



St Pauls CE (C) Primary School

Learning and growing together in God's love



'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 - Spring Term – Friday 14th March 2025

Message from the Headteacher

Good afternoon,

What another busy successful week at St Pauls!

We welcomed Charmian Gamble on Monday, our Christian Distinctiveness Advisor from the Diocese who carried out a learning walk in RE. The children were fabulous and it was so lovely to walk around the school talking to the children about their learning and how much they knew about the importance of the Easter story.

On Tuesday, Rebecca Welton from St Bart's Trust joined us to lead our Collective Worship around our theme of Forgiveness. We also revisited our value of Respect – challenging the children to learn our memory verse from Matthew 7:12 *"Do to others as you would have them do to you."*

This week, we welcomed over 20 adults to our Year 3/4 assembly and workshop! Wow! Thank you so much for taking the time to come into school to see what your children are learning about. I know these sessions will continue to grow over time and be such a special part of our St Pauls Calendar. We are looking forward to the turn of Year 1/2 on Wednesday 26th March at 1:30pm. I've had a sneak peek at their songs and I know you are all going to love them!

It has also been Science Week this week where the children have been busy investigating all about Change and Adaption – we will update on our new display next week when it is finished.

The next 4 weeks are set to be as busy as ever. This year we are not choosing to raise money for Comic Relief as a school, however it will be part of our curriculum learning time as we feel it is important for the children to learn about how the money raised is used in the UK. We will however have the QR code for donations to the charity on display on our notice board should you wish to donate.

On March 28th, as part of our Mother's Day event we would like all children to come to school in smart non-uniform (no football kits) as they will be taking their special person out for Afternoon Tea! We would like to ask instead of a financial contribution, if you are able, to donate an Easter egg – which we will put towards our Easter 'Eggtravaganza' Raffle. Tickets will be going on sale on March 31st from the office.

Finally, after the success of last year's event, we are going to be holding our Easter Bonnet Parade on Friday 11th April. We cannot wait!

Miss Gaskell and the St Pauls Team.



Class	%
Reception	99.3
Year 1/2	97.7
Year 3/4	96.8
Year 5	100
Year 6	98.9



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.



HOMEWORK REMINDER –

HOMEWORK

It was lovely for our teachers to get to speak to so many of you this week about your child's learning – and in particular how you can support at home with homework.

Children should be reading every day – little and often is going to have the best results. Spellings are sent home weekly and Y3-6 children have a spelling shed log in to practice ready for their test on a Friday.

In maths, numbers bonds and counting for Reception and Year 1/2 and daily times table practice for Y2-6. We also have our half-termly KIRFS which have been sent home today and are on our website.

- **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.**

PE Kit Reminder

Please can we remind everyone that PE Kits need to be worn for P.E and in Winter due to the colder temperatures outside, black joggers and a hoodie. This has always been part of the St Pauls PE Kit – information is always on our website.

[School Uniform | St Pauls CE \(C\) Primary School](#)

Year 1/2 PE is on a Monday and Friday

Year 3/4 PE is on a Wednesday and Thursday

Year 5/6 – come to school in your outdoor PE kit on a Friday – black hoodie and joggers with your coloured PE t-shirt



Diary Dates

SPRING 2

Monday 24th February and Tuesday 25th February

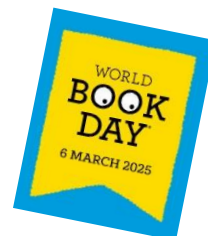
Parents Evening

Wednesday 26th February

Year 5 and Year 6 Class Assembly 1:30pm

Thursday 6th March

World Book Day - Reading Breakfast – 8:00am



Wednesday 12th March

Year 3 and Year 4 Class Assembly 1:30pm

Thursday 13th March

SEND Drop-in

Wednesday 26th March

Year 1 and Year 2 Class Assembly 1:30pm



Thursday 27th March

SEND Drop-in

Friday 28th March

Mother's Day Afternoon Tea

Tuesday 8th April

Easter Church Service 10:00am at St Pauls Church

Wednesday 9th April

Reception Class Assembly 1:30pm

Thursday 10th April

SEND Drop-in

Friday 11th April

Easter Bonnet Parade

Easter Raffle Drawn

Term ends





Class	Winner!
Reception	Blossom
Year 1	Emilie
Year 2	Dimitar
Year 3	Harley
Year 4	Lukian
Year 5	Dean
Year 6	Lily



