



*'There is one body, and one Spirit, just as there is one hope to which God has called you.'*

*Ephesians 4: 4-5*

**Autumn Term Newsletter: Week Ending Friday 12<sup>th</sup> December 2025**

## **Message from the Headteacher**

Good morning,

What a week!

Nativity 2025 was absolutely wonderful! Thankyou so much to everyone who came to watch and support our beautiful littlest children in their Nativity. We welcomed over 100 friends and family over the 2 performances, and it was also lovely to have our Chair of Governors attend on Tuesday.

The children were incredible and we are beyond proud of the courage they showed, the excellence in their talents and just how they gave 110% in every – from rehearsals to final performances. Well done!

We ended our week with the Christmas Fair – and I just want to say a huge thankyou from each and everyone of us to each and every single one of you – families, friends and loved ones. The support has genuinely been overwhelming – and I cannot wait to show you what your money will be buying for our children.

I would also like to Thank you for supporting the Scholastic Book Fair – we have our final report and next week we will let you know how much money was raised for school!

The final week of term brings class trips for each class and our Christmas Service at St Pauls Church. All are welcome to attend – the Service starts at 10:00am.

Finally, Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> and Friday 19<sup>th</sup> are days where you child can wear a Christmas jumper if they choose – but please keeping school uniform on as well. We thought they all looked so smart last Friday, and also we don't always get a chance to get the wear out of a Christmas jumper so thought we'd add a couple of optional days!

Take care

Miss Gaskell and the St Paul's Team



# Useful Information

St Bartholomew's CE  
Multi Academy Trust

## Playground Behaviour

A reminder please that children should not be using the equipment before and after school due to no risk assessment in place at those times as they are not supervised.

Can dogs please be on leads, and if you need to come onto the playground, dogs must stay at the gate or be carried on.

Can adults also please stay with children to supervise them, ensuring behaviour is respectful. We are having quite a few before-school issues before we open the doors which we are needing to deal with during registration, causing some dysregulation to behaviours and disruption to our calm, morning learning time.



### PE Kit

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 are also needed. This is part of the St Pauls PE Kit – information is always on our website.

[School Uniform | St Pauls CE \(C\) Primary School](#)

**Reception/Year 1/Year 2**

**Your Kits need to be brought into school to be kept in the classroom (Year 1 and 2 PE is Tuesday/Thursday)**

**Year 3/4/5/6**

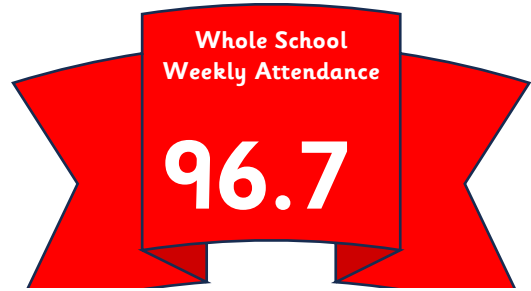
**Children will come to school on a Wednesday in PE Kit**

The school gate opens at **8:40am**.  
Gates close at **8:45am** – this is so that we are open for our statutory time of **32.5 hours**.

Children have focussed learning time between 8:45 and 9:00 so it is really important that they are ready to learn.



Class	%
Reception/Year 1	95.4
Year 2	96.3
Year 3/4	96
Year 5/6	99.2



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.



At school, we are passionate about fostering a love of reading in every child. Reading every day—even for just a short time—can make a huge difference to a child's vocabulary, imagination, and confidence. It opens doors to new worlds, ideas, and possibilities, and supports learning across all subjects.

We're thrilled to see so many families engaging with our online reading library on Big Cat Collins, which is proving to be a fantastic resource. Thank you for encouraging your children to explore the wide range of books available.

Next week, we'll be appointing our Year 5/6 librarians, who will help run our school library and support book borrowing across the school. This is a wonderful opportunity for our older pupils to take on responsibility and share their enthusiasm for reading with others.

Let's keep turning those pages—every book read is a step forward in your child's learning journey!





