



'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 10th October 2025

Message from the Headteacher

Dear Parents and Carers,

What a busy and heartwarming week it's been at St Paul's!

School Photographs

Our children looked so smart and full of smiles for their school photographs this week. We hope you enjoy seeing their happy faces when the proofs arrive home today!

Harvest Church Service Preparations

We've been practicing hard for our upcoming **Harvest Church Service**, and the children are doing a wonderful job learning songs and readings. As part of our celebration, we kindly ask for **donations of tinned or packet foods**. These will be carried to Church by the children and donated to **local charities** supporting families in need. Thank you in advance for your generosity. Don't forget you are all welcome to attend the service on Tuesday at 10:00am.

World Mental Health Day – 10th October

Today we marked **World Mental Health Day** with thoughtful discussions across the school. The children explored how we can support others who may not be feeling happy and shared ideas for spreading kindness and positivity.

Positivity Gate – A KS2 Initiative

We hope you enjoyed walking through our **Positivity Gate** at home time today! Our KS2 children came up with the idea to share happy messages with families to make you smile. What a fantastic, thoughtful initiative—it truly reflects the caring spirit of our school.

Thank you for your continued support. We are so proud of our children and the way they live out our values every day.

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

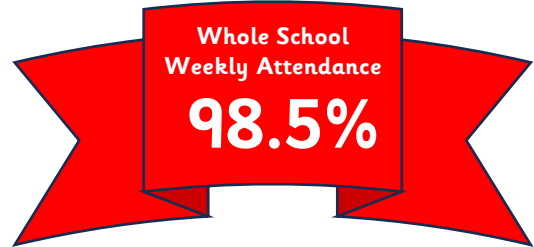
Children will come to school on a Wednesday in PE Kit

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	99.6
Year 2	97.5
Year 3/4	98
Year 5/6	98.4



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.



Please come and join us for our Harvest Celebration at St Paul's Church. There will be songs and poems. We would welcome any donations of tins, dried food or packets of food into school on Monday 13th or on the morning of Tuesday 14th October. All donations this year will be given to Church which will be supporting local charities.



This week, the children in Reception and Year 1 have once again been fully immersed in their learning, showing curiosity, determination, and lots of progress across all areas!

Year 1 have been reviewing their

understanding of longer words in Phonics this week, confidently segmenting and blending them with increasing independence. Reception have continued learning Phase 2 sounds and have been working hard



on their blending skills—an essential foundation for early reading. They have loved taking on the role of *teacher* and helping each other practise recognising each sound and segmenting our words.



Year 1 have continued their work on *Jack and the Beanstalk*, writing captions to describe illustrations from the story. The children have been generating their own ideas and then using their Phonics knowledge to sound talk and spell these words. The progress in their writing since the start of term has been amazing! Reception have been equally busy, practising their letter formation and working hard to write their names independently—we're

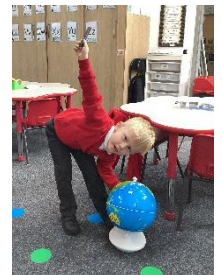
fitting in lots of opportunities to practise!



In Year 1 Maths, the children have been developing their place value skills using number lines to draw and count the jumps between numbers accurately — such a useful strategy as they move onto their new topic of addition and subtraction very soon! Reception have been exploring weight and capacity, they loved becoming human balance scales to compare objects from around the room - before using real scales to deepen their understanding.



This week, we marked *World Mental Health Day* by exploring emotions and discussing ways to manage them. The children understood well that we feel so many emotions in a day and all of those emotions are perfectly ok – but it is what we do with the emotions that matters the most.



Developing knowledge of 'Understanding the World' we introduced the vocabulary 'past' and 'present', comparing different types of transport and discussing how things have changed over time. The class loved exploring these images of new and old transport vehicles. The children were then challenged to use these new words throughout the week—and they rose to the challenge brilliantly! In PE this week the children have been doing



Gymnastics, the children have been working on balance and jumping. They have worked together to finesse the partner balances and their focus and cooperation have been an essential in them progressing in these skills.



Well done to all our Reception and Year 1 children for another fantastic week of learning. Your perseverance and enthusiasm are shining through every day!

Miss Goddard



I am so proud of Year 2 this week! The children have shown determination, kindness, and respect in everything they've done — it has been such a joy to see.

In English, we finalised our first Branches journey. The children worked incredibly hard to plan and edit their own versions of Jack and the Beanstalk, using adjectives, -ed suffixes, and conjunctions to make their writing exciting and detailed. Their effort and creativity have truly wowed me!



In Maths, we began our Addition and Subtraction unit. The children have been recapping their number bonds to 10 and 20, and using related facts to help solve new problems — great progress all round!



In History, we travelled back in time to the Stone Age! The children imagined what it would be like to live as Stone Age children and wrote about "a day in the life." Their drawings were so detailed and realistic — I was very impressed.



