



St Paul's Primary School



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

Ephesians 4: 4-5

Spring Term Newsletter: Week Ending Friday 23rd January 2026

Message from the Headteacher

Good afternoon,

We've had another busy week of learning here at St Paul's!

We started the week on Monday with our Eco Leaders leading an assembly with Miss Boulter to launch 'Energy Saving Week.' We were so proud of the courage they showed in standing at the front of the hall and talking about such an important topic. They also told the children about a poster competition – more information is later in the newsletter 😊

This week we launched our Value of the Term – Trust. The children listened carefully to The Parable of the Crow and the Fox – and thought about what it means to trust someone – but also to be trustworthy themselves. In class worship, the children then thought about their trusted adults – their family members, friends and teachers. I'm sure you'll agree that the children have done some lovely creative work – their class worship books are beautiful!

Clubs started this week and as always it was amazing to see our clubs filled with so many excited children! This term we have started Table Tennis for the first time at St Paul's and we are very much looking forward to finding some new talent!

Lastly, please read the information carefully on the next couple of pages regarding absence reporting and attendance. As always, our main priority is keeping children safe- and when children are not in school it is really important that you let us know the reason why.

We know there are quite a few bugs going round at the moment and we are making sure that we teach the children how to keep germs from spreading so that they can be as careful as they can.

We hope you have a lovely weekend.

Miss Gaskell and the St Paul's Team



Useful Information



A reminder please that all absences need to be logged with the school office – not through dojo.

Please ring school to log an absence – leave a message if the office is not open at that time, or email in to StPaulsOffice@stbartsmat.co.uk

It is really important that you log this absence by 9:30am. If we have not heard from you, follow up calls will be made to yourself and other contacts on our list. Every day of absence must have a phone call until the child returns to school.

Please ensure that all children are wearing black smart school shoes. We have allowed black smart trainers – as long as they are completely plain black with no logos. For a full list of school uniform please click the link to our website.

<https://www.st-pauls-stafford.staffs.sch.uk/school-uniform/>



BLACK SCHOOL SHOES



During the colder months, our outdoor PE kit needs to be worn to ensure that children are warm and able to participate.

A reminder of our 'Winter' kit:

School PE coloured House T-Shirt

Plain black hoody – no logo or branding

Plain black jogging bottoms or leggings – no logo or branding

Black trainers or pumps – not shoes or boots

We would like to request that parents are not using mobile phones on the school playground – this is for safeguarding reasons.

Can we also please ask that parents are not on phones whilst dropping off and picking up in order to allow staff to communicate with you if necessary and to allow you the time to talk with your children. Drop-off and pick-up times are such an important part of their day.





Useful Information



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

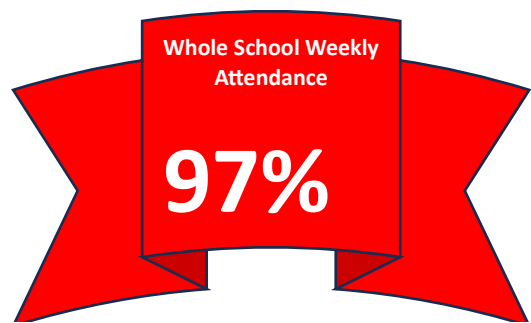
Children will come to school on a **Friday** in PE Kit



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	96.4%
Year 2	98.4%
Year 3/4	96.8%
Year 5/6	96.7%



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 brilliant week we've had in Reception and Year 1!

In English this week, Year 1 have started a new writing journey based on the book 'Stick Man'. The children were intrigued to find Stick Man in our classroom on Monday asking the children for help! The children came up with some brilliant suggestions on how to get Stick Man back to his family. Throughout the week the children have been developing their grammar skills and will be working towards writing a simple re-tell of the story next week. Reception have continued working on their capital letter formation this week



and have been excelling in this! They have also begun applying their phonics knowledge to complete daily spellings. It has been amazing to see the children transfer their skills of segmenting and blending and apply it to their spelling.



