



'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 21st March 2025

Message from the Headteacher

Good afternoon,

In our ever-busy calendar of events, Ofsted certainly wasn't on the dates list! As we were due, we had been expecting a visit at some point this year so when we got the call on Monday we welcomed them with open arms, excited to share our journey over the last 12 months.

Thankyou to those who took the time to speak to the Inspectors on the playground and complete the surveys. As we always say, your feedback really is so valuable to us.

The report will be published within a few weeks – hopefully by Easter - when we will be able to share the outcome.

In other news, Mr Farmer and Miss Woodward have taken groups of children from Y3/4 and Y5/6 to play in the Tag Rugby tournament with local schools. They all did incredibly well and we were very proud of their resilience and determination.

Today the children have been taught about the incredible work that Comic Relief does and how the money raised has such a significant impact on young children in the UK and abroad. As we said last week, we have not raised money for this particular charity this year – but felt it was important to ensure it was part of the children's PSHE curriculum.

Next week we welcome you back into school with another very busy week.

On Wednesday it is the turn of Year 1 and 2 for their class assembly and workshop. They have been practising hard and I am very much looking forward to watching. The assembly starts at 1:30pm and if you are able to stay, the curriculum workshop will finish around 3:00pm. On Thursday we have our SEND drop-ins and we end the week with our Mother's Day Afternoon Tea in which you have had your time slots sent out by Mo.

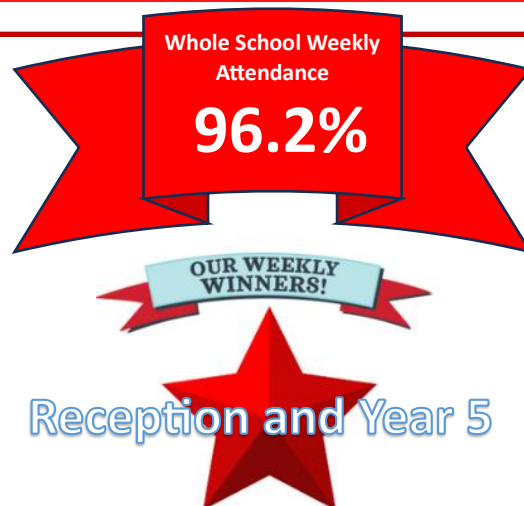
As a reminder – please don't forget that Friday 28th March is smart non-uniform day – no football kits! I know the children will be looking forward to having their special person come into school to have afternoon tea with them. We would also very much appreciate any donations of Easter eggs in preparation for our Easter raffle.

We hope you all have a lovely weekend.

Miss Gaskell and the St Pauls Team.



Class	%
Reception	100
Year 1/2	97
Year 3/4	96.4
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

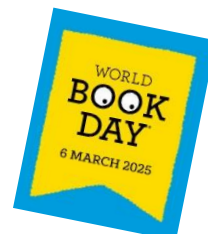
Parents Evening

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	Delilah
Year 1	Zeenat
Year 2	Mila
Year 3	Sama
Year 4	Pierre
Year 5	April
Year 6	Asia

Values Award

Congratulations

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

Respect of _____

Excellence of _____

Perseverance of _____

Belief and Courage of _____

Equality of _____

Honest of _____

Friendship and Love of _____

Swords of Success Award

Congratulations

Their excellence in building their knowledge and skills in _____

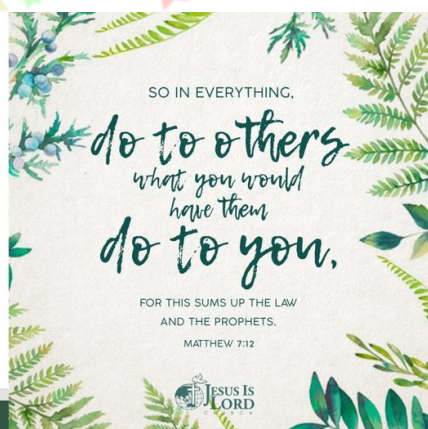
Class	Winner!
Reception	Charlie
Year 1	Henry
Year 2	Everlyn
Year 3	Piper
Year 4	Eva
Year 5	Alfie
Year 6	Ruby

Class	Winner!
Reception	Thomas
Year 1	Nevaeh
Year 2	Cameron
Year 3	Sam
Year 4	Daisy
Year 5	Logan
Year 6	Jessy

ClassDojo Champion

Awarded to _____

for _____



RESEPECT IS...

Readiness to listen
Everyone being valued
Showing appreciation
Praying for people
Expressing opinions sensitively
Caring for our environment
Treating property carefully

Thought of the week...

