



'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 23rd May 2025

Message from the Headteacher

Good afternoon,

Wow! I think that was the quickest Summer 1 term we've ever had – 18 days full of laughter and learning as always.

This week we have welcomed Lottie from the church in to lead Worship around Pentecost, an important celebration in the Christian calendar. We will be continuing this celebration after half-term as we say Happy Birthday to the church!

Bikeability is back at St Pauls after the success of Level 1 for Year 3 and 4 this term. We are offering a 'Beginner's' Day for children in Year 3-6 who cannot ride their bike and would like to learn. We have a couple of places available. We are also offering Level 1 and 2 training for Year 5 and 6. Again, we just have a few places available so please ring or email Mo to arrange a place for your child.

Year 1 and 2 have a trip into Stafford on Tuesday 10th June. This will be a lovely chance to learn about the history of Stafford, linking to their topic of the local area.

We have our Father's Day afternoon on Friday 13th June. Please email the office if you would like to come into school on that afternoon. Once we have numbers we will allocate time slots if needed. This will be a lovely chance for any of the special male figures in your children's life to be invited into school to have some food and join in some activities.

As always, Summer 2 is a busy term but it is one of my favourite terms. Let's hope the weather is going to be on our side and we are able to enjoy the end of the year with the children having lots of fun outside. Please keep an eye on emails and messages for updates to events as well as Facebook.

We were very pleased this week to launch our new Facebook page to keep you up-to-date with what's happening in school and our events but also the daily learning opportunities our children take part in. Please like, share and interact with posts so together as a school community we can share and celebrate how incredible your children are.

We hope you all have a wonderful half-term, spending time where possible with family and friends.

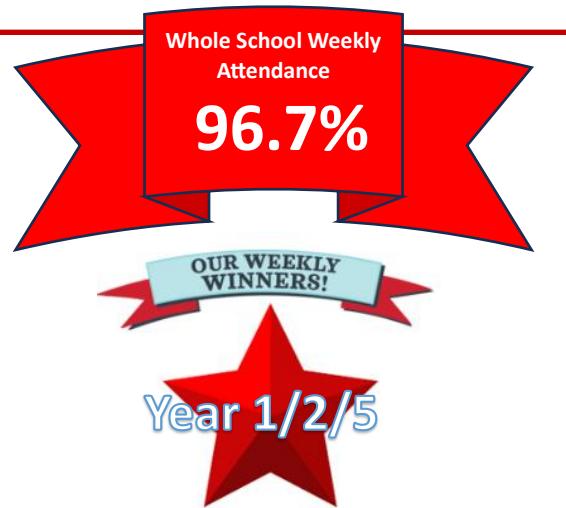
We will return after the holidays on Monday 2nd June, ready for 7 weeks of fun!

Take care

Miss Gaskell and the St Pauls Team.



Class	%
Reception	92.7
Year 1/2	98.3
Year 3/4	97.2
Year 5	98.3
Year 6	95.3



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.

Upcoming Dates

Tuesday 3rd June

Bikeability for Beginners Year 3-6

Tuesday 10th June

Year 1/2 Trip into Stafford

Friday 13th June

Father's Day



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



Father's Day Afternoon – Friday 13th June

Sports Day - Friday 20th June

Reception and Y1/2 11:00am

Whole School Picnic Lunch 12:00pm – 1:00pm Y3-6 1:00pm

Summer event – Friday 27th June 2:30pm – 4:30pm

Reports out to Parents - Friday 4th July

Reception graduation and Rewards Afternoon (Invites to be sent) –

Monday 7th July 2:15pm

End of Year Church Service – Tuesday 15th July 10:00am

End of year disco –

Wednesday 16th July (after school – time to be confirmed)

Year 6 Leavers Assembly – Friday 18th July 1:30pm

School breaks up for the summer holidays – Friday 18th July

LOOK what we're LEARNING!

Reception



We've had another wonderful week in Reception, full of acting, exploration, and creativity.

In phonics, the children have shown fantastic effort and determination. We've been learning about words with suffixes, including -ing, -ed, and -est. Our tricky words this week were out and today, and it's been brilliant to see the children beginning to use these confidently in their reading and writing.



