



*'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 14<sup>th</sup> November 2025**

## Message from the Headteacher

Dear Parents and Carers,

What another busy week it has been!

The rain luckily didn't stop us on Tuesday as we walked to the Church to take part in this year's Remembrance Service. We have had some lovely feedback – it was such a beautiful service. The children sang beautifully, our readers showed lots of courage and confidence, and the children as always showed respect during our 2 minutes silence of Remembrance.

It has also been Anti-bullying week this week where we have embraced this year's theme of 'Power of Good.' We began the week with a whole school Worship, thinking about the importance of how we can use our superpowers to be kind to others, having the power to do something good. The children have taken part in a range of activities during PSHE, including designing odd socks to celebrate our differences, and creating an anti-bullying chain...showing how powerful we can be together!

We had such a successful parent's evening last week, where I know that the teachers spoke to you all about how you can help at home – and the expectations for homework. We have had quite a few children this week say they have lost homework books – either reading logs, spelling journals or in Key Stage 2 your child may have a times table book. Moving forward, there will be a small charge of £1 for these lost items. We give a small amount of homework at St Pauls – yet it is little and often. We ask that a small amount is done daily so that children are continually practising the skills taught in school. We expect that spellings are practised and children are being heard read on a daily basis. Please dojo your class teacher if you have any questions about what was said last week – each year group do have different expectations. I will ensure that guidelines are sent out again for each class. Thankyou for your support.

We hope you have a lovely weekend – and please take care in the storm.

Miss Gaskell and the St Paul's Team



Some special news to share about one of our wonderful children...

Following a Heart Operation last May, and as an ongoing patient at Birmingham's Children's Hospital, Lottie wanted to raise money to help other children at the hospital. She has raised over £500, and as a special recognition, she has been invited to a day out at Lower Drayton Farm! Lottie, we are so incredibly proud of you, and on behalf of everyone at St Paul's – Well Done!





# 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**

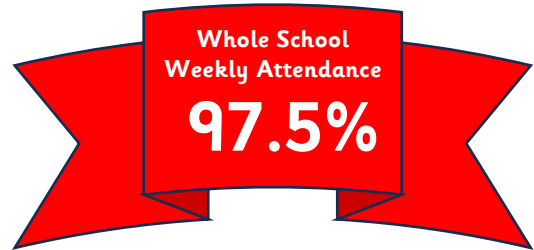
**Children will come to school on a Wednesday in PE Kit**

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	100
Year 3/4	98.7
Year 5/6	96.8



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.



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!





# REMEMBRANCE DAY





What a fantastic week we have had in Reception and Year 1, celebrating Bonfire Night, Remembrance Day, Diwali and Michael Rosen Day!

**Year 1** began an exciting new writing journey based on the story *Owl Babies*. The children were thrilled on Monday when some 'owl babies' visited our classroom and needed help finding their mother! They solved riddles hidden around the classroom to locate the Owl Mother, which sparked lots of curiosity and teamwork. Throughout the week, they have worked hard on identifying and applying **capital letters and full stops** in their writing. **Reception** have



amazed us with their independent spelling. Each child segmented sounds and applied their letter formation skills to spell words to match pictures—such fantastic progress! Their confidence and independence are really shining through.

**Year 1** explored **addition within 10**, using Numicon and dominoes to support their understanding of the concept in Maths. Their fluency and confidence are developing brilliantly, and it's wonderful to see them applying strategies independently. **Reception** practised **number formation** and investigated the composition of 1, 2, and 3 through hands-on activities. They are becoming more secure in recognising and representing these numbers in different ways.



We marked **Anti-Bullying Week** by discussing how we can use our **Power for Good**. The children shared thoughtful ideas about kindness and respect, and they designed their own pair of odd socks to celebrate our differences. It was lovely to see their creativity and understanding of why it's important to stand up for what's right.



Continuing our Bonfire Night theme, the children enjoyed watching fireworks displays and learning how sparklers work. They even created their own sparklers and performed a lively "Bonfire Dance" - a real highlight of the week! For **Remembrance Day**, we listened to a story about the celebrations and reflected on why this day is important. The children then created beautiful poppy prints using sponges, producing some stunning artwork to mark the occasion.



In RE, the children continued their learning on Diwali, this week focussing on Rangoli Art. The children had some great discussions around these colourful pieces and the children loved hearing about the different cultural experiences peers within the class have experienced.

