



'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 – Summer Term – Friday 2nd May 2025

Message from the Headteacher

Good afternoon,

What a lovely week it has been for weather! And a warm welcome back receiving our Ofsted Report.

Thankyou for your lovely comments – we are all incredibly proud.

Summer Term as always is set to be a busy term with our usual end of year events.

On Thursday night – the night had finally arrived for our PALS dancers. Wow! What can I say? I had the pleasure of watching the video on Friday morning as soon as it had gone live! I also cannot wait for the children to give a live performance for the rest of school. They were absolutely incredible. I think it is such an achievement to not only learn dance routines (which they did not forget on the night!) but also to have the belief and courage to stand on the stage in front of so many people and perform. We have had such positive feedback from parents who absolutely thoroughly enjoyed the show! A huge thankyou as always to Mo and the incredible PALS staff who without their dedication and hard work these amazing opportunities would not be possible. Our St Pauls children are incredibly lucky.

We have started this week with a fabulous opportunity for our Year 1 and 2 who have been on a local area trip to the park. They have taken part in so many activities and enjoyed a picnic lunch in the sun. The children were well-behaved and as always, I was proud to hear all about their conduct in the local area – representing our school so well.

Friday has also been a fun day for Year 3 and 4 having the opportunity to take part in 'Bikeability.' The children were again a credit to our school, behaving well for the instructors and showing their listening skills. We were proud of all the children for learning something new and to those who after only a day have managed to ride their bike! Wow! Well done to all involved.

Next Thursday we have our SEND drop-ins with Mrs Nevins-Stanford – thankyou to those who have signed up. These will continue fortnightly throughout the summer term.

Coming up this half-term we have our Y6 SATs Week Beginning May 12th, Year 4 Multiplication Check week beginning June 9th and also Year 1 Phonics Testing in the same week. We are absolutely positive that all children will try their very best – and that is all that we ask. The progress they have made so far this year has been incredible.

I am sure that you don't need reminding that it is a Bank Holiday weekend and there is no school on Monday.

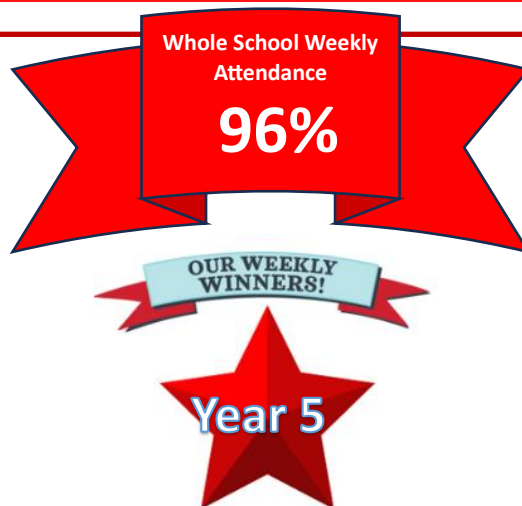
We hope you have the best weekend in the sunshine and we look forward to seeing you all on Tuesday 6th May.

Take care

Miss Gaskell and the St Pauls Team.



Class	%
Reception	98.3
Year 1/2	99.2
Year 3/4	99.1
Year 5	100
Year 6	98.7



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

Year 1/2 PE is on a Monday and Friday

Year 3/4 PE – please come to school in kit on a Friday

Year 1 and 2

Trip to the park





Reception



We've had a fantastic week in Reception, full of exciting learning and creativity. The lovely weather has given us plenty of opportunities to explore and enjoy the outdoors too!

This week in phonics, the children have continued developing their ability to read longer words with short vowel sounds. We have been practising CVCC and CCVC words such as frog, drum, and belt. The tricky words we've been focusing on are some, come, love, and do. These can be challenging, but the children are making excellent progress.



In Maths, we have begun exploring numbers beyond 10, including 11, 12, and 13. The children enjoyed sorting different representations into '13' or 'not 13', and had great fun using ten frames and Numicon to build and understand these numbers more deeply.



Our focus text this week has been The Gingerbread Man. The children have thoroughly enjoyed listening to and retelling the story. They had great fun decorating their own gingerbread men and have helped transform our role play area into a bustling bakery!

