



'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 16th January 2026

Message from the Headteacher

Good afternoon,

What a way to start the New Year! Thankfully this week the weather has been much improved and the children have managed to get outside – we have even ended the week with some blue sky and dare I say we saw the sun earlier! 😊

I spoke to the children about how incredibly proud I have been since returning to school after the holidays. The disruption last week did not phase them at all, and their attitudes to learning have been brilliant! The children have worked so hard and have really come back ready to learn.

Lottie was in on Tuesday to talk to the children about their hopes for 2026, a meaningful reflection and Worship time thinking ahead for a fresh start and New Year.

Next week our clubs begin – thank you for signing the children up to attend. We are really looking forward to a new term of fun and activities and can't wait to share with you all.

This term sets to be busy and with only 4 weeks until half term we think it is going to fly by!

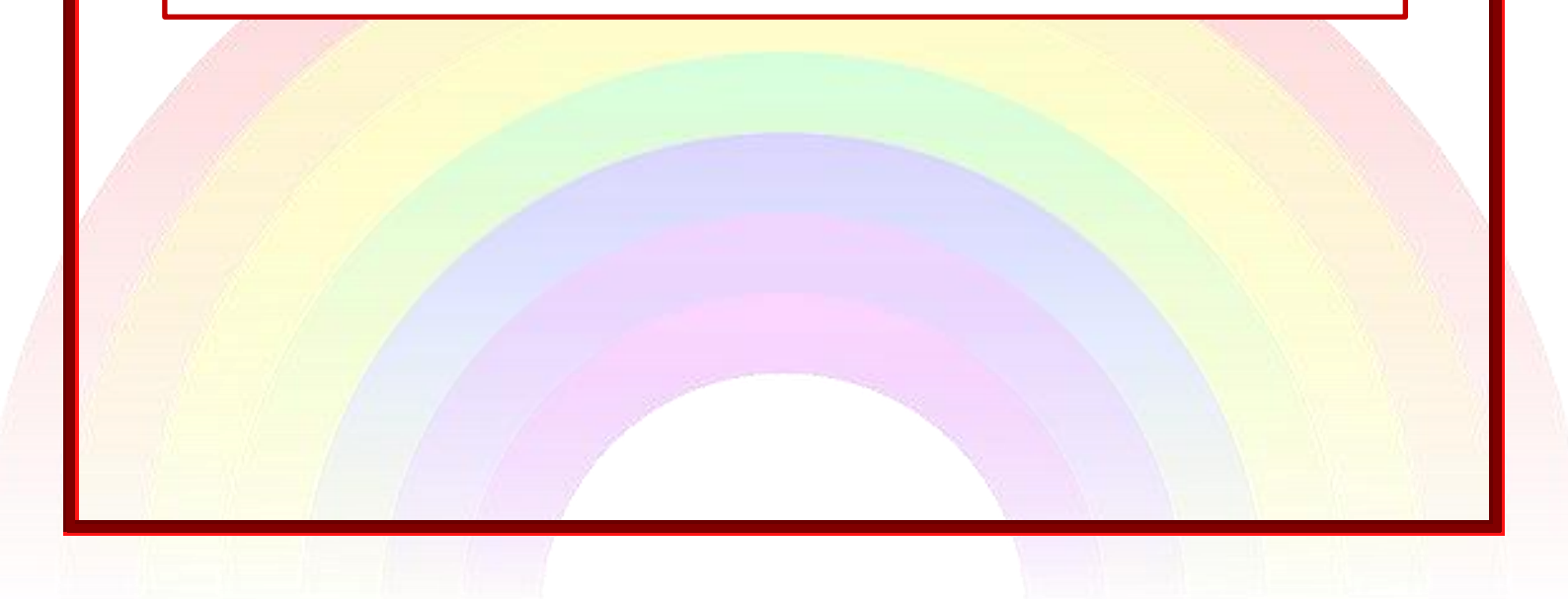
Next week we will be sending information out regarding dates for events in school – both curriculum days and parents evening.

You will also be receiving information for your children who have a Learning Passport so that teachers can meet to discuss current targets and next steps.

If there is anything at all that we can help with, please do not hesitate to contact either class teachers via dojo or let the office know.

We hope you have a lovely weekend.

Miss Gaskell and the St Paul's Team





Useful Information

St Bartholomew's CE
Multi Academy Trust

PE Kit

All children should be wearing black hoodies and joggers in the colder weather – plain black please with suitable PE footwear.

