



Happy New Year

On behalf of the staff at the school, may I wish each of you a very healthy and prosperous 2010. It is incredible to think that we are already into the second term of this academic year, considering all that went on in the lead up to Christmas. This term really lends itself to a time of consolidation and a robust push for academic progress. There will be a distinct emphasis on core skills over the next 3 months and we should see significant development in reading, writing and numeracy. Obviously this may not be true across the board, as children have different needs at different times, but generally this should be the trend. We look forward to sharing the results with you at the parent contact meetings in the middle of March.

New Arrivals

We always enjoy welcoming new children and their parents into the SPBPS family! This term is no exception and we have a bunch of newcomers starting in the first couple of weeks. Please look out for them and make them feel welcome at our lovely school.

The Thomas family - Megan joins us in Year 1

The Forero family - Antonio is with us in Year 3 for a few weeks

The Williams family - Evelyn joins us in Nursery 2

We also have 2 children starting in Nursery from existing families at the school, so welcome to Amelie Whitehouse and Charlie Stamper!

Charity News

Thanks to the incredible support from all our families, we raised a total of Eur350 from the Christmas shopping day (Eur 230) and the Fayre (Eur120), which was donated to a local palliative care unit in Leuven. They were very pleased to receive the donation just before they had their annual Christmas party, which meant that they could brighten up the wards and have some extra 'goodies' for the patients at a very difficult time of the year for them. We have received a letter from the sister-in-charge of the unit, conveying their heartfelt thanks for the 'gift' that they received from St Paul's BPS.

New Year Charitable drive for the Aged

This is the last push for our fundraising effort at the start of this year. We would like to help Ziekenzorg, a local welfare who care for elderly people in our local commune, and the British Charitable Fund who provide both financial and social assistance to (often elderly) British citizens living in Belgium who find themselves in financial or other distress. Please could each child bring in a gift of food, money or both by Tuesday morning (12 January) at the latest. Money should be in a sealed envelope, with the name of your child and the amount enclosed written on the envelope. Food items should be non-perishable (not fresh fruit, vegetables, meat or dairy products) and still in original containers, e.g. tins, packets or boxes.

The gifts will be collected personally by representatives of Ziekenzorg and the BCF on Tuesday 12 January 2009. They will visit each class, and explain to the children how their gifts will help individual people. This will also give them an opportunity to thank the children personally for their contributions.

New Opportunity

Dear Parents,
I run the Guide unit at St Pauls British Primary. Guides is for girls aged 10 -14. For younger girls, guiding has Rainbows aged 5-7 and Brownies aged 7-10. There are existing Rainbow and Brownie units both at the British School and at St Anthony's church in Kraainem.

I think it would be great to get a new Rainbow unit to open at St Pauls. As well as the girls we would also require at least 2 adult leaders. Guiding gives a lot of help and support to people training to be leaders. Whilst I am not volunteering to run the unit, I will be able to give the leaders support and assistance, particularly in setting the unit up.

As the Guide unit runs on a Tuesday evening, it is proposed that the Rainbows would also

run on Tuesdays, but from 4.30-5.30pm and if possible the unit would start after Easter this year.

I would like to ask anyone interested in finding out more about becoming a leader or who alternatively would be able to give regular support and assistance to contact me in order that we can arrange a meeting. Alternatively, if you know someone who would be interested, please pass this information on to them.

In addition, it is also necessary to find out if there is demand for the unit, so if you have a daughter born between 1st Jan 2004 and 1st May 2005 interested in joining a unit at Easter, or between 1st May 2005 and 30th September 2005, interested in joining a unit after the summer, please

send me their name and date of birth.

If you have a daughter born before 1st Jan 2004 and would like her details to be put onto the Rainbow or Brownie waiting list for the existing units, I would be happy to pass their details on to the relevant person. We do have spaces for guides at the St Pauls unit for girls aged 10+, so if you know anyone please let me know.

Below is a link to the girlguiding official website with more information about Rainbows.

http://www.girlguiding.org.uk/girls_in_guiding/rainbows.aspx

I look forward to hearing from you.

Emma Nalson

Dates for your diary

Monday 4 January	Start of Spring Term	Friday 5 March	Women's Day Celebration, Yr 2, 3, 4
Tuesday 12 January	New Year Charitable drive	Wednesday 10 March	Parent contact evening from 18:00 to 20:00
Tuesday 12 January	Year 1 trip to the toy museum	Tuesday 16 March	Parent contact evening from 16:00 to 18:00
Thursday 14 January	Year 3/4 information evening @ 19:30	Monday 22 to Saturday 27 March	Week of culture – living in Belgium
Thursday 28 January	Parents Association meeting @ 20:00	Wednesday 24 March	Spring Concert 18:00 to 19:30
Tuesday 02 February	Reception trip to the Africa museum	Saturday 27 March	Official inauguration of the new buildings
Monday 15 to Friday 19 February	Half term break	Wednesday 31 March	End of Spring term at 12:00
Monday 22 February	Staff training – non-pupil day		

Newsletter

The weekly newsletter is meant to be informative and keep you updated on news and events at the school. If you have any questions about the articles featured in this or any other issue of the SPBPS Newsletter, or would like to see additional information featured, please send an email to: newsletter@stpaulsbps.com.

Brett