



'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 21st November 2025

Message from the Headteacher

Dear Parents and Carers,

Well the colder weather certainly has come – and dare I say we have started to mention the word 'Christmas!'

Our Christmas Trips have been finalised for the last week of term – Mo has sent out all relevant information for each class.

Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 classes have officially started the Nativity Rehearsals, we have begun practising our songs for Church and Christmas Fayre organising is well and truly underway!

In our lead up to Christmas, Worship this week has also focussed around the theme of Compassion – teaching the children how important it is to 'notice a need' and help others. We will continue to think about this over the next few weeks, reading the story of the Good Samaritan and the story of Miriam and her brother Moses. We will also be thinking about Advent next week, welcoming Lottie in to lead Worship.

The book fair has arrived at school! It will be available all next week during the day – if children would like to bring money into school it must go to the office so that it is kept safe. If you would like to pop into school for some child-free shopping, please let us know and we can open up the shop at 2:45pm before bedtime.

Our Christmas Fayre is coming up on the Friday 12th November. In preparation we are having 2 non-uniform days. Friday 28th November – please can the children bring a donation of an unopened bottle. Friday 5th December – please can the children bring sweets or chocolate. Both of these donations will be towards the Bottle and Sweets tombola. We are also asking for any toy donations. Thankyou so much for everything we have had so far! We really appreciate it. And finally – our raffle is back! We will let you know as soon as the ticket are on sale for this year's bumper Christmas Hamper!

Finally – please email in if you would like to book a school Christmas Dinner for your child. Christmas Dinner day is Wednesday 10th December.

We hope you have a lovely weekend.

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

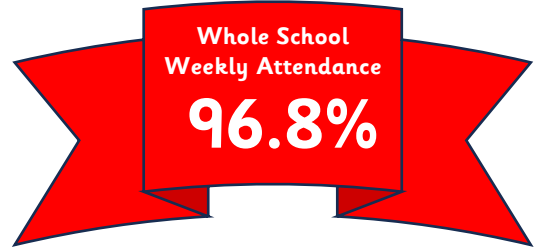
Children will come to school on a Wednesday in PE Kit

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%
Year 2	94.4%
Year 3/4	98%
Year 5/6	98.8%



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!





What a wonderful (if chilly!) week we've had in Reception and Year 1!

Our theme of *celebrations* continued, and this week we focused on **Birthdays**. The children have truly immersed themselves in learning all about birthdays. They have thoroughly enjoyed role-playing baking a birthday cake in the home corner, designing their own cakes, and writing birthday lists! We also had some fantastic discussions about how we celebrate birthdays and explored traditions from other cultures. The children were fascinated to learn about different customs and shared

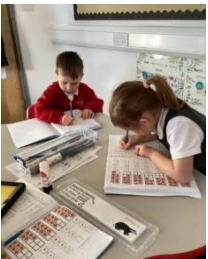


what they would love to try—Mexico's **piñata** was a firm favourite!

In English this week, Year 1 have completed their very first **writing journey**, and what an achievement it has been! They worked incredibly hard to re-tell the story of *Owl Babies*, producing brilliant outcomes. The children applied their knowledge of **capital letters and full stops** to make sure their writing was of the highest quality. We are so proud of their effort and progress! Reception have continued to build up their fine-motor skills to support their writing and have been using their phonetic knowledge to spell words to add to their birthday lists!



In Year 1 Maths this week, the focus has been on **subtraction**. The children explored the concept of subtraction as the opposite of addition and practised solving problems using **part-whole models** and the **crossing-out method**. They have then been using the iPads to practise their fluency and deepen their learning further. Reception have begun learning about **shapes**, starting with circles and triangles. They learned how to identify these shapes and then went on an exciting **shape hunt** around the classroom and the rest of the school to find examples of these in the environment.



Continuing on learning around Remembrance Day, the children have loved drawing soldiers showing our school value of Belief and Courage among the poppies on the battlefield. The children have thought very carefully about how these soldiers would have been feeling.



In Year 1 Art this week, the children have been learning about the seasons and how these colours of nature change throughout the year. The children were confident to experiment with lots of colours to find their perfect seasonal colour!