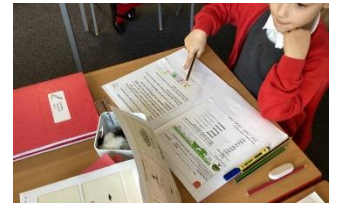
The children also loved joining and listening to some of Michael Rosen's best poems during a live assembly on Thursday.



It's been a week full of creativity, learning, and thoughtful discussions. We are so proud of all the children for their enthusiasm and hard work! *Miss Goddard*



What another fantastic week we've had in Year 2! The children arrived on Monday full of excitement to discover that our classroom had been taken over by owls! This kicked off our first week of our new English journey with *The Owl Who Was Afraid of the Dark*. The children worked brilliantly to sequence the story and identify the different characters Plop meets along the way. As we prepare for next week's outcome—a character and setting description—the class explored nouns and adjectives and began forming expanded



noun phrases for both Plop and the forest. Well done, Year 2!

In spelling, we focused on vowels and consonants, looking closely at the alphabet and even learning a song to help us remember our vowels.



In maths, we continued our work on addition and subtraction. The children learnt how to add and subtract two-digit numbers and even mastered missing-number problems. Great perseverance all round!

This week was also Anti-Bullying Week. With support from Year 1, we discussed this year's theme: Using Our Power for Good. The children took part in a compliment circle, sharing kind and thoughtful words with each other, and made signed paper chains to show their commitment to stopping bullying.

In science, we began planning our inquiry: What makes a good material for a coat? We compared our own coats and thought carefully about what we'd want a coat to do—there was lots of giggling as everyone wore their coats inside the classroom!



In history, the children explored what life was like for Victorian children, comparing it to how we live today.

We also had a wonderful time celebrating Michael Rosen Day on Thursday with a live webinar. Michael was very funny and shared lots of poems with us—such a memorable experience!



On Tuesday we remembered the fallen soldiers with a church service, the children showed respect through out the service and the silence, with some lovely singing.

What an amazing week it has been! The children have worked super hard and should feel very proud of themselves.



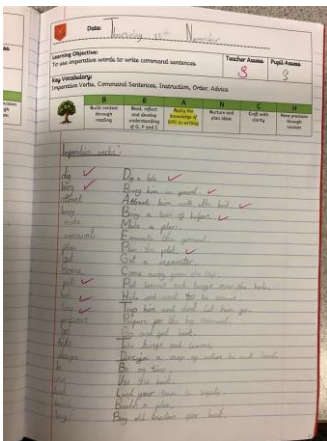
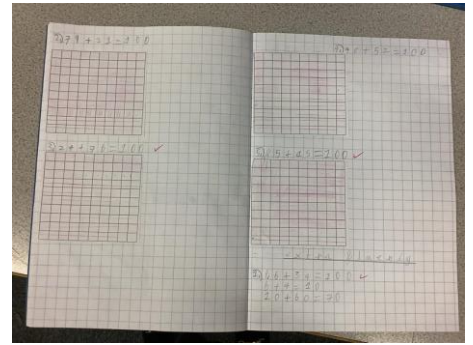
Have a lovely weekend!

Miss Boulter



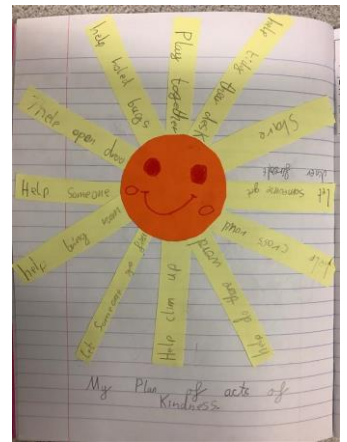
Thank you to all my busy bees in Class 3-4 for a fantastic week so far! We've worked hard on some challenging learning, but your **perseverance** has led to amazing results.

In **Maths**, Year 3 have been wrapping up their Addition and Subtraction unit by finding complements to 100, while Year 4 have started a new unit on Multiplication and Addition, focusing on the 3 times tables.



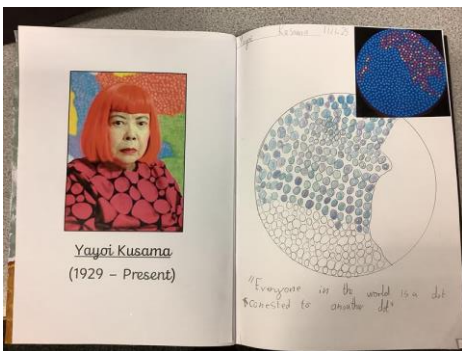
In **English**, we've begun an exciting new writing journey: *How to Trap the Iron Man*. The children have been learning key grammar and punctuation skills to write clear, effective instructions. Today, we explored command sentences using imperative verbs—some of the children's brilliant work is attached.

