



'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 6th June 2025

Message from the Headteacher

Good afternoon,

What a start to the term!

We began our week with our 'Learn to ride' sessions with Bikeability for Y3-6. The children all came on Tuesday with the absolute determination to succeed - and they absolutely did just that! They overcame difficulties, and to go out and watch them take their first wobbly turn of the pedals was incredible!! Once they had that confidence, they was no stopping them, and it was so lovely to receive a video of one of our children riding after school that day! We love to see what the children have been doing outside of school - so please send anything over dojo that you'd like us to celebrate. We love to share their achievements as well as what they've been up to.

Tuesday was also a Special Worship for us, as Lottie came in to share in our celebration of the church's birthday! For Christians, this weekend is Pentecost, taking place on the 49th day after Easter Day and celebrates the descent of the Holy Spirit. As lots of the Apostles of Jesus began to follow him, they say that this is the beginning of the Church. The children have been learning about the gifts of the Holy Spirit, and next week we will share their Worship log prayers.

Today, Year 6 have had the chance to watch a film and have popcorn, in the first of their final term special times making memories. For all children in school, the final Summer Term of the Year is always one of mixed emotions. One to celebrate everything we have achieved this year whilst also looking forward to and thinking about the next. There are lots of events coming up as well as transition that we will make sure will be explained to all.

Next week, we have our Year 1 Phonics Screening Check and our Y4 Multiplication Check. I know that the children will be amazing, showing our values and making us proud.

We also have our Y1/2 trip into Stafford as well as our Father's Day celebrations on Friday afternoon. Thankyou to all those who have emailed into the office to express your interest. It is going to be a lovely afternoon sharing special times with all of those important male role models in the children's lives.

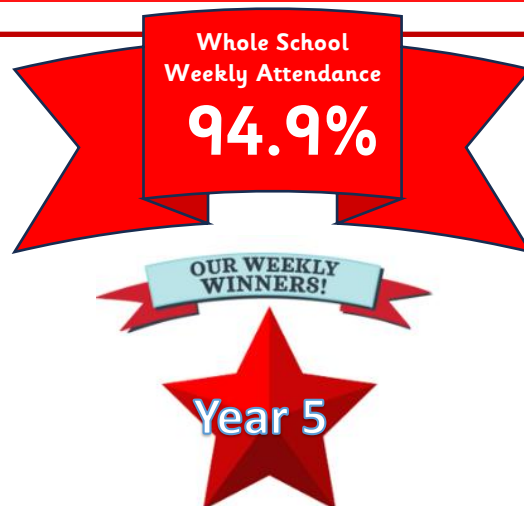
As always, we hope you have a lovely weekend.

Take care

Miss Gaskell and the St Pauls Team.



Class	%
Reception	90.7
Year 1/2	94.7
Year 3/4	96.6
Year 5	96.7
Year 6	94.7.



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

Upcoming Dates

Tuesday 10th June

Year 1/2 Trip into Stafford

Friday 13th June

Father's Day

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



Reception



What a wonderful week back we've had in Reception, even if the weather hasn't been the best!

In phonics, the children have shown incredible perseverance and effort. This week, we've been revisiting the past four weeks of phonics in preparation for our final Little Wandle scheme of the year, ready for the exciting transition to Year 1!

In maths, we have begun exploring sharing and grouping. The children have been learning about what makes an equal group and discussing whether things are fair or unfair, using the book *The Last Marshmallow* to support their understanding. In provision, they've also been refining their knowledge of adding more using the "first, then, now" model.



This week marked the end of our Once Upon a Time topic. Our final story was *The Ugly Five*, which the children absolutely loved—especially singing along with the story! We used the book as a springboard to explore the similarities and differences between Botswana and England. A highlight of the week was



our exciting taste-testing session, where the children rated a variety of foods from both countries. We had some very enthusiastic (and full!) judges. We also compared how people used to travel to go on safari in the past and how they travel today.



In RE, we explored the parable of *The Two Builders*. This led to a thoughtful discussion about the importance of building our lives on strong foundations by



listening to God's teachings. This message tied in beautifully with our worship this week, where we learned about the fruits of the Holy Spirit in celebration of Pentecost.

Outdoors, despite the rain, the children had a wonderful time in our Huff and Puff Kitchen, cooking up imaginative dishes like "Piggy Power Porridge"! We also brewed magical potions to help Cinderella get to the ball. Indoors, the creativity continued as the children designed and made new carriages for Cinderella using paper plates.



