



'There is one body, and one Spirit, just as there is one hope to which God has called you.'

Ephesians 4: 4-5



Weekly Newsletter - Autumn Term – Friday 20th December 2024



Good afternoon,

Well we made it to the end of term and what an ending it was!

We have thoroughly enjoyed this week with the children, celebrating Christmas and having fun.

This week we have managed to fit in our Christmas Church Service, Christmas dinner, Carols around the Tree, a trip to Amerton Farm and smores around the Forest School campfire – all whilst still learning and bringing our Autumn Term topics to an end. We have sung and danced our way through the week and it has been a pleasure watching how confident your children are becoming.

We have unfortunately had a lot of illness this week – we hope everyone is feeling better soon and send prayers and best wishes. Please make sure you read our additional guidance sent via email this week about how to keep safe and well over the winter period.

Lastly, thank you so much for all of your donations and support. We raised a staggering £765.58!!! We are beyond grateful and very excited to plan some larger projects to spend the money on and support our children's learning journey.

As we come to the end of Autumn Term 2024 I can look back and reflect on my first year at St Pauls as one I most definitely will not forget. I cannot believe I started my journey in January. The time has literally flown by yet at the same time I feel I have always been here! You have all made me feel so welcome, your generosity always shines through and your support is very much appreciated. A huge thank you to each and every staff member who comes to work every day giving 110% to ensure that your children are safe, happy and making every learning opportunity count. I am very lucky to have such a brilliant team. We are all looking forward to 2025 and what the new year brings.

So, from our family to yours, we hope you have the most wonderful Christmas, restful holidays and a happy, joyful New Year.

See you in 2025

Miss Gaskell and the St Pauls Team





Reception



What a festive and fun-filled final week we've had in Reception! The children have been busy with a variety of exciting Christmas activities, each helping to develop new skills while enjoying the magic of the season.



This week, our little ones have been creating some beautiful gifts and decorations. They made calendars to raise money, which they can proudly show off in the New Year. The children also had fun making Christmas tree cards by using a cut straw for printing. What fantastic little artists!

In Maths, the children have been revisiting their shapes knowledge, including circles, triangles, squares, and rectangles, which they used to design their own stained-glass festive windows. They really enjoyed this activity, using their understanding of shapes to create something beautiful!



Our funky fingers activities have been a big hit too! The children have been using tongs to move and position pom-poms and gems to decorate snowmen, gingerbread people, and other festive images. They also had the chance to practice their fine motor skills by peeling and placing stickers to create these lovely Christmas characters. In a similar activity, the children were busy making their own festive wreaths, carefully using tongs to handle prickly leaves like holly and cranberries. It was a great way to learn about safety while also getting into the holiday spirit!

This has been another "WOW" moment from the week...the children worked together to build a town representing Bethlehem with natural blocks. After that, they retold the Nativity Story using characters they had made. It was so special to see them demonstrating what they know through play!



Another exciting adventure took place in our water tray, where the children built boats to sail around icebergs. They tested different materials to find out which were best at staying afloat, using their knowledge of waterproof materials to make the most successful boats.

To top off an already amazing week, we visited Amerton Farm where the children met Father Christmas and his reindeer, along with some other farmyard animals. Each child received a special gift from Father Christmas. If your child wasn't feeling well on the day, don't worry—Father Christmas remembered them, and their gift is waiting for them at school when they are feeling better.



This festive week has been full of rich learning opportunities, from artistic expression to scientific discovery, and we hope the children had as much fun as we did!



Wishing you all a very peaceful Christmas. We look forward to welcoming the children back in 2025 for more adventures and learning!



Year 1 and Year 2



It has been a very festive and busy week in Year 1 and 2 this week! We had a very exciting call from a special visitor on Tuesday and children were able to ask Santa any questions that had about the big day.