Swords of Success Award

Congratulations

Their excellence in building their knowledge and skills in

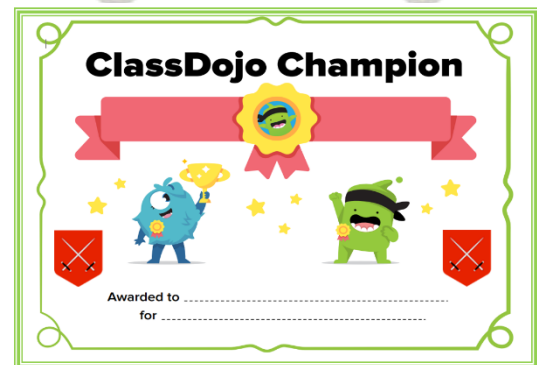


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Class	Winner!
Reception	Lumen
Year 1	Ollie
Year 2	Isaac
Year 3	Joseph
Year 4	Daisy
Year 5	Sienna
Year 6	Ruby



Class	Winner!
Reception	Robyn
Year 1	Mohammad
Year 2	Everlyn
Year 3	Sama
Year 4	Tayla
Year 5	Sebby
Year 6	Rosella



It's been another busy and exciting week in Reception! Here's a look at what the children have been up to:

This week in reading, we've continued revising our Phase 3 GCPs (graphemes, consonant blends, and phonemes) and are already putting them to great use. The children have been able to combine these sounds to read words like *power*, *corner*, and *shorter*. It's amazing to see their progress in reading! New reading books have been sent home this week, and it has been lovely to celebrate the reading completed at home. **Reading regularly at home really makes all the difference** in the progress children make with their reading. Thank you for supporting your child's learning in this way!



helped them to

addition, we have started learning our Spring 2 Key Instant Recall Facts (KIRF): counting to 20, and finding and making the numbers 9 and 10. We've been practicing with lots of hands-on activities to help strengthen these number skills!

In our Personal, Social, and Emotional Development (PSED) lessons, we've been focusing on taking turns. To help with this, we made our very own *'Turn Taking Wands'*, which are a fun way for the children to remember how to wait their turn. We also had a blast playing turn-taking games like *Card Snap* and *Grandma's Footsteps*.



In RE, we've continued our journey to Easter by exploring signs of new life all around us. The children then created a beautiful natural art piece to reflect these signs of

renewal. We also revisited the various festivals we've learned about so far this year. It was great fun sorting images into 'Easter' and 'Not Easter'. Reception worked together to sort out our muddle of pictures—what a team effort!



After that, the children painted and added personal details to make their vehicles unique and one-of-a-kind. It's amazing to see their creativity come to life! Thank you for your continued support at home and for encouraging your child's learning. We are so proud of the progress they've made and look forward to the week ahead!



with masking tape, before hole-punching it and threading straws through to create turning wheels.

Lastly, we've wrapped up our creative construction project by finishing our very own *Superhero Vehicles*! The children had the opportunity to roll card and secure it

Year 1 and Year 2



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

This week in English, we have started a new writing journey based on the book 'Ada Twist Scientist'! The children have loved reading this story and we completed our very own experiment at the start of the week, inspired by Ada's work! The children will be writing a set of instructions on how to complete this experiment and they have been practising using bossy verbs for their big write next week!



In Maths this week, Year 2 have continued their learning on Measure, they have enjoyed using metres to measure the length of places within the school, including the playground which was 32 metres long and the corridor which was 13 metres long. Year 1 children have started learning about multiplication, with a focus on counting on 2s, 5s and 10s this week. We have read lots of stories and sang songs to consolidate this knowledge further.

In Art this week, the children completed their creativity medals, they added a variety of embellishments onto their medals. The children's creativity throughout this project has been brilliant and they have each created such an individual medal, personal to them!



To celebrate British Science Week, this week we learnt about Rachel Carson and her work on Ocean Habitats. We explored how harmful chemicals from farmland can run into the ocean when it rains. These harmful chemicals then impact the many habitats

within the Ocean. We completed an experiment to see the difference in the water when chemicals (sprinkles!) are added. The children got involved in this experiment and thoroughly enjoyed observing the impact of chemicals on ocean habitats.

In Geography, the children located St Paul's on a map of the UK and a map of Stafford. They practised their skills using virtual maps to try and find our school on a map of Stafford. The children were very quick to locate it and then support other classmates finding it as well, the children showed amazing teamwork throughout.

Another fantastic week, well done!





Year 3 and Year 4

What a wonderful week it has been for our Year 3 and 4 pupils! We are so proud of their achievements and the enthusiasm they have shown in all areas of learning.



