

20.12.2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

RE: Autumn Term School Progress Report

I hope this progress report finds you well and ready to celebrate the end of what has been the longest Autumn term on record. Despite its length, I am pleased to say that it has also been one of the most enjoyable terms we have had here at Hoddlesden St Paul's CE Primary and Pre-School.

As we reflect on the past few months, one thing that stands out is the incredible progress our children have made. Looking back at the Class Blogs, it is truly mind blowing to see the breadth, depth, and variety of learning that has taken place. From creative writing to scientific experiments, from historical re-enactments to mathematical challenges, our children have truly excelled in every subject.

I would also like to take a moment to acknowledge the dedication and enthusiasm of our children in attending our lunchtime and after school clubs. The number of children participating in these extracurricular activities has been nothing short of phenomenal. It is heart-warming to see their eagerness to learn and grow outside of the regular school hours.

Furthermore, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to all the children who have represented our school this term. Whether it was on residentials, school trips, sporting events, or in front of our Church congregations, their commitment and exemplary behaviour have been truly commendable. They have not only made us proud but also served as wonderful ambassadors for our school.

For a more detailed account of our termly success, I encourage you to read the rest of this progress report. It highlights the achievements, milestones, and noteworthy events that have shaped this term and showcases the outstanding efforts of our students and staff.

As we move forward into the next term, I am filled with excitement and anticipation for all that is to come. I am confident that with the continued support of our dedicated teachers, parents, and guardians, our children will achieve new heights of success and continue to flourish academically and personally.

Thank you once again for your unwavering support and commitment to our school community. Together, we can ensure that Hoddlesden St Paul's CE Primary and Pre-School remains a place where children can thrive, learn, and make cherished memories that will last a lifetime.

Christmas Mission 2023

I am delighted to share with you the incredible success of our Christmas Mission this year, which has once again showcased the true spirit of our school community.

Over the past 8 years, we have joined forces as a school community, guided by our dedicated Values Committee, to support families in need across Darwen. This year, we received an astounding 21 referrals from other primary schools, seeking additional help for their most vulnerable families. It is with great pride that I can say, yet again, our school family rose to the challenge with incredible generosity.

Our food hampers, which were overflowing with essential items, were made possible thanks to the overwhelming response from all of you. We were inundated with food donations, ensuring that these families have the necessary 'staples' to enjoy a comforting Christmas. In addition, we also asked for donations during our concerts throughout December, and I am thrilled to announce that this act of kindness raised over £1000!

The money raised has not only provided the hampers with everything they need for a festive feast, but it has also enabled us to purchase dental and sanitary resources for the children, young people and their families. As we, all know dental and personal care items can be quite expensive, so this contribution will truly make a difference in their lives.

I would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to the Directors and Staff at Uniplay, a local business that has shown tremendous courage and advocacy in collaborating with our school team. Their support has been invaluable and has helped save Christmas for over 750 children over the last eight years. We are immensely grateful for their generosity and commitment to our local and wider community.

Attendance, Punctuality and Communication

This term has presented some challenges for us in terms of attendance. Illness and other factors have contributed to increased absences, and we have noticed a rise in lateness. I want to remind everyone that the school day officially begins at **8.50am and ends at 3.15pm**, in line with the Government's expectations. To help with the smooth running of the school, we offer a 'soft' opening from 8.45am.

Looking ahead, I would like to emphasise that we will continue to not authorise any holiday leave during term time. Our Attendance Policy clearly outlines the penalty notice protocol for leave that exceeds the specified periods. If your child arrives late on multiple occasions, you may receive a warning letter and be asked to meet with our attendance officer, or another senior member of staff to discuss the reasons for the lateness. We are always willing to work with you to find solutions if there are genuine difficulties. However, persistent lateness may result in a meeting with the local authority's educational welfare officer (EWO) and the potential issuance of a fixed penalty notice.

I would like to extend a huge thank you to each and every one of you for your patience, assistance, and cooperation during our Christmas activities. This time of year can be incredibly chaotic, and we understand that things can sometimes be missed, misread, or miscommunicated. However, your unwavering support has made all the difference, ensuring that our events and celebrations ran smoothly and were enjoyed by all.

From our delightful nativity play, where our talented young actors brought the story of Christmas to life, to our festive stay & plays and carol singing, it has been a joyous December, filled with laughter and merriment. The enthusiasm and dedication of our children, staff, and parents have truly made this a memorable season for everyone involved.

