



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 – Summer Term – Friday 4th July 2025

Message from the Headteacher

Good afternoon,

I cannot believe we are in July!

As always, another busy week.

Lottie came into school to lead Worship, following on from Mrs Welton last week and spoke about a story from the Bible from 1 Samuel about God appointing a new king. This story is so important as we continued to look at our value of Belief and Courage – teaching how we should look on the inside of people, not just how they appear on the outside for finding their inner strength and belief.

Our Year 5 and 6 class went to watch Hamlet at the Gatehouse – and what an incredible experience they had! I was so proud of how they came back into school so excited to tell me all about it and how much they enjoyed it. Our children had a Q&A session with the cast, where they asked some mature questions, the whole time showing their Values. Benedict Shaw (who is also a television actor) is an ex-pupil of St Paul's and he is such a great role-model to give aspiration to our children, showing them to follow their dreams. Nothing is out of their reach if they try hard and believe they can!

We have also had the first of our Bikeability sessions today – yet again the children having an amazing time and showing they determination to succeed!

On Monday, we look forward to our Reception Graduation and Awards afternoon – it's going to be a special memory for us all!

Take care

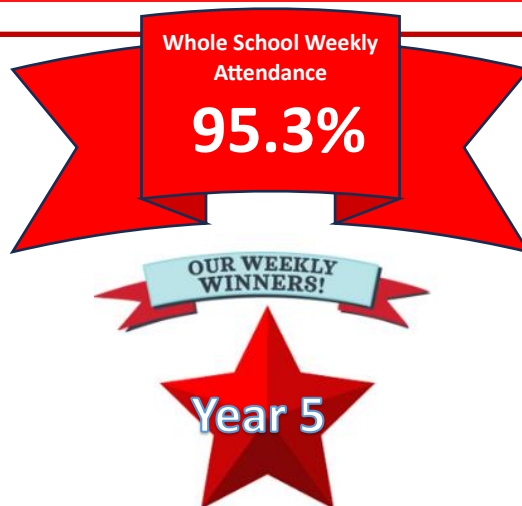
Miss Gaskell and the St Paul's Team

Our School Vision

We welcome all God's children into St. Paul's loving family. We open up horizons of hope and aspiration, and guide our pupils and adults into ways of fulfilling them.

We create a culture that promotes dignity and respect for all to equip our family to live in a modern and diverse Britain, embracing global communities. This will support the flourishing of all, to live well in God's world, with the promise of Jesus to live life in all its fullness.

Class	%
Reception	87.3
Year 1/2	96.3
Year 3/4	96.2
Year 5	100
Year 6	95.8



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

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





We have had another beautiful week in Reception, beginning our exciting new topic: Splash! The children have been absolutely wonderful, embracing every new opportunity with enthusiasm.



In phonics, we have been exploring root words ending in -ed. This can be a tricky concept, as -ed can make different sounds, but with great determination and perseverance, the children have been segmenting and blending these words confidently. They've even been using them in full sentences! Both Miss Higgins and I have been incredibly impressed with the progress in handwriting across the class – it's truly lovely to see their hard work paying off.

In maths, we continued our topic of Visualise, Build and Map by learning to describe positions using vocabulary such as next to, behind, above, below, and in front. The children articulated these concepts brilliantly, describing where they and their friends were with growing confidence and accuracy.



We officially launched our Splash! topic with the opening of our very own Beach Café, which has been a huge hit! The children have been busy taking orders, writing menus, creating recipes, scooping ice creams, and exploring our new sandpit. The water

area has been transformed into an undersea adventure, full of sea creatures the children have enjoyed catching and classifying. They have also created beautiful symmetrical butterflies, showing off their understanding of patterns and design.

At the start of the week, we had a fantastic lesson all why it's important to keep clean and could explain the steps needed to stay healthy. They particularly enjoyed brushing their teeth and using glitter to explore how easily germs can spread!



Reception have been amazing, as always. We're so excited to celebrate their achievements on Monday during our Graduation Ceremony – it's going to be a truly special moment for us all.

