



'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 10th January 2025

Message from the Headteacher

Good afternoon.

Happy New Year! I cannot believe we are in 2025 – and already at the end of our first week back.

What a wonderful start to the half term. I said to the children in Celebration Worship today this is our best 'first week back after a holiday' we have had. The children have come back ready to learn, calm and remembering to show our Christian Values.

In Worship this week we have looked at the snowdrop – a flower that shows perseverance and through all weathers blossoms strong and determined to thrive – exactly how we want our children to be in this new year, setting new goals and facing challenges.

We will be sending out Class Curriculum Leaflets. This is in response to the Parent Questionnaire where parents asked for more information about what the children are learning in class. These leaflets will provide you with an overview of the next 6 weeks in all of the subject areas so that you have a better understanding of what is being taught and also help to guide conversations with your children at the end of the day about what they have learnt at school.

This week the children have been introduced to Spelling Shed and given their log-ons. Next week these will come home so that the children can practice their spellings. They have really enjoyed exploring the app with the teachers and hopefully should be well practiced so that they can be independent at home. We will also be sending home Times Table Rockstar and Big Cat Collins e-library log-ins, all to support with home learning.

We have added some key dates to the diary including SEND drop-ins. Mrs Nevins-Stanford will be available to talk either via phone or in-person fortnightly on Thursday afternoons starting next week. Please contact the office if you would like a time booked in. These are short sessions to ask any questions or have any updates about your child and get some useful information about how you can support at home.

We also have Safer Internet Day on Tuesday 11th February and with our new iPads this year, we thought it would be a great opportunity to invite you to come into school to learn with your child, have some fun on the iPads as well as learning some important information about keeping safe online. Please let us know if this is something you would be interested in. We really do appreciate your support, and the children would love for you to come into their class to sit and learn with them.

We hope this is going to be the first of many opportunities this term for you to come in and see life at St Pauls.

I hope you have a lovely weekend. Stay safe in the freezing temperatures and let us hope the forecast is correct and the temperatures rise and the sun comes out next week!

Miss Gaskell and the St Pauls Team

Class	%
Reception	99.2
Year 1/2	98.3
Year 3/4	97.5
Year 5	100
Year 6	98.7

Whole School Weekly Attendance

95.9%

OUR WEEKLY WINNERS!

Y5

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

- 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**

Thursday 16th January

SEND Drop-in

Thursday 30th January

SEND Drop-in

Tuesday 11th February

Safer Internet Day

Thursday 13th February

SEND Drop-in

Friday 14th February

Year 3/4 Bikeability

Friday 14th February

Valentine's Day Disco



Class	Winner!
Reception	Blossom
Year 1	Mohammad
Year 2	Cameron
Year 3	Celine
Year 4	Harley
Year 5	Sienna
Year 6	Jessy



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	Courtney
Year 1	Nevaeh
Year 2	Anthony
Year 3	Sam
Year 4	Molly
Year 5	Alfie
Year 6	Mason



LOOK what we're LEARNING!

Reception



It may have been a shorter week, but Reception have begun the New Year with lots of enthusiasm as they have begun to explore the theme of '**Winter Wonderland**', embracing the beauty and wonder of winter.

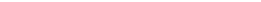
We've been reading the charming books *Henry's Holiday* and *First Snow* by Kim Lewis, which have sparked conversations about when winter is, what the weather is like, and how we can help the animals during this chilly time of year. One of our favourite activities has been making **bird feeders** by threading hoops onto pipe cleaners, helping the children develop fine motor skills while connecting with nature.



In **Maths**, the children have been exploring **compositions to 5** (different ways to make 5) using part-whole models, Numicon, and other resources from our maths shelves. These activities help the children build a deeper understanding of numbers and their relationships. They have also been revisiting the concept of **one more** and **one less** than any number up to five, using **number lines** created with chain links. These exercises support their number sense and encourage problem-solving skills.