Parking and Walking to School

Please find the link to our 'How to Guides' - <https://www.stpaulshoddlesden.org.uk/how-toguides/>

Please take note to the un-adopted 'One Way' system for drivers, that voluntarily all parents and carers adopt at drop off and pick up times. This is not a legal road change but something that has been adopted to ensure the hectic time of schools are as organised as possible.

One-way system



Every morning, myself and a member of the senior management or leadership team will be present to support the drop off and collection times.

Please can I also remind children that road network around school at pick up and drop off times are extremely busy. Staff are present to provide additional support regarding traffic and safe transition into the school premises.

Parents are responsible for making the decision for the children to either walk by their side, or run a head. Allowing children to run ahead and cross the road independently, especially for our younger aged pupils is of huge concern around these busy collections and drop off times.

School Uniform

Our expectations for the next term continue to remain high for all children and I would like to thank you on ensuring your child comes to school in the correct uniform. Moving forwards, parents can have the option of sending children into school with badged or a non-badged **white t-shirts and polo shirts**. When the children are wearing shorts, these can be a fitted or a relaxed fit but must be a length at mid-thigh down to their knee. Some children, particular girls, are wearing shorts that are significantly higher than mid-thigh and on some occasions not noticeable due to their jumper hanging low.

Our school policy for the children's uniform can be found on the school website.

PE kits are now solely purchased from Grays in Blackburn. Please ensure your child is wearing the Joma tracksuit pants. These are perfect for our colder, wetter and windier days during autumn and spring. The only exception will be given to children who are smaller, in size, due to the sizing of this garment not going as low as reception and pre-school age.

Curriculum Achievements, League Tables and External Reviews

I am delighted to say that our children have transitioned seamlessly into their new class teams. Watching them settle in and flourish has been a joy to behold. I would like to extend a warm welcome to all our new families who have joined us this term, whether in pre-school, reception, or other classes. We are thrilled to have you as part of our school community.

Walking through the corridors, one cannot help but be struck by the vibrant displays showcasing our children's achievements. Each display is a testament to their love for learning and their dedication to their chosen themes. It is a pleasure to see their hard work and creativity on full display.

In other news, our school was featured in the local paper this week. Although we were not asked to comment on the article, it was heartening to see our former Year 6 class being celebrated. While the term 'league table' may evoke mixed reactions, I feel compelled to express my gratitude to our incredible teaching team. Their tireless efforts and commitment to our children's learning and progress are truly commendable.

School Improvement Themes

As we approach the end of another term, I wanted to take this opportunity to celebrate the progress we have made at Hoddlesden St Paul's CE Primary and share with you our key priorities.

Our first key priority focuses on the development of our pupils' knowledge and skills across the CUBE curriculum. We are proud to see our children achieving strong academic outcomes, as evidenced by their exceptional work and the feedback we receive from our subject leaders.

Building on this success, our second priority is to implement strategies that will further enhance the outcomes for our more able children. By analysing end-of-year data in core subject areas, we ensure that the pupils are consistently challenged and supported, leading to improved outcomes across all subjects.

Equally important is our commitment to ensuring that all groups of children, make good to outstanding progress from their starting points. Our school's identification and review processes play a vital role in identifying and supporting these students, ensuring that no child is left behind.

To support these priorities, our subject leaders will be recording and responding to children's learning gains. By refining our curriculum and encouraging children to recall prior learning, we can enhance their purposeful learning and subject outcomes.

Lastly, we aim to foster highly positive attitudes and commitment to education, while also promoting our core Christian and British values. It is our belief that these qualities will not only benefit our children's academically, but also shape them into well-rounded individuals.

Staffing Update

As shared in December's newsletter, Miss Barton left to begin her maternity leave recently. We are eagerly looking forward to the arrival of her little one, who is due over the Christmas period. We are also thrilled to be sharing the news Miss McDermott will be leaving in the New Year to start her maternity leave too! This is such an exciting time for both members of staff and their families.

In Miss Barton and Miss McDermott absence, Mr Robinson and Mrs Schofield will join the early year's team. We are pleased that they are joining the team in Pre-School and Reception.

All that there is left for me to say is, Merry Christmas! Stay safe, continue to make family memories and I cannot wait to see you all in the new year. Once again, a huge 'thanks' to the staff, children and families for making this another successful school term for us all.

Take care and God Bless,



**Wishing you and your family a
wonderful festive season**

Warmest wishes,
Mr Dugdale
and all the staff at Hoddlesden St Paul's