In maths, we have been exploring taking away and adding more. The children have used counters and tens frames to represent 'first, then, and now' scenarios and have become confident in explaining what has been added or taken away using mathematical language.



Our focus story this week was Cinderella, which the children absolutely loved. They used their imaginations to design and create Cinderella's carriage, using observational drawings of vegetables inspired by the Fairy Godmother's magic. As pumpkins are a little tricky to find in May, we used squash as a



creative alternative, which the children found very exciting!

In RE, we explored the parable of The Lost Coin, which led to a thoughtful class discussion about how each of us is important and equal. This linked beautifully to our core school values and it was heart-warming to hear the children's insights.



Outdoors, the children re-enacted The Three Little Pigs, giving wonderful performances full of energy—thankfully the shed survived all the huffing and puffing! They also enjoyed phonics scavenger hunts, searching for CCVCC words hidden around the outdoor area. The water trays became a scene from The Billy Goats Gruff, with children role-playing how to get past the troll to the other side!



Reception have worked so hard this week and have earned a well-deserved rest. Keep up the hard work and reading at home. We look forward to seeing all the children after the half-term break, ready for more fun, learning, and adventure.



Year 1 and Year 2



Our last week of the term has been a busy one, once more!

The Year 1 children have been working really hard in Phonics this term, preparing themselves for the Phonics Screening Check the week beginning of the 9th June. Their recognition of phonemes and ability to blend words in their heads is fantastic, any continued practise of this over the half term is only going to support them even further!



Following on from our work on The Owl and the Pussycat last week, this week the children have been learning about rhyme. They have taken part in lots of different rhyming activities, including making rhyming pairs, saying rhymes and writing rhymes. The children have also loved watching Michael Rosen's performances of his Nonsense Poems!

In Maths this week, Year 2 children started to learn how to tell the time. They've worked on o'clock, half past, quarter

past and quarter to this week. The children have enjoyed using the clocks to support their understanding of where the minute and hour hand should be. In Year 1, children have been learning about length and height. At the start of the week, the children enjoyed getting outside to compare the lengths of sticks and place them in height order. As well as, ordering themselves in height order independently. They then moved on to measure objects using cubes and learnt how to use a ruler accurately.



In History this week, we learnt about Stafford Castle and the importance of it in our community. The children learnt who built it and when. As well as, that it was used to protect the area. The children then used the iPads to do a virtual tour of the grounds of the castle. The children loved this interactive task and for the children that haven't visited before it was a really nice way for them to see the castle and its features.



We took the opportunity to link our prior learning of London from the year to our Art work, taking inspiration from Paul Klee's landscape paintings the children were asked to paint a picture of London in the same style. The concentration of each child throughout this task was just outstanding and the creations they created reflected this beautifully.

We had a very exciting new addition to our class this week, a

Robot Spider named Bart that the children won from our trip to Victoria Park. Each child had to pick a name for the spider and one of our pupils picked the winning name! This linked wonderfully to our learning on Robots in our Computing and the children loved having a go at using him. It has been a wonderful term, and the children have done so well, I am so proud of each of them!





Year 3 and Year 4



We have had a busy and exciting week in Year 3/4! The children have shown great enthusiasm in all areas of their learning and have enjoyed getting stuck into their topics. Here's a look at what we've been up to in class.

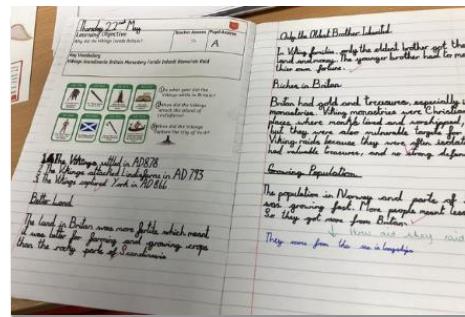
Art

In Art this week, we recapped our knowledge of shading and explored a range of techniques to create different tones and textures. The children experimented with using different pencil gradients to produce lighter and darker shades. They also practised cross-hatching to add depth and contrast to their work. Once they felt confident, they applied these skills to shade in an image of Alma, a character from the animation we are using in our English writing. The children worked with great focus and care, producing some fantastic tonal drawings. It was lovely to see them combining their Art and English learning so effectively.

