



St Paul's News



"LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE"

CHRISTMAS 2025

Merry Christmas



On behalf of all the staff at St Paul's, we wish you and your families a Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

As we look ahead to 2026, we are excited to continue inspiring curiosity, building resilience, and helping every child shine and reach their potential.

We look forward to welcoming the children back in January for another exciting term of learning.

'tis the season



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Attendance

"ALWAYS STRIVING TO BE BETTER"

8 classes had their attendance at or above 95% this term.

Overall school attendance this term is **94.2%** which is below the national average of **95.3%** to date.

We are committed to providing every child with the best possible education. One of the most important factors in achieving this is regular and punctual attendance. When children attend school consistently, they benefit from the full learning experience, build strong relationships with their peers and teachers, and develop routines that support lifelong success.

A big well done to all 8 classes that have an attendance at or above 95% so far this term and to the 10 winning attendance raffle winners!

Attendance this term

RLB	95.7%	2JS	86.6%	4AB	94.1%
RBCKC	93.4%	2MC	95.5%	5JM	95.8%
RSM	95.8%	3GH	95.5%	5ER	93.6%
1HI	97.3%	3CR	92.2%	5EY	89.8%
1LG	90.5%	3JB	97.5%	6CW	92.8%
1LBLG	93.6%	4VLTS	94.1%	6KG	90.6%
2HONH	94.9%	4HM	96%	6ECM	91.7%

3JB- 97.5%
1HI-97.3%

Extended Schools

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Christmas Craft

Olivia 6CW

This term has been full of wonderful experiences during extended school sessions. To promote healthy eating we created a Grinch platter. We created winter animals using various art materials . As a treat the children created 'Elf mix' with sweets , raisins , and popcorn. To finish the term off we had our annual Christmas party. 🎅

Thank you to all the children who have attended Extended Schools in 2025
Lets see what's going to happen in 2026

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from Extended Schools Team

" Coming to school on Saturday was a fun filled morning , we made candy cane reindeers , yule logs , Christmas cards and a gingerbread man hand puppet . There was also a Christmas photo booth with crazy hats to wear . For snack we had elf biscuits and hot chocolate . To end the session, we watched a movie with popcorn. during the morning, I was never bored , there was always something fun to do . I really enjoyed playing in the fake snow!" Olivia in 6CW

The Grinch



Dancing



Limbo

SPLASH CHRISTMAS PARTY



Disco

Food



Nursery

"LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE"

Lunch in the Nursery



The Nursery children thoroughly enjoy lunchtimes and have settled into a well ordered routine- first , they wash their hands, then they collect their lunchboxes and water bottles. Lastly, they find their seat.

Their behaviour is impeccable and we love seeing what's in their lunch boxes which has included- olives and smoked salmon and cream cheese bagels!

Some of our 3- 4 year olds joined the main school for Christmas lunch- which didn't phase them in the slightest!

Reception

"LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE"



The children thoroughly enjoyed taking part in their first nativity. They were exhausted by the second performance.

There are definitely budding actors and singers amongst the children. Thank you to all the parents for providing such great costumes.

Year 1

"LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE"

The Year 1 children worked their socks off to learn songs and the Nativity story this term. We were so proud of the children and how well they performed the story of Christmas and we hope all the parents who were able to come and watch enjoyed it as much as we did.

Miss Godden

We liked our grown ups watching us!



We enjoyed the Christmas story and the lights



Year 2

"LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE"

The Story of Christmas

Our Year 2 classes shone brightly in their Nativity performance while narrating, signing, singing and playing a variety of musical instruments. We are very proud of them all. Well done!



I liked the lights and I also liked the songs
Hugo

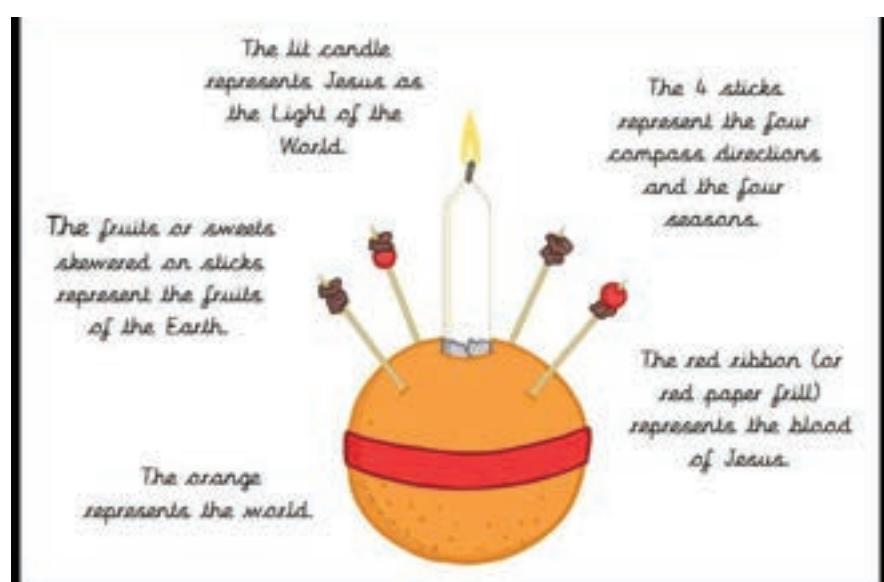
I liked all the songs and
the actions.
Isaac



Year 3

"LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE"

Christingle



The children loved making the Christingle oranges and I have to say they were so sensible with the sweets and left them intact until after the service.