This week, the children took to the stage to perform in a fantastic class assembly for parents and carers. Every child played a part, reading aloud and singing beautifully. Their confidence and teamwork were truly inspiring, and we couldn't be prouder of them! A huge well done to all involved.

We have had an exciting time celebrating Science Week! The children took part in a range of hands-on investigations, exploring scientific concepts and developing their curiosity about the world around them. It has been wonderful to see them asking questions, making predictions, and working together like real scientists!



In history, we explored the fascinating story of Boudicca's rebellion against the Romans. The children examined the causes and consequences of this historic event and debated whether Boudicca was a hero or a villain. Their discussions were insightful, and they demonstrated great historical thinking.

As part of our PSHE lessons, we have been thinking about the ways we can make a difference in our school and local community. The children shared some brilliant ideas about how to help others, from supporting school events to being kind and inclusive to everyone.



In RE, we learned about how Christians around the world celebrate Easter and the significance of each special day during the Easter holiday. The children were particularly interested in how different cultures mark this important time and made thoughtful connections between celebrations.

It has been a fantastic week, and we look forward to another exciting week of learning ahead!



This week, Year 5 have been really busy learning lots of exciting things! They've been exploring important topics in RE, practicing their writing in English, and working on new math skills. It's also been Science Week, and Year 5 and 6 have been learning all about science and some interesting ideas. It's been a week full of fun and discovery!



This year, the science week theme is Adaption and Change. Year 5/6 children have been exploring the incredible work of Charles Darwin and his theory of evolution. As part of their learning, children took part in a hands-on investigation to understand how different beak shapes help birds survive in their environments. Using equipment such as tweezers, tongs, and pegs, they experimented with picking up different-sized beans to discover which 'beak' was best suited for each type of food. This exciting

experiment helped bring Darwin's discoveries to life and deepened their understanding of how animals adapt to their surroundings over time.

In English, children have been working really hard on their writing journey, and today they reached an exciting moment—writing their final diary entries as Tommo, a character from *Private Peaceful*! They used challenge cards to help them include all the important writing skills they have learned, such as using different types of sentences, showing Tommo's thoughts and feelings, and reflecting on his day. It has been wonderful to see their ideas come to life, and we are so proud of their amazing work!



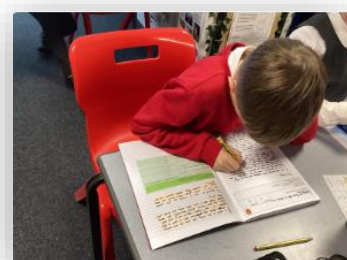
This week, the children have been busy exploring perimeter in their maths lessons! They have been working hard to measure and calculate the perimeter of rectangles, regular, and irregular polygons. Along the way, they have also been learning about different units of measurement, including centimetres

(cm), metres (m), and millimetres (mm). It has been great to see them applying their skills to solve real-world problems and becoming more confident with their measuring and calculating!



In RE this week, the children have been working as detectives to discover why Christians believe in the resurrection of Jesus. They've been looking through different texts, searching for clues from people who saw that Jesus was missing from the tomb and came back to life. By finding these special

witnesses, the children have learned more about why the resurrection is so important to Christians and what it means in their faith. It's been an exciting mystery to solve! After gathering their evidence, the children then used their iPads to create reports based on their findings, sharing what they learned with the class.



Year 6



In year 6 this week, children have been continuing working around the text of *Private Peaceful* and preparing their planning for a diary entry using grammar skills such as modal verbs, semi-colons and conveying emotions. They have really enjoyed reading this book during story time at the end of the day. In reading, we answered lots of questions about a text on Charles Darwin, supporting the theme of British Science Week.



In maths, the children have started a new shape unit, where they have been using protractors, finding missing angles and are getting ready to look at angles within a triangle. We have done lots of practice arithmetic questions, with a focus on subtracting decimals from whole numbers and adding and subtracting mixed numbers.



It has been science week this week with the theme of 'Adaption and Change.' In science, we experimented to find out which 'beaks' were most effective at gathering food, relating this to Darwin's finches on the Galapagos island and the theory of evolution being built upon natural selection.



In RE, children have been considering the themes within salvation across the story of Jesus' resurrection in the bible and how Christians may interpret paintings depicting it. In history, year 6 continued learning about the Mayan civilisations by comparing the areas of land to that of the Anglo-Saxons. In PE, children have been creating a dance, ready to perform at the end of term!

