



'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 28th November 2025

Message from the Headteacher

Dear Parents and Carers,

I can't believe how unpredictable the weather has been this week – and to end with a rain and hail storm at lunchtime today certainly kept us on our toes!

This week I have had the chance to teach all of the classes and as always it was lovely to spend time with them, seeing first-hand the progress they are making. It was also a chance to introduce a new learning App to the children in Key Stage 2 – which uses AI to track progress and set tasks appropriate to what the children need. This is currently a trial but feedback from teachers and children so far is that they'd like to keep it! The children have been so engaged, enthusiastic and excited about their maths – it has been wonderful to see.

Lottie visited school on Tuesday to lead a Worship about Advent, as Sunday will be the first Sunday of Advent, the beginning of the countdown to Christmas. The first purple candle to be lit is one for Hope. We have also heard the story of The Parable of the Good Samaritan as we continue with our theme of Compassion, as we lead up to think about Compassion at Christmastime, not only in the Nativity story, but why it is so important for us nowadays in current times.

Reception and Year 1 have visited the library – a trip that will be happening with all of our children in school over the next few months. We think it is so important to encourage children to choose books that they enjoy and what better way than using the local library service. The children absolutely loved it – and behaviour was impeccable! The children were also all very excited that they got to choose a book, use the scanning machine and take it home to enjoy. A huge thankyou also for supporting the Book Fair.

Lastly, thankyou so much for your support today with bringing in bottles! It is 2 weeks until our Fair. Please look out for a post on Facebook on Monday where we will be launching our Christmas raffle, including the return of the wonderful Christmas Hamper, but also this year some special prizes from our local community. Tickets will go on sale on Monday from the office and will continue to be sold for the next 2 weeks until we draw the raffle during the Fair on Friday December 12th. A reminder that Friday 5th December will be a non-uniform day for chocolate.

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

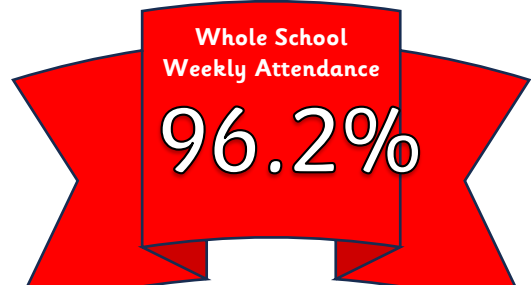
Children will come to school on a Wednesday in PE Kit

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	96.2%
Year 2	96.9%
Year 3/4	96%
Year 5/6	96%



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 an amazing week of learning we've had in Reception and Year 1!

This week, the children enjoyed a special trip to our local library. They listened to a wonderful collection of stories read by one of the librarians and learned all about what you can do at the library—



from borrowing books to exploring different sections. The children then had the chance to wander around, choose a book to take home, and even learned how to use the self-service machines so they'll know exactly what to do when they return. On the way back, we made a quick detour to see the huge Christmas tree in town. The children loved the festive sights and were an absolute credit to the school, showing our Rainbow Values throughout the trip.



In English, Year 1 began an exciting new learning journey based on the traditional tale *Little Red Riding Hood*. On Monday, they discovered a mysterious basket in the classroom and had to guess who it belonged to and where it was going. After some discussions and clues the children guessed correctly! We've been focusing on identifying subjects and verbs in sentences, and the children have done an amazing job spotting these within the story. They have then been using this knowledge to build a strong sentence. Reception children have been working hard on their phonics and letter formation, using their knowledge to spell CVC words independently. It's been fantastic to see their progress and determination to complete this successfully and fully independently as well!



In Maths, the children have been developing their fluency in addition and subtraction. They've been challenged to use strategies they've learned previously and apply them to new problems, showing great perseverance and problem-solving skills. Reception children have been finding and subitising 4 and 5, they have been very confident with this skill and this was clear when they completed a pairs matching game.

Continuing our theme of Birthdays, the children have loved role-playing birthday parties this week as well as making cards for their friends. We've explored the different types of celebrations people have and what makes birthdays special to us. Finally, the children have been getting into the creative spirit as we begin rehearsals for our Nativity performance. They have shown so much belief, courage, and perseverance during this time—it's wonderful to see their expressive sides shining through!

Well done, Reception and Year 1, on a fantastic week. We are so proud of each and every one of you! *Miss Goddard*



One week until the Christmas countdown, and it has certainly been a busy one in Year 2!

In English, the children have had an amazing week as we began our new journey inspired by *The Owl Who Was Afraid of the Dark*. We are working towards producing a non-chronological report to inform the reader, so we spent time comparing fiction and



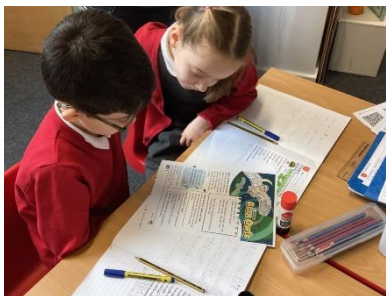
non-fiction and exploring the features of information texts. The children looked closely at subheadings written as questions, titles, paragraphs, photographs and facts. They even created their own subheadings and found interesting facts—such as discovering that owls eat mice! They then used these facts to write sentences



using the conjunction *because*.



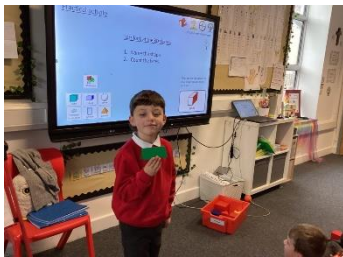
In maths, we explored 2D shapes in detail. The children were able to draw each shape, identify how many sides and vertices it has and complete the vertical lines of symmetry. We then moved on to 3D shapes, and the children loved handling them, counting faces, edges and vertices with great enthusiasm.