In Maths this week, Year 1 have developed their learning on using number lines, they have been filling in missing numbers on a number line as well as estimating numbers on a number as well, a tricky skill to master! They will then use this knowledge and apply it to their addition and subtraction skills next week. In Reception, the children have been building their recall of number bonds to 5. They have used part-whole models and counters to show the different compositions of this number.

In Geography, we explored where Stafford is on a map of the UK and what there is to do and see in the town. The children loved sharing their own experiences of places they have visited in Stafford. They created a tourist leaflet of the landmarks of Stafford. In History this week, the children have learnt about the Apollo 11 Moon Landing. The children were fascinated by this historic event and had many questions about it. We explored lots of different sources to find out as much information about the event, including watching videos, reading newspaper articles. We even explored a 3D model of Neil Armstrong's space suit!



In PE this week, the children have been working on their balances and this week they worked in partners to practise some standing partner balances!



In Reception this week, the children have continued their learning around Superheroes. They have loved making their own superhero masks and learning how to use a map. They had a map of the classroom, and they worked in teams to hide and find items. In RE this week, the children were

introduced to The Great Race of Chinese New Year and discovering what their own zodiac animal was! We learnt that 2026 is the year of the Horse and the children used this to create their own Horse in the construction area. They worked so hard as team to create this amazing design!



Well done on a fantastic week Reception and Year 1, you have worked so hard and I am so proud of you all! *Miss Goddard*



Wow! Year 2 have had another amazing week, challenging themselves and being the best, they can be. I am incredibly proud of their hard work, focus, and positive attitudes to learning.

In **English**, we began our new class text *The Koala Who Could*, which has already proven to be a very popular choice. At the start of the week, we built context and understanding around the story by exploring the Australian bush and the different animals that live there—kangaroos were a favourite! The children then



worked on using expanded noun phrases to describe imagery from the book, past progressive verbs to show what had already happened, and coordinating conjunctions. There has been some lovely work produced as we work towards our final aim of a narrative retell.



We also started **Guided Reading** this week. The children focused on one text, taking part in a mixture of model reading, partner reading, echo reading, and independent reading across the week. We then focused on answering a specific style of question about the text. The children have been extremely engaged and focused during these sessions, which has been wonderful to see.



In **Maths**, we completed our final week of the money unit. The children worked on making £1, comparing amounts of money, and making change. They showed great perseverance when tackling some tricky

questions and remained highly engaged throughout the topic—well done, Year 2!

In **History**, we were completely blown away by the children's enthusiasm while learning about *Apollo 11*. We discovered who the first men to walk on the moon were, explored the rocket, and discussed how they managed to get there. The children were fascinated and enjoyed looking at different historical sources



from the time.

In **Geography**, we had a brilliant lesson comparing the human and physical features of Stafford, which led to an interesting debate about which category Stafford Castle belongs in!



The children have also been loving **music**. We revisited *We Will Rock You* by Queen, using instruments and moving in a circle while stomping to the beat. We then listened to *Bohemian Rhapsody*, which was a huge hit with the class. Well done, Year 2, for your hard work and excellent concentration this week. We are all ready and excited for **Australia Day on Monday!** Have a lovely weekend.

Miss Boulter.

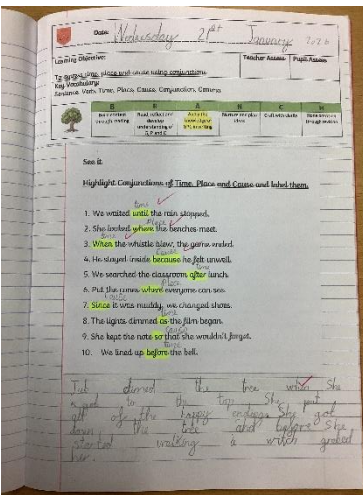


In Maths, Year 3 have been finishing their Multiplication and Division unit, working hard to secure their times tables up to 8 and using these facts confidently in a range of tasks. Year 4 continued with their Fractions unit, learning how to understand and recognise equivalent fractions and beginning to explain how and why fractions can be equal even when they look different.



