



'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 17th January 2025

Message from the Headteacher

Good afternoon.

Another busy week at St Pauls.

We continued learning about our value of the term during worship with Lottie – who spoke to the children about Perseverance and how Nehemiah rebuilt the walls of Jerusalem. We continued this theme in class Worship beginning our learning of Martin Luther King Jr. The children learned how he persevered against challenges and fought for basic civil rights. Perseverance is something we continue to teach the children the importance of – how not giving up and trying their best will help them to be the best they can be. I cannot wait to continue this learning next week and create our whole display.

4 of our children went to represent St Pauls at a sports competition on Tuesday where primary schools in the local area came together to celebrate key values and play games working as a team. We were so proud of our team whose behaviour and attitudes shone through with exemplary behaviour and also winning the 'passion' award for showing enthusiasm, cheering on each other and giving it their best. Thankyou to Mr Farmer and Miss Woodward for taking the children. This is hopefully the beginning of lots more competitions and events in the local area this year. Exciting times ahead!

Please can I remind all parents that the gates shut at 8:45am. It is really important that the children are in school on time. Learning takes place in the morning before the register – whether that's name writing, handwriting practice, spelling or reading. This time is really important and a lovely way to start the day settled.

We have reminded the children this week about KIRFS – Key Instant Recall Facts. These are facts in maths that the children should learn with rapid recall by practising daily. We have introduced this half term's in class and displayed them as part of our maths working walls. These are all on the website in the maths section of the Curriculum page. There are also weblinks included to support with learning. It is really important that these are practised at home as daily homework – along with reading and spelling. Any questions please ask your class teacher. The success of Spelling Shed in KS2 has been seen today with the children so motivated and eager to showcase their learning in the spelling tests, showing the positive impact of home learning supporting what we do in school.

Our first SEND parent drop-ins started this week which give the opportunity for parents to ask any questions they may have or for updates around outside agencies. These will take place fortnightly – dates are on the diary dates page. We will also be sending out the first issue of our SEND Newsletter which will give some reading around key topics, aiming to help and support.

Lastly thankyou to all those who have signed up to clubs. We've had The Beatles in singing club, skittles in science and the painting in art, just to name a few things going on! We will be sure to keep you updated on the website with videos and photographs.

Have a lovely weekend

Miss Gaskell and the St Pauls Team

Class	%
Reception	98.7
Year 1/2	97.7
Year 3/4	94.7
Year 5	98.5
Year 6	97.9

Whole School Weekly Attendance

96%

OUR WEEKLY WINNERS!

Reception

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 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	Arthur
Year 1	Joseph
Year 2	Isaac
Year 3	Sam
Year 4	Molly
Year 5	April
Year 6	Jethro



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	Thomas
Year 1	Ava
Year 2	Vincent
Year 3	Anabelle
Year 4	Harley
Year 5	Tyler
Year 6	Finn



LOOK what we're LEARNING!

Reception



What an amazing week we have had in Reception! We are so proud of the hard work and enthusiasm the children have shown in all their learning.

In our phonics sessions, we've been diving into some fun sounds. The children have been focusing on the graphemes 'oo' (with both 'zoom to the moon' and 'hook the book'), 'ar' (march in the dark), and 'or' (born with a horn). They have been reading words with these sounds and beginning to apply them in short sentences. It's wonderful to see their progress, and they are becoming more confident readers each day.



In addition, the children have been focusing on the formation of letters that begin with a curve, such as 'd', 'a', and 'g'. The children have worked so hard on this, and it's showing in their handwriting!

In maths, the children have been investigating mass. They compared the weight of different objects before measuring them using cubes. They were really engaged and impressed us all with their excellent counting skills. The children confidently touch-counted to 10 and beyond as they measured, and they were particularly amused when they discovered just how heavy a glue stick could be!

This week, Reception have continued caring for the birds in our outdoor space. The children made bird feeders by spreading peanut butter onto cardboard pots and rolling them in bird seed. They've also been busy building birdhouses with Duplo and creating beautiful robin paintings. Their creativity continues to shine through in everything they do.