History

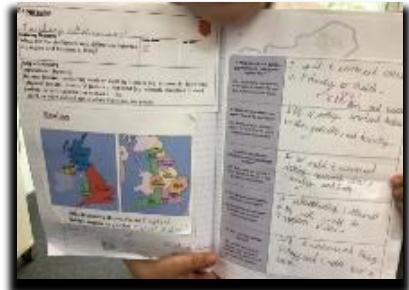
In History this week, we explored why the Vikings invaded Britain. The children learned about four main reasons behind the invasions. Firstly, they discovered that Vikings were attracted to Britain's gold and other valuable resources. Secondly, they found out that Britain had fertile land, which made it ideal for farming. We also discussed how, in Viking tradition, the oldest brother inherited everything, leaving younger siblings with little choice but to seek wealth elsewhere. Lastly, the

children looked at how the growing population in Scandinavia meant there wasn't enough land or resources for everyone.



English

In English this week, the children have been on an exciting writing journey based on the animation Alma. Their focus has been on building a detailed and atmospheric setting description



inspired by the eerie shop featured in the film. Throughout the week, they have been learning and applying key writing skills such as expanded noun phrases, fronted adverbials, and similes. The children have worked hard to create vivid imagery in their writing, thinking carefully about how to engage the reader and build suspense. It's been lovely to see their creativity shine through as they bring Alma's mysterious world to life.

Maths

In Maths this week, the children have been recapping their knowledge of time. They've been learning to tell the time to five minutes and have revisited key vocabulary such as o'clock, half past, quarter past, and quarter to. The class also explored Roman numerals on clocks and enjoyed applying their learning through practical activities.



Year 5 and Year 6



What a brilliant few weeks it's been as our Year 5 and 6 classes have come together! We've been so impressed with how smoothly the children have settled into their new combined group – there's been a real sense of teamwork, maturity and kindness on display. It's been lovely to see them working harmoniously, sharing ideas and supporting one another across subjects.

In writing, we've been putting our persuasive skills to the test by drafting letters to Miss Gaskell. The children had strong opinions and put forward their arguments with passion and thoughtful reasoning – we're not sure how Miss Gaskell will be able to say no after reading them!

Our current reading text has whisked us away to a magical forest, sparking lots of curiosity and imagination. We've been exploring the text using a wide range of reading skills, including inference, prediction and vocabulary development. The children have really enjoyed getting lost in the story and discussing the vivid settings and mysterious characters.

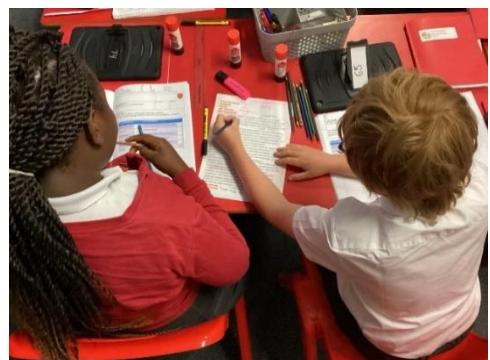
Year 5 have been busy plotting and translating shapes on coordinate grids – it's been wonderful to see them developing their spatial awareness and accuracy. Meanwhile, Year 6 have been diving into statistics with Miss Campbell, interpreting data and creating graphs with confidence and precision.

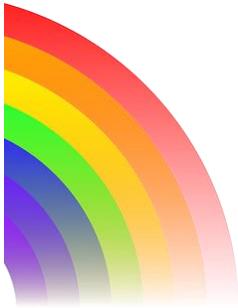


Our topic work has taken us back in time to Ancient Greece, where we've been discovering the legacy of Greek life, language and legends. In geography, we've been comparing the UK with Brazil – from climate and culture to landscapes and lifestyles – the children have been fascinated by the contrasts and similarities between the two countries.

In PSHE, we've had some mature and thoughtful discussions around the dangers of smoking. Year 5 and 6 have shown great empathy and understanding, asking sensible questions and thinking carefully about the importance of making healthy life choices.

As always, thank you for your continued support. We're incredibly proud of how well the children have adapted and the enthusiasm they're bringing to their learning. We hope you all enjoy a restful half-term break!