Reception have been fantastic this week—it's been a joy to have them back after the break. I've also been so pleased with the amount of home reading happening; it really does show in the children's progress. Thank you for your continued support.

Have a lovely weekend!



Year 1 and Year 2



What a positive first week of our Summer 2 term we have had, the children have settled back into our routine really well and have engaged with the curriculum amazingly.

This week in English, we began a new writing journey based on our text 'Clean Up!'. The children will be writing a letter to our local MP on the importance of keeping our environment clean and recycling properly. The children began their learning by thinking about how we should recycle properly and the bins we should use for each type of waste. They liked working in teams to sort the waste into the correct bins. The children have been exploring how a littered environment makes them feel and they have used 'because' to expand their ideas. They have also been working on asking questions which they may include in their letters. I am looking forward to seeing their letters next week!



In Maths this week, Year 2 children have continued to learn how to tell the time. This has been a trickier concept for them to grasp so they have been using the mini clocks frequently in class to support with their understanding of telling the time to and past the hour. With lots of determination and perseverance, children are beginning to build fluency on reading an analogue clock. In Year 1, the children have been learning about weight and capacity. They started by looking at mass and they enjoyed using the scales to find items that had the same mass. We then moved on to capacity where the children used containers, water and cubes to compare capacity and begin to use the vocabulary such as full and empty.

In Science this week, the children revisited and reviewed their knowledge on Materials. They had remembered lots from learning in the Autumn term. The children were very confident to be able to identify the object, the material it was made from and a property of that material as well.

In History this week, the children explored what castles were used for. They learnt castles in the past had three main purposes; admin, defence and homes for Lords and Ladies. The children had a fantastic time role-playing these scenarios so we could begin to understand what life would be like for the different people within a castle as well.

In PE, the children have been practising for sports day this week. They have been working hard on running in a lane as well as their balance skills which will be key for some of the events on Sports Day!

In Art this week, the children continued their landscape watercolour paintings however, this time instead of London as the focus they used pictures of Stafford's nature as inspiration. Once again, the children showed phenomenal focus in this task and really embraced the artistic freedom. Well done Year 1 and 2!





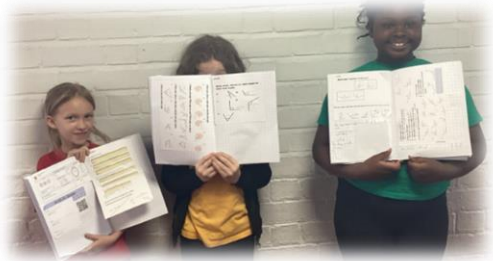
Year 3 and Year 4



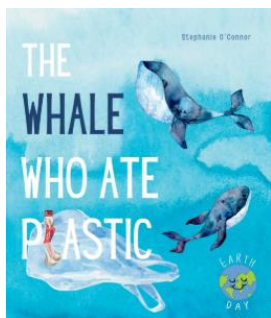
Welcome back! The children have settled in brilliantly after the half-term break and have jumped straight into their learning with great enthusiasm.

Maths

In Maths this week, the children have been learning how to identify and name different types of angles, including acute, obtuse, and right angles. They have worked on comparing and ordering angles based on their size, using what they've learned to solve shape-related problems. We also explored different types of triangles, such as equilateral, isosceles, and scalene, discussing their properties in detail. The children have practised using a ruler accurately to measure lines and draw shapes, which supports their understanding of geometry.

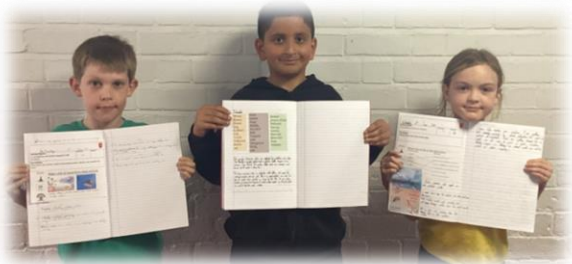


English



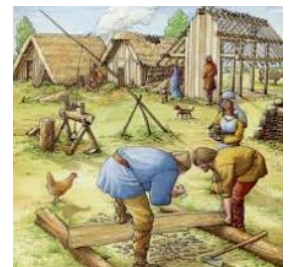
The children have also started an exciting new English journey based on the text *The Whale Who Ate Plastic*. This week, they explored the story in detail, discussing the thoughts and feelings of the sea creatures and the serious impact plastic has on marine life.

Through class discussions, they began to understand the importance of protecting our oceans. The children have also been recapping how to use expanded noun phrases to describe emotions and reactions in more detail. Over the coming weeks, they will continue building their writing skills, leading up to a persuasive letter to the local MP.