In Phonics and Writing

the children have been revising the sounds **ai**, **ee**, **igh**, and **oa**. They've been completing their **daily writing challenges** by creating labels and sentences about what they can see. We've been focusing on the importance of **finger spaces** between words, helping them develop clear and legible writing. It's been wonderful to see their mark-making skills grow each day!



In **Creative Arts**, the children have been exploring **landscape art** through **tactile mark-making**. They've created **prints** and even used **watercolour paints on ice**, which they will later tear and layer to create beautiful collage. We can't wait to share their magical creations with you next week!

In **RE**, the children have started to investigate the theme of '**How people celebrate**'. We kicked off by focusing on **New Year**. The children had lovely discussions about what they would like to achieve this year and shared their hopes and dreams. To make the year feel extra special, they each created **2025 celebration wands** to bring a touch of magic into the new year.



Finally, in the chilly weather, the children had great fun with an exciting activity—**freeing the dinosaurs from the ice!** They worked together to find out how to melt the ice and release the dinosaurs, which gave them a hands-on opportunity to explore materials and develop problem-solving skills.

Mrs Nevins-Stanford





Year 1 and Year 2



What an excellent start to the Spring term we have had this week. The children have returned with so much enthusiasm to learn it has been wonderful.

In English this week, the children have been focusing on a Film Narrative called 'Bubbles'. The children have thoroughly enjoyed following along with this different type of Media. Our focus has been on consolidating and building upon the grammar skills learnt in the Autumn Term. The class have been working really hard to ensure that their work is the best it can be.

In Maths this week, Year 2 children have started learning about Money. All children have shown lots of confidence within this topic so far and their knowledge is growing each day.

While in Year 1, the children have continued to look at place value within 20. The children have been looking at number lines this week. They enjoyed creating chalk number lines outside and have shown great perseverance when it came to estimating on a number line, a tricky concept to master!



Our Science topic on Animals began this week, children worked in groups to classify different types of animals. They showed great team work when doing this and it was clear that their new knowledge of different types of Animals ensured this task was a success!

In History this week, we began to explore how we could find out about the past. The children became Historians and examined different pictures from 60 years ago to see what they could discover about life in the 1960s. The class came up with some excellent ideas that they justified by using the evidence in the photographs!



In Computing this week, the class were very excited to play 'Photography Bingo' has part of Digital Photography lesson. They were challenged to take pictures of different things around the room, all of the children thoroughly enjoyed this activity and the photographs that were taken as part of the activity are brilliant!



As part of Geography topic this term, the children used both Atlases' and iPads to locate the United Kingdom on the World Map, they used their prior learning on the continents to help them find it. They then went on to learn about each Capital City in the UK and label this on a map as well.

A wonderful week and a smashing start to the term, well done!

Miss Goddard and Miss Tierney

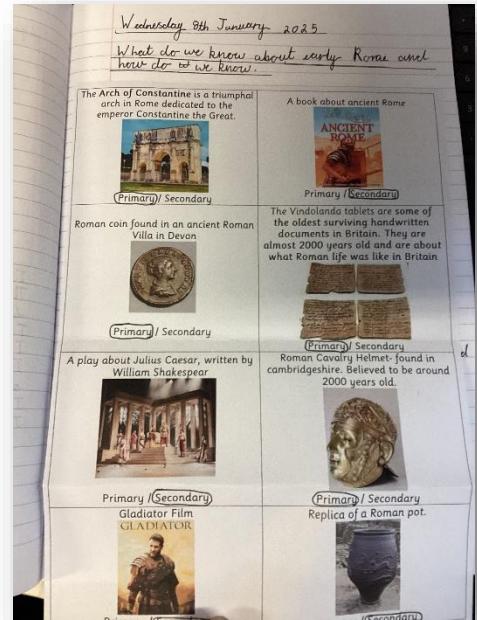
Year 3 and Year 4



Welcome back! We hope everyone had a restful break and a fantastic start to the new term. The children have returned full of enthusiasm and ready to learn. Here's a glimpse into what we've been up to this week:

In *History*, we delved into the fascinating world of early Rome. The children explored how historians uncover details about the past using a mix of primary and secondary sources. From ancient artefacts to written records, we discussed how these resources help us understand life in early Roman times. The class also practised asking their own historical questions, demonstrating curiosity and critical thinking.