In **Reading**, we focused on a non-fiction text dedicated to Remembrance Day. We explored when it was first celebrated and the meaning behind the poppy flower. The children then practised their inference skills based on this topic.



On Tuesday, they **visited a local church** for the Remembrance Day service and later wrote some wonderful thank-you messages in our classroom worship journal.

In **Art**, we kicked off a new unit on Patterns inspired by the famous Japanese artist Yayoi Kusama and her iconic spots.



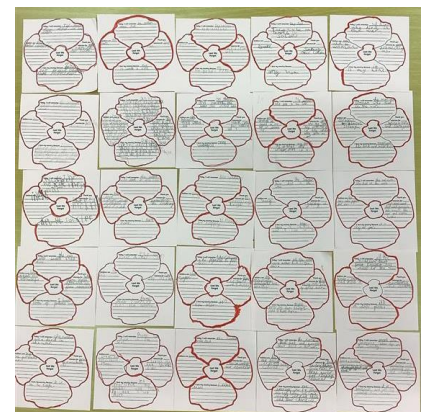
In **Science**, we continued our Light unit, investigating how light reflects and which materials are most reflective. We also discussed the importance of wearing reflective clothing for safety when outdoors in the dark and created inspiring posters.



Light has been a theme throughout our learning this week, even in **RE**, where the children explored how light plays a role in various ceremonies. They created thoughtful plans for acts of kindness, thinking about how they can be "a light" for someone on a dark day.

It truly put a big smile on my face to hear so many children say they had a fantastic day today (Thursday). I'm typing this newsletter feeling happy and proud to be their teacher.

Miss Campbell





This week has been full of creativity, reflection, and fantastic learning across all subjects. The children have shown great focus and enthusiasm as we continue through our autumn term.

In **Writing**, we focused on the **grammar** aspect of our journey, using **relative clauses**, **modal verbs**, and **parenthesis** to strengthen our discursive arguments about *War Horse*. The children have worked hard to balance formal tone with thoughtful reasoning — their progress has been excellent!

In **Reading**, we studied the famous poem *In Flanders Fields*, answering a variety of **VIPERS** questions to deepen our understanding. Some of our pupils even had the honour of reading the poem aloud during the **Remembrance service in church** — a truly proud moment.



In **Maths**, we continued our **fractions** unit, finding **equivalent fractions** and learning how to **convert between mixed numbers and improper fractions** with growing confidence.



In **Geography**, we began our new unit on **climate change**, starting by learning about the **United Nations Global Goals** and discussing why these are important for our planet's future.

In **Art**, we explored **activist art**, looking at how artists use creativity to share powerful messages and inspire change.

In **Computing**, we started our **vector drawing** unit, where pupils created digital drawings of their **own houses** and proudly showcased their designs to the class.

In **PE**, the children have been working on **dance**, choreographing their own routines to *When I Grow Up*. It's been wonderful to see their teamwork and creativity in action.

In **Science**, we explored **reflective materials**, conducting experiments to test which materials are the most effective reflectors — an engaging way to combine investigation with practical learning.

In **History**, we learned about **women's roles during World War II**, recognising how women contributed to the war effort both at home and abroad.

Finally, in **RE**, we continued exploring how **art is expressed within the Christian faith**, examining how creativity can be used as a form of worship and reflection. It's been another productive and thoughtful week of learning — the children should be very proud of their hard work and focus.





Reception – Rose  
 Year 1 – Charlie  
 Year 2 – Lottie  
 Year 3 – Amira  
 Year 4 – Asmaa  
 Year 5 – Eva  
 Year 6 – Jaren



Reception – Adelaide  
 Year 1 – Hoorish  
 Year 2 – Joseph  
 Year 3 – Lana  
 Year 4 – Ryan  
 Year 5 – Elliot  
 Year 6 – April



## Autumn Term Clubs

### Tuesday



Y1/2/3 Football with Mr Farmer

Y3/4/5/6 Art with Miss Wetton

Y1-6 Dance with PALS



### Wednesday

Y4/5/6 Football with Mr Farmer

Y1/2 Well-being with Miss Goddard



### Thursday

Y3/4/5/6 Science with Miss Campbell

Y1/2 Geography with Miss Boulter



### Friday

Y3/4/5/6 Chess with Mr Farmer





## Autumn Term Calendar Dates

### November

**Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> November**  
School opens

**Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> November**  
9:00am New Reception 2026 Presentation

**Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup>/Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> November**  
Parent's Evening

**Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> November**  
1:30pm New Reception 2026 Presentation

**Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> November**  
5:30pm New Reception 2026 Presentation

**Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> November**  
Remembrance Church Service  
10:45am

### 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 (time to be confirmed)**  
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  
**Mrs Nevins-Stanford (SENDCo)**  
**01785 337436**

**Local Offer for parents and carers**





## What Parents & Educators Need to Know about Pokémon TCG Pocket

This guide examines Pokémon TCG Pocket, the mobile version of the popular trading card game. While fun and educational, its addictive pack-opening and spending pressures can create risks for young players.

# What Parents & Educators Need to Know about POKÉMON TCG POCKET

Pokémon TCG Pocket is a mobile version of the hugely popular Pokémon Trading Card Game, downloaded over 100 million times on Android and iOS. Players collect cards, battle others online, and open packs of cards – known as booster packs – to expand their decks. While the core game can be fun and helps develop tactical and numeracy skills, its design encourages spending and can lead addictive behaviours – making it important for adults to understand the risks.

### WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

#### ADDICTIVE PACK OPENING

Booster packs rely on probability to provide rare or powerful cards. The excitement of opening them – and the dopamine rush when finding a sought-after card – can become addictive. Unlike purely cosmetic loot boxes, the cards here are essential to competitive gameplay, adding extra pressure for serious gamers to collect them.

#### ENDLESS PACK LOOPS

New themed sets of cards are released each month, ranging from around 65 to over 275 cards per expansion. This constant cycle encourages players to keep opening packs in an effort to complete collections or improve their battle decks, potentially promoting unhealthy spending habits. With the introduction of limited-time booster packs, some players may feel increased pressure to collect these cards while they're still available.

#### QUICK BUT ABSORBING

Card battles last around five to six minutes, making it easy to fit in "just one more game". This quick format, combined with the drive to win, can lead to prolonged play sessions and increased screen time without noticing. With limited-time ranked match seasons constantly being reintroduced – an opportunity to earn rare prizes and earn profile emblems – players may find themselves drawn into this game mechanic repeatedly.

#### COST OF BOOSTER PACKS

Although free to play, with set rewards and two free booster packs given daily, players can exchange Poké Gold if they wish to open more, and a small amount of Poké Gold is rewarded for free on the player level up. Poké Gold is also sold in bundles that are often just short of what players need to open extra packs, encouraging them to buy additional bundles.

#### PREMIUM PASS PRESSURE

A monthly subscription gives players access to exclusive missions, rewards, and an extra daily booster pack. Missions and rewards are repeated each month, providing an incentive to stay subscribed. While some premium rewards are exclusive, others are available through free play – making the pass more about faster progression and obtaining cosmetic items than true necessity.

#### COMPETITIVE ONLINE PLAY

Interactions in Pokémon TCG Pocket are relatively safe – there's no messaging between players, friend requests require player approval, and real names are used, and even trading is restricted to full trades between friends. On the other hand, the competitive nature of online play can still cause frustration, over-investment, and isolation if children spend too much time focused on the game.

## Advice for Parents & Educators

#### MONITOR SPENDING HABITS

Set clear boundaries around in-game purchases. Treat Poké Gold as an occasional reward rather than routine reward, helping children develop healthier attitudes towards digital spend.

#### PLAY TOGETHER

Card battles can help children learn tactics, problem-solving, and rule-following, as well as numeracy skills. Playing alongside them is a great way to share in their enjoyment, while also modelling balanced play and keeping an eye on how much they're investing in the game.

#### SET REALISTIC EXPECTATIONS

Talk about the unpredictable nature of booster packs and prepare children for disappointment when duplicates appear or rare cards don't surface. Understanding probability can help minimise disappointment – use the game's built-in offering rates guides to find out more about it.

#### TEACH FAIRNESS

Losing a battle can be discouraging, especially when money has been spent on collecting the cards to build a deck. Support children in recognising the importance of fairness, learning from both wins and losses, and making considered choices when trading cards.

#### Meet Our Expert

Dan Lipscombe is a videogame journalist and children's book author with over 15 years of experience. Specialising in technology and gaming, he has written extensively on how digital platforms affect young people and has been playing games for more than three decades.