Overall, we have had a busy week, and we are so proud of all the children working extra hard in their extra intervention sessions before school 😊

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





UNIVERSITY OF
BIRMINGHAM



Dear Parent,

Researchers at the University of Birmingham are conducting the ELSA study. We are writing to you because as a parent/carer of a child aged 3-13 years, your child is invited to take part.

The ELSA study is screening children, aged 3-13 years to find out their risk of getting type 1 diabetes. This is a simple finger stick blood test, at your child's school. We are offering the screening at your child's school on Wednesday 30th April 2025.

Children at high risk can be monitored and could enter research studies aiming to delay the start of type 1 diabetes. Every family who takes part in the ELSA study is helping us to understand more about type 1 diabetes.

If you would like to take part or to find out more information, please visit our website or scan the QR code below. If you have any questions, please contact the ELSA study team by email, phone or on our website. If you decide you are not interested in this study, you do not need to do anything further.

Yours sincerely,

The ELSA study team



ELSA Study Team:



Website: www.elsadiabetes.nhs.uk

Phone: 0121 414 7814 (9-5pm).

Email: elsa@contacts.bham.ac.uk

Address: ELSA study team, Ground Floor, Institute of Translational Medicine, Heritage Building, Mindelsohn Way, Birmingham, B15 2TH

Midlands Partnership University Foundation Trust Research Team: admin.research@mpft.nhs.uk

Scan to find out more:	Scan to register interest:
	

Common winter illness



Coughs and colds are extremely common in babies/young children and tend to occur more frequently over the winter months. They are usually caused by a viral infection and often get better by themselves. In general, antibiotics do not make them better more quickly.

Babies have immature immune systems, which means that they are particularly at risk from infections. Good hand hygiene

can really help reduce the risk of catching viral infections and don't forget it's important to follow **THANKS** – Think Hands And No KisseS advice to protect young babies too
<https://www.lullabytrust.org.uk/safer-sleep-advice/infection-and-illness/how-to-keep-babies-safe-from-infection/>

T·H·A·N·K·S

Think · Hands · And · No · KisseS

ALWAYS REMEMBER TO:



- Wash your hands before touching a baby
- Only kiss a new baby if you are their parent or main carer

Below is an image from The Lullaby Trust explaining some of the signs or symptoms a young baby may have if they are unwell.

are difficult to wake	appear floppy	are irritable and won't settle	have a mottled or blotchy appearance
have difficulty breathing or are breathing unusually such as: fast, noisily, 'sucking in' under the ribs, grunting, wheezing	have a rash or sores / blisters on their skin, eye, inside of mouth or around their tummy button	have a temperature above 38°C or below 36°C, or their body is cold to the touch	have a high-pitched or abnormal cry

Dehydration can also occur when a baby is unwell, so keep an eye on your baby's wet nappies and feeding and speak to a health professional if they have had fewer than 2-3 wet nappies in a 24-hour period.

Some parents also find it useful to use Baby Check too, which is a FREE app from The Lullaby Trust. It features 17 simple checks that parents can do if their baby is showing signs of illness. Each check tests for a different symptom and when completed, the app lets parents know whether their baby needs to see a doctor or health professional. You can find out more about this useful tool here <https://www.lullabytrust.org.uk/safer-sleep-advice/infection-and-illness/baby-check-app/> or download it from Google Play or the App Store





HOW TO TAKE YOUR CHILD'S TEMPERATURE

You should use a digital thermometer under the armpit for children 5 years and younger, and in the mouth for children over 5 years of age. The other option is to use an in-the-ear thermometer, although these should not be used in babies below one month of age.



Place the thermometer inside the top of the child's armpit (under 5 years of age) or in the mouth (over 5 years of age). Products vary so always follow instructions in the leaflet.



Leave the thermometer in place for as long as it says in the instruction leaflet. Some digital thermometers beep when they're ready.



Remove the thermometer. The display will show your child's temperature.



Should I keep my child off school?

Yes

Until...

Chickenpox	at least 5 days from the onset of the rash and until all blisters have crusted over
Diarrhoea and Vomiting	48 hours after their last episode
Cold and Flu-like illness (including COVID-19)	they no longer have a high temperature and feel well enough to attend. Follow the national guidance if they've tested positive for COVID-19.
Impetigo	their sores have crusted and healed, or 48 hours after they started antibiotics
Measles	4 days after the rash first appeared
Mumps	5 days after the swelling started
Scabies	they've had their first treatment
Scarlet Fever	24 hours after they started taking antibiotics
Whooping Cough	48 hours after they started taking antibiotics

No

but make sure you let their school or nursery know about...