In *Science*, we began an exciting investigation into the conditions that cause water to evaporate the fastest. Through careful planning, the children explored the role of heat in evaporation and predicted how temperature changes might influence the process. This hands-on approach sparked lively discussions, and we're eager to see the results unfold in the coming weeks!



In *Religious Education*, we started our new unit on Sikhism. The children learned about the importance of the gurdwara and its role within the Sikh community. We explored the values of service, equality, and respect, which underpin Sikh teachings, and began considering how these principles are expressed in everyday life.

It's been a wonderful start to the term, with lots of learning and curiosity on display. We look forward to building on these foundations in the coming weeks!

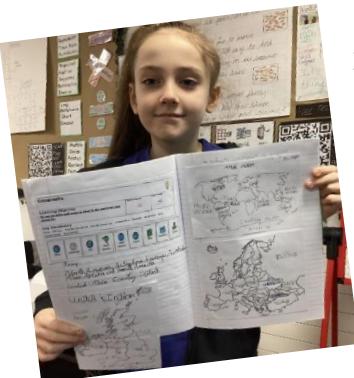
Wishing you all a lovely weekend.

Mr Connelly and Miss Boulter

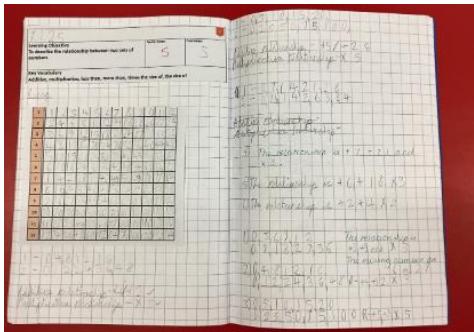
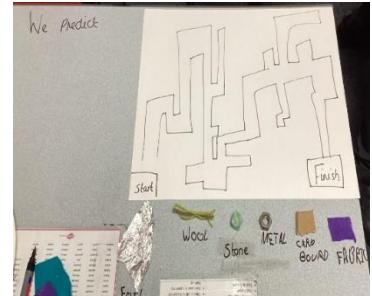
Year 5 and Year 6



This week in Science children have been testing different materials by using a magnet to move them through a maze. They explored whether the magnet could attract and move items like stone, paperclips, coins, cardboard, and plastic through the maze's paths. Students observed which materials responded to the magnet and which did not, recording their findings as they worked. They discovered that magnetic materials, such as iron and steel objects, moved through the maze when attracted to the magnet, while non-magnetic materials like wood and plastic remained stationary.

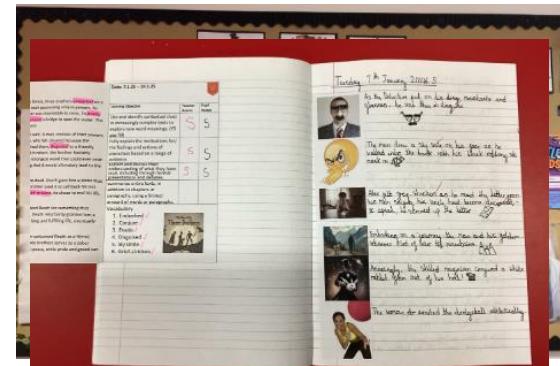


In Geography this week, Year 5 children have been reviewing their knowledge of the United Kingdom, continents, oceans, and the countries in Europe. They revisited key facts, such as the names and locations of the UK's countries and capital cities, identified the seven continents and major oceans on a map, and explored the diverse nations of Europe. Through activities like map labelling, quizzes, and group discussions, they consolidated their understanding of geographical locations

