your role?**

I have been a school governor for 13 years and I think this will be my tenth year as Chair. I was asked to take on the role as Foundation Governor (Ex Officio) for one year when one of our previous Rectors retired and I'm still here! A school governors' role is many and varied, but for me the greatest privilege is to see that every child in the school reaches their full potential and enjoy their time at St Paul's.

**Share the best piece of advice anyone has ever given you**

Whatever you are trying to achieve, keep persevering!



**Tell me a fact that most people don't know about you**

Two things don't know about me.. I once played the part of Mr Bumble in a school performance of the musical Oliver....I played a game of football with senior school students in Northern Zambia.

**If you could have one superpower, what would this be?**

Giving clean water and food to every child in the world!

St Paul's PTA



The PTA meets regularly, typically once a month, to discuss upcoming events, new fundraising ideas, and ways to enhance our school community. While attending all meetings is not obligatory, we encourage you to join us when possible, as it provides an excellent opportunity to meet other parents and actively contribute to our school's success.

**Contact Information**

If you have any questions or would like to learn more about the PTA, please feel free to reach out to us. You can find us online on Facebook [www.facebook.com/PTAStPauls](https://www.facebook.com/PTAStPauls) , Instagram and Twitter or you can email for more info. We'd love to hear from you. Amy – PTA Chair [PTA@stpaulsjs.co.uk](mailto:PTA@stpaulsjs.co.uk)

## Nut-free School



St Paul's is a NUT-FREE School. We need to ensure that children are not bringing foods containing nuts into school, this includes nuts in snack bars such as a Tracker Bar, chocolate bars such as Snickers and spreads such as Nutella. It is vital that we insist these items are not brought into school and we will remove items that do not meet these guidelines and return to an adult at the end of the school day. Thank you for your understanding on this matter.

Pupils can bring a healthy snack to eat during their morning break time if they wish.

## Wellbeing and Safeguarding

### **Working together to safeguard children.**

St Paul's School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and expects all staff and parents/carers to share this commitment.

Safeguarding is a term which is broader than 'child protection' and relates to the action taken to promote the welfare of children and protect them from harm. Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.

We are fully committed to ensuring that consistent, effective safeguarding procedures are in place to support families, children and staff at school.

## St Paul's CofE VC Junior School Safeguarding Team

Are you worried about  
yourself or someone  
else?

Have you seen  
something on a mobile  
phone you are worried  
about?

Do you need to talk to  
someone or need help?

Are you being bullied?

**TALK TO SOMEONE  
WHO CAN HELP**



Mrs Caroline Owen  
Designated  
Safeguarding Lead



Mrs Tracey Roberts  
Designated  
Safeguarding Lead



Mrs Karen Francis  
Designated  
Safeguarding Lead



Mrs Katie Bassett  
Designated  
Safeguarding Lead



Mrs Debbie Phillips  
Designated Safeguarding  
Lead & Family Wellbeing  
Coach



Mrs Katie Newth  
Designated  
Safeguarding Lead

Other Key Staff who you might want to talk to:



Mrs Muggleton  
Year 5 Team Leader &  
Wellbeing Champion



Mr Fingleton  
Year 6 Team Leader  
& PE safety Lead



Mrs Parfitt  
Year 3 Team Leader  
& SENCO



Mr Hale  
Year 4 Team Leader

Remember, you can always talk to any member of staff, we are all here to help and support you.

## St Paul's CofE VC Junior School Wellbeing Team

Are you worried about something, someone, or yourself?

Do you need to talk to someone about your feelings?

Do you find it difficult to cope with everyday activities because of how you are feeling?

How are you feeling today?

