



Update from Miss Lee...

As we approach the end of this half term, I'd like to share a few thoughts...

I have been impressed by the hard work and dedication our pupils have shown, despite the challenge of waking up early on winter mornings their enthusiasm in the classroom has been remarkable, we are all proud of their achievements.

This time of year also brings many unwelcome bugs impacting on many of our families, staff and pupils, thank you to all those parents who collected ill children from school, we appreciate the challenges this brings with work and personal commitments.

Wishing you all a rejuvenating half-term break and we are looking forward to seeing you back in school on Monday 26th February.

Dates for Your Diary



- School closes on Friday 16th February for half term and reopens on Monday 26th February
- Year 3/4 Trip to Manchester City Centre & the Museum of Science and Industry. 5th March – Mrs O'Connor's class. 12th March – Miss Saleem's class. 19th March – Miss Gallienne's class
- SATs Meeting for Year 6 Parents – Friday 8th March at 9.15am
- Year 5/6 Zoolab visit – Monday 18th March
- School closes for the Easter holidays on Thursday 28th March and reopens on Monday 15th April

WORLD
BOOK
DAY

We will be celebrating World Book Day on Thursday 7th March. Children can dress up as their favourite character on the day, we look forward to seeing the children's creativity. Due to the popularity of the book swap last year we are going to do it again. The children can bring in one book that they would like to swap. All children will be given the opportunity at some point of the day to choose a book donated by another child.

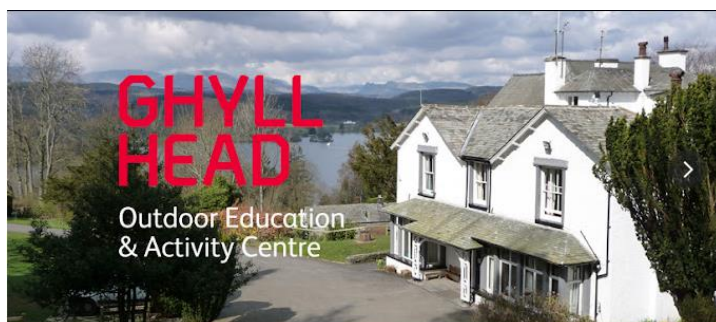
Ghyll Head Trip

This year's year 6 residential trip to Ghyll Head Outdoor Education Centre in the Lake District will take place on 22-24 May 2024.

The trip for the following academic year, which is for the current year 5's to attend when they are in year 6, will take place 21 -23 May 2025.

There are still places available on both residential trips. Please see the office for more information.

The children will spend two nights, three days away in the Lake District at the Manchester City Council Outdoor Centre; trained instructors will take groups out for various activities during each day. The course involves a wide range of outdoor physical activities some of which will include abseiling, canoeing, caving, gorge-walking and orienteering. This is a valuable opportunity for the children to experience adventurous activities in a magnificent setting. Skills such as working as part of a team and communicating will be drawn on during the days and they will keep up a reflective log of the events.



Science at St Paul's

With the help of the pupils, we have redesigned our principles of science this half-term. Our principles, shown below, represent what the pupils and staff at St Paul's believe to be core for their science lessons. Please feel free to talk to your child about their learning in science and how these represent our principles.