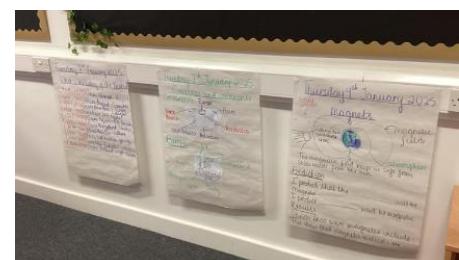
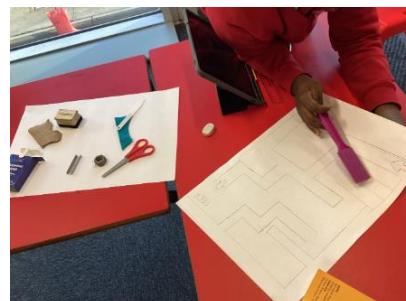


We've had a fantastic first week back in Year 6, packed with exciting learning opportunities! In maths, we've been exploring ratios, building their understanding with practical activities.

Our reading and writing lessons have focused on grammar skills, using *The Tale of the Three Brothers* to inspire discussions and creative writing.



Additionally, the children have been practising their geography skills, identifying continents, countries, and oceans on maps. In RE, we introduced Sikhism, learning about its key beliefs and traditions. In science, the children conducted a hands-on experiment testing the strength of magnets, sparking curiosity and encouraging teamwork.



It's been a wonderful start to the term, and we're proud of how enthusiastically the children have approached their learning

Mrs Gull, Miss Wetton and Miss Woodward

What's on in the Spring Term?

Extra-curricular enrichment clubs

Monday

KS2 Drama Club – Mr Connolly

Wednesday

KS1 Singing Club – Miss Goddard

KS2 Football Club – Mr Farmer

Thursday

KS1 Science Club – Mrs Gull

KS1 Football Club – Mr Farmer

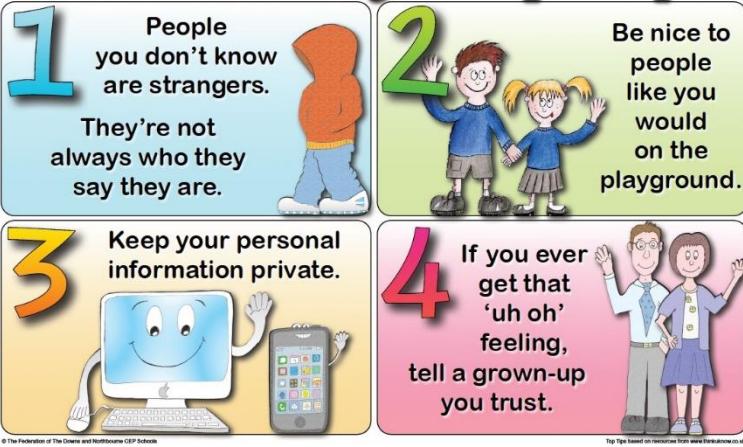
Friday

KS2 Homework Club – Miss Gaskell

KS2 Art Club – Miss Wetton



Our eSafety Top Tips!



SAFEGUARDING CONCERN

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



Staffordshire
Safeguarding
Children Partnership

Keeping children safe is everyone's responsibility



For any information regarding children with Additional Needs for parents and carers, Staffordshire Connects is a website giving lots of different resources, web links and information regarding what our local area can offer.

This information is always on our school website but click below for the link to take you to the home page. From there you will find the Local Offer for parents and carers.

[Staffordshire Connects](#)

Local Offer for parents and carers

[Local Offer: Staffordshire \(](#)

Watch on YouTube

[Tour of Staffordshire's Spe... \(](#)

Staffordshire County Council

CONNECTS SEND LOCAL OFFER

Families and Care
Young People with Educational Needs and Disabilities (ESEND) Local Offer
Adults and communities
Care Market Developments

Tour of the SEND Local Offer on Staffordshire Connects

SEND Questions

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