Today you are going to be thinking about our core Christian Value of Respect



Reception

Another fantastic week has flown by in Reception, and we're excited to share all the wonderful things the children have been learning and exploring! Here's an update on the week's activities!



This week, the children have been practicing reading longer words like *zooming* and *farmyard*. They've been segmenting and blending these sounds with increasing confidence. We've also continued working with reading partners each day to help the children become more fluent with their new reading books. These books are in their bags, and we appreciate your continued support with home reading and signing the reading diaries. New reading diaries have been ordered, and we're hoping they will be delivered next week!



In maths, the children have been focusing on finding "1 more" and "1 less" than any number up to 10. They've also begun exploring different ways to make 10 using two parts. The children created their own *butterflies* to record different ways of making 9 and 10, and it's been fantastic to see them applying their number bonds creatively.



In RE this week, we learned about the story of Palm Sunday. The children enjoyed acting out the story in role play, taking turns to play the role of Jesus and shouting "Hosanna" and "Hooray!" as they re-enacted the event. It was lovely to see how the children reflected on how they felt proud and happy as their friends celebrated them.



In PSED, we've continued our focus on working together, with this week's theme being *Teamwork*. The children discussed how teamwork helps us achieve things we can't do alone, complete tasks more quickly, learn from others, and help others. It's been a wonderful opportunity for the children to practice collaboration and mutual support.



In our *Understanding the World* lessons, the children have been thinking about what types of animals can be pets. Next week, we'd love for the children to share pictures and stories about their own pets with their friends. If you could share any photographs via Class Dojo, we'll include them in next week's lesson. These will also be helpful as we use clay to create models of the children's pets!



Thank you so much for your ongoing support with home reading and for helping make each week in Reception a success. We look forward to more learning and fun next week!



Year 1 and Year 2



What a busy and fantastic week we have had in Year 1 and 2!

This week in English, we have continued our writing journey on Ada Twist Scientist. The children have been working really hard on practising the skills that are needed to write a successful set of instructions. They have also edited their work to make it even better and have taken lots of pride publishing their work as well. Their writing has improved so much over the last term and this is a result of their continuous hard work, well done everyone!



In Maths this week, Year 1 have continued to practise counting in 2s, 5s and 10s, we make sure to get our counting chants in wherever possible throughout the day! The class thoroughly enjoyed completing practical activities to consolidate this knowledge further. In Year 2, the children have continued their work on Length and Height, but this week they were challenged to use their prior knowledge of the four operations to help them solve word problems on Length and Height. The children showed excellent perseverance throughout this, sometimes, challenging task.



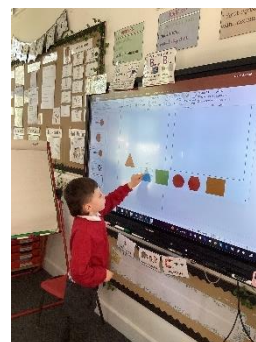
In Art this week, the class reviewed and revisited their learning on printing, they independently made a printed design which you will see very soon. The children thrive during these creative lessons and it was so lovely to see them all so engrossed with their artwork.



We went back to our senses in Science this week, but this time focussing on sight, hear and touch. The children completed 3 mini experiments to test out how important these senses are in our daily lives. To test their sense of touch, they had to guess what was in the box, but with socks on their hands, this made the task very tricky and children understood how important it is to be able to feel the texture of things as well as shape and size. To test their sight, they had

to close one eye and test their aim of dropping counters into a cup, they soon discovered that this was much easier with 2 eyes open! To end with, to test their hearing they played a whole class game of sound bingo which was a class favourite!

In Computing this week, the children learnt about the properties of objects and how important these are when searching for objects in a data base. They began by sorting concrete resources by colour, then moving onto an interactive game where they had to sort the rocks into colours on their iPads. We then explored further, how we can also use shape and size to describe an object as well as colour.



Brilliant work this week Year 1 and 2, I am so proud of you!

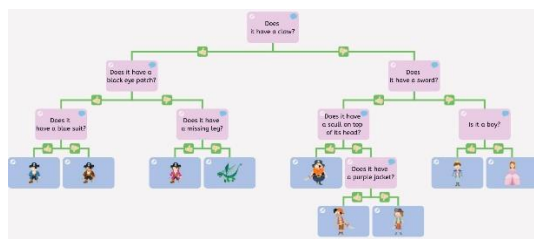


Year 3 and Year 4

What a fantastic week of learning we have had in Year 3 and 4! The children have been fully engaged in a variety of exciting topics across the curriculum, and we are so proud of their enthusiasm and effort.