In RE, we explored how Christians use prayer, and the children wrote their own beautiful prayers to express what they are thankful for.



In Geography, we became explorers of our own town, Stafford, using Google Maps to spot familiar places and landmarks.

As part of PSHE, we discussed the importance of mental health in celebration of World Mental Health Day.

The children shared thoughtful ideas about how they can look after their own wellbeing — such as spending time with family, playing outside, and talking about their feelings.



In Music, we had an energetic session exploring Samba rhythms — the children really got into the beat and had great fun moving to the music!

In art we continued our work on Van Gogh ready for our class piece next week.

Finally, in Science, we carried out a fair test to discover which objects float or sink. The children loved making predictions and testing their ideas scientifically.



It's been a brilliant week in Year 2 — full of learning, laughter, and curiosity. Next week, we are especially looking forward to our Harvest Festival celebration at church, where we will be singing our class song.

Wishing you all a lovely and restful weekend! Miss Boulter.



Well, we simply don't know where the week has gone in Class 3-4! 🤖 We were singing, we were writing, we were reading, we were counting.

Another week filled with fun and learning.



This week in Maths, we began a new unit on Addition and Subtraction. Year 3 pupils focused on adding 1, 10 and 100 more to given numbers, building their confidence with place value and number patterns. Meanwhile, Year 4 absolutely amazed me with their confidence and accuracy when adding two 4-digit numbers, even when exchanging was required. Their enthusiasm and growing independence in tackling these challenges have been wonderful to see.

In Writing, we explored how correct grammar, punctuation and composition skills contribute to a strong piece of writing. Our focus was on describing the main character in our writing journey—The Iron Man. Children practised using possessive apostrophes, expanded noun phrases and adverbs to add detail and precision to their descriptions. We also consolidated our learning through interactive games, which helped reinforce these skills in a fun and engaging way.



In science, we investigated which materials are best at muffling sound. The children designed and carried out a fair test to compare different materials, applying their understanding of sound and scientific enquiry. It was fantastic to see their curiosity and teamwork in action as they drew conclusions from their results.

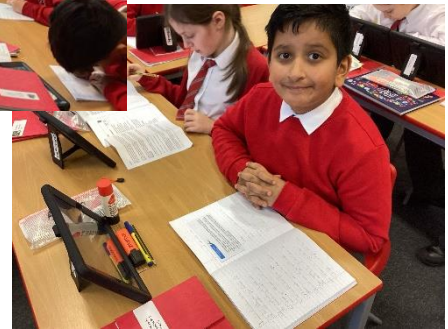


I'd also like to take a moment to celebrate the incredible effort every child is putting into their handwriting.

Their determination and focus are really paying off - progress is already visible in their books, and I couldn't be prouder of their hard work.

Miss Campbell





It's been another fantastic week in Year 5/6, filled with curiosity, creativity and thoughtful discussion as we continue to build on our learning across the curriculum.



In maths, we began our new multiplication and division unit by exploring multiples and factors, with plenty of opportunities to spot patterns and make connections between numbers. In reading, we continued developing our inference and explain skills through a powerful text about Rosa Parks, marking the start of Black History Month and prompting some excellent class discussions about courage and equality.

In writing, we continued our journey through *Wonder*, using and applying skills such as relative clauses and modal verbs to add depth and precision to our sentences. In geography, we used our locational knowledge to explain the UK's position in the world and identify its surrounding countries and seas.



In history, we learned about how Britain prepared for World War II, exploring rationing, evacuation and early defence strategies. In science, we set up an exciting experiment to observe how the length and direction of shadows change over time – we can't wait to see our results develop next week!

In RE, we used our descriptions of God – including words like *omniscient* and *omnipotent* – to create AI-generated images representing Christian beliefs about God, based on our discussions of symbolism and representation. In PSHE, we recognised World Mental Health Day by creating positive messages and reminders of how we can look after our wellbeing and support others.



In computing, we compared different search terms, search engines and websites, thinking carefully about how to find the most reliable and useful information online.



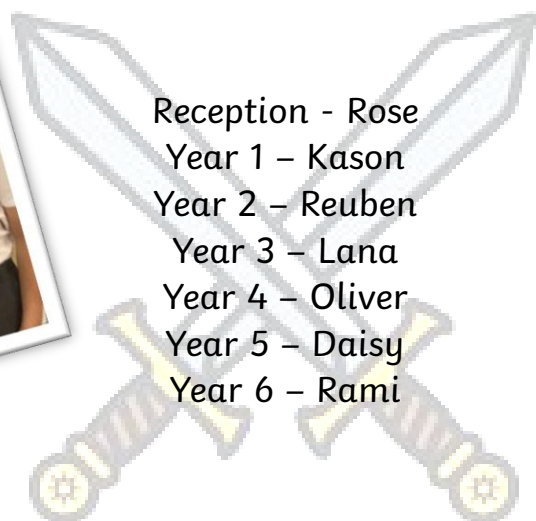
It has been a thoughtful and inspiring week, and I am so proud of the way the children continue to challenge themselves, support one another and show respect in all they do. Miss Wetton