To acknowledge and celebrate **Road Safety Week**, we had some very special visitors from the **fire service**. They spoke to the children about how to stay safe near roads and involved them in lots of fun, interactive activities including a tour of the fire engine! The children loved meeting the firefighters and learned some very important safety tips. Well done on another successful week! *Miss Goddard*





What another busy week in Year 2!

We have continued our English journey, working hard to produce the final piece of our narrative by planning two detailed paragraphs. The children focused on using conjunctions, sentence openers and expanded noun phrases to create rich setting and character descriptions. They have produced some amazing work, full of imagery for the reader — well done, Year 2!

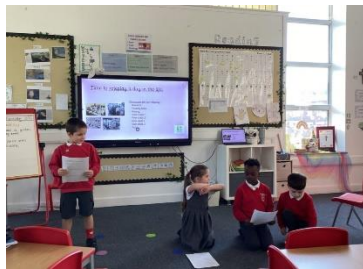
In grammar, we explored how to identify the subject of a sentence by first finding the verb to learn who or what the sentence is about. In spelling we explored the 'ch' sound and the rules used to

whether we use ch or tch, the children have been great at using their knowledge on short and long vowels.



In maths, we began our new topic on shapes, and the children have

absolutely loved it. We learned to name a range of 2D and 3D shapes and then looked closely at vertices and sides of 2D shapes. In arithmetic the children have been racing against the clock, confidently adding three-digit numbers — fantastic effort all round!



In history, we had a fabulous role-play lesson imagining life as poor and rich Victorian children. The children showed brilliant expressions and really engaged with the experience.



We also had the exciting moment of starting our Nativity song practice — the children are buzzing with excitement as we begin the countdown to our big performance!

In computing the children use the iPads to begin getting used to the keyboard answering questions on the IPAD and learning how to use the back space.



In music, we used the iPads to play the interactive glockenspiel and performed our Ho Ho Ho piece together as a class orchestra.

In RE, the children learned about the Jewish celebration of Purim, and reflected thoughtfully on times when they have been brave.

Finally, in PSHE, we explored stereotypes, and the children had some great discussions about whether they agreed or disagreed with different statements.

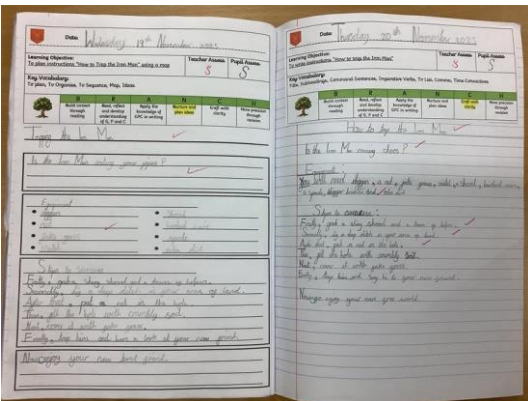
Have a lovely weekend, Year 2 — see you on Monday!

Miss Boulter:



Look What We've Been Learning This Week...

In Maths, we've been diving deeper into our **Multiplication and Division** unit. Year 4 have been working hard on the **3, 6, 7, 9 and 11 times tables**, using patterns and strategies to make learning easier. Year 3 have explored **multiples of 3, 5 and 10**, and used **arrays** to understand how multiplication and division facts are connected.



In **English**, the children have produced their first draft of instructions titled "**How to Trap the Iron Man**". These pieces were full of creative ideas and clear steps, showing how well the children have learned to use imperative verbs and time connectives.

In **Science**, we continued our **Light** unit. We discussed why too much sun can be harmful to our bodies and eyes, and how we can protect

ourselves when outdoors. Today, we learned how the sun can damage the retina at the back of the eye and why sunglasses and hats are so important.

Science Club was full of excitement tonight! We explored why **oil separates from water** and experimented with food colouring to create "**Fireworks in a jar**".



In **RE**, we explored the importance of light and how it brings meaning to the **Christingle ceremony**. We talked about how light is a symbol of hope and goodness, weaving this theme across our learning.