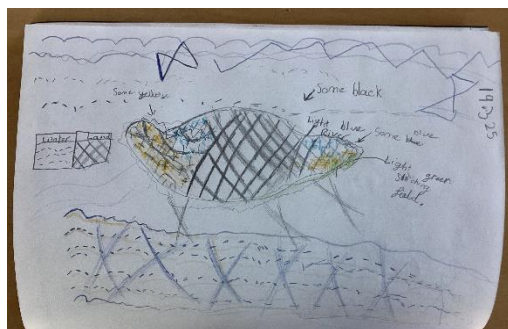
In *History*, we explored how the Romans protected their land, focusing on the impressive walls and fortifications they built. The children were particularly fascinated by Hadrian's Wall, learning about its purpose and the challenges the Romans faced in defending their empire.

In *Geography*, we turned our attention to the power of nature, learning all about how volcanoes are formed. We discovered the differences between active, dormant, and extinct volcanoes.

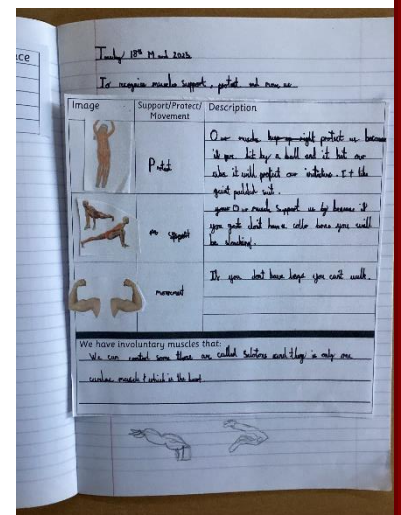
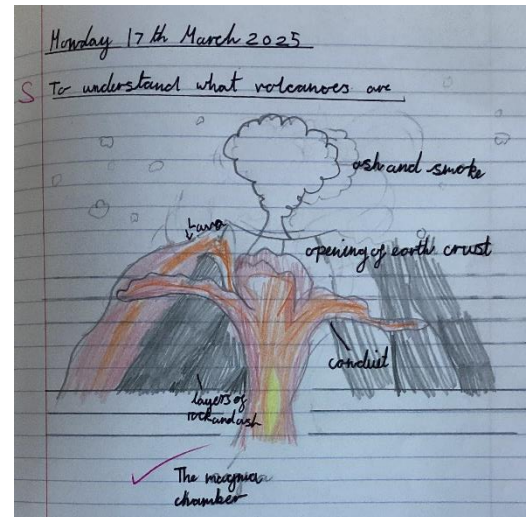


Computing lessons were a great success as the children applied their understanding of branching diagrams using an interactive app on the iPads.

In *Science*, we explored how the muscles in our bodies work. The children learned that muscles do much more than just help us move—they also protect and support our bones.



In *Art*, we began studying the work of Alice Kettle, an artist known for combining thread, paint, and cloth to create striking artwork. Using our sketchbooks, the children practised their observational drawing skills, capturing details and textures with great care.



It has been an inspiring and busy week, and we look forward to more exciting learning ahead!



Year 5

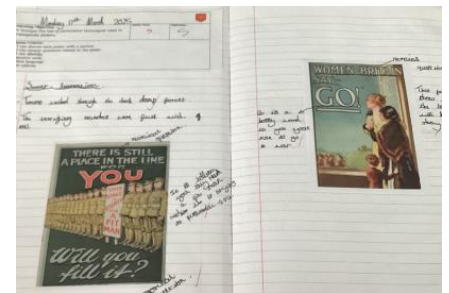


Year 5 have had so much fun this week, learning new things, exploring exciting topics, and working on amazing projects. We can't wait to share our adventures with you — enjoy!



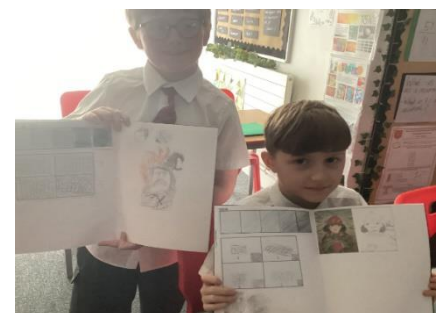
This week, our children have been exploring perimeter and area in their maths lessons. They started by working with rectangles, adding up the sides to find the perimeter and multiplying the length and width to calculate the area. As their confidence grew, they moved on to rectilinear shapes, breaking them into smaller rectangles to make the calculations easier. To further challenge themselves, they tackled compound shapes, applying their problem-solving skills to find both perimeter and area. It has been wonderful to see their determination and enthusiasm shine through!