Making a Christingle involves decorating an orange with a red ribbon, four cocktail sticks with sweets (representing seasons/creation), and a foil-wrapped candle (representing Jesus, the Light of the World) in the top, symbolising the Christian story for Advent services.

Mrs Bennett

Christmas Carol Service

"LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE"

Wonderful End to the Christmas Term

Our final day of term concluded with a beautiful Carol Service at St Matthew's Church, led by our talented Year 4, 5, and 6 children. The singing was magical; the Choir captivated everyone, and Dance Club added grace and elegance to the Christmas Service.

We are incredibly proud of our children and the many talents they share with us.

Miss Kiniari and Mr Glenn



Choir



Years 4,5 & 6



Dance Club

My favourite part of the dance was 'tidings of comfort and joy'.
Scarlett P [4VLTS]



3 Christmas Gifts

Year 6

"LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE"

Courageous Advocacy Day



Year 6 decided to raise money for **Action for Children's Secret Santa**. We talked about what made this time of year special for us and what it must be like for those who are less fortunate. That is why we decided to raise money for the Secret Santa.

On **Friday, 5th December** we spent the whole day making bracelets and decorations that were to be sold for 50p each (in total we made £403!) We sold the Christmas goodies for a whole week, going to classes after lunch. They were really popular and we sold out completely!

By Diana Goring.



Fun at the museum



Design Technology-Cam Movement

We made a moving snail- the shell opened- a cam movement is a mechanical system where a rotating part (the cam) pushes a contacting part and creates an 'up' and 'down' movement.

Stanley and Muhammad



Sports @ St Paul's

"LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE"



Years 5 & 6 Girls' Football Team

The Yr 5/6 girls had a warmer afternoon playing in the friendly tournament at St Leonards, organised and ran by Mr McGowan.

The girls played some great football and it was nice to see them implementing some of the things we've been working on in training into their games.

They remain undefeated, drawing 3 games 0-0 and winning 3 games; 1-0, 1-0 and finished off strong with a 3-0 win.

**Team: Lucia, Lacie, Emelia, Nya., Poppy, Viv
Mrs Barnett**



Years 3 & 4 Girls' Football Team

The year 3/4 girls faced the cold today and took part in a small friendly tournament at SLA organised by Mr McGowan.

The girls played some amazing football and remained undefeated, winning 3 games and drawing 1. Have to mention Aleen for some amazing goals and Christine who didn't stop running.

**Team: Aleen, Christine , Nargis, Erin, Emily, Pearly.
Mrs Barnett**

Christmas Lunch 2025

"LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE"



My favourite bit was the
Roast Gammon!
Harry H [Year 3]

I loved the pigs in blankets
with the crispy bacon.
Willow! [Year 5]

It was yummy!
Archie W [Year 3]



Musical achievement

"LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE"

Glyndebourne



When we performed, I felt so excited as we got to perform in front of my mum and many others! I will remember it all my life because of how amazing the experience was for me. If I had the chance, I would do it all over again.
Poppy Barnes

Year 6 have been taught by teachers from Glyndebourne Opera how to sing and create song to perform with the Glyndebourne chorus at a concert. We learnt part of Handel's Messiah and we made a song using lots of ideas from us children. Our song was called "**Listen to Your Heart**", it was about making the world a better place and stopping war.

Mrs Goodsell

One Voice- De La Warr Pavilion

Glyndebourne Opera have hosted several concerts with over 2,400 young singers from schools across East Sussex and Brighton & Hove as part of the One Voice Festival of Singing 2025, in partnership with Create Music.

The choir of young singers came together alongside a soloist from The Glyndebourne Chorus, to sing festive songs on the Glyndebourne stage, at The De La Warr Pavilion. Performances at Glyndebourne will feature the full Glyndebourne Chorus and members of the Glyndebourne Sinfonia.

Miss Watson took 30 children to the De La Warr on Tuesday 16th December to perform with 6 other local schools as well as the Glyndebourne Orchestra and the mezzo soprano-Rhiain Taylor.