**TALK TO SOMEONE WHO CAN HELP**

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <br><small>Mrs Anna Muggleton<br/>Senior Mental Health Lead</small>                                  | <br><small>Mrs Laura Parfitt<br/>SENCO &amp; Acting Deputy Head</small> |
| <br><small>Mrs Debbie Phillips<br/>Family Wellbeing Coach &amp; Designated Safeguarding Lead</small> | <br><small>Ms Julie Robbins<br/>Pupil Wellbeing Coach</small>           |
| <br><small>Miss Sue Nicholas<br/>Social Skills Mentor</small>  | <br><small>Mrs Rose Studholme<br/>Receptionist/Administrator</small>    |

Other Key Staff who you might want to talk to.

|  |  |  |   |
|--|--|--|---|
| <br><small>Mrs Owen<br/>Head of School &amp; Designated Safeguarding Lead</small> | <br><small>Miss Owen<br/>EUSA</small> | <br><small>Mrs Coomber<br/>EUSA</small> | <br><small>Mrs Mathews<br/>EUSA</small> |
|--|--|--|---|

Remember, you can always talk to any member of staff, we are all here to help and support you.

<https://www.stpaulsjuniorsomerset.org.uk/Health-Wellbeing/>

## News from the School Office



**\*SCOPAY\***



Please can we ask parents to sign up for ScoPay, if you have not done so already. ScoPay is used for **all** school bookings such as hot dinners, parents evenings, afterschool clubs, breakfast club and buddies and all school payments. The office team have sent home access letters and emails on how to join and link your child/ren to your account.

If you do not have one, please let us know.

## **Clubs**

The Autumn term clubs timetable and bookings have now been released on SCOPAY.

If you have any questions, please contact the OFFICE TEAM.

## Diary Dates



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*Monday 9th September: Year 3 Trinity Worship at St Peter and Paul's Church (pm)*

*Tuesday 10th September: Y3 school apps parent meeting, Hall 9am*

*Wednesday 11th September: Meet the teacher Y4 at 3:30pm, Y5 at 4:00pm, Y6 at 4:30pm*

*Wednesday 18th – Friday 20th September: Y6 Residential at Kilve Court*

*Thursday 18th September – Compassion Class Worship - Mendip*

*Wednesday 25th September – Tempest Individual Photos*

*Thursday 26th September: European day of languages*

*Saturday 5th October: Open Morning 10.00 a.m. – 11.30 a.m.*

*Friday 4th October: Interim Pastoral Reports to Parents*

*Thursday 10th October: World Mental Health Day*

*Thursday 10th October: Compass Class Worship - Fosse*

*Wednesday 16th October: Harvest Church Service 9.15am*

*Thursday 17th October: Parents' Evening 3.30 pm – 6.30 pm*

*Tuesday 22nd October: Parents' Evening 3.30 pm – 6.30 pm*

*Thursday 24th October: Values Worship 2:20pm*

***Friday 25th October: INSET DAY***

***Monday 28th October – Friday 1st November Half Term***

*Wednesday 6th November: PTA School Disco*

*Thursday 7th November – Trust Class Worship (Remembrance) - Monmouth*

*Tuesday 12th November: Kilve Court Y5 parent info evening 3:30pm*

*Tuesday 12th – Thursday 14th November: Year 3 Inspire Mornings – 9.00 – 10.15am*

*Friday 15th November: Mufti for Children in Need*

*Friday 22nd November: Mufti for Christmas Fair*

*25th November – 5th December: Autumn assessments*

*Thursday 28th November – Trust Class Worship - Kilver*

*Friday 29th November: Christmas Fair after school*

*Thursday 12th December Y5&6 Christmas Production (1.30 & 6.00pm)*

*Thursday 12th December: Christmas Jumper Day*

*Friday 13th December: Values Worship 2:20pm*

*Monday 16th December: Y3 Christmas Production (1.30 & 6.00pm)*

*Tuesday 17th December: Y4 Christmas Production (1.30 & 6.00pm)*

Wednesday 18th December Christmas Service in Church

Wednesday 18th December Christmas Lunch

Friday 20th December last day of term (2pm close)