In RE, the children have begun learning about Chinese New Year. We listened to an orchestral retelling of the story of the twelve animals in the Zodiac race and explored the significance of each animal. To celebrate the upcoming year of the snake, the children have started making their own snakes, which has been a fun and engaging craft activity.

As part of our Winter Wonderland learning, the children carried out an experiment to find out how to stay warm in cold weather. Using warm baked potatoes, bubble wrap, foil, hats, and scarves, the children tested which material kept the potatoes warmest by the end of the afternoon. They were fascinated by the results and discussed their findings with great enthusiasm.

We have also spent time this week reflecting on our school values, starting with *Respect*. Reception joined Chuggington to learn about the importance of good manners. They discovered that manners are not just about saying 'please' and 'thank you', but also about showing kindness and consideration through our actions. The children have really embraced this lesson and are beginning to put it into practice in their interactions with each other.

Reception have really shone this week! They have been working hard, asking thoughtful questions, and showing respect for each other. We are so impressed with their dedication and curiosity.

Keep up the fantastic work, Reception!

Mrs Nevins-Stanford



Year 1 and Year 2

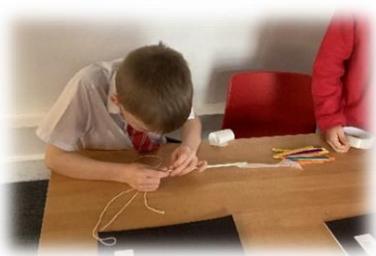


Week 2 has been a brilliant week which saw the children fully immersed in the curriculum once again!



In English this week, we have continued to focus on the film animation 'Bubbles'. The children have consolidated their knowledge from last week around capital letters and full stops. They used their knowledge to unscramble a sentence and put it back together in the right order. They have also begun learning some new skills including the -ing suffix for Y1 and -ful / -less suffix for Y2! These grammar skills will really boost their writing so we will continue to work on these over the term.

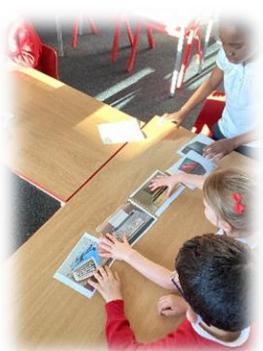
In Maths this week, Year 2 children have continued learning about Money. They have looked at different ways to make a pound and have started looking at finding change of an amount. While in Year 1, the children have been focussing on greater and less than within 20 and ordering numbers. All of the children have shown great progress and confidence in these lessons which has been wonderful to see.



In Art, the children became inventors! Each table had a tray of items which included plastic forks, straws, paper clips, cupcake cases, foam boards as well as other various items and they were challenged to create a sculpture or design of their own. The children took on this challenge with great perseverance and produced some amazing creative designs!



Following on from our lesson last week in History, the children used timelines this week to find out about the past. They worked in groups to create a timeline of technology. They specifically looked at typewriters, computers and laptops. The children then had the opportunity to investigate and explore an actual typewriter. The class were fascinated by this piece of technology and they couldn't wait to have a go themselves at typing on it. They discovered that you can't go back if you make a mistake and you have to push down on the keys very hard to ensure they print! Very different from the laptops and iPads they use in present times!



In RE, we began learning about Sikhism, which is our topic for this term. The children learnt who the founder of the religion was and where Sikhs go to worship. The children also retained some interesting rules you must follow if you visit a Gurdwara. They were very intrigued to find out that there is a Gurdwara in Stafford!

Miss Goddard, Miss Tierney and Mr Farmer





Year 3 and Year 4

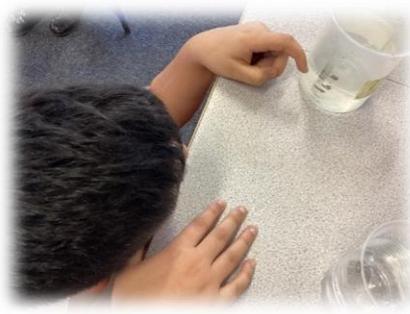


This week has been packed with exciting learning experiences across various subjects, and we are thrilled to share what the children have been up to!

In our exploration of early Rome, the children learned about the fascinating shift from monarchy to a republic. We discussed how the Romans rejected their kings and established a new system of governance with two consuls at its heart. The children were particularly interested in how this system influenced modern democracies.

