



'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 17th April 2026

Message from the Headteacher

Good afternoon,

What a first week back we have had – and it really has seemed to fly by!

In Collective Worship we have introduced our new Value of the half term – “Service” and the children have really enjoyed their learning so far. In Class Worship they thought about their own talents – and then most importantly, how they could use those to ‘serve’ others...making others feel better when needed. We created a ‘Talent Tub’ of every single child’s talents and we will also be creating a display. Which led us on to deciding we are going to have a Talent Show! ‘St Paul’s Got Talent’ will be coming to school next half-term and we cannot wait to see the children shine in their talents.

A new term also brings some news of changes happening in the coming months. Over the last couple of weeks we have had some job adverts out for class teacher and the new role of an Assistant Headteacher. With St Pauls going from strength to strength, we feel it is the right time to bring some new leadership in to the team. We have had an overwhelming amount of interest and have shortlisted ready for interview over the next couple of weeks. As always, your children are the most important part of this process – and we will be asking them their thoughts.

We have also been successful in having our Nursery Grant accepted from the Dfe – and therefore this brings the exciting news that we will be opening a Nursery in September. We will be taking children from 3 years old and will have 13 spaces. This is such exciting news for our community and hopefully will support lots of our families in the future.

This week also saw National Reception Offer day on Thursday – and I know this year we are pleased to welcome lots of our siblings to St Pauls. We cannot wait to meet all of our new members of our family and we will be sending information out over the next few weeks.

We also have our clubs start next week for the Summer which will run for the next 10 weeks. You have been contacted if your child has got a place – please check your messages.

As always at St Pauls it is going to be a very busy term – making sure that we have lots of fun and laughter with our current children whilst also getting ready to welcome the next new chapter in September 2026...and we cannot wait!

Have a lovely weekend

Miss Gaskell and the St Pauls Team



Useful Information

St Bartholomew's CE
Multi Academy Trust



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 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 children return 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. Full 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 and 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 whilst dropping off and picking up are not on phones to allow for staff to communicate if necessary but also to allow you the time to talk with your children. Drop-off and pick-up are such an important part of their day.





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

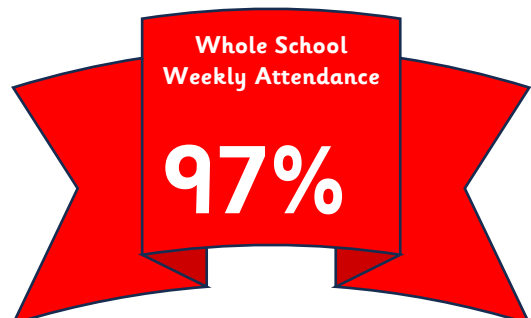
Children will come to school on a **Friday** in PE Kit



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	96.3
Year 2	98.4
Year 3/4	97
Year 5/6	96.9



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.





It has been a fantastic first week back in Reception and Year 1. The children have been amazing at jumping straight back into classroom routines and their new learning!

In English, Year 1 have been focussing on their grammar skills this week. We have been using the animation 'The Clock Tower' as a stimulus for our learning and the children have been looking specifically at prefixes and suffixes as well as when to use question marks. The children have retained



lots of knowledge of these skills from their previous writing journeys and it is amazing to see them making the links between the two. In Reception, the children have been reading Goldilocks and the Three Bears and have been working on labelling pictures from the story. They have been using their phonics skills to help sound out and spell the words correctly!



In Maths, the Year 1 children have begun looking at Place Value within 50. This week, we have learnt how many Tens and Ones are in each number and how these numbers can be partitioned. The children used lots of concrete resources to support their understanding of the numbers. They are becoming very confident to identify how many Tens and Ones are in numbers! In Reception this week, the children have been learning about numbers up to 20. They have been exploring how these numbers are *10 and a bit more*. They have used tens frames to represent these numbers and also played a matching game to test their knowledge!

In the wider curriculum subjects in Year 1 the children have begun some new topics. In Geography, the children were looking at Weather and the different types of weather we can experience. In Science, the children learnt about seasonal changes throughout the year. In History, the children learnt about Marie Curie, they embodied the role of a Scientist in this lesson and completed a science experiment in groups. In Art, they started their project on Wacky Windmills, looking at the different elements of a Windmill and how they work.



In Reception, the children have been getting involved in all their provision activities! They have loved role-playing Goldilocks and the Three Bears to retell the story. They also revisited their learning on completing patterns and writing their 'I can see...' sentences independently. We also looked at colour mixing and the children were very confident to tell me the primary colours that mix together!

