



'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 6th December 2024

Message from the Headteacher

Good afternoon

Christmas has started at St Pauls – and we are definitely ready for it!

Last Sunday saw the start of advent. This time of year is so important in our Christian calendar, as it symbolises the beginning of the countdown to Jesus's birth. I began the week with whole school Worship, setting my Headteacher task for the class worship logs – and the children have produced some lovely work. Lottie was in on Tuesday to bring the advent wreath and Mrs Nevins-Stanford led singing Worship practising our Christmas songs.

Rehearsals for the Nativity have been in full swing this week for Reception and Year 1 and 2. The children have been incredible practising their lines, singing songs and trying on costumes. I cannot wait to see them next week – I have purposefully kept away from the hall so that I enjoy the surprise with you all next week. Thankyou to all those who have said they are coming – we are set to have a full hall!

Due to the weather, the darker nights and after school activities over the next 2 weeks, we have decided to end clubs a week early. We don't feel it is fair to keep cancelling at short notice due to the weather and with how dark it is getting we struggle with lighting outside. Before the end of term, we will be sending out information of the new Spring Term Clubs. We are going to run 2 different sets of clubs for Spring 1 and Spring 2 lasting 6 weeks each to give the children the opportunity to have a range of activities on offer.

We have sent out information regarding Christmas activities and invites into school. We would love to see you if you can come after school for our Carols around the tree where we will be having some Christmas stalls of the children's crafts.

We are also trying to raise some money for reading books as we are very limited. Reading is so important and it is one of our priority areas. An additional reading leaflet has been sent via dojo explaining our new plans launching in January to promote a love of reading. If you do have any books at home that your children have outgrown and you need space on the shelf to make way for what Santa is delivering, we would gratefully accept any donations.

A reminder that raffle tickets are on sale in the office next week and if you would like to purchase a Christmas Jumper they are currently on sale for £2.

Have a lovely weekend and stay safe with the storm that is forecast.

Miss Gaskell and the team

Class	%
Reception	97.3%
Year 1/2	95.7%
Year 3/4	96%
Year 5	100%
Year 6	97.9%

Whole School Weekly Attendance

96.8%

OUR WEEKLY WINNERS!

Year 5

Being in school every day is so important to ensure children have the best chance possible of achieving well and reaching their potential.



This term our target as a school is 96%. To help children to achieve this we will be inviting parents into school to speak with Miss Gaskell to look at ways in which we can support to raise the attendance of your child. We will be launching attendance awards and leading assemblies with the children so that they understand the importance of being in school every day and on time.



Diary Dates

DECEMBER

Tuesday 10th (pm) and Thursday 12th (am)
December

Reception and Year 1/2 Nativity

Friday 13th December

Whole school Christmas jumper day

Year 3,4,5,6 Pantomime

Tuesday 17th December

10:00am Church Service

Wednesday 18th December

Whole school Christmas dinner

After school Carol Service

Thursday 19th December

Reception and Year 1/2 trip to Amerton

- The gates close at 8:45am – this is so that we are open for our statutory time of 32.5 hours. Please be on time as the morning session until 9:00am is target learning time for all children.**
- Our school equipment should not be used in the mornings before school. The children are not supervised at this time.**
- We still have some children who are taking PE kits home and not bringing them back into school. It is really important that Forest School Kit is separate and PE kit is not used for this club**



Class	Winner!
Reception	Primrose
Year 1	Zeenat
Year 2	Everlyn
Year 3	Piper
Year 4	Phoebe
Year 5	Jaren
Year 6	Ruby



Values Award

Congratulations

For being a shining rainbow in our learning community, showing the value

Respect

Excellence

of

Perseverance

Belief and Courage

Equality

Honest

Friendship and Love



Swords of Success Award

Congratulations

Their excellence in building their knowledge and skills in



Class	Winner!
Reception	Delilah
Year 1	Ollie
Year 2	Mila
Year 3	Rupert
Year 4	Molly
Year 5	Rami
Year 6	Viktoria



LOOK what we're LEARNING!

Reception

We've had a truly fantastic week in Reception, filled with creativity, learning, and lots of festive fun! It's been such a joy to see the children's enthusiasm and teamwork as they dive into all their activities.

Together with Years 1 and 2, Reception have been working incredibly hard rehearsing for our upcoming Nativity play, 'Baarmy Bethlehem!' The children have been absolutely shining in every rehearsal. They've been learning their lines, practising their dance movements, and singing beautifully. Thank you so much for all your support at home with this! It's clear the children are so excited and committed to making the performance special. We can't wait to share the magic of the show with you soon – it's going to be a wonderful celebration of all their hard work!

This week in maths, we've been having a lot of fun getting hands-on with shapes! The children have been using lollipop sticks to create squares, triangles, and rectangles. They've loved exploring how to arrange the sticks in different ways to make these shapes and are doing an excellent job identifying and naming them. It's been lovely to see them developing their spatial awareness and understanding of how shapes can fit together to form new ones.