In **Art**, we carried on with our **Patterns** unit, creating bold and colourful designs inspired by famous artists. The children experimented with shapes and repeated motifs to make eye-catching artwork.

In **Geography**, we learned what a **county** is and identified the county we live in. We explored the surrounding counties and completed fact files about some of them, including their largest towns and cities, population, and what they are known for.



It's been a busy, exciting week full of learning and creativity!

Miss Campbell





We've had another purposeful and engaging week in Year 5/6, with the children continuing to impress us with their focus, effort, and growing independence.

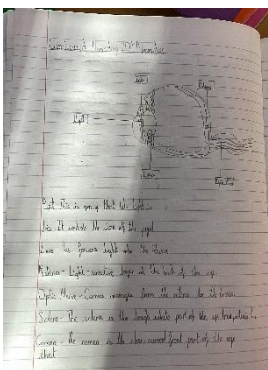
In Writing, we planned and drafted our discursive argument exploring whether *animals should be used in war*, inspired by *War Horse*. Pupils worked hard to develop balanced viewpoints and use formal language to support their ideas.



In Maths, we continued our fractions unit, learning how to compare and order fractions both within 1 and greater than 1, using a range of strategies to explain our reasoning clearly.

In Reading, we studied a fiction text about Guy Fawkes, using our Inference and Explain VIPERS skills to answer questions and deepen our understanding of character, motivation, and mood.

In Geography, we continued our unit on the environment, focusing on landfills and discussing why recycling is essential for protecting our planet. The children raised thoughtful points about waste, pollution, and what we can do to help.



In Computing, we developed our vector drawing skills further by creating more detailed digital designs and experimenting with layering, resizing, and combining shapes.



In Science, we learned how the eye works, creating labelled diagrams to show the journey light takes as it enters the eye and how we are able to see.

In Art, we continued exploring activist art, beginning to think about how we can create our own artwork that communicates a powerful message or cause we care about.



In RE, we learned how faith is expressed through art in Islam, particularly through geometric patterns. Pupils then created their own prayer mat designs using tessellation and repeated shapes.

In History, we studied how communities came together during World War II, and we analysed a local map to learn what happened in our surrounding area during the war — a fascinating link between national history and our own community.

It's been a busy and meaningful week of learning. The children continue to make us proud with their positivity and determination.



Reception – Finn
 Year 1 – Adam
 Year 2 – Jaydon
 Year 3 – Amira
 Year 4 – Annabelle
 Year 5 – Tayla
 Year 6 – Logan



Reception – Mahrukh
 Year 1 – Delilah
 Year 2 – Zeenat
 Year 3 – Elli-Grace
 Year 4 – Rupert
 Year 5 – Phoebe
 Year 6 – Dean





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 4th November
School opens

Tuesday 4th November
9:00am New Reception 2026 Presentation

Tuesday 4th/Wednesday 5th November
Parent's Evening

Wednesday 5th November
1:30pm New Reception 2026 Presentation

Thursday 6th November
5:30pm New Reception 2026 Presentation

Tuesday 11th November
Remembrance Church Service
10:45am

December

Tuesday 9th December 1:30pm
Reception and Year 1 and Year 2 Nativity

Wednesday 10th December
Christmas Dinner

Thursday 11th December 9:30am
Reception and Year 1 and Year 2 Nativity

Friday 12th December (time to be confirmed)
Christmas Fayre/Carols round the tree

Monday 15th December
Year 3 and 4 Trip

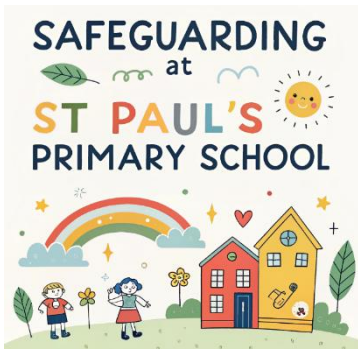
Tuesday 16th December
Christmas Church Service

Wednesday 17th December
Year 5 and 6 Trip to the Pantomime

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

Friday 19th December
School closes for the Christmas Holidays





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