The children enjoyed working with atlases this week, solving location-based clues to mark specific places on a world map. This hands-on activity honed their map-reading skills and deepened their understanding of global geography.

In Science, we revisited our ongoing investigation into the relationship between heat and evaporation. The children interpreted the results from last week's experiment and were excited to draw conclusions about how temperature affects the rate of evaporation.



Our budding artists explored how illustrators use sketchbooks as a tool for planning and inspiration. They studied examples from well-known artists and began experimenting with their own sketches, taking inspiration from the world around them.



This week's focus in PSHE was on the importance of family. We had meaningful discussions about how all families are unique but share the common goal of providing love, care, and support.

It has been a wonderful week of discovery and creativity. Please feel free to ask your child about their favourite activity this week.

Thank you for your continued support, Mr Connolly and Miss Boulter



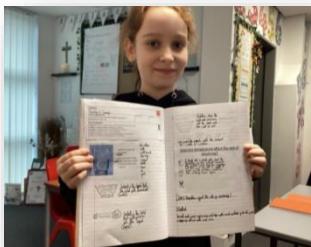
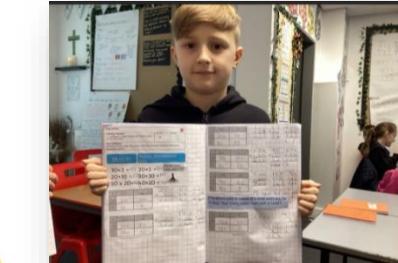
LOOK what we're LEARNING!

Year 5 and Year 6



In Year 5, children have been diving into the fascinating world of the Maya civilisation during their guided reading lessons. Through engaging texts, they have explored the rich history, culture, and achievements of this ancient civilisation, uncovering intriguing facts about Maya cities, rituals, and innovations. The lessons have sparked curiosity and lively discussions, as students develop their comprehension skills while delving into this captivating topic.

Children have also been working hard to master multiplication, focusing on using the written method to solve a variety of calculations with increasing confidence and accuracy. They have applied their skills to solve real-world problems and deepen their understanding of number operations. Next week, the children will begin exploring division, building on their multiplication knowledge to tackle this new challenge I'm sure with enthusiasm!



Year 5 have been investigating materials that dissolve, using tricky scientific vocabulary like solute, solvent, soluble, insoluble, and solution to describe their findings. The children have shown great curiosity and teamwork as they planned an exciting investigation to test whether temperature affects the rate of dissolving. They are looking forward to carrying out their experiment next week and discovering more about the fascinating world of science!



In Year 6, we have finished our unit on ratio by solving problems involving proportions. In writing, the pupils loved using the tale of the three brothers as a writing stimulus and have written a brilliant narrative for the animation. In history, we began our Maya topic by looking at where and when they existed using our chronology skills as historians. In art, we used our knowledge of the formal elements to make visual notes on set design.



In computing, year 5 and 6 planned their websites using the features they identified last week and posted it into a top-secret folder to avoid copyright issues!

What a great week! 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

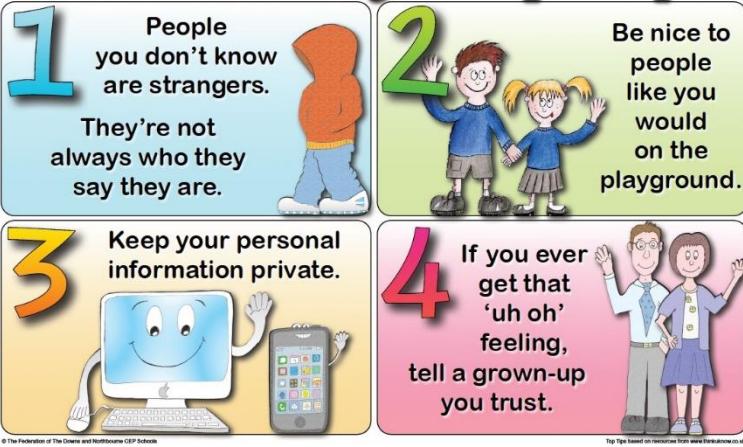
Friday

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



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



SEND Questions

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