We've also been getting into the Christmas spirit with some lovely creative activities. The children spent time making their very own string of Christmas fairy lights using oil pastels and circle shapes. It was wonderful to see them so focused, carefully drawing and colouring their lights in vibrant colours. In addition to this, the children have been strengthening their fingers at the funky fingers bench, using tongs and pom-poms to decorate Christmas trees and stockings. These

activities are great for building hand strength, which is important for writing and drawing.

The construction area has been a hit this week as well! The children have been busy constructing buildings, houses, and even castles with blocks. Once they've built their structures, they've been drawing their final designs to show what they've created. It's been fantastic to see them add extra details such as windows, doors, and roofs, bringing their imaginative buildings to life. We've had some very creative designs on display!



In phonics, it has been assessment week, so we've been revisiting tricky digraphs such as *ch*, *sh*, *th*, *ng*, and *nk*. It's been a great opportunity for the children to show off their phonics skills and consolidate their learning. All reading

books were changed on Wednesday, so please make sure to check your child's book bag for their new book. As always, we encourage you to continue reading together at home, and don't forget to sign your child's reading record – we're awarding dojos for home reading, especially as the festive period gets busier!

Outside, the children have been enjoying some fun and active playtime. They've come up with their own bean bag games, where they score points up to 5, and have been working together to come up with rules for their games. It's been lovely to see them cooperating, problem-solving, and developing their teamworking skills.



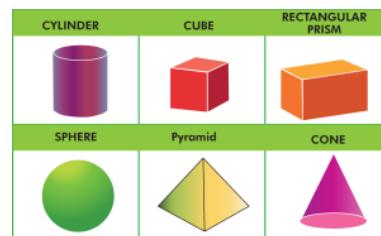


Year 1 and Year 2

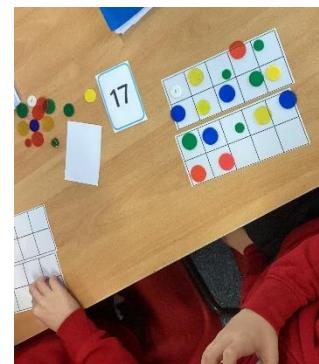


What a very exciting week we have had in Year 1 and 2!

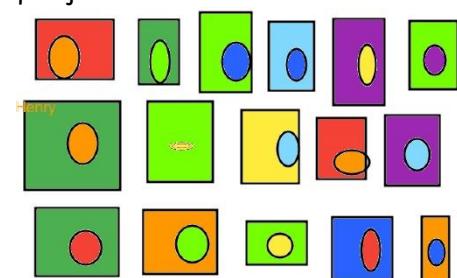
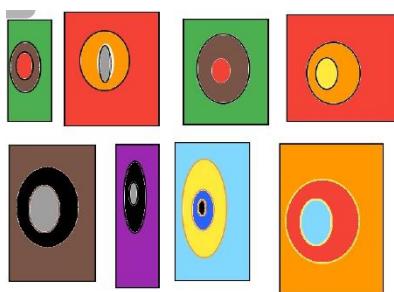
We kicked off our festivities this week on Monday when the children walked down to the Post Box to post their letters to Santa. The children have worked so hard on writing their letters and they were very excited for Santa to receive them.



In Maths this week, Year 2 children have continued developing their knowledge on 2D and 3D shapes. They have focussed on the properties of 3D shapes and how shapes can be sorted into different groups according to their properties. Year 1 children have begun learning about place value within 20. The class have enjoyed using practical equipment to support and consolidate their knowledge.



Continuing on from our learning on Digital Paintings and creations inspired by famous Artists, this week the children created digital paintings inspired by Wassily Kandinsky. This task challenged children to use multiple tools on the Paint software and combine all the skills they have learnt so far, however the children rose to the challenge and created some amazing pieces! Each week the children are growing in confidence in independently choosing what tools to use to achieve a specific look!



We have also begun rehearsing for our Nativity this week. The children have been superstars in rehearsals and have loved learning the songs. We are looking forward to showing you our hard work next week!



Year 3 and Year 4



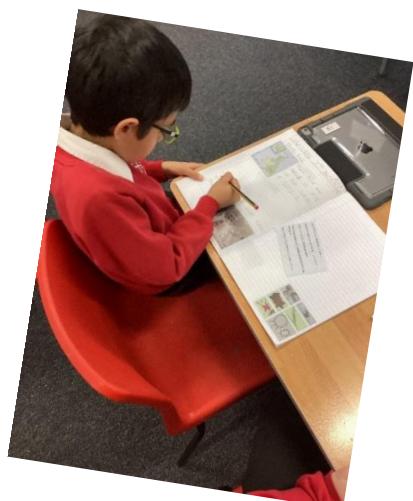
This week in Year 3 and 4, the children have been hard at work, exploring fascinating topics and developing their skills in creative and scientific ways.

In history, we continued learning about early settlements, focusing on Skara Brae. The children were amazed to discover how people lived 5,000 years ago in this well-preserved village. They discussed what life might have been like and why archaeologists consider Skara Brae an important glimpse into the past.