The children sang beautifully in 4 different languages- Arabic, Bulgarian, French and English as well as learnt to sign the



Santa Dash

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St Paul's Santa Dash 2025

This week, we have had our Santa Dash. Each class had 10 minutes to run as many laps of our daily mile track.

KS1 made Christmas decorations to wear for their run.

KS2 wore their Christmas jumpers.

Overall, St Paul's ran **5,285 laps**.

KS1 winning class - 2MC

KS2 winning class - 4VLTS



Santa Dash	
Classes	Amount of laps
FSM	158
REBC	195
PLB	133
2ME	160
2LG	172
2WHD	161
3R	156
2MC	199
3W	329
3CH	285
4CR	324
4HM	322
4AB	345
4VLTS	341
SEY	287
5FM	243
5ER	274
6EOM	293
6CW	324
6KS	341



Safeguarding

"LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE"

Safeguarding Children over the Christmas and New Year period

This time of year provides additional challenges for schools and education providers, when it comes to monitoring the wellbeing of children in our care. December always sees a spike in safeguarding issues and every year the NSPCC report increasing numbers of children calling them for help, with a large number exposed to domestic and substance abuse. The festive period is also a common time for children to be abused by a relative, other children or close family friends who visit during over Christmas and New Year.

Lifelines and Support Networks

- The NSPCC are here to help 24/7 and children can call their Childline number on 0800 1111
- ThinkUKnow – links to various sites
- Safer Internet Centre
- Shout is the UK's first 24/7 text service, free on all major mobile networks, for anyone in crisis anytime, anywhere. It's a place to go if you're struggling to cope and you need immediate help. Text 85258
- Anna Freud Crisis Messenger – If you need support, you can text AFC to 85258. A free, confidential, 24/7 text message support service for anyone who is feeling overwhelmed or is struggling to cope
- Educateagainsthate provides practical advice and support on protecting children from extremism and radicalisation
- Internet Matters provide age-specific online safety checklists, guides on how to set parental controls, and practical tips to help children get the most out of their digital world
- Talking to your child about online sexual harassment: A guide for parents – This is the Children's Commissioner's parental guide on talking to their children about online sexual harassment
- Anti-Bullying Alliance – Detailed information for anyone being bullied, along with advice for parents and schools. Signposts to various helplines and websites for further support
- Local children social care: If you think a child or young person is at risk or being abused or neglected, contact the children's social care team at their local council. If you do not know where they live, contact your local council's team, the NSPCC or the Police for advice.

Safeguarding

"LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE"

Safeguarding Children over the Christmas and New Year period

Safeguarding children over the festive period can pose particular challenges for several reasons.

Here are some of the key issues faced:

- Increased stress or family tensions
- Christmas can bring added financial strain, family pressures, or emotional stress. This may exacerbate existing family tensions, leading to situations where children might be at risk of neglect, abuse, or harm
- Disruption of routine and isolation
- School holidays can disrupt children's regular routine, leaving them with more unstructured or unsupervised time. This could lead to situations where they spend more time in potentially unsafe environments, including online, or with individuals who may pose a risk to their safety
- Children can also feel cut off from their usual support network of trusted adults and friends. Neglected or abused children can experience extreme loneliness, anxiety, or depression
- Increased vulnerability
- Some families might face difficulties during the holidays due to various factors such as financial and emotional strain, mental health issues, or substance abuse including excess alcohol. Children in these families might be more vulnerable to neglect or abuse during this time
- Reduced access to support services
- During the holidays, some support services, including schools or community organisations, might be closed or operating at reduced capacity. This can limit the resources available to children who may need help or intervention
- Cultural or religious factors
- Different cultures or religious practices might impact how families celebrate the holidays, potentially influencing the ways in which children are cared for or supervised.

St Matthew's

"LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE"



Christmas Services this December

Sunday 7 December
11 am Carols with Sussex Brass

Sunday 21 December
11 am Family Carol Service
An all age service with the opportunity for children to dress up as characters from the Christmas Story.

Christmas Eve
4:30 pm Christingle Service
A carol service for all the family with an opportunity to hear the Christmas story and a chance for all the children to make a Christingle.

Christmas Day
11 am All Age Family Celebration



The Hub @ St Matthew's
Serving the Community

**Everybody
Welcome**

Tuesday 30 December
Christmas Buffet
10 am - 2 pm
at St Matthew's Church Centre



Key Dates

"LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE"



Monday 5th January 2026- Start of Term 3
Friday 13th February – End of Term 3
Monday 23rd February- Start of Term 4
Friday 27th March- End of Term 4
Monday 13th April- Start of Term 5
Monday 11th May- Year 6 SATs week
Friday 22nd May- End of Term 5
Monday 1st June- Start of Term 6
Tuesday 21st July- End of Term 6
Wednesday 22nd July- INSET Day

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**We'd love to hear some feedback
from you as well as any new
ideas for things we could include
in our St Paul's News. Please send
any comments to
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