[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 **Monday** and **Thursday**)

Year 3/4/5/6

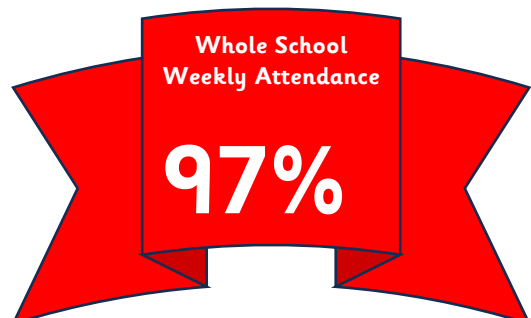
Children will come to school on a **Friday** in PE Kit



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	96.6%
Year 2	98.3%
Year 3/4	97%
Year 5/6	96.6%



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.





What a fantastic first full week we've had back in the classroom! The children have settled beautifully into our routines and jumped straight into their new learning for this term with enthusiasm and determination.



In English, Year 1 have been focusing on grammar skills. They've impressed us with their recall of proper and common nouns and have used some amazing adjectives to describe elements of our animation "Marshmallow".

Reception have moved on to practising capital letters in their letter formation. They've worked hard to form these letters correctly and ensure accurate sizing—

such determination!



In Maths, Year 1 have been exploring place value within 20, confidently using the concept of "1 ten and ___ ones." They've represented numbers using Dienes, Numicon and Tens Frames and enjoyed

finding a variety of representations of these numbers. Reception have continued working on representing numbers 0-5, reviewing one more and one less as part of their number work. We have used practical equipment and rhymes to help consolidate this learning.



This week in Science, Year 1 began learning about Animals and the things they need to survive, sparking some fantastic discussions within the classroom and what things animals need! As a class we then worked to arrange survival elements from most to least important, having discussions throughout as to what is the correct order! In History, Year 1 started their topic on The History of Space, learning about Galileo and the five key discoveries he made. They were fascinated by his discoveries and had lots of questions about them. In PE, Year 1 worked on solo balances and building core strength, ready to progress to partner balances next week and Reception focused on coordination, practising throwing and catching skills.



Reception children have loved diving into their new topic on Superheroes! They've enjoyed dressing up as Superheroes, roleplaying different characters and listening and discussing different Superheroes and their powers. They have loved getting creative this week and junk modelling was a firm favourite! It was lovely to see the children working collaboratively to create and build designs. They were also

introduced to colour mixing and using primary colours to create more colours. They were given creative freedom on this task and told to investigate and explore to see what colours they could make, they were fascinated by the colours they created!

It has been an amazing first week back, and the children's attitude towards learning has been outstanding. Well done, Reception and Year 1, for a super start to the term!





How lovely it is to be back at school! I have been extremely impressed with the children's work ethic and positive attitude to learning this week. We have covered lots of new learning, and the children have tried their very best in all areas.



In English, we have been completing our front-loaded grammar, which teaches the children key skills they can later apply in our Branches English journeys throughout the term. The children learned how to use subordinating conjunctions (when, that, because, if), explored the two

different uses of apostrophes (for possession and contraction, which can be tricky!), and revised the different types of sentences. I am very excited to see the children apply these new skills in our Branches journey next week.



In Maths, the children have loved our new money unit. This week we explored how the same amount of money can be made using different coins and notes, how to make £1, and how to add pounds and pence together without exchanging. In Arithmetic, we

revisited subtracting two-digit numbers with no exchange, and the children were brilliant racing against the timer!



In Geography, we revisited the United Kingdom, including its countries, capital cities, and surrounding seas. In History, the children were amazing as they created telescopes like Galileo's to help them understand how he made his discoveries. Not only were the telescopes fantastic, but the children also worked together beautifully, taking turns and supporting one another.



In Science, we began our new topic Animals Including Humans. The children did a great job identifying needs and wants—although we did have a few different opinions when it came to sweets!

In Art, we started learning about Australian Aboriginal art. This week, the children used the traditional cross-hatching technique to create their own emu or kangaroo artwork. In Music, with our focus on rock music, we listened to the classic Queen song We Will Rock You. The children were fabulous at clapping and stomping along to the beat.



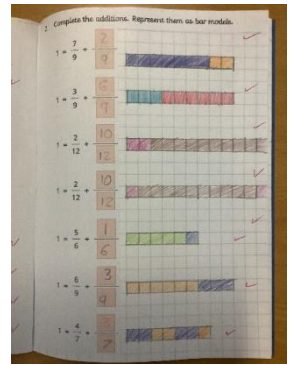
Well done, Year 2, on a fantastic first full week back! Have a lovely weekend and we look forward to seeing everyone ready for Monday 😊

Miss Boulter.

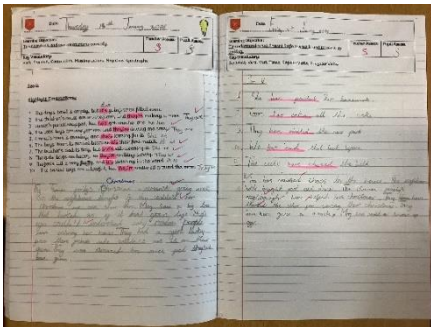


It has been a very busy and productive first week back.