In geography, the children compared Greater London and Stafford, looking at how these places differ in population, transport, and buildings. They enjoyed identifying human features on maps and photographs and discussing whether they'd prefer the hustle and bustle of the city or the quiet charm of a smaller town.



In science, we've been busy planning a fair test to investigate evaporation. The children discussed how to make the test fair by deciding what to keep the same (such as temperature and surface area) and what to change (the type of liquid). They're excited to see if all liquids evaporate in the same way when we start the experiment next week!



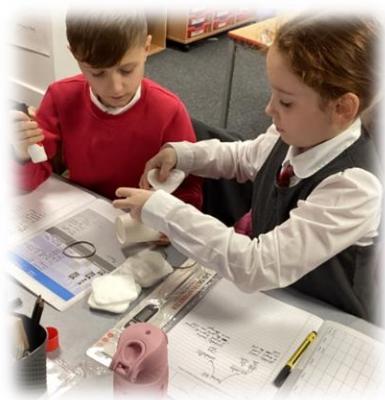
In art, the children have been "painting with scissors," inspired by Henri Matisse. They used bold, colourful paper to cut and arrange shapes for their collages, creating vibrant designs that will become part of a larger project. Their creativity and enthusiasm were wonderful to see!

In RE, we explored the significance of Grace to Christians. The children discussed how Grace symbolizes love and kindness and reflected on how they can show kindness to others in their own lives.

It's been a busy, creative, and thought-provoking week. Well done to everyone for their hard work, and we hope you have a restful weekend!



Year 5 and Year 6



Year 5 Scientists have been working really hard this in Science. They worked in pairs to investigate, which material would keep a liquid warm for the largest amount of time. We began by making sleeves for each cup using different materials. We then added warm water and tested the temperature at every ten minutes. We have completed our investigation and created a table of results. Next week we will analyse our results, create a graph and write a conclusion.

Children have also been very busy during our fractions unit this week.

During one of our lessons we used

cubes to convert improper fractions to mixed numbers. The cubes supported the children to understand wholes and remainders and what this looks like as a mixed number fraction.



In writing, we have completed our non-chronological report and finished the week with a very successful editing lesson. We have made sure to use features of a report such as cohesion, parenthesis and relative clauses. The children have really been able to showcase their knowledge of the hidden figures through their new and improved writing skills.





St Pauls Church
Messy Christingle



Sunday 8th December
3:30-5:30pm

Join us for Craft, Food, Chocolate
Fun and Festive Cheer!

Make your own Christingle

For more information contact Lottie on 07791876655



Thank you!

Our final total!

£224.16

Thank you!
Total raised from poppy
sales

£104.21



Wednesday 18th December 3:20pm



Come along and get in the festive spirit to sing carols around the tree with your children.

We will have tea, coffee and mince pies and there will be a chance to buy your child's Christmas crafts



We will be selling raffle tickets at both Nativity showings and at the Carols around the tree for your chance to win a Christmas Hamper.



We will also be asking for donations into the 'Golden Envelope'. All donations received will be shared between school and one lucky winner just in time for Christmas!

Both winners will be announced at Carols around the tree.

We look forward to seeing you all there.



Do you have any
unwanted Christmas jumpers?

Christmas jumpers are the one item of clothing that children don't really get the wear out of – as by the time Christmas comes around again they have got a whole year bigger and it no longer fits!

If you have any children's Christmas jumpers that your children have outgrown, we would really appreciate if you could donate them. We will then re-sell to those who need for £2 – a chance to get a jumper for a fraction of the price. All proceeds going to school funds. Please drop off at the office.

Christmas at St Pauls

Tuesday 10th December 2:15pm and Thursday 12th 9:30am

Reception and KS1 Nativity – see additional information

Please let the office know if you are coming.

Friday 13th December

Christmas Jumper Day

Please see additional information we have sent around donating Christmas Jumpers

Your help is appreciated.

KS2 Pantomime Day

Tuesday 17th December 10:00am

All children will be attending church – you are more than welcome to attend

Wednesday 18th December

School Christmas Dinner

After school Carol Service 3:20pm – see additional information

Thursday 19th December

Reception and Year 1/2 trip to Amerton Farm



SAFEGUARDING CONCERN

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



Staffordshire
Safeguarding
Children Board

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



You're not alone this Christmas



Text 85258
www.giveashout.org



0300 123 3393
www.mind.org.uk



0300 7729844
www.nopanic.org.uk



0800 58 58 58
www.thecalmzone.net



0808 808 4000
www.nationaldebtline.org



116 123
www.samaritans.org.uk



0808 808 1677
www.cruse.org.uk

4 TIPS ON HOW TO FEEL A LITTLE LESS LONELY THIS CHRISTMAS:

Limit your social media usage

Volunteer in your local area

Consider scheduling a call with family or friends

Have a look at what places are open near you

For more support organisations, you can find the Everymind Mental Health Support Directory on www.everymindatwork.com.

Don't suffer in silence.



Feeling Good at Christmas

