



Friday 19th July 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to you today with a series of announcements, but also to say thank you to everyone at SWB for welcoming me so warmly into your community. I know it has been a challenging year for all, but I have been inspired by the compassion and resilience that you have displayed.

Firstly, I would like to update on the plans to hold a memorial for Avril. Naturally we want to ensure that the children, staff and wider community have an opportunity to pay tribute to Avril. For this reason we have taken the time to carefully plan a thoughtful event that we will also invite her family and trustees to. I have no doubt there will be a number of colleagues from across the local authority and beyond that will also want to pay their respects. The memorial will take place at SWB in the autumn term more details to follow...

Change always brings a degree of uncertainty, but I hope that you are filled with the same confidence that I have for the future of the school. Many of you will now have met Siobhan, David and Karyce and have seen firsthand the passion they have for improving the lives of young people.

They will now utilise the diligence and skill with which they have evolved St Paul's Way Primary School to benefit SWB, and I know that they are all very excited to start in September. I am sure you will extend to them the same warmth as you have shown me.

The children have continued to flourish this term, and the provisional results that have just been published are a testament to their ambition and dedication to learning. I also want to acknowledge the hard work, effort and commitment of our amazing teaching staff and support staff who work their hardest to provide a high quality of education day in and day out.

In terms of the headline figures, we have demonstrated attainment levels that are broadly in line or far exceed the national average across each key stage.

Provisional results:

EYFS:

	National Average 2023	SWB 2024
Good Level of Development	67%	65%

KS1 Phonics:

	National Average 2023	SWB 2024
Pass	79%	82%

KS2:

	Expected Standard		Greater Depth	
	National Average 2024	SWB 2024	National average 2023*	SWB 2024
Reading	74%	91%	29%	33%
Writing	72%	87%	13%	17%
Maths	73%	98%	24%	43%
Reading, writing and maths combined	61%	85%	8%	13%
Grammar Spelling & Punctuation	72%	91%	30%	63%

As well as celebrating these remarkable results, this is the time of the year where we say a fond farewell to some of the team. Debbie Whaley, our wonderful Assistant Headteacher, is retiring to spend more time with her family. She leaves a fantastic legacy after spending the last 22 years with the school. I know we will all miss her cheery, can-do attitude.

Some of our wonderful support staff have been employed through an agency, and they are moving on to take up new opportunities. We want to say a special thank you to these staff too for always ensuring our pupils reach their full potential. We also say goodbye to Marcin, Anna and Ellie, all of whom are leaving to pursue projects that they are passionate about. I want to thank each and every one of them for the assistance they have provided me and the school. Personally, I know it would have been difficult to uphold the school's high standards without their commitment. We wish them all the best of fortune in their future endeavours. Thank you also to Orit who has been a long term supporter of Sir William Burrough and has championed the performing arts as Sir William Burrough, ensuring the provision goes from strength to strength.

All staff this term have helped to provide some excellent activities for our pupils and we will be sharing some of the highlights in the end of term newsletter. Please look out for this as there will be a number of useful reminders and information too. We still have a few more days of the term left and I look forward to seeing many of you at the school gate. Please let me finish by reiterating what a pleasure and privilege it has been fulfilling the roles and responsibilities of the Headteacher of this exceptional school over the last few months.

Yours sincerely,

Laura McPhee

Director of Education