Year 1 and Year 2

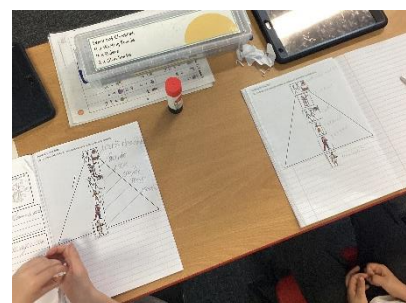


In our core subjects this week, the children have been reviewing and showcasing all they have learnt this year. All of the children have worked so hard, and this has been evident in their results, I am so proud of every single one of them!



In English, the children have continued their writing journey on 'My Name is Not Refugee'. The class have revisited their knowledge on past-tense verbs. The children remembered this knowledge really well and applied it independently to their writing. They have also worked on identifying and applying the un- prefix in their writing. Children worked on sorting out the real and made up un- words.

In History this week, the children learnt what a hierarchy is and also about who lived and worked in Castles. They then worked hard to think about where these people would come on the hierarchy. The children were very interested in the role of the jester, and couldn't believe it was a real job!



In PSHE, the children focused on responsibilities and what they are responsible for. We discussed how responsibilities grow as we get older. The children shared the responsibilities they have within school and home through class discussions. We also thought about what would happen if no one completed their responsibility and how this would affect our world. We decided that the outcome would not be good!

In Science, the children reviewed their knowledge on Plants. This is a topic we have continued to develop and learn more about across the year. The children have retained so much knowledge on this topic and they used this to then answer questions about how a plant grows and how it stays healthy as well.



In Art, the children developed their finger-painting skills, they created their own pictures using only their fingers. They children were very creative in this task and really showed their individuality. We had paintings of fruit bowls, rainbows, ice-creams and lots more!

In Computing, the children worked on programming the Bee-Bots and we really focused on what happens when you change the order of instructions and how much this impacts a journey. The children are becoming so confident navigating and using the Bee-Bots,

the growth is lovely to see.

The children have worked extremely hard this week and showcased how brilliant they are once again. Well done Year 1 and 2!





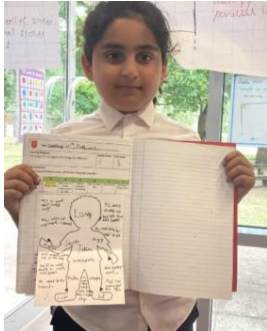
Year 3 and Year 4



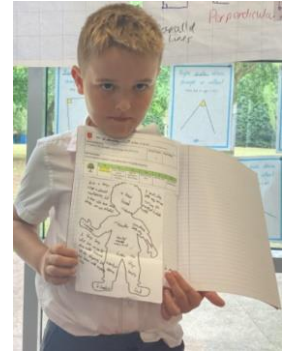
✨ Dear Year 3 and 4 families, ✨

This week the children have continued to work hard across all subjects. Here's a quick look at what we've been learning in class.

📖 English



This week, the children have continued their journey towards writing *The Wisp* in first person, imagining the story through the eyes of Idris. They have done some fantastic work exploring the characters in more depth, thinking carefully about what they might look like and how they might be feeling at different points in the story. The children have shown real empathy and creativity as they considered the characters' thoughts, emotions, and experiences. This work is helping to build a strong foundation for their own narrative writing.



✡ Religious Education



This week in RE, the children have continued learning about Judaism, exploring two important aspects of the Jewish faith in more detail: the mezuzah and the Shema prayer. They learned about the significance of the mezuzah in Jewish homes and how it serves as a reminder of faith and values. The children then had the opportunity to create their own mezuzot, each containing a special message or belief that

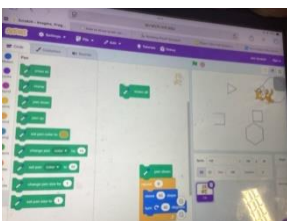
they would like to guide them in their own lives. It was a thoughtful and creative activity that helped the children reflect on what is important to them.



