# Sarum St Paul's

**Church of England Primary School (VA)**

*Rooted in Love, Growing Together*

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**Headteacher: Mrs Hannah Easthope**


4th September 2026

**A Wonderful Start to the New School Year**

Dear Parents and Carers,

What a wonderful start we have had to the new school year! Following two really positive INSET days with our staff team, it has been lovely to welcome the children back to Sarum St Paul's. We have had two calm, settled and happy days in school, and the children have returned ready to learn and full of enthusiasm for the year ahead.

A particularly warm welcome goes to our new Reception children and their families as they begin their journey with us, as well as to the other children and families who have joined Sarum St Paul's across the school. We are also very pleased to welcome two new members of staff: Emily Haslam, who joins us as one of our Year 4 teachers, and Sonia Fernandez, who joins our team as a 1:1 Teaching Assistant. I am sure you will join me in making them both feel very welcome.

As we settle into the new school year, I wanted to share a few important updates and reminders.

**Our Vision and Values**

At the heart of our school is our vision, **Rooted in Love, Growing Together**, which is rooted in the words of Ephesians 3:17–18: *"rooted and grounded in love."*

Our four values are:

**Love • Community • Courage • Growth**

These values help us to live out our vision each day. They shape how we learn together, how we treat one another and the kind of community we want Sarum St Paul's to be.

We have been revisiting our vision and values with the children at the start of the new school year and will continue to explore what they mean in practice throughout the year.

Our Friday celebration certificates will now be linked to our values, recognising children who are demonstrating them in school. You should also begin to see praise slips coming home again when staff have noticed something your child is doing particularly well.

**Handwriting and Kinetic Letters**

This year, we are introducing Kinetic Letters, a whole-school approach to developing handwriting.

As part of this, you may notice that some children who have previously been using a pen move back to using a pencil for a period of time. This is a deliberate part of strengthening letter formation and developing secure handwriting habits. We are currently reviewing how and when children will move from pencil to pen as part of our new approach and pen licences will no longer be used.

We will share more information about Kinetic Letters as the approach becomes established across the school.

**Uniform and PE Kit**

We have high expectations for school uniform and will be tightening up on this during the year. Thank you for your support in ensuring children come to school wearing the correct uniform each day.

For everyday school wear, children should wear **plain black shoes or trainers**. These should be completely black, **including the soles**. Hair that is shoulder length or longer should be tied back, and hair accessories should be small and blue in colour.

We particularly need your support with PE kit. Children should wear a white T-shirt, plain dark bottoms, suitable trainers and a plain, dark hoodie/ sweatshirt or their school jumper. PE trainers can be any colour, provided they are suitable for physical activity. Branded sportswear and clothing with large logos should not be worn as part of the school PE kit.

Where uniform does not meet our expectations, your child's class teacher or another member of staff will speak to you about this. If there is a reason why your child is temporarily unable to wear the correct uniform, please let us know so that we are aware and can work with you.

**PE Days**

Children in Years 1–6 should come to school wearing their PE kit on their class PE days:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Year 1:** Monday and Friday | **Year 2:** Monday and Wednesday | **Year 3:** Thursday and Friday |
| **Year 4:** Tuesday and Thursday | **Year 5:** Monday and Wednesday | **Year 6:** Tuesday and Wednesday |

Reception children should bring their PE kit into school in a named bag that is kept on their peg.

Please ensure children are wearing the correct PE kit on these days, as outlined above.

**Ready, Respectful and Safe**

Our three school rules continue to be:

**Ready • Respectful • Safe**

We have spent time over these first few days reminding children of our expectations and routines, and it has been wonderful to see how positively they have responded. We will continue to teach and reinforce these consistently across the school alongside our relational approach to behaviour.

**SEND and Additional Needs**

We know that moving into a new class can be particularly important for children with SEND or additional needs. Detailed handovers have taken place between staff for children with identified additional needs or individual plans. Mrs Beales, our SENCO, has also worked with staff to ensure that relevant information and support have been shared with new class teachers. If you have a concern about your child's needs or support, please speak to their class teacher in the first instance.

**Attendance and Punctuality**

Attendance remains an important priority for us this year. Every day in school matters. Regular attendance gives children the best possible opportunity to learn, build friendships and keep up with their class.

Our gates open at **8:50am** and children should come straight into school. All children must be in school and ready for registration by **9:00am**. School finishes at **3:20pm,** when they can be collected from their classroom doors.

**Key Stage 2 Snacks**

A reminder that children in Key Stage 2 may bring a healthy snack for morning break. This should be fruit, vegetables, a protein-based snack or plain crackers. Please do not send crisps, sweets, chocolate or biscuits for morning snack.

Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are provided with a snack at school.

**Seesaw**

We will be increasing our use of Seesaw this year, particularly to share curriculum information, learning and projects from your child's class. Seesaw codes will be shared as soon as possible so that you can access your child's new class.

Our teachers put a great deal of time into sharing children's learning through Seesaw, so please do keep up to date with posts and engage where you can by commenting, responding to messages and talking to your child about what has been shared. Your engagement really helps us to strengthen the connection between learning at school and at home.

**Our New Houses**

We are making an exciting change to our school houses this year. Our four houses will now be linked to the four patron saints of the United Kingdom:

**St George (red) • St Andrew (blue) • St Patrick (green) • St David (yellow)**

Children will remain connected to their current house colour. The children will learn about their saint and we will be introducing opportunities to celebrate each house on its saint's day during the year.

**Our New Website and School Dates**

Our new school website is now live and we would love you to have a look. We will continue to develop and add to it over the coming weeks and months.

Dates for the school year will be added to the website, with key dates also included in our weekly newsletters. We will send out our important autumn term dates shortly so that families can get these into diaries as early as possible.

**Parent Survey**

Thank you to everyone who took the time to complete our parent survey at the end of last term. Your feedback is really valuable and will help us as we continue to develop the school. We have been looking carefully at all of the feedback you shared and will be communicating more about the responses, including the things we will be taking forward, very soon.

Congratulations to **Cali Asante, mum to Grace and Hallela**, who was randomly selected as the winner of our **£20 voucher**. We will be presenting this to her in the next few days.

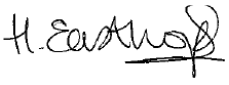
**Raising Questions or Concerns**

Finally, if you have a question or concern, please come and speak to us. In most cases, your child's class teacher is the best first point of contact. We would always rather have a conversation so that we can understand the situation and work together.

Please do not use parent WhatsApp groups or social media as a way of raising or resolving concerns about school. These spaces can be useful for parents to communicate with one another, but questions or concerns about school are much more effectively addressed by speaking directly to us.

It has been a genuinely lovely start to the year and I have really enjoyed seeing the school full of children again. Thank you for helping us to make these first few days so positive. I am looking forward to everything the year ahead will bring as we continue to be **Rooted in Love, Growing Together**.

Best wishes,



Hannah Easthope
Headteacher