In English our children have begun their exciting journey to create their own World War 1 propaganda posters. They have been exploring and analysing a variety of historical posters, carefully examining the persuasive techniques used to influence and inspire people. From powerful slogans to bold imagery, they've identified how language and visuals work together to deliver strong messages. It's been fantastic to see their thoughtful discussions and creative ideas.

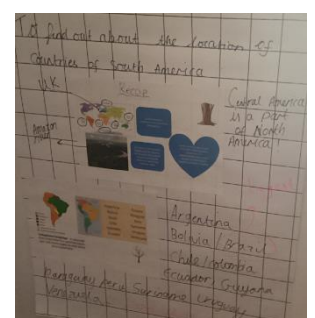


In science this week, our children have been learning all about the five animal groups — mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, and fish. They've explored what makes each group unique, from their body coverings to how they breathe and move. The children have also been discovering how different animals have babies and the ways they care for them, or in some cases, leave them to fend for themselves. It's been wonderful to see their curiosity grow as they ask questions and share fascinating facts about the animal kingdom!

This week in art, our children have been revisiting their skills in tone and shading. They explored different shading techniques like cross-hatching and blending to create depth and texture in their drawings. Using these skills, they worked on beautifully shaded pictures of Jub from The Lost Happy Endings. It's been wonderful to see their creativity and attention to detail shine through!



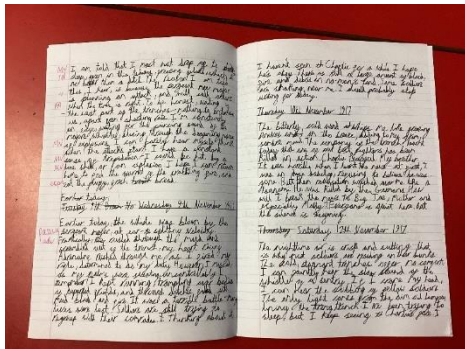
In geography, we've been learning all about South America! The children have been busy labelling the countries in South America and discovering the different landscapes and cultures. Since they've already learned about Central America, they were able to see how the two regions are connected. It's been exciting to watch their interest grow as they explore more about this amazing part of the world!



Year 6



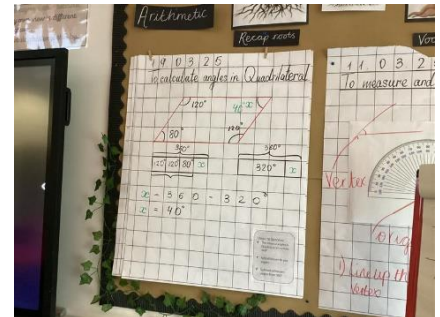
What a fantastic week we've had in Year 6! The children have been fully engaged in a wide range of learning activities across the curriculum, and we are excited to share what we've been up to.



In writing, the children have been immersing themselves in the world of *Private Peaceful* by Michael Morpurgo. They have written incredibly moving and thoughtful diary entries from the perspective of Tommo, capturing life in the trenches during World War I. The depth of empathy and understanding shown has been truly impressive. Our reading focus this week has taken us on a journey through South America! We've been exploring the adventures of a South American traveller and learning

about the diverse places they have visited. This has sparked lots of curiosity and great discussions about geography and culture.

In maths, we've been working on finding missing angles. The children have tackled problems involving angles on straight lines, around a point, and within triangles and quadrilaterals. It's been brilliant to see them applying their reasoning skills so confidently.



Linking to British Science Week and our work on evolution, we practised our shading techniques using Charles Darwin's finches as inspiration. The children studied these unique birds and used pencils to bring them to life on paper, showing great attention to detail.

We've been historians this week, comparing Anglo-Saxon and Mayan kings. The children enjoyed looking at similarities and differences in leadership, culture, and legacy between these fascinating historical figures. Our travels continued in geography, where we located and identified countries in South America. The children are becoming more confident in using maps and atlases and now have a better understanding of this continent's geography.

In RE, we had thoughtful discussions around the themes of the empty cross and the crucifixion. The children asked some deep and reflective questions as we explored the significance of these symbols in Christianity. We've also been scientists, examining different animals' eggs and their offspring. The children used their enquiry skills to identify, classify, and group animals based on their life cycles and characteristics. There was lots of excitement and curiosity during these hands-on activities.



It's been a busy and rewarding week, and we are so proud of the children's hard work and enthusiasm. Thank you for your continued support.

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.

Children and Families

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