We've had such a fun, festive and full-on week in Reception and Year 1, and the children have absolutely loved every minute of it.

The big event, of course, was our Nativity performance of *The Twinkly Nativity*. The children were absolute fantastic! They sang their hearts out, remembered their lines brilliantly and showed so much confidence on stage. We were all bursting with pride watching them



show our Rainbow values of *Belief and Courage* in front of such a big audience. I'm sure you will agree that they were all superstars! As well as Nativity this week, the children of course had their Christmas Dinner! The children were so excited walking into the hall all decorated for a festive feast. They loved sitting with their friends, pulling crackers and enjoying the celebrations together. Lots of happy faces and full tummies.



On Wednesday this week, Year 1 also got stuck into a brilliant sustainability art workshop with volunteers from *There Is No Planet B*. They chatted about how to keep Victoria Park clean and safe. The children had some brilliant and insightful thoughts about ways to do this. The children then created some really thoughtful artwork which will be displayed in an exhibition next year.

Alongside all the festive fun, we have continued our writing journey for *Little Red Riding Hood*. The children have been learning how to build sentences using colourful semantics—focusing on getting a subject and a verb in every sentence. They've picked it up so well and have been writing some lovely sentences to go with the story. Reception have been working really hard on their letter formation this week, especially those tricky descenders (the ones that dip under the line). They've shown great focus during their handwriting sessions and their descender letters are now looking much more accurate!



In Maths, we've been doing our 'lightbulb lessons'—a chance to revisit previous learning and fill any little gaps we've found from assessments. We've focused on addition and subtraction reasoning and problem-solving this week. The children have been confident applying their addition and subtraction knowledge to complete these types of problems and questions.

In RE this week, the children looked deeper into the Christmas Story, in particular the 3 wise men and the gifts they bought Jesus. The children learnt what Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh is. The children then had a think about what special gift they would give to the baby Jesus and why.

The children have been so amazing this week, with the change of routine and festive fun. I hope you all have a restful weekend, only 1 week to go!



Miss Goddard



What another busy and exciting week we have had in Year 2! Our days have been filled with festive fun and brilliant learning. This week, the children wowed us all with their amazing Nativity performances. They delivered a fantastic dress rehearsal on Monday, followed by wonderful shows for parents on Tuesday and Thursday. Every child was brilliant — it takes a lot of courage to get up on stage, and their confidence shone through. Their singing was beautiful, and it was clear how much hard work had gone into



every rehearsal. Thank you for your support at home and for coming along to watch them!



On Wednesday, we enjoyed our school Christmas dinner and a special workshop led by Friends in the Park. This session focused on the message “There is no Planet B” and the importance of looking after our environment. The children showed great respect to our visitors and produced fantastic junk-model creations and posters. Their artwork will be displayed alongside pieces from other schools in town.



In our learning this week, we completed our “lightbulb lessons” in English and maths, where we revisited key skills highlighted in our assessments. In English, we explored different types of sentences — commands, statements, exclamations and questions. The children also wrote their own descriptive paragraphs inspired by *’Twas the Night Before Christmas*. They really enjoyed the story and produced some wonderful writing full of expanded noun phrases. In maths, we focused on telling the time, looking closely at o’clock and half past. The children practised reading times and drawing them accurately



on clock faces. In spelling, we investigated the suffixes -ed and -ing, including spelling rules such as changing *y* to *i* and dropping the *e* before adding -ing. The children are becoming very confident with these rules.



We have also been practising our Christmas songs ready for our Church visit next Tuesday and working hard on our Christmas crafts for the school fayre. Thank you, as always, for all your support during this busy festive period — it is truly appreciated. Enjoy your last weekend before the Christmas break!

Miss Boulter.



This week has been filled with fun, festive activities and plenty of clever learning along the way! The children have worked hard while enjoying the excitement of the season, and it's been wonderful to see their enthusiasm shine through in every lesson and activity.

**In Maths**, we focused on consolidating key skills through several recap lessons. The children revisited telling the time, estimating answers, and finding missing numbers in different contexts.