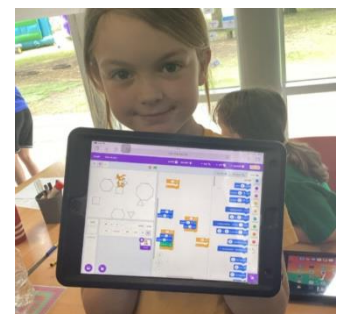
🌐 Geography

This week in Geography, the children have been learning all about the country, region, and county they live in. They used maps to explore where they are located within the UK and identified key features of their area. The children enjoyed working with maps and had a go at marking on their country (England), region (West Midlands), and county (Staffordshire). It was a great way to help them understand their place in the wider world.

💻 Computing



In Computing this week, the children have been learning about different types of loops used in programming. They explored infinite loops and count-controlled loops, discussing how and when each type might be useful. Using Scratch, they practised applying both types of loops in their own coding projects and thought carefully about which would be most suitable for different tasks.

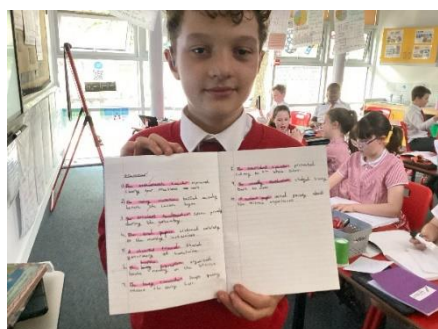
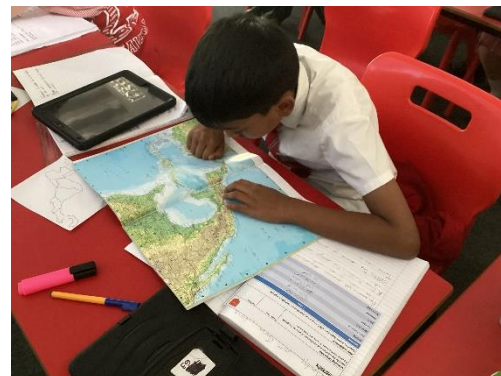




Year 5 and Year 6

This week, Year 5 have been completing their NTS assessments and showing great focus and resilience, while Year 6 have continued working on their maths consolidation projects, applying a range of skills to real-life scenarios.

In writing, both classes began planning and drafting non-chronological reports about imaginary creatures they've invented – with some wonderfully weird and creative ideas coming to life on the page! Year 5 pupils have also continued their blog-style retells of a strange day at school with Miss Campbell, showing great flair in their storytelling.



In reading, the children have been exploring a non-fiction text all about blood, linking to their science learning and helping to develop their understanding of how information is structured in factual texts.

In history, we explored Greek mythology by analysing ancient coins and the stories they tell through images of gods, goddesses and mythical events. The children enjoyed uncovering the beliefs and values of Ancient Greek society through these tiny yet powerful artefacts.

Geography focused on time zones and the lines of longitude and latitude. The children made excellent use of maps and globes to explore how time changes across the world and how geography influences our daily lives.

In RE, we wrapped up our unit on justice with a reflective discussion about fairness, moral responsibility, and how different beliefs influence our views on justice. The children contributed thoughtful and mature ideas.

In computing, we continued working with Micro:bits, building on our understanding of how to use their features and writing simple code. There's been lots of curiosity and growing confidence with the devices.



Art lessons saw the completion of our fashion designs, with children finalising their plans based on their design briefs. It's been wonderful to see their individuality and creativity shine through their work. In science, the children constructed simple models of lungs and used them to explain the role each part plays in the respiratory system – a hands-on lesson that really brought the learning to life.

We also continued with our *Reflect and Rewind* unit in music, looking back on some of the musical skills developed this year and deepening our appreciation for different musical styles.





Reception – Charlie
Year 1 – Victor
Year 2 – Teddy
Year 3 – Arjun
Year 4 – Lukian
Year 5 – Tyler
Year 6 – Lily



Reception - Robyn
Year 1 - Jayden
Year 2 – Isaac
Year 3 – Beth
Year 4 - Maame
Year 5 – April
Year 6 – Gabi





Just a few photos from the afternoon. More to follow on Facebook. Please don't forget to like and follow!



This week we have had our Y5/6 trip to Hamlet and Y5/6 level 2 Bikeability.

