



St. Paul's School

MANIBUS POTENTIA STUDIUM ANIMIS

5th February, 2015

Dear parents,

The water crisis in São Paulo

I know from talking to many of you that you have concerns about the current water shortages in the city. It is something that is, rightly, on all of our minds, and something that, here in school, we have been considering for some time. I know that all of us are considering ways to reduce our water consumption at home and I am sure that you have started to do this already. With the prospect of rationing in the future, we thought it would be helpful to highlight to you that we have already reduced our water use in school considerably and that we have further plans to do so if the situation worsens.

We already have the following water saving measures in place:

- Reduced water pressure in taps and showers
- Reduced volume flushes in the school's toilets
- Collection of water from the groundwater around the sports centre which is used for cleaning purposes and for watering the field
- Collecting rainwater which is used for the same purposes
- No longer having water for pupils to play in (swapped for sand)
- Reuse of water in the kitchens, for example using dish washing water to clean the floors
- Reduced frequency of washing outdoor spaces.

Of course, it is also essential that we encourage the children to be aware of the need to save water and be responsible for their own consumption. We are doing this in all three sections of the school with programmes of assemblies, PSHE projects, focuses in curriculum areas and also in circle time and other discussion activities. This has been going on for some time and the environment prefects have been working hard to raise awareness and encourage the pupils to think of things that they can do personally to reduce our consumption. These are the kinds of things that are happening:

- Lots of pupil awareness and education through assemblies and our curriculum
- Pupils save unused drinking water into a bucket for watering plants
- Melted ice from the nurse goes into buckets for watering plants

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Please ask your children what they have been doing in school – they may have some ideas that you can implement at home too!

In addition to the measures already in place we propose, as of Monday 9th February, to allow all prep school pupils to wear their PE kit all day on the days on which they have PE lessons. We know that you worry about how much water is used at home in the laundry and we hope that this measure will reduce the load and is a practical solution that can make a big collective difference quite quickly.

We will be constantly reviewing practices at school and when further measures are needed, will implement and communicate these to you. In addition, I hope to be able to share our sustainability and environment policy with you when it is completed and has been officially adopted by the board.

We all know that small changes on all our parts can make a huge collective difference. This is what we are teaching the pupils and I hope that you will join us in making a huge collective effort to reduce our water use and help the city at this difficult time for us all.

Louise Simpson

Head