**In English**, we completed our explanation texts about how sound travels. The children explored the fascinating journey from the moment vibrations are made to the point where signals reach our brain and we recognise the sound. Their final pieces were detailed and showed great effort and understanding of the topic.

The children have also been practising an important new skill—editing their writing using the technology available in our classrooms. They have learned how

to review their work using Ipads, making improvements to spellings. This has helped them understand the value of revising and refining their ideas, and they've really enjoyed using digital tools to make their writing the best it can be!

**In Reading**, we practised a variety of strategies to retrieve information from texts. The children worked on improving their comprehension skills by answering questions, making inferences, and discussing key ideas. It was fantastic to see their progress and growing confidence as readers.

**On Wednesday afternoon**, the children had an exciting time creating crafts using recyclable materials as part of the project *There Is No Planet B*. They showed creativity and teamwork while learning about sustainability and the importance of caring for our planet.

We also enjoyed a delicious Christmas dinner with all the trimmings! It was a lovely opportunity for everyone to come together and celebrate. In addition, the children made beautiful crafts for our Christmas Fayre—thank you for buying and enjoying their creations!

**Looking ahead**, we're excited for another week filled with festive fun and activities. On Monday, we have a lovely trip planned that both the children and I are really looking forward to—it promises to be a fantastic experience to round off our term!

Warm regards,  
Miss Campbell





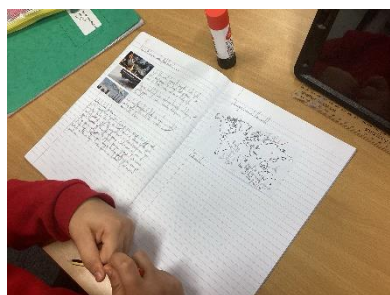
We've had another incredibly productive and engaging week in Year 5/6, with the children demonstrating excellent focus, curiosity, and creativity across all subjects.

In Reading, we explored an extract from Louis Sachar's *There's a Boy in the Girls' Bathroom*. We discussed the characters, explored their emotions, and used inference to understand the deeper meanings within the text.

In Writing, we continued to strengthen our narrative skills by practising key grammar techniques. This included using parenthesis, accurate speech punctuation, relative clauses, and adverbial phrases to make our writing more detailed, engaging, and precise.



In Maths, we continued working with fractions, focusing on adding and subtracting fractions and mixed numbers. The children are becoming much more confident with manipulating fractions and applying different strategies.



In Geography, we learned about COP26 and discussed its aims, decisions, and the global impact these commitments could have on tackling climate change. In History, we looked at the role and impact of the RAF in World War II, exploring how air power contributed to key moments in the war.

In Science, we carried out experiments involving refraction, observing how light bends as it moves through different materials. We also began learning about how shadows are formed, linking this to our understanding of light sources and opaque objects.

In Art, we began producing our own activist artwork, applying the messages we planned last week and exploring composition, colour, and symbolism in our designs. We also had a fantastic junk modelling workshop with some special visitors!

The children absolutely loved working creatively with recycled materials to build imaginative models — a brilliant hands-on experience that linked perfectly with our environmental themes. It's been a lively and inspiring week, and the children should be very proud of everything they've achieved.





## Autumn Term Calendar Dates

### December

Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> December 1:30pm  
Reception and Year 1 and Year 2 Nativity

Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> December  
Christmas Dinner

Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> December 9:30am  
Reception and Year 1 and Year 2 Nativity

Friday 12<sup>th</sup> December 2:30pm  
Christmas Fayre/Carols round the tree

Monday 15<sup>th</sup> December  
Year 3 and 4 Trip

Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> December  
Christmas Church Service

Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> December  
Year 5 and 6 Trip to the Pantomime

Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> December  
Reception/Year 1 and Year 2 to Amerton Farm

Friday 19<sup>th</sup> December  
School closes for the Christmas Holidays



**IMPORTANT**



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



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.