Principles of Science at St Pauls

Our science lessons should

Makes us excited about what we are learning

Develop our knowledge of a scientific concept or idea

Helps us improve our scientific enquiry skills

Allow us to learn and use new scientific vocabulary

Show us how what we are learning links to our world

Allow us to use scientific equipment and be hands-on

Help us recall things we have already learnt

Promote equity to allow us all to achieve



Science at Home

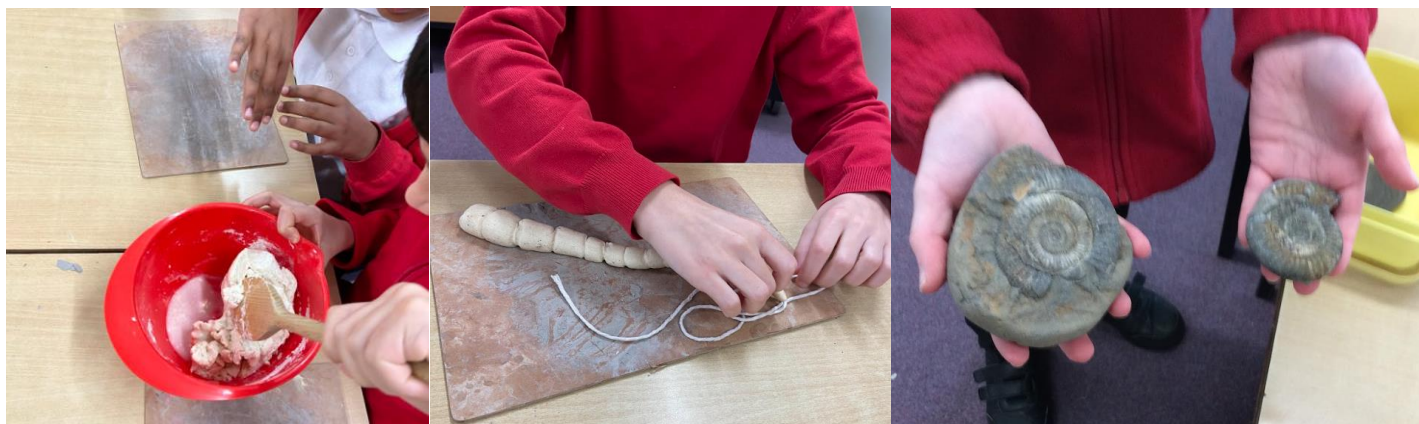
Last term we started at 'Science at Home.' This provides an opportunity for pupils and their families to engage with science outside of school. We hope this will lead to a science share event in the summer term where families can share a science project with others. To support this we are providing a scientific activity each half-term for families to carry out. This half-term's activity can be found [here](#). It explores how a balloon can be inflated without blowing. To take it further, you could explore the effect of changing the quantities in the mixture. Please email any pictures, comments, etc. to the school with the subject *science share*. This activity, and the previous one, can be completed at any time: the more children are exposed to science, the more they will engage with science.

Below is an image of pupils who completed the last half-term's activity and explored which materials were best at cleaning coins.



Year 5/6 Science

Pupils in years 5 and 6 have been looking at adaptations in science. They have learnt about how fossils are formed and how they can provide evidence of organisms that lived millions of years ago. They also made their own 'fossils' from salt dough.



Parent Workshop – Year 1/2 & 3/4

It was great to see so many parents attend the workshops organised during the half term, your presence and involvement in your child's education are crucial and your support makes a significant difference in their progress and development.



Chinese New Year

To celebrate the Chinese New Year 2024, the Year of the Dragon, all the children at St. Paul's had a full day of activities planned on the theme. Early years had Chinese Dragon dance and Chinese New Year Song, Year 1 and 2 Chinese New Year taster and Folk Dance and Key Stage 2 had Calligraphy and Martial Arts workshops led by the teachers from the Confucius Institute at Manchester University. They also had various arts and crafts activities, games with their class teachers to learn about the Chinese New Year, and experience the rich culture of China.





Year 5/6 Football Tournament

Well done to a group of year 5/6 boys who participated in their first football tournament at Green End Primary School playing against Ladybarn, Green End & St Bernard's Primary School. They made the school very proud with their attitude and sportsmanship.



PTA News & Dates for Your Diary

'Coffee and Chat' Sessions for parents - All parents are welcome (pre-school children also welcome), come and have a brew and a chat. The sessions will be held at scout hut 9-10am, next session will be - Friday 15th March

Summer Fair - Friday 5th July

Look out for the following events coming soon....

Golden Ticket Hunt in the run up to Easter
Easter Egg Window Hunt in Withington Village

We would like to extend a special thank you to our PTA for their efforts in raising funds for our school. Their hard work is funding a number of projects over the next few terms— which will be shared by our PTA. One area that has recently been funded is the investment in new plants to enhance our school environment, other projects this year are Withington Walls art project and a bike/scooter storage facility at school.