



Christmas Shoebox Appeal

Each year, Caton St Paul's supports the Samaritan's Purse Christmas Shoebox Appeal. And this year we are doing it again but with a slight difference. Unfortunately due to COVID-19, the usual school packing day at BMC is unable to happen this year. However, there are several ways in which you can still join in and help.

You can pack a box at home and bring it to School. Select a medium sized shoebox and make it a fun half term activity by filling it with lovely things. (A leaflet sent home contains ideas).

You can get a 'take-away' box from Brookhouse Methodist Church. You can pick up a box and some starter items from the Church. Shoebox Takeaway Dates are:

Friday 23rd October 3pm to 4pm Saturday 24th October 10am to 12pm Friday 30th October 3pm to 4pm Saturday 7th November 10am to 2pm. (Brookhouse Methodist Church has all the COVID-19 precautions in place.)

You can do a 'bubble' box. You would select some shoebox items in class and bring them into school to make up shoeboxes with your friends, in your bubbles.

You can pack a shoebox online via the Samaritans website. You can virtually pack your box and it will be sent off for you.

<https://shoebonline.samaritans-purse.org.uk>

Please help send a shoebox to a child who may not get a Christmas present and may never have received a gift before. Spread a little happiness and joy!

Mufti-Day

Our wonderful PTA have organised a mufti-day where children can wear their own clothes for £1. This is on **Friday 23 October**, the day we break up for half-term

School Photos

School photos will be taken on **Monday 19 October**. Unfortunately, due to current circumstances we are unable this year to take any sibling photos. Only individual child photos will be taken this year. Please can you ensure your child has a school jumper/cardigan.

Christmas Gifts

Today, your child will bring home a Christmas design and a list of items available. We need orders and money by next **Thursday 22 October** so we can send them off in good time for Christmas. All profits raised go to our PTA. There are some lovely Christmas gift ideas available.

Art Competition

The closing date for the PTA art competition is **Wednesday 21 October**. After this date, we will display all the entries and post them on Facebook as a gallery: please encourage your child to have a go this weekend. The theme is Autumn and your child can create anything they like around this theme. Please pop the child's name on the front so we can see who's created them when we show the gallery. £1 entry fee: all profits go to the PTA. £10 book token prize for each Key Stage.



Safety in the community

We have received disturbing reports from a couple of Y6 children that they have been approached by older children in the park, trying to encourage them buy drugs from them. Our children made the right decision and reported this to their parents, who informed the police. We are delivering messages in PSHE lessons about staying safe and making good decisions: please can you continue to do the same at home?

Procedures for dropping off and picking up

Thank you to all our Diamond Class parents who are now leaving via the Sapphire Gate after picking up their children. We know this isn't ideal, especially when you have others to pick up from Bubble 2, but it really does help to keep our system one-way.

Please remember not to gather by the white gate: there is plenty of space on the KS2 playground for parents to distance carefully.

At home time:

Bubble 1: Diamond – enter by white gate, leave by Sapphire gate. Return via white gate if picking up others. (Thank you!)

Ruby: enter and leave via white gate

Bubble 2: enter and leave via white gate

Bubble 3: enter via Church gate, leave by Sapphire gate.

Only 1 adult per family on site please!

Please ensure you are being patient when leaving Sapphire gate: there is enough space for people to follow each other out at a safe distance.

If you have any comments/suggestions about how we could improve our systems, please get in touch.

VIPs

A massive CSP well done to all our super VIPS this week. They have all shown Courage in their everyday lives

Diamond – Ivy for always listening and trying her best.

Ruby – Chloe for a fantastic piece of writing.

Topaz – Alfie for persevering after a disappointment with his art work.

Emerald – Freya for fantastic responses in French 'Ooh La La' and being wonderfully conscientious. Tres Bon!

Sapphire – Aviemae for working exceptionally hard in English.

Amethyst – Trudy for making an excellent start as a sports captain and for always producing work of a high standard.

VIP hoodies are taken home by a staff member to be washed over the weekend. These are then returned on Monday for the new VIPs to wear for the week.

New Teacher

We are very pleased to welcome Hannah Walsh to our team. Miss Walsh will be covering Ruby Class while Mrs Hangar is on maternity leave. Miss Walsh will be in school next Wednesday and Thursday to meet the children.

Extra-curricular clubs

Even in these difficult times, we continue to offer at least two enrichment clubs per bubble. Please check the timetable on the website and let us know if your child is interested in joining any of these.



Celebrate

We are very pleased to announce that our own Mrs Burridge has passed her exam in Unified English Braille. Mrs Burridge worked extremely hard to gain this award and we are sure it will be of great use to school moving forward. Well done!

Parents' evening

Ruby class parents enjoyed their first virtual parents' evening last night – this seemed to be a success with no technological hiccups. Letters have gone home tonight about parents' evenings for all other classes. Please fill these in and send them back to us as soon as possible – we will endeavour to send appointments out before half-term so you can prepare for wb 9 November.

To further improve our communication about your child's performance, we will be completing a brief half-termly report that will be sent home with your child.

If anyone needs a duplicate copy of this emailing to them as they won't be able to see the paper copy, please email bursar@stpauls.lancs.sch.uk or ring 01524 770241 and we will ensure you get a copy.

Year 6 parents

Don't forget - all applications for secondary schools have to be made by **October 31 2020**. An application has to be made for every Y6 child, regardless of their circumstances.

<https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/children-education-families/schools/apply-for-a-school-place/apply-online-for-a-school-place/>

Open Day video

Thank you to everyone who liked and shared our open day video. We have had a great response and look forward to welcoming more prospective 2021 parents to view our school.

Please remember: the closing date for Primary School applications is 15th January 2021. If you know anyone who may be interested in starting in reception at Caton St Paul's next September, please ask them to call 01524 770241 for more information.

WAC Club news

What a fantastic first half term we have had at Wrap Around Care. The children have come back to school with wonderful attitudes and it's been so lovely to see them back.

This half term we have been looking at Autumn and Harvest and the children have done some fabulous crafts using natural materials, clay and paint.

It is that time of year again where people have clear outs at home ready for Christmas. If anyone is getting rid of games consoles and games, we would love to take them off your hands.

Our WAC club is fully up and running from 8:00 – 8:50am and 3:10 – 5:50pm. If you would like a space for your child, please email longhornj@stpauls.lancs.sch.uk. Please bear with us at the moment as we have to keep children in the same bubbles as they are in at school: this is not ideal but is the only way we can follow Public Health Guidance and keep our children safe.