In English, we carried on with our writing journey inspired by *The*

Lost Happy Endings. Children have been learning how to write a diary entry, using expanded noun phrases, pronouns, and conjunctions of time, place and manner to bring the character's thoughts and feelings to life.



In Science, we explored how and why rocks can change their appearance over time. Children observed examples closely and discussed the different processes that can affect rocks in nature.

In History, we continued our learning about Ancient Egypt by looking carefully at a range of Ancient Egyptian artefacts. Children shared ideas about what these objects were, who might have used them and what they can tell us about life during this fascinating civilisation.

In RE, we learned about how different features of a mosque help Muslims to pray. Children discussed the importance of spaces such as the prayer hall, the mihrab and the ablution area, and considered how these help Muslims prepare for and focus during worship.

In Geography, we began our new topic on the Amazon Rainforest. Children learned where the Amazon is located, explored what makes it such an important biome and shared what they are excited to find out over the coming weeks.



In ICT, we learned how to edit pictures by exploring different tools to crop, adjust colours and make simple improvements to digital images.

To finish our week, we also created beautiful decorations for our classroom door filled with our hopes, aspirations and dreams for the future. The children thought carefully about who they want to become as they grow, and each decoration was unique and full of pride.



Wishing everyone a restful weekend, **Miss Campbell**.



The third week of the Spring term has been another busy and engaging one for our Year 5/6 class, with pupils showing enthusiasm and curiosity across all areas of learning.

In Writing, we were introduced to our new unit based on *Treason* by Berlie Doherty. As we prepare to write a first-person narrative, pupils took part in a *hot-seating* activity from the point of view of William. This allowed them to explore key events from his



life, develop empathy for the character and begin to think carefully about how thoughts, feelings and experiences can be conveyed through first-person writing.

In Reading, we explored a range of non-fiction texts linked to Martin Luther King Jr. Day. Pupils learned why this day is celebrated, discussed the impact of Martin Luther King Jr.'s work and practised retrieving information and explaining ideas using evidence from the texts.



In Maths, we continued our work on division, focusing on dividing numbers up to four digits and finding remainders. Pupils worked hard to apply their methods accurately and explain their reasoning clearly.



In Science, we explored inheritance, discussing why offspring are not identical to their parents. Pupils considered how characteristics are passed on and how variation occurs within species. In Geography, we learned about the journey of a river, focusing on what happens at different stages of its course, from the upper course to the lower course. Pupils used geographical vocabulary to describe changes in landscape and river

features. In Art, we continued our Chinese art unit by studying the use of blossom and bamboo in traditional artwork. Pupils explored how these elements are represented and what they symbolise. In Computing, pupils used storyboards to plan and experiment with different camera angles and filming techniques, considering how these choices can affect the impact of a video. In PE, children continued to develop their skills in gymnastics, focusing on balance, control and sequencing movements. In RE, we learned about the Prayer pillar of Islam, exploring its importance and how it supports Muslims in their daily lives.



In History, we revisited D-Day, focusing on the celebrations that followed and considering how people might have felt at the end of such a significant and emotional event.



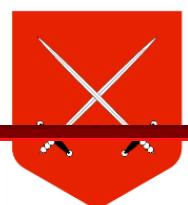
It has been another productive and thoughtful week, and we are proud of the children's engagement and effort as they continue to build on their learning.

Values Award

Congratulations

For being a shining member in our learning community, showing the value

Excellence of
Perseverance
Belief and Courage
Equality



Reception – Idris
 Year 1 – Blossom
 Year 2 – Reuben
 Year 3 – Amira
 Year 4 – Sam
 Year 5 – Eva
 Year 6 – April



Reception – Oliver
 Year 1 – Daniel
 Year 2 – Emilie
 Year 3 – Lana
 Year 4 – Sama
 Year 5 – Rueben
 Year 6 – Niamh





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