In Maths, Year 4 have begun a new unit on Fractions, learning to understand the whole, count beyond one, partition mixed numbers, use number lines and compare them. Year 3 continued their Multiplication and Division unit, working on multiplying and dividing by three and four.



In English, we focused on improving spelling, grammar and punctuation. Children worked on identifying clauses, using apostrophes for contraction and possession, and writing in both the simple past and present perfect tense. We used the animation *Mog's Christmas Calamity* to inspire our writing.



In Reading, we continued strengthening our vocabulary skills. Children practised skimming and scanning texts to locate the exact part needed to answer questions accurately.



In Science, children observed a variety of rocks using magnifying glasses, described their properties and used identification keys to classify them. Thank you to all families who kindly sent in rock samples—children thoroughly enjoyed exploring them.



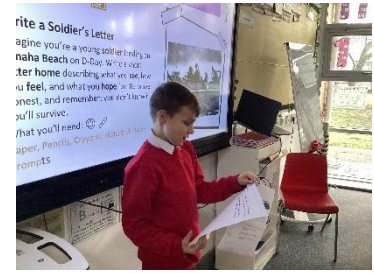
In Art, we began our new unit on Indian Art and explored traditional patterns, colours and motifs found within Indian culture.

In RE, we continued learning about mosques, focusing on the features that support Muslims in prayer. Children learned about wudu, the importance of facing the Ka'bah, and the role of the mihrab. They worked in groups to annotate images of mosques with what they knew and questions they wished to explore further.

In History, we introduced our new unit on Ancient Egypt. Children learned how a historical timeline works and placed Ancient Egypt within it, comparing it to other periods to understand its place in world history.

To end the week, we spent time thinking about what we would like to be when we grow up and began decorating our classroom door based on these aspirations. We can't wait to share the finished display with you next week!

Wishing everyone a restful weekend,
Miss Campbell



The second week of the spring term has been another busy and engaging one for our Year 5/6 class, with pupils continuing to settle back into routines and showing great enthusiasm across the curriculum.

In Writing, we focused on developing key grammatical skills in preparation for future extended writing. Pupils practised using the passive voice, as well as applying semi-colons and colons accurately to improve clarity and cohesion in their work.

In Reading, we explored *Cogheart* by Peter Bunzl. Using the Inference and Explain VIPERS skills, pupils carefully unpicked the text, using evidence to justify their ideas and deepen their understanding of characters, settings and themes.

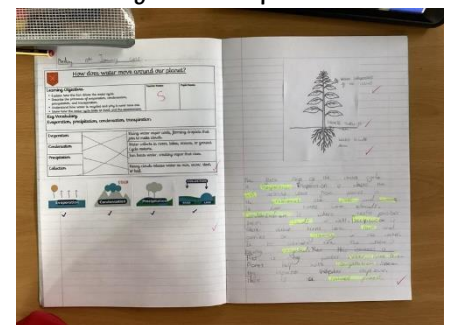


In Maths, we began our multiplication and division unit by securing our understanding of long multiplication. Pupils worked hard to revisit methods, build accuracy and develop confidence with increasingly challenging calculations.



In Science, we launched our new unit on Inheritance and Evolution by investigating fossils. Pupils explored what fossils can tell us about living things from the past and how they provide evidence for changes over time. In Geography, we continued our learning about rivers and the water cycle, focusing particularly on the crucial role of the sun. Pupils considered why the sun is so important to the water cycle and discussed its wider importance to the environment. In History, we studied D-Day, learning why it was such

a significant turning point in World War II. Pupils demonstrated excellent empathy by writing letters from a soldier's perspective, capturing the emotions and experiences of those involved. In Computing, we began our video editing unit by exploring different camera angles and positions, considering how these can be used to create impact and convey meaning in films. In PSHE, we completed our unit on Beliefs and Culture by exploring the question "Does money matter?", encouraging thoughtful discussion and reflection on values, priorities and choices. In RE, pupils were introduced to the Five Pillars of Islam, gaining an understanding of their importance and how they guide the lives of Muslims around the world.



It has been another productive and thought-provoking week, and we are looking forward to building on this learning as the term continues.



Reception – Arlan
 Year 1 – Kason
 Year 2 - Henry
 Year 3 – Scarlett
 Year 4 – Harley
 Year 5 – William
 Year 6 – Sebby



Reception – Adelaide
 Year 1 – Arthur
 Year 2 – Eleanor
 Year 3 – Vinnie
 Year 4 – Joseph
 Year 5 – Tayla
 Year 6 – Alfie





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