Hand, foot and mouth	Glandular fever
Head lice	Tonsillitis
Threadworms	Slapped cheek



SCAN ME

Advice and guidance

To find out more, search for health protection in schools or scan the QR code or visit <https://qrco.de/minfnc>.

A high temperature is common in young children who are unwell, it is important to know how to manage it and recognise when you may need to seek advice. This video explains how to recognise a fever and the best way to help a child recover as quickly as possible

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bxw2w8fPYCQ>

WHAT SHOULD I DO IF MY CHILD HAS A HIGH TEMPERATURE?

ASK FOR AN URGENT GP APPOINTMENT OR CALL NHS 111 IF YOUR CHILD:

- is under 3 months old and has a temperature of 38C or higher, or you think they have a high temperature
- is 3 to 6 months old and has a temperature of 39C or higher, or you think they have a high temperature
- has other signs of illness, such as a rash, as well as a high temperature
- has a high temperature that's lasted for 5 days or more
- does not want to eat, or is not their usual self and you're worried
- is dehydrated - such as nappies that are not very wet, sunken eyes, and no tears when they're crying

CALL 999 OR GO TO A&E IF A BABY OR YOUNG CHILD HAS A HIGH TEMPERATURE AND:

- has a stiff neck
- has a rash that does not fade when you press a glass against it
- is bothered by light
- has a fit (febrile seizure) for the first time (they cannot stop shaking)
- has unusually cold hands and feet
- has changes to their skin colour such as blue, grey, paler than usual or blotchy skin (this may be harder to see on brown or black skin), or blue, grey or paler than usual lips or tongue
- is drowsy and hard to wake
- is extremely agitated (does not stop crying) or is confused
- has difficulty breathing (you may notice grunting noises or their stomach sucking under their ribcage), breathlessness or breathing very fast
- is not responding like they normally do, or is not interested in feeding or normal activities

It can be tricky deciding whether to keep older children off school, nursery or playgroup when they're unwell. Regular attendance at school helps your child to build skills and life-long friendships. Missing a lot of school because of ill health can have a big impact not only on your child's education, but also on how they feel about school. Children and young people with mild symptoms such as a runny nose, sore throat, or slight cough, who are otherwise well, can continue to attend school. However, if your child has a high temperature or is unwell, they should stay at home and avoid contact with other people, where they can, ensuring good hand hygiene – dispose of tissues and regularly wash hands with soap and water.

The UK Health Security agency have devised this poster which you may find useful to help you decide if your child should go to school or nursery



What's on in the local area?

With the lighter nights coming, hopefully the better weather and half term nearly upon us, we thought we'd signpost you to where you can find out what's on in the local area. We've explained about Staffordshire connects previously as it is part of the Local Offer – but the website is full of useful information for both adults and children.

Follow the link

[Staffordshire Connects](#)

and then click

[children and families – activities and clubs](#) to take you to the 'Places to go, things to do' page.

The screenshot shows the Staffordshire Connects website. At the top, there's a navigation bar with links like Home, Families, SEND, Care Leavers, Adults, and Contact Staffordshire Connects. Below this, the 'Welcome to Staffordshire Connects' banner is visible. The main content area is titled 'Children and Families' and features a grid of service icons. A blue arrow points to the 'Children and Families' button in the top navigation bar, and another blue arrow points to the 'Activities and clubs' button in the main content area.

Find information on childcare providers, how to keep your family healthy and safe, activities for children and children centres.				
Advice, advocacy and keeping safe	Support for young carers	Childcare and funded places	Children's centres and parenting	Health and wellbeing
Homes for Ukraine	Libraries and library groups	Money, benefits and care costs	Activities and clubs	Education services
Free training for professionals	Family Hubs			

[Home](#) / [Children and Families](#) / [Places to go, things to do](#)



Places to go, things to do

If you're looking for ideas for places to go, days out and things to do, either with the family or for children to do, try searching here on Staffordshire Connects. Just click on the menu below to find clubs, organisations and groups in your local area.



Holiday activities and food	Activities, clubs, groups	Play parks and open spaces	Libraries, arts and heritage	Children centres
Leisure centres, venues and gyms	Support groups and organisations	Community Centres	Faith based places and groups	

Our eSafety Top Tips!

<p>1 People you don't know are strangers. They're not always who they say they are.</p> 	<p>2 Be nice to people like you would on the playground.</p> 
<p>3 Keep your personal information private.</p> 	<p>4 If you ever get that 'uh oh' feeling, tell a grown-up you trust.</p> 



SAFEGUARDING CONCERNS

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



SEND Questions

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