Reception – Adelaide
 Year 1 - Delilah
 Year 2 - Eleanor
 Year 3 – Clemmie
 Year 4 – Sam
 Year 5 – Tayla
 Year 6 – Jacob



Reception - Rose
 Year 1 – Kason
 Year 2 – Reuben
 Year 3 – Lana
 Year 4 – Oliver
 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

Autumn 1

Monday 6th October 3:15pm – 3:40pm

Teacher drop-in to meet the teacher and see the classroom (this is not a parent's evening session)

Tuesday 7th October

School photograph Day

Friday 10th October

World Mental Health Day

Tuesday 14th October 10:00am

Harvest Festival at St Paul's Church – all welcome

Autumn 2

Tuesday 11th November

Remembrance Church Service

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





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
Mrs Nevins-Stanford (SENDCo)
01785 337436

Local Offer for parents and carers



What Parents & Educators Need to Know about EA SPORTS FC 26

AGE RESTRICTION
PEGI
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Our guide looks at the risks surrounding EA Sports FC 26 and our top tips to minimise them. This marks the third year since EA left the FIFA licence, and the game is mostly unchanged from last year. While Kick-Off mode is great for playing with friends and Career Mode allows players to fulfil long-term ambitions as a manager or player, Ultimate Team remains the main draw for many players – and it can get out of hand in terms of how much money players can invest.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

AN ANNUAL RELEASE SCHEDULE

As was the case with the last two EA Sports FC games and the FIFA series before it, the franchise rolls out once a year with updated squads and new features. This can make it expensive to keep up with, particularly when so many dedicated players are keen to get their hands on the latest edition.

VOICE CHAT

Voice chat can be enabled across all platforms, meaning young people can speak to anyone they play with or against. While it can be switched off, some children will no doubt want to speak to their friends while they play. This also means they may encounter strangers much older than them, which can expose them to inappropriate language or behaviours.

IN-GAME PURCHASES THROUGH ULTIMATE TEAM

Ultimate Team is the big draw for EA Sports FC, letting players spend real money on packs that they can open to build a squad of the world's best players. They're not always easy to obtain, and new, improved versions of players will be regularly added as limited-time offerings. Young people could feel pressured into spending money and experience fear of missing out.

SCAMMERS IN ULTIMATE TEAM

Ultimate Team is managed by EA itself, but that hasn't stopped scammers from looking to dupe players out of money and in-game coins. Some scammers sell their accounts, which is a violation of EA's terms of service, while others will 'sell' coins – something the developer is still working to crack down on. Some try to gain access to others' accounts, potentially giving them access to payment information.

POTENTIAL FOR ADDICTION

While EA Sports FC is potentially addictive, thanks to its fast-paced gameplay and mirroring of the real-world skill and glamour of football, Ultimate Team's focus on limited-time rewards and the lottery of winning packs can make it feel closer to gambling than gaming, which may lead to addiction and impulsive spending of money.

Advice for Parents & Educators

PREPARE FOR ANOTHER GAME IN A YEAR

The annual-release cadence aligns with the return of the school year, and can be a great way to incentivise good behaviour at the start of term, if children are applying themselves and preparing for a new year of school, or were particularly well behaved in the summer. EA Sports FC 26 could make a great reward.

LIMIT SPENDING

If you're worried about children accidentally spending real money in Ultimate Team, whether in game or on the EA Sports FC companion app, don't link a payment card to their account. Reclaiming funds can be a mountain to climb, and the dopamine hit of opening flashy packs with stick animations means one purchase can lead to another very quickly. It's also worth adding a prepaid card if you'd prefer them to make their own choices with their budget.

MONITOR VOICE CHAT

As in-game chat is open, be sure to adjust the settings in EA Sports FC 26 to lock it down. If children want to chat with their friends while they play, consider setting up a safe space for them to call, to allow them to play without fear of outsiders.

BE VIGILANT

As with last year, there are ways to keep scammers at bay. Ensure passwords are locked down, and consider using a password manager application to keep them secure. EA will never contact players through the game itself, so be vigilant with incoming messages, and block and report suspected spam. EA will contact players by email if needed, but they will never ask for usernames or passwords. Players should also avoid buying in-game currency from unofficial websites – doing so can lead to accounts being banned and could cost players money in the process.

Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is an experienced freelance writer and has been working in the gaming and tech industry for seven years. A regular visitor to the App Store to try out new tools, he's also a parent and therefore understands the importance of online safety. He's also a tech and fitness writer and has been published at sites including IGN, TechRadar, and plenty more.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College