In history, we compared Victorian times to life in modern day. After lots of thoughtful discussion, we all agreed that we are much luckier now.



In geography the children explored the continents of Europe, the children loved going on a journey, using the atlas, through all the different countries, we had amazing contributions and knowledge, like the Leaning Tower of Pisa!



In RE, we learned about Advent. The children enjoyed singing *Light a Candle in the Dark* as we explored the four themes of hope, joy, love and peace.

Have a lovely weekend and get ready for the start of December on Monday!

Miss Boulter



Great work this week,
Class 3-4!

Maths:

This week, both Year 3 and Year 4 have started a new unit on Shape. The children have been learning about turns and identifying different types of angles. They've enjoyed spotting these angles in real-life objects.



English:

We've begun an exciting new writing journey—an explanation text about "How sound travels through the ear". The children are drawing on their previous science learning about sound to make their writing clear and informative.

Science:

Our Light unit continues! This week, the children explored shadows and the properties of objects that create them—opaque, transparent, and translucent. We carried out a fair test using natural light in the classroom, experimenting with different objects to see how they block light and change the size and shape of shadows. It was hands-on and lots of fun!



Art:

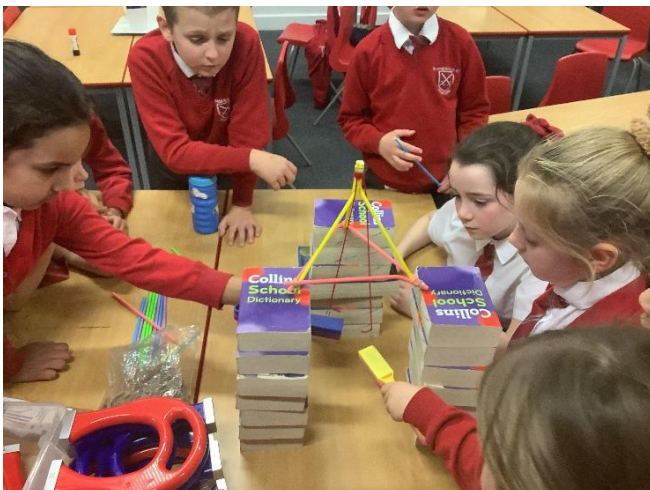
We've launched a new project as part of our Patterns unit—creating tessellated designs. This will be a focus for several weeks, and the children have already produced some fantastic early work.

PE:

In PE, the children practiced dancing in pairs, recreating the expressive movements inspired by the magical objects featured in the musical *Matilda*."

New Interactive Learning:

I'm delighted to share that the children now have access to a new interactive platform to support their maths learning—Sumdog! Login details will be sent home in their reading diaries on Friday. We had a trial session in class today, and the children loved it!



Science Club:

Science Club was a huge success! We investigated the power of magnetism. The children worked brilliantly together to make predictions and share their findings.

Wishing you all a lovely weekend!

Miss Campbell





We've had another fantastic week of learning, with the children showing maturity, enthusiasm, and real progress across all subjects.



In Writing, we focused on writing up and editing our discursive arguments on whether animals should be used in war. The children worked carefully to refine their vocabulary, punctuation, and cohesion — the final pieces were brilliant!

In Reading, we explored a humorous text featuring a funny cat, looking closely at the author's use of puns and discussing how wordplay can create humour and engage the reader.



In Maths, we continued our fractions unit by adding fractions with both like and unlike denominators, including totals greater than 1 and additions that resulted in mixed numbers. The children have really built their confidence with these tricky skills.

In Geography, we learned about different types of fossil fuels as well as a range of renewable energy sources, discussing the advantages and disadvantages of each and why sustainability is so important.

In Computing, we continued developing our vector drawing techniques, this week practising how to zoom, rotate, and manipulate shapes more precisely in our digital artwork.



In Science, we investigated how mirrors work, carrying out experiments to test the law of reflection and observing how light behaves when it hits reflective surfaces.

In RE, we explored how faith is expressed through music in Judaism, listening to traditional songs and discussing how music plays a role in worship and celebration.



In PE, pupils worked in groups to choreograph their own dance routines to *Double Life* by Pharrell Williams. I was incredibly impressed with the balance, symmetry, and teamwork shown throughout their performances.

In History, we learned about the events at Dunkirk, exploring what happened and this was such a significant moment during World War II.

In Art, pupils began planning their own propaganda-style activist artwork, considering the messages they want to communicate and experimenting with composition and design ideas.

It's been a productive and creative week — the children should be very proud of how well they are working at this point in the





Reception – Bobby
 Year 1 – Grayson
 Year 2 - Lily
 Year 3 – Lana
 Year 4 – Sama
 Year 5 – Harley
 Year 6 – Alfie



Reception – Idris
 Year 1 – Arthur
 Year 2 – Oliver
 Year 3 – Vinnie
 Year 4 – Archie
 Year 5 – Daisy
 Year 6 – Rami





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

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 2:30pm
Christmas Fayre/Carols round the tree

Monday 15th December
Year 3 and 4 Trip

Tuesday 16th December
Christmas Church Service

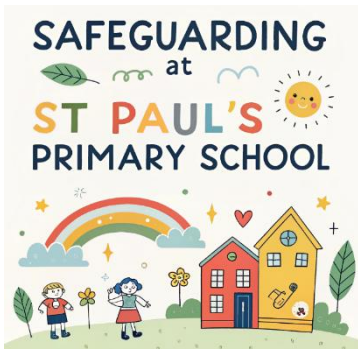
Wednesday 17th December
Year 5 and 6 Trip to the Pantomime

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

Friday 19th December
School closes for the Christmas Holidays



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.



[Staffordshire Connects](#)



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