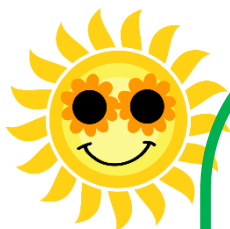
We are prouder than ever of their attitude and values shown!

Let's see what next week brings...



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

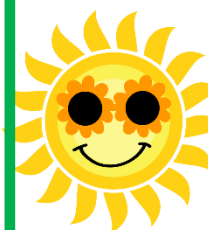
Y1/2/3 – Art with Mrs Gull

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





What Parents & Educators Need to Know about NINTENDO SWITCH 2

Nintendo launched its Switch 2 games console in early June 2025 – its first new console in eight years. While it builds on the original's success by remaining compatible with certain existing games, it also adds powerful hardware and new features like GameChat and a USB-C camera. As more children look to upgrade, it's important to understand how this new console might affect their play and safety.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

EASIER TO ACCESS MATURE CONTENT

18
CENSORED

Despite Nintendo's reputation for family-friendly titles, mature games like *Cyberpunk 2077* and *Hitman* have been released onto the platform. With the Switch 2's improved performance, developers will be able to port even more mature-rated games. These may appeal to children due to their popularity, but they contain content that is highly unsuitable for young audiences.

IN-APP & GAME STORE PURCHASES

The Nintendo eShop enables purchases with just a few taps. If payment details are saved and PIN protection is disabled, children may unknowingly make costly purchases – including game add-ons, cosmetic items or entire new releases – without parental approval.

UNRESTRICTED ONLINE PLAY IN SOME GAMES

While GameChat is one feature, Switch 2 also connects to the broader Nintendo Switch Online service. Many free-to-play titles like *Fortnite* or *Apex Legends* allow voice or text chat with strangers unless chat settings are adjusted, meaning children could encounter inappropriate language or unwanted contact.

GAMECHAT & REAL-TIME VOICE COMMUNICATION

GameChat enables live chatting with up to 12 people, even across different games, with optional video and screen-sharing. Though children under 16 are restricted to chatting only with approved friends, the sheer interactivity could raise privacy concerns or create pressure to remain online longer.

CAMERA COMPATIBILITY & PRIVACY CONCERNS

The optional USB-C camera supports video calling and facial overlays in games; however, this also raises the risk of cyberstalking or the unwanted sharing of personal images. The camera can be disabled, removed or covered, and parental controls are essential to manage how and when it is used.

POWERFUL PULL OF FAMILIAR CHARACTERS

Nintendo's mascot, Mario – along with Pikachu, Donkey Kong and others – remains hugely appealing to younger audiences, especially after the success of the recent film, *The Super Mario Bros. Movie* (2023). These beloved icons are central to Nintendo's branding and often feature in merchandising, adverts and in-game promotions, creating strong emotional attachments in children and a sense of urgency to keep up with their peers.

Advice for Parents & Educators

CHECK RATINGS & USE PARENTAL CONTROLS

Every Switch and Switch 2 game comes with a PEGI age rating. Before buying one, ensure the content matches your child's age. Use the Nintendo Parental Controls app to monitor gameplay, set screen-time limits and manage friend requests.

REVIEW FRIEND LISTS AND CHAT PERMISSIONS

Child profiles are restricted to chatting with approved friends only, but it's good practice to regularly check their friend list and communication settings. Use the Parental Controls app to switch off voice or video chat if necessary.

REMOVE OR RESTRICT PAYMENT METHODS

Avoid accidental spending by unlinking credit cards from the device. Instead, consider adding funds via prepaid eShop cards or requiring a PIN for purchases. Some banking apps can also be set to approve transactions manually.

ENCOURAGE OPEN CONVERSATIONS

Teach children how to block, report and capture any behaviour or content that makes them uncomfortable. The console's built-in tools allow them to create screenshots and video clips, which can aid in reporting any issues. Keeping an open dialogue helps children feel supported and safe.

Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is the Games Editor at Daily Star and has been working in the gaming and tech industry for five years. A regular visitor to the App Store to try out new tools, he's also a parent and understands the importance of online safety. He's also a tech and fitness writer and has been published on sites including NIN, TechRadar, and plenty more.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

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