Well done on a fantastic first week! Have a great weekend. *Miss Goddard*





Welcome back, Year 2! What a brilliant first week back it has been. The children have returned ready to learn and have been working extremely hard across all areas of the curriculum.

In English, we began with a week-long front-loaded grammar journey, where the children focused on a different grammar skill each day. They then applied these skills to produce a diary entry based on a character from our animation, Tamara. The children showed real strengths in their use of adverbs and past progressive verbs, and it was lovely to see their confidence growing.



In spelling, we focused on irregular words that do not follow the usual patterns. Year 2 are doing a fantastic job of transferring their spelling knowledge into their writing, which is becoming a real strength.



In maths, we completed our unit on temperature, learning new vocabulary such as degrees Celsius, volume, capacity and thermometer. The children estimated temperatures using different thermometers and compared higher and lower temperatures from around the world. Midweek, we began our new fractions topic, starting with understanding equal parts and how they relate to a whole. This will support our learning next week as we explore halves, quarters and thirds. The children continue to show great engagement and take pride in their work.



In history, we continued our topic on people who have changed the world, focusing this week on Marie Curie. The children learned about what she is famous for and the impact of her discoveries, particularly how they support doctors using X-rays today. We even took part in our own science experiment, pretending to be Marie Curie. Although the results were not quite as expected, we agreed that this is all part of science!



In geography, we began our new unit on weather. The children compared seasonal weather with daily weather and learned that although we are in spring, the weather can still change from day to day. In science, we explored the reasons for seasonal changes, learning about the tilt of the Earth and how this affects the seasons.



In design and technology, we were very excited to start our new topic on wacky windmills. The children explored different types of working windmills, with those from Holland being a particular favourite. There were also a few mentions of the windmill chippy!



Well done, Year 2, for an amazing start back. I have been so impressed with your behaviour, effort and enthusiasm. Thank you as well for making my birthday so special.

Have a lovely weekend.

From Miss Boulter.



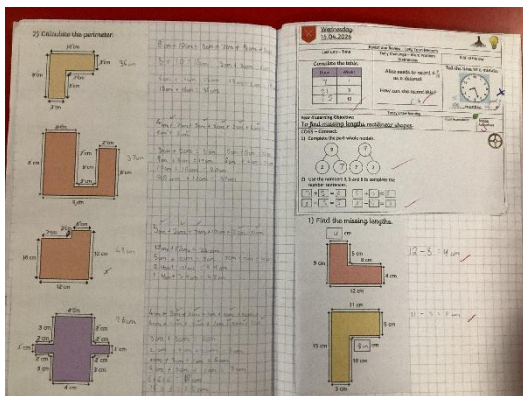
Hello, dear families,

I can hardly believe it is already Friday! It has been an incredibly busy first week back, and it has truly flown by. The children have settled back into their routines so well, and it has been lovely to see their enthusiasm for learning from the very start of the term.



In Maths, Year 4 have continued their learning on length and perimeter, applying what they know to problem-solving activities, while Year 3 have been building on their understanding of fractions, focusing on adding fractions with the same denominators.

In Writing, we have been working hard on grammar, spelling, and punctuation as part of our Front-Loaded Grammar week. The children have been practising key rules and sentence structures that they will be using and revisiting regularly in their writing journeys throughout the Summer term.



In Reading, we have continued to develop our fluency and comprehension skills, focusing on reading with expression, accuracy, and understanding. The children have been answering questions about what they read and explaining their ideas using evidence from the text.

In Geography, we have started a new unit on Rivers, learning about the main features of a river and where rivers begin. This will prepare the children well for studying one of our local rivers later in the term.

In History, we have also begun an exciting new unit on Ancient Greece, where the children have started comparing how the borders of Ancient Greece have changed over time and what the country looks like today.

In Science, we introduced our new topic on forces and magnets. The first lesson focused on push and pull forces, and the children really enjoyed experimenting with different objects to explore how they can be moved, stopped, or made to change direction.

In RE, the children have been learning about the Fishers of People and discussing the sacrifices the first disciples made to follow Jesus.