In RE, we have started exploring stories that carry a message or moral. This week we read The Boy Who Cried Wolf, which led to some wonderful discussions about honesty. The children particularly enjoyed acting out the story using stick puppets. We linked this to our school value of honesty, helping the children reflect on how the story can guide us in making good choices each day.



Outside, the children revisited their learning about patterns using chalk, ourselves and nature. They had a great time creating repeating patterns, such as dress, no dress, dress and no dress.



With the beautiful weather, the water area has been very popular. The children have loved mixing and pouring as they created their own magical potions – we can't wait to see what spells they might cast next week! Wishing you all a lovely, restful Bank Holiday weekend.



Year 1 and Year 2



What a fantastic first week of the Summer Term we have had in Year 1 and 2!

This week in English, the children have been focussing on their grammar skills. We have revisited some skills while also learning new skills as well. The children have been learning about the 4 sentence types as well as, suffixes, prefixes and the use of apostrophes. We have based our learning on an Animation, the children have enjoyed reading this different type of narrative.

In Maths this week, the children have continued learning about Fractions. Year 2 children have been exploring thirds and quarters and have shown great determination in completing this learning. While Year 1 children have been focussing on finding and recognising halves of quantities. They have used practical activities to consolidate this learning further.



In Art, we have continued exploring watercolours. This week, the children learnt about how artists used colours to show different emotions in their paintings. We watched the 'Inside Out' trailer and discussed why each character is the colour they are. The children then completed their own self exploration of what colour represents each emotion. The children really enjoyed this lesson.



We have begun a new History unit this week, we will be learning about Castles and Communities and exploring the enquiry question: What was life like in a Castle? To begin with, the children revisited their knowledge about how Historians learn about the past, one way they do this is through pictures, drawings and paintings. The children worked in groups to look at different pictures of castles from the outside and inside to look for clues about what castle life was like. The children came up with some excellent questions and thoughts!



This term in RE we are learning about how Christians talk to God. This week, the children learned about what prayer is and how it can be used. The children listened to the story of Jesus feeding the 5000, as an example that some Christians use prayer to ask for things. The children learned that there are lots of different ways that Christians can pray, including in different places, cultures and stances. The children explored different pictures of Christians praying to show the individuality of the notion.

The children have returned to class so focussed and ready to learn, it has been wonderful to see. Well done Year 1 and 2!





Year 3 and Year 4



Welcome back! I hope you all had a restful and enjoyable Easter break. It has been a fantastic start to the new term and, despite it only being a four-day week, the children have packed in an impressive amount of learning already!



In **History**, we have launched our new topic: *The Vikings*. The children have shown great enthusiasm and curiosity as we began by looking at the timeline of events surrounding the Anglo-Saxon and Viking settlement in England.

We explored how these different groups arrived, where they settled, and the impact they had on life in Britain. It was wonderful to see the children so engaged in piecing together the chronology of early British history.



In **RE**, we have been learning about the Christian festival of *Pentecost*. The children reflected on the importance of this event for Christians and how it marks the beginning of the Christian church. They explored the story's origins and considered how Pentecost is celebrated today around the world.



Our **Computing** lessons got off to a fun and interactive start with an introduction to *programming*. Using a programme called Logo, the children learned how to give clear commands to a turtle sprite, making it draw a variety of shapes on the screen. This introduced key programming concepts such as instructions, debugging, and sequence in a hands-on and creative way.

In **PSHE**, we've been thinking about how to make *healthy food choices*. The children learned about the importance of a balanced diet and how our bodies use different vitamins and minerals to function properly. There were great discussions about the types of food that support our bones, skin, and immune system, and many children were eager to share their own healthy habits.



Our new **Science** topic is all about *plants*. We began by identifying what plants need to grow and stay healthy. The children discussed factors such as water, sunlight, and soil, and began planning how we might test what happens when one of these is missing. We are looking forward to setting up some investigations next week and making observations over time.



I'm so proud of how well the children have returned to school. Their energy and focus have been brilliant, and it's shaping up to be a fantastic summer term.