To complete our work on Paddington's Christmas Post, this week the children have written a diary entry as Paddington Bear recounting on his Christmas Day experience. The children have been working on writing past tense verbs and they were able to able this knowledge to their diary entries.

As part of our Staying Healthy topic in PSHE, the children looked at why it is important to brush your teeth. The children already had a brilliant understanding of this. The were tasked to correctly sequence the steps to brushing your teeth, they worked in groups to complete this task and did so brilliantly.



In Art this week, our focus was Incision Printing. The children made incisions into a polystyrene board and then used this as their plate to print into their sketchbooks. The class created some lovely festive designs and the children used their knowledge from the previous lessons on Printing to ensure their art work was successful once more.

In History this week, as our final lesson on Guy Fawkes and the Gunpowder Plot, we explored what Parliament is and the importance of it. We also looked at the building of the Houses of Parliament. After exploring the inside of the building through a virtual tour, the children built their own Houses of Parliament using cubes. The results of this activity were fantastic!



To end the week, we had our trip to Amerton Farm, the children were superstars and they were a credit to the school with their manners and excellent behaviour throughout the day. They got to visit Santa, meet the Reindeers and other farm animals and go on a tractor ride! It has been an absolutely amazing first term for the children, they have grown and progressed so much since September. I am so proud of them, well done Year 1 and 2!





Year 3 and Year 4



As we near the end of the Autumn term, it has been a joy to reflect on the wonderful learning and activities your children have engaged in. This week has been especially busy and exciting!

The children have been preparing to write their own narrative poems inspired by *The Polar Express*. Exploring *The Night Before Christmas*, they focused on rhyming couplets and have shown great creativity in crafting their poetic lines.

In history, we explored Stone Age life in the local area, examining natural resources available in the West Midlands and comparing them to other regions. The children showed curiosity and empathy while imagining the challenges of that time.



Our stop-motion animation projects were completed this week. The children added text, transitions, and sound effects, demonstrating excellent teamwork and problem-solving as they polished their videos.



In art, the children finished their collages by adding detail with stencils, creating vibrant, layered pieces. They were proud of how this technique added depth and texture to their work.



To get into the festive spirit, we created snowman decorations for the school fayre. The children's beautifully crafted designs are sure to bring joy to those who purchase them.



activities and festive cheer. To finish, we watched *The Polar Express*, perfectly reflecting the themes of belief and imagination that have inspired our learning this term.

We ended the week with a magical Forest School session, enjoying outdoor

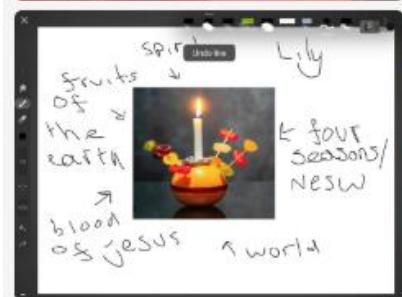
Thank you for your support this term. We wish you and your families a joyful and restful Christmas break and look forward to welcoming the children back in the New Year for another exciting term of learning.



Year 5 and 6



This year, my Year 6 class has been busy engaging in a variety of creative and educational projects. They've explored the art of monotype printing, creating unique and expressive pieces. In math, they've worked in groups on fraction activities, deepening their understanding through collaborative problem-solving. For English, students wrote imaginative narrative poems inspired by *The Polar Express*, bringing their creativity to life through vivid storytelling. Additionally, they produced podcasts on the economic activities of the UK and sustainability, researching and presenting important topics in an engaging and informative way. It's been a year full of creativity, teamwork, and learning!





ST. PAUL'S CHURCH

Merry Christmas from St Paul's

We would like to invite you to our Christmas Services

Messy Christingle Sunday 8th December at 3.30pm

Carols by Candlelight Sunday 15th December at 6.30pm

Christmas Eve Crib Service at 5.00pm

Christmas Eve Midnight Communion at 11.30pm

Christmas Day Communion at 10.00am

Everyone's Welcome

St Paul's Church,
Lichfield Road,
Stafford,
ST17 4LJ

Please find below some important information sent out by Staffordshire Police and Network Rail

 STAFFORDSHIRE POLICE

ESCOOTERS & THE LAW



DO YOU KNOW THE LAW IF YOU HAVE AN E-SCOOTER?