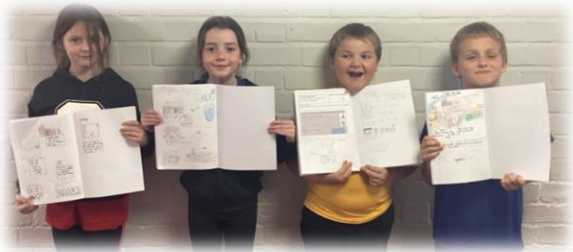


History

In History this week, the children have been learning all about life in Anglo-Saxon England, before the Viking raids began. They explored where the Anglo-Saxons settled, what their villages looked like, and how communities were organised. The children found out about the different types of jobs people had, including farming, weaving, blacksmithing, and hunting.



We also looked closely at the roles of men, women, and children within Anglo-Saxon society.





Year 5 and Year 6

What a fantastic first week back we've had! The classroom has been full of energy, curiosity, and lots of smiles. The children have truly embraced the transition into a mixed Year 5/6 class – it's been wonderful to see new friendships forming and everyone thriving in such a positive, supportive atmosphere. From the very start of the week, the children have thrown themselves into their learning with enthusiasm and focus. It's been a joy to see them working together, sharing ideas, and showing kindness and encouragement towards one another.

Year 5 have done a brilliant job finishing their *Position and Direction* unit, using mirrors to find lines of symmetry and drawing accurate reflections. We then moved on to revisiting angles and exploring the properties of 3D shapes – a great opportunity to consolidate their learning and build confidence. Year 6 have finished their algebra unit and have impressed us with how well they have done in this unit



Our current writing project has sparked plenty of creativity (and a few giggles!) as the children wrote instructional texts titled *How to Be the Most _____ Pupil*. From "the smartest" to "the rudest" and even "the most popular", they've had a lot of fun using humour, exaggeration and clear step-by-step instructions to hook the reader. In reading, we've been learning all about the respiratory system. The children have shown great interest in how our bodies work and have applied their reading skills to identify features of non-fiction texts, such as headings, diagrams, and technical vocabulary.

Our budding scientists labelled diagrams of the circulatory system and explored the roles of the heart, blood and lungs. There were some brilliant questions and discussions around how it all connects – great curiosity on show!

We've been identifying and studying the countries of Central America, beginning to build our knowledge of the region's geography. The children enjoyed using maps to locate key countries and features, and asked some thoughtful questions about the cultures and climates. History has taken a high-tech twist as the children scanned QR codes to explore 360° replicas of Ancient Greek artefacts.

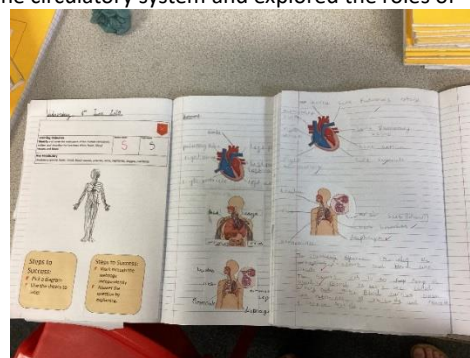
They put their historian hats on to analyse each item, using clues to figure out who might have used it and what it was for – some fantastic reasoning and historical thinking on display!



In art, we began an exciting new theme on fashion design by doing an artist study. The children created visual notes and explored how different designers' express ideas through colour, texture and shape – lots of originality and imagination here.

Our PSHE focus this week was on understanding and celebrating what makes us different. The children discussed the importance of not judging others and shared thoughtful, kind insights – a really mature and respectful conversation. In music, we've been learning the lyrics to some well-known songs used in films as part of our *Reflect and Rewind* theme. The class have really enjoyed singing together and talking about how music can tell stories and set a mood. And finally, our trip to the pool was a splash hit! The children had a great time at swimming and showed excellent behaviour and effort – we're proud of how well they represented the school.

All in all, it's been a week full of learning, laughter and friendship. Thank you as always for your support – we're looking forward to building on this brilliant start to the half term.