## Somerset School Terms and Holidays 2024/2025



Somerset Council

Somerset School Terms and Holidays  
2024/2025 Academic Year

September 2024

|    |   |    |    |    |    |
|----|---|----|----|----|----|
| M  | 2 | 9  | 16 | 23 | 30 |
| Tu | 3 | 10 | 17 | 24 |    |
| W  | 4 | 11 | 18 | 25 |    |
| Th | 5 | 12 | 19 | 26 |    |
| F  | 6 | 13 | 20 | 27 |    |
| Sa | 7 | 14 | 21 | 28 |    |
| Su | 1 | 8  | 15 | 22 | 29 |

October 2024

|    |   |    |    |    |    |
|----|---|----|----|----|----|
| Mo | 7 | 14 | 21 | 28 |    |
| Tu | 1 | 8  | 15 | 22 | 29 |
| We | 2 | 9  | 16 | 23 | 30 |
| Th | 3 | 10 | 17 | 24 | 31 |
| Fr | 4 | 11 | 18 | 25 |    |
| Sa | 5 | 12 | 19 | 26 |    |
| Su | 6 | 13 | 20 | 27 |    |

November 2024

|    |   |    |    |    |    |
|----|---|----|----|----|----|
| M  | 4 | 11 | 18 | 25 |    |
| Tu | 5 | 12 | 19 | 26 |    |
| W  | 6 | 13 | 20 | 27 |    |
| Th | 7 | 14 | 21 | 28 |    |
| F  | 8 | 15 | 22 | 29 |    |
| Sa | 2 | 9  | 16 | 23 | 30 |
| Su | 3 | 10 | 17 | 24 |    |

December 2024

|    |   |    |    |    |    |
|----|---|----|----|----|----|
| M  | 2 | 9  | 16 | 23 | 30 |
| Tu | 3 | 10 | 17 | 24 | 31 |
| W  | 4 | 11 | 18 | 25 |    |
| Th | 5 | 12 | 19 | 26 |    |
| F  | 6 | 13 | 20 | 27 |    |
| Sa | 7 | 14 | 21 | 28 |    |
| Su | 1 | 8  | 15 | 22 | 29 |

January 2025

|    |   |    |    |    |    |
|----|---|----|----|----|----|
| M  | 6 | 13 | 20 | 27 |    |
| Tu | 7 | 14 | 21 | 28 |    |
| W  | 1 | 8  | 15 | 22 | 29 |
| Th | 2 | 9  | 16 | 23 | 30 |
| F  | 3 | 10 | 17 | 24 | 31 |
| Sa | 4 | 11 | 18 | 25 |    |
| Su | 5 | 12 | 19 | 26 |    |

February 2025

|    |   |    |    |    |    |
|----|---|----|----|----|----|
| M  | 3 | 10 | 17 | 24 |    |
| Tu | 4 | 11 | 18 | 25 |    |
| W  | 5 | 12 | 19 | 26 |    |
| Th | 6 | 13 | 20 | 27 |    |
| F  | 7 | 14 | 21 | 28 |    |
| Sa | 1 | 8  | 15 | 22 | 29 |
| Su | 2 | 9  | 16 | 23 | 30 |

March 2025

|    |   |    |    |    |    |
|----|---|----|----|----|----|
| M  | 3 | 10 | 17 | 24 | 31 |
| Tu | 4 | 11 | 18 | 25 |    |
| W  | 5 | 12 | 19 | 26 |    |
| Th | 6 | 13 | 20 | 27 |    |
| F  | 7 | 14 | 21 | 28 |    |
| Sa | 1 | 8  | 15 | 22 | 29 |
| Su | 2 | 9  | 16 | 23 | 30 |