What is the law if you have an e-scooter?

You can buy one but you can't ride it on a UK public road, cycle lane or pavement. The only place an e-scooter can be used is on private land with the landowner's permission.

Why is this?

E-scooters are classified as Powered Transporters, so they are treated as motor vehicles and subject to the same legal requirements such as:

- MOT
- Licensing
- Tax
- Insurance

As e-scooters do not have number plates, signalling ability and don't always have visible rear lights, they can't be used legally on the roads.

What happens if you are stopped?

We understand the public's support for environmentally friendly modes of transport. We want to work with the public to make sure the roads are safe for everyone.

Following controlled trials of e-scooter hire in two Staffordshire towns these have since come to an end due to the risk and legal implications.

E-scooters are subject to the rules and regulations outlined in the Road Traffic Act 1988. There have been prosecutions in Staffordshire of e-scooter riders in relation to dangerous driving and other offences resulting in their disqualification.

What is a section 59?

Section 59 of the Police Reform Act allows police to give road users a warning if they are reported to have used their vehicle in a manner which causes alarm, distress or annoyance. Staffordshire Police also have the powers to seize vehicles. Please make sure you keep your e-scooter on private land so this doesn't happen to you.

Report a crime to us at staffordshire.police.uk or call 101. In an emergency call 999.





BRITISH
TRANSPORT
POLICE



Dear Parent or Guardian

Trespassing on the railway network is extremely dangerous and endangers not only the lives of those on the track, but also passengers, railway staff and the general public.

Many people - especially young people - fail to understand the danger they put themselves and others in, when they make the choice to stray onto the rail network. As summertime approaches, we are already seeing an increase in the number of incidents being reported in the local area of Bugbrooke and incidents we're seeing involve children and young people:

- Walking along the railway lines
- Throwing stones at trains
- Placing objects on the railway lines
- Using the railway as a playground

I am sure you agree that all of the above activities are extremely dangerous.

The British Transport Police and Network Rail are seeking the support of parents, guardians and the local community to highlight the danger and implications of these activities to help us reduce the number of young people putting themselves and others at significant risk.

To assist with the conversation there are a number of online videos available and range depending on the age group of your child:

www.switchedonralsafety.co.uk

www.networkrail.co.uk/communities/safety-in-the-community/safety-education/

www.youstrain.co.uk

Key Messages

- ✓ Trains are **ALWAYS** running on the railway and can differ in times meaning that you can never predict when a train will pass
- ✓ The Electricity is **ALWAYS** switched on around the railway
- ✓ Always **Stop, Look and Listen** before using a Level Crossing
- ✓ **DO YOU KNOW WHERE YOUR CHILDREN ARE?**

Trespassing on the railway is also a criminal offence which can involve your child obtaining a criminal record and a fine of £1000.

If you wish to report any information to us, please call us on Freephone 0800 40 50 40 or text the information to 61016.

SAFEGUARDING CONCERNS

If you have any Safeguarding concerns, please contact
Miss Gaskell (DSL)
01785 337436
Or
Staffordshire Safeguarding Board 0300 1118007



Keeping children safe is everyone's responsibility



SEND Questions

If you have any questions about your child regarding Special Educational Needs, please contact
Mrs Nevins-Stanford (SENDCo)
01785 337436

Reminder for those stressing about Christmas

You don't need matching pyjamas to be happy.

Children need presence more than presents.

A Christmas movie night does not need to be on a 70' inch TV.

Colour coordinated decorations means nothing to children.

The number of presents isn't a reflection of you as a parent.

Your kids will grow up and remember the laugh and love.