**SEND Questions**  
If you have any questions about your child regarding Special Educational Needs, please contact  
**Miss Gaskell**  
**01785 337436**

**Local Offer for parents and carers**





Scalping has long been a frustration for fans hoping to bag concert tickets or exclusive toys, but the online world has supercharged this dishonest tactic. Scalpers use bots to buy up stock in seconds, then resell items such as consoles or collectibles at significant mark-ups. For young people, it can be disappointing and

harmful to their wallets, wellbeing and worldview.

As this unethical practice becomes more visible, and, worryingly, sometimes glamourised online, it's important to talk to children about fairness, financial boundaries, and spotting scams. This guide breaks down the tricks of the trade and how to avoid them, helping young consumers stay safe, informed and scam-free.

## What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

# TOY SCALPING, FAKES & SCAMS

Online scalping is when individuals or groups use automated software (bots) to bulk-buy high-demand items – such as gaming consoles, concert tickets, limited-edition trainers, or exclusive merchandise – with the intention of reselling them at vastly inflated prices. It's a fast-moving online trend that can frustrate young consumers and expose them to misleading practices or financial harm. As this unethical tactic grows, it's important to help children and young people understand how scalping works and how to navigate it responsibly.

### WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

#### FINANCIAL PRESSURE AND MANIPULATION

Scalpers create artificial scarcity by buying up large quantities of stock before the public has a fair chance to purchase. This drives up demand and pushes prices to extreme levels. Young people may feel intense pressure to spend more than they can afford for fear of missing out entirely.

#### EXPLOITATION OF FANDOMS

Scalping often targets popular releases with strong fan bases, knowing that loyal followers are emotionally invested. Children and young people may place huge value on owning certain items linked to their favourite artists, sports teams or games, making them more likely to accept unfair prices or questionable sellers.

#### ACCESSING UNSAFE WEBSITES

In the rush to secure rare items, young people might click through to unverified sellers, online marketplaces with little consumer protection, or even sites designed specifically to harvest personal and financial data. This can expose them to fraud, malware, and identity theft.

#### NORMALISING UNETHICAL BEHAVIOUR

Some influencers and online communities present scalping as a clever money-making scheme rather than an exploitative one. This can normalise dishonest behaviour and blur the line between legitimate business and opportunistic profiteering for younger audiences.

#### RISK OF SCAMS OR COUNTERFEIT GOODS

Not every high-priced resale is legitimate. Fraudulent sellers may take payment for goods they never send, or ship counterfeit versions of branded items. In some cases, the product may look authentic in photos but turn out to be of poor quality or completely different from what was advertised.

#### REINFORCING INEQUALITY

Scalping makes already expensive items even less accessible, particularly for lower-income families. Children may feel excluded from trends or shared experiences with friends if their family cannot meet the inflated prices, which can lead to with feelings of isolation and disappointment.

## Advice for Parents & Educators

### TALK ABOUT ONLINE FAIRNESS

Use scalping as an opportunity to discuss fairness, consumer ethics, and how some people exploit markets for profit. Encouraging children to think critically about whether they truly need an item – and at what cost – can help them make more considered decisions.

### ENCOURAGE PATIENCE OVER IMPULSE

Teach young people to wait for official restocks or future releases instead of paying over the odds. Many products come back into circulation, and patience can save significant amounts of money while reducing the likelihood of falling victim to scams.

### SUPPORT INFORMED PURCHASING

Show children how to check seller credentials, read independent reviews, and verify whether a site is secure before making any payment. Knowing how to spot red flags, such as unrealistic promises or missing contact details, can prevent costly mistakes.

### SET SPENDING BOUNDARIES

Establish clear rules for online spending, including limits on prepaid cards, gaming gift cards, and online wallets. Discuss the real-world value of money spent on digital or collector's items so children understand the long-term impact of their purchases.

### Meet Our Expert

Home to the world's largest CPD library for educators, The National College has transformed the way education establishments go about developing their workforces and managing compliance. Our three memberships help all phases and types of setting raise standards, save time, reduce risk, and build a culture of improvement.