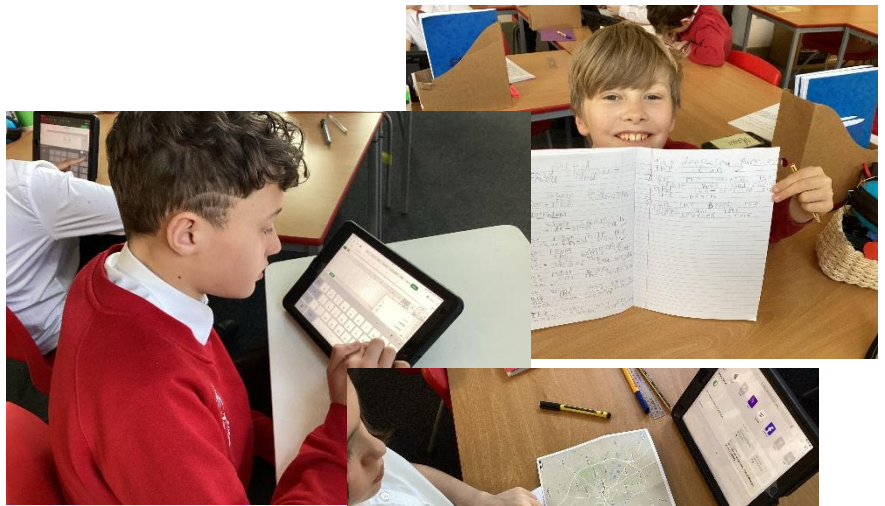
In ICT, the children have begun learning some of the basic rules of coding, including how to follow and create simple instructions.



It has been a fantastic start to the term, and I am very proud of how focused and positive the children have been this week.

Miss Campbell





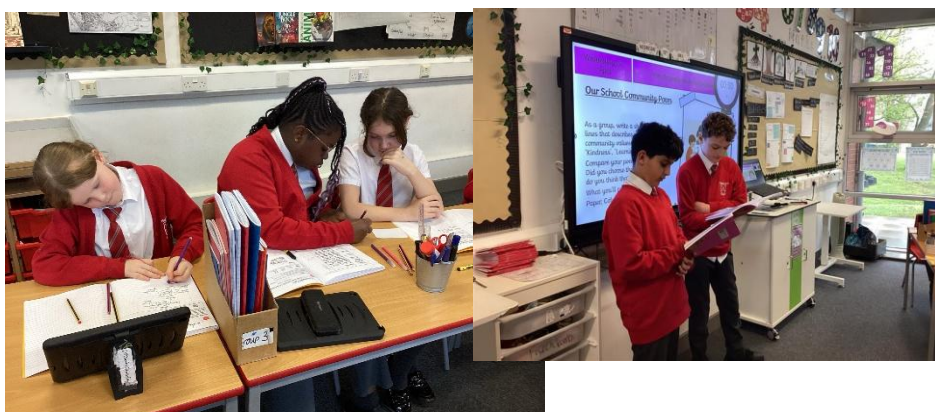
We have made a wonderful start to the Summer term in Year 5/6, with pupils returning to school feeling rested, calm and ready to embrace new challenges. It has been a positive and purposeful week, and it has been lovely to see children settling back into routines with enthusiasm and confidence.

In **Reading**, we shared and explored a powerful poem about refugees by *Benjamin Zephaniah*. This led to some mature and thoughtful discussions, with pupils showing empathy and curiosity as they explored themes of displacement, belonging and hope. In **Writing**, pupils produced short journey narratives inspired by the animation *The Robot and the Whale*. Their beautifully written stories reimagined the robot as a saviour, and we were incredibly impressed by the emotion, description and care shown in their work.

In **Maths**, Year 5 began and completed a new unit on **Statistics**, learning to read, interpret and create a range of graphs and tables. Meanwhile, Year 6 have shown excellent focus and determination in their **maths and arithmetic work**, working hard to build fluency and accuracy. Year 5 also thoroughly enjoyed their **swimming sessions at the leisure centre**, approaching this with enthusiasm and resilience.

Across the wider curriculum, pupils have started several exciting new topics. In **Science**, we were introduced to microorganisms and planned an investigation to test whether yeast is a living organism, encouraging pupils to think scientifically and make predictions. In **Geography**, pupils traced maps of the River Sow and explored its confluence with the River Penk, developing their local geographical knowledge. In **History**, alongside Mr Farmer, pupils began learning about the Romans and the impact they had on Staffordshire, showing great curiosity about life in Roman Britain.

In **DT**, pupils started researching traditional African instruments, thinking about materials, purpose and design, while in **Computing** they developed their spreadsheet skills further by using formulas to work out data sets independently.



It has been a calm, productive and enjoyable first week back, and we are very proud of how well pupils have applied themselves as they begin their Summer term learning journey.



Reception – Idris
 Year 1 – Blossom
 Year 2 – Ava
 Year 3 – Eddie
 Year 4 – Orla
 Year 5 – Harley
 Year 6 – Niamh



Reception – Oliver
 Year 1 – Charlie
 Year 2 – Mohammad
 Year 3 – Anthony
 Year 4 – Harley
 Year 5 – Eva
 Year 6 – April





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
Miss Gaskell
01785 337436

Local Offer for parents and carers