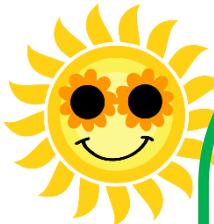
Reception – Grayson
Year 1 - Henry
Year 2 - Clemmie
Year 3 - Archie
Year 4 – Aaron
Year 5 - Niamh
Year 6 - Winnie



Reception - Albie
Year 1 - Emilie
Year 2 - Anthony
Year 3 - Orla
Year 4 - Lukian
Year 5 - Dean
Year 6 - Joe

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





During the May half term in Stafford, you can enjoy a variety of events and activities. Go Ape Cannock Chase offers tree-top adventures. You can also visit Cannock Chase Forest for family-friendly activities like Gruffalo hunts or Paw Patrol meet-and-greets at Statfold Country Park. For a bit of history and culture, World of Wedgwood and Lichfield Cathedral are great options. ☀️

Here are some specific activities and attractions to consider:

- **Go Ape Cannock Chase:** Experience thrilling treetop adventures. ☀️
- **Cannock Chase Forest:** Enjoy a Gruffalo trail or meet the Paw Patrol at Statfold Country Park. ☀️
- **World of Wedgwood:** Explore the world of porcelain and pottery. ☀️
- **Lichfield Cathedral:** Discover the history and architecture of this iconic cathedral. ☀️
- **National Memorial Arboretum:** Tackle a flower-themed trail or enjoy crafts. ☀️
- **Churnet Valley Railway:** Take a ride on the steam trains. ☀️
- **Crealy Theme Park & Resort:** Enjoy a variety of rides and attractions. ☀️
- **Dyffryn Gardens - National Trust:** Explore the beautiful gardens. ☀️
- **Banham Zoo:** Discover a variety of animals and conservation efforts. ☀️
- **Hide & Secrets Adventure Play at Burghley House:** Explore a magical woodland play area. ☀️

Family activities - Staffordshire Wildlife Trust's post



Family activities - Staffordshire Wildlife Trust

19 May at 19:00 · 🌟

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🌟 What's on - May Half Term top picks! 🌟

We've got tonnes of activity sessions planned – get your half term plans set. Head to the 'events' webpage link below for full info & booking.

🔍 *Tip – use the keyword search to enter the location & find the event you're after.

Tuesday 27th May

☀️ FREE Wildflower Wildfamilies at Biddulph Grange Country Park, ST8 7TZ

Free thanks to funding from Tesco! Drop in anytime between 11am-1pm. This session will be focused on Wildflowers so we'll be using scavenger hunts, trails and ID guides to find and learn about wildflowers as well as our usual wildplay activities such as swinging in hammocks or building a den. SEND places available – book via Staffordshire Connects website

Wednesday 28th May

㈩ Really WILD Wildfamilies at The Wolseley Centre, ST17 0WT.

Come and join Staffordshire Wildlife Trust for a morning of REALLY WILD themed activities! To celebrate the start of 30 days wild where the Wildlife Trust's encourage families to do something wild every day throughout June. Booking essential. SEND places available – book via Staffordshire Connects website.

Thursday 29th May

🎣 Pond Dipping at The Wolseley Centre, ST17 0WT.

Come and discover what creatures call the Wolseley Centre home. Find out who lurks beneath the depths of the pond! There will be three pond dipping sessions taking place at 10:30-11:30am & 1-2pm & 2:30-3:30pm. Booking essential.

Thursday 29th May

🌳 FREE Wildlings and Wildfamilies at Dosthill Park, Tamworth, B77 1LJ

Join us for some wildplay adventures. We'll have den building, hammock swinging and mud play plus some games and crafts! 10:30-12 is for ages 6months-5 years and 1pm-3pm is for all ages. Booking essential. SEND places available – book via Staffordshire Connects website.

<https://www.staffs-wildlife.org.uk/events>

Adrian Clarke



SAFEGUARDING CONCERN

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

A screenshot of the Staffordshire Connects Local Offer website. It shows a video player with a thumbnail of a woman speaking, a "Watch on YouTube" button, and a "Tour of Staffordshire's Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Local Offer" video thumbnail.

SEND Questions

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