April 2025

|    |   |    |    |    |    |
|----|---|----|----|----|----|
| M  | 7 | 14 | 21 | 28 |    |
| Tu | 1 | 8  | 15 | 22 | 29 |
| W  | 2 | 9  | 16 | 23 | 30 |
| Th | 3 | 10 | 17 | 24 |    |
| F  | 4 | 11 | 18 | 25 |    |
| Sa | 5 | 12 | 19 | 26 |    |
| Su | 6 | 13 | 20 | 27 |    |

May 2025

|    |   |    |    |    |    |
|----|---|----|----|----|----|
| M  | 5 | 12 | 19 | 26 |    |
| Tu | 6 | 13 | 20 | 27 |    |
| W  | 7 | 14 | 21 | 28 |    |
| Th | 1 | 8  | 15 | 22 | 29 |
| F  | 2 | 9  | 16 | 23 | 30 |
| Sa | 3 | 10 | 17 | 24 | 31 |
| Su | 4 | 11 | 18 | 25 |    |

June 2025

|    |   |    |    |    |    |
|----|---|----|----|----|----|
| M  | 2 | 9  | 16 | 23 | 30 |
| Tu | 3 | 10 | 17 | 24 |    |
| W  | 4 | 11 | 18 | 25 |    |
| Th | 5 | 12 | 19 | 26 |    |
| F  | 6 | 13 | 20 | 27 |    |
| Sa | 7 | 14 | 21 | 28 |    |
| Su | 1 | 8  | 15 | 22 | 29 |

July 2025

|    |   |    |    |    |    |
|----|---|----|----|----|----|
| M  | 7 | 14 | 21 | 28 |    |
| Tu | 1 | 8  | 15 | 22 | 29 |
| W  | 2 | 9  | 16 | 23 | 30 |
| Th | 3 | 10 | 17 | 24 | 31 |
| F  | 4 | 11 | 18 | 25 |    |
| Sa | 5 | 12 | 19 | 26 |    |
| Su | 6 | 13 | 20 | 27 |    |

August 2025

|    |   |    |    |    |    |
|----|---|----|----|----|----|
| M  | 4 | 11 | 18 | 25 |    |
| Tu | 5 | 12 | 19 | 26 |    |
| W  | 6 | 13 | 20 | 27 |    |
| Th | 7 | 14 | 21 | 28 |    |
| F  | 1 | 8  | 15 | 22 | 29 |
| Sa | 2 | 9  | 16 | 23 | 30 |
| Su | 3 | 10 | 17 | 24 | 31 |

Key:

 School Holiday

 Bank Holiday

 Term Time

 Inset Days

Term dates summary:

Term 1: 03 September – 25 October 2024 (39 days)

Term 2: 04 November – 20 December 2024 (35 days)

Term 3: 06 January – 14 February 2025 (30 days)

Term 4: 24 February – 04 April 2025 (30 days)

Term 5: 22 April – 23 May 2025 (23 days)

Term 6: 02 June – 23 July 2025 (38 days)

TOTAL = 195

Bank and public holidays 2024/25

Christmas Day

25 December 2024

Easter Monday

21 April 2025

Boxing Day

26 December 2024

May Day Bank Holiday

05 May 2025

New Year's Day

01 January 2025

Spring Bank Holiday

26 May 2025

Good Friday

18 April 2025

Summer Bank Holiday

25 August 2025

Academy, Free Schools, Foundation & Voluntary Aided schools can set their own term dates and may differ from ours. Please check with the individual schools for their term dates.

## School Times

Times from September 2024

- **8.30am** Gates open for children to start entering the school site and be supervised by school staff.
- **8.35am** First bell (classrooms are open for children)
- **8.40am** **Start of the school day.** All children to arrive by this time and enter their class ready for the school register to be taken.
- **8.40am** Gates close

- **3.05pm** Gates open
- **3.10pm** School day ends.

## Contact Us

We have an 'Open Door' policy so please get in touch with us - we are always happy to provide help and support.

### St Paul's CofE VC Junior School

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Somerset

BA4 5 LA

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