Year 5



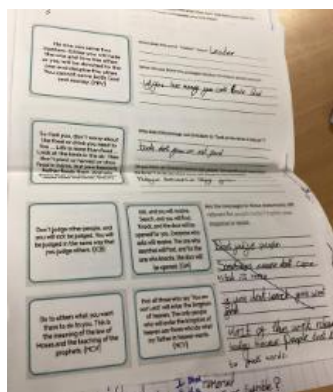
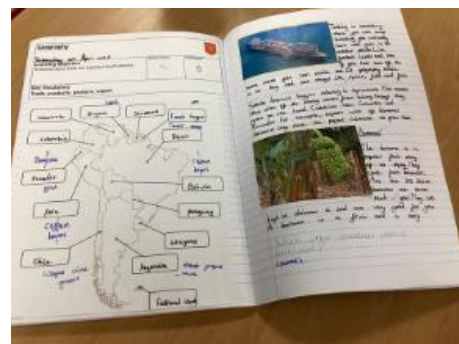
Welcome to our latest Year 5 newsletter! We've had a fantastic start to the new term with some exciting topics across the curriculum. Here's a quick look at what we've been learning in class.

History

Our new History topic this term is the Ancient Greeks, and the children have already been asking some brilliant questions such as: *Where was Ancient Greece? When was it? And how do we know so much about them today?* We'll be exploring these key questions through a range of sources and discussions. The children will learn about life in Ancient Greece, including what people ate, how they were educated, and the types of jobs they had. We'll also look closely at how life varied between different city-states like Athens and Sparta, focusing on their contrasting values and ways of living. It's a fascinating topic that helps the children understand how the past shapes our world today.

Geography

We are continuing our Geography learning about South America this term. The children have made a brilliant start by exploring the countries that make up this fascinating continent. This week, we focused on trade and discussed what products different countries export and import, including crops like bananas, coffee, and cocoa. The children thought about how geography and climate affect what is grown or produced in each area. They also looked at the journey some of these goods take to reach us here in the UK. It's been a great way to link geography to global trade and real-world issues.



Religious Education

This term, we are exploring the big question: Gospel – What would Jesus do? The children will reflect on Jesus' teachings and how they guide Christians in their daily lives. Through key stories from the Bible, they will discuss how Jesus promoted values such as compassion, forgiveness, and justice. We'll think carefully about how these ideas apply to real-life situations today. The children will have the chance to share their views, ask deep questions, and work together to understand the impact of faith in action. It's a thoughtful and reflective unit that encourages great conversation and empathy.

English

This term, we've launched an exciting new English unit based on the Literacy Shed animation *Replay*. The children have really enjoyed exploring the story so far, which centres around a footballer reflecting on key moments from his life. We'll be using this engaging animation to help children practise a range of Year 5 grammar skills, including relative clauses, modal verbs, and cohesive devices. Alongside this, we'll also revisit some key Year 4 objectives to ensure strong foundations.

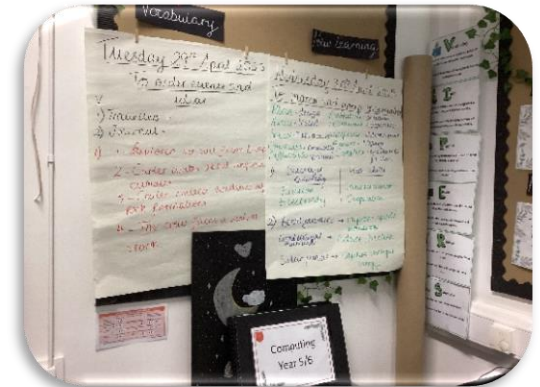


Year 6

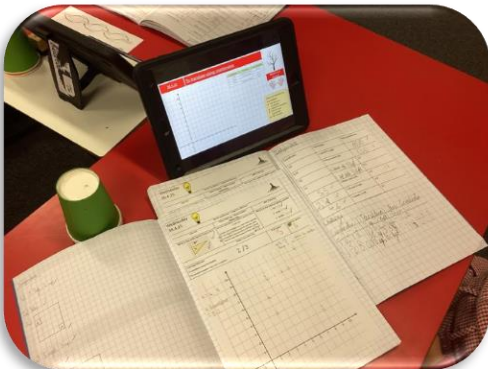


Welcome back! We hope you all had a restful and enjoyable Easter break. Year 6 have returned full of energy and enthusiasm, and we've hit the ground running with a fantastic start to the summer term. Here's a glimpse into what we've been learning this week.

We've been sharpening our comprehension skills by focusing on summarising and vocabulary development. Using a range of fascinating texts – including ones about solar-powered cars and famous historical explorers – the children have been ordering, grouping, and matching key pieces of information. This has helped them practise identifying main ideas and making thoughtful connections across texts.