Reception – Lumen

Year 1 - Lily

Year 2 - Lana

Year 3 - Celine

Year 4 – Maame

Year 5 - Alfie

Year 6 - Asia



Reception - Daniel

Year 1 -Daniel

Year 2 - Everlyn

Year 3 - Orla

Year 4 - Eva

Year 5 - Sienna

Year 6 - George



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

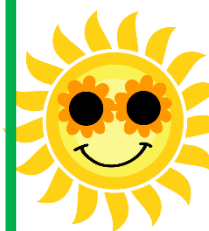
Y1/2/3 – Art with Mrs Gull

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 MINECRAFT

AGE RESTRICTION
PEGI
7

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Still the best-selling game of all time, Minecraft is a bastion of creativity and community, with hundreds of millions of players building and crafting in its almost endless world. The popularity of Minecraft among gamers of all ages means it's important to remain informed about the game, including how to play it safely and whether it's suitable for the children in your care. That's why we've created this guide explaining the risks associated with Minecraft and how to ensure a purely enjoyable gaming experience.

SCARY ELEMENTS

While Minecraft can be seen as a kind of 'digital LEGO', certain game modes include creatures accompanied by eerie sound effects. These can be a bit too frightening for some younger players, potentially leading to distressing in-game combat and other encounters – although the combat is quite basic and free from any real depiction of violence.

GRIEFING

Some players in Minecraft take pleasure in deliberately damaging or destroying another person's creations. This behaviour, known as 'griefing', is a form of bullying – it intentionally ruins someone else's experience by erasing hours of their work and forcing them to start over. Many public servers regard griefing as a serious offence and often ban those who engage in it.

ADDICTIVENESS

Minecraft's focus on creativity means that, as with any creative endeavour, it can be easy to get carried away. If your child is finding it difficult to manage their time because they're drawn in by Minecraft's gameplay loop of resource gathering and building elaborate projects, it could have a knock-on effect on their social interactions and schoolwork.

PUBLIC SERVERS AND COMMUNICATIONS

With public servers being so easily accessible in Minecraft, it's highly likely that children will end up chatting with strangers through the in-game text chat. Some servers even place an emphasis on social interaction, actively encouraging communication between players. While there's nothing inherently wrong with this, it does carry certain risks. In addition to the concerns around speaking with strangers online, players who host their own servers may have their IP addresses exposed, posing a further security concern.

ADDITIONAL PURCHASES

Minecraft is available as a free trial on a variety of devices; however, the full game requires a one-off purchase. After that, players have the option to buy additional cosmetic upgrades or subscribe to Minecraft Realms. Realms is an entirely optional subscription service that allows users to run their own private server to play with friends. Without proper supervision, younger players may end up making unintended or excessive purchases.

Advice for Parents & Educators

CHOOSE THE RIGHT MODE

Selecting Creative or Peaceful mode allows children to play Minecraft without having to contend with enemies. It's also a great way for you to get used to playing the game with them, since the difficulty level is far lower. This allows you to work together on a long-term project, creating something special without the threat of enemies and creatures attacking you or damaging your building.

HOST A PRIVATE SERVER

The easiest way to find a safe server for children to play on is to make one yourself. Hosting a server prevents strangers from finding it, unless they've been given its address and password. A private server also lets you control who's allowed to enter and – if necessary – ban anyone who shouldn't be there. This is the closest equivalent to parental controls in Minecraft. Hosting a private server, however, will cost a monthly fee.

TALK ABOUT STRANGERS

At some point in their lives, almost everyone will make contact with a stranger online. Talking to children about online safety, therefore, is essential – as is having a plan for dealing with any hostile or difficult people. It's important that a child knows never to tell a stranger about themselves online and that they should come to you straight away if they do encounter a problem.

RESEARCH CONTENT CREATORS

Much of Minecraft's early stages can be an exercise in frustration for players who don't know where to start. Thankfully, there's a wealth of material online and in video format to help you learn the basics. Just be mindful that some of this content may not be appropriate for children, so you should consider watching it yourself first.

PLAY MINECRAFT WITH YOUR CHILD

As a creative building tool, Minecraft makes it great fun for children to team up and construct vast buildings accompanied by imaginative landscapes, much like working with LEGO or model kits. Playing in a game mode that includes enemies can encourage critical thinking and teamwork; however, you should consider which game mode is appropriate for the child in your care.

Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is Gaming Editor at the Daily Star, and has worked in games media for more than 6 years. A long-time gaming enthusiast, he is also a parent and therefore a keen advocate of online safety for children of all ages.



#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



**ST. PAUL'S
CHURCH** ☩



This week's Messy Church is at St Paul's Church on Sunday at 3:30pm. Lottie would love to see some new faces (and old) for some fun with the children learning about how special meals can bring a special message.

Messy Church

Meals and Messages
Mary & Martha

Sunday 8th June
3:30-5:30pm

**ST. PAUL'S
CHURCH** ☩