Our English lessons this week have been driven by our new class text, *Holes* by Louis Sachar. The children have been revisiting essential SPaG skills such as using adverbs to show how and when actions happen, punctuating speech accurately, and building complex sentences using subordinating clauses and coordinating conjunctions. These skills have been applied as they retell the gripping scene of Stanley's unexpected arrest for stealing a pair of shoes.



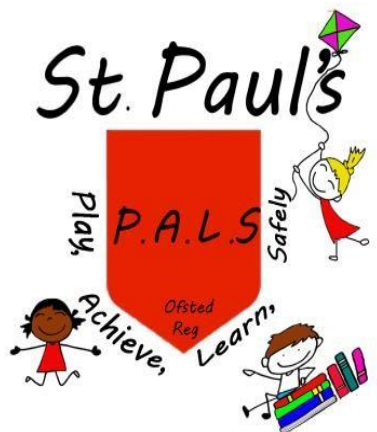
It's been a packed week in maths! In our Position and Direction lessons, we've been plotting and describing coordinates, translating shapes, and identifying lines of symmetry. Alongside this, we've been practising how to convert metric measures and working with fractions — adding, subtracting, multiplying and dividing them with increasing confidence. The children have also been working on sharpening their arithmetic skills to ensure quick and accurate mental and written calculations.

We've launched our new history topic on Ancient Greece by exploring its geographical context and locating key areas on historical and modern maps. We've discussed the concept of civilisation, identified the city-states of Athens and Sparta, and thought about how ancient Greece has influenced the modern world.

In geography, we've begun a new unit on Trade and Industry in South America. We've looked at imports and exports, discussed natural resources such as copper, coffee, and bananas, and explored how global trade links South American countries to the rest of the world. The children used key terms like economy, manufacturing, and supply chains to describe how products move from producers to consumers.

We've completed our end-of-unit assessment to review our understanding of lifecycles and reproduction in animals. The children demonstrated what they've learned about mammals, amphibians, insects, and birds, and we've identified areas where we can revisit and deepen our understanding in the coming weeks. In PE this term, the children have begun their swimming lessons. They've been working on improving their confidence in the water, refining their stroke technique, and developing stamina and water safety skills. It's been a great start, and we're proud of their determination and progress already!





Wow! What a night! We are incredibly proud of our St Pauls PALS Dance Club. Each and every single dancer performed gave it their all and shone like the superstars they are at the Gatehouse on Thursday night. We will be watching the performance this week in school so that all the children and staff can see the amazing talent we have – definitely future performers in the making.

Well done to Miss Tierney and the PALS team for the choreography and support at dance clubs and every staff member for supporting both with rehearsals and on the night.

A huge thankyou also for the amazing support from our parents in the audience on the night. The encouragement, enthusiasm and participation was noted and very much appreciated.





What's on in the Summer Term?

Extra-curricular enrichment clubs



Tuesday

Y1-6 Dance at PALS with Miss Tierney

Y1/2/3 – Striking and batting games with Mr Farmer

Y4/5/6 – Chess and draughts with Mr Connolly



Wednesday

Reception Class Dance at PALS with Miss Evie

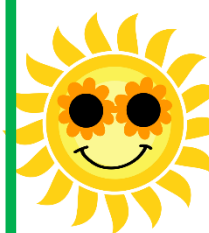
Y1/2/3 – Art with Mrs Gull

Y4/5/6 – Garage band with Miss Wetton

Thursday

Y1/2/3 – Wellbeing with Miss Goddard

Y4/5/6 – Striking and batting games with Mr Farmer



Summer



Changes to mental health and emotional wellbeing services for children and young people.



From 1 April 2025, a new service called 'Stay Well' will support children and young people with mild to moderate mental health and emotional wellbeing needs. Jointly commissioned by Staffordshire County Council and Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent Integrated Care Board the new service will be delivered by Changes Health and Wellbeing working with North Staffordshire Mind and The Dove Service.

STAY WELL



From 1 April 2025, the new 'Stay Well' service will provide early intervention and prevention support.

Stay Well recognises that everyone is different. They understand that young people have different mental health needs and, therefore, require different kinds of services in order to THRIVE.

Visit the website to find out more, including how to make a self-referral.

SAFEGUARDING CONCERNS

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



**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