



*'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 1<sup>st</sup> May 2026**

## **Message from the Headteacher**

Good afternoon,

And just like that we are in May! What a beautiful week of sunshine we have had which always seems to make everything look better and definitely brought lots of smiles to our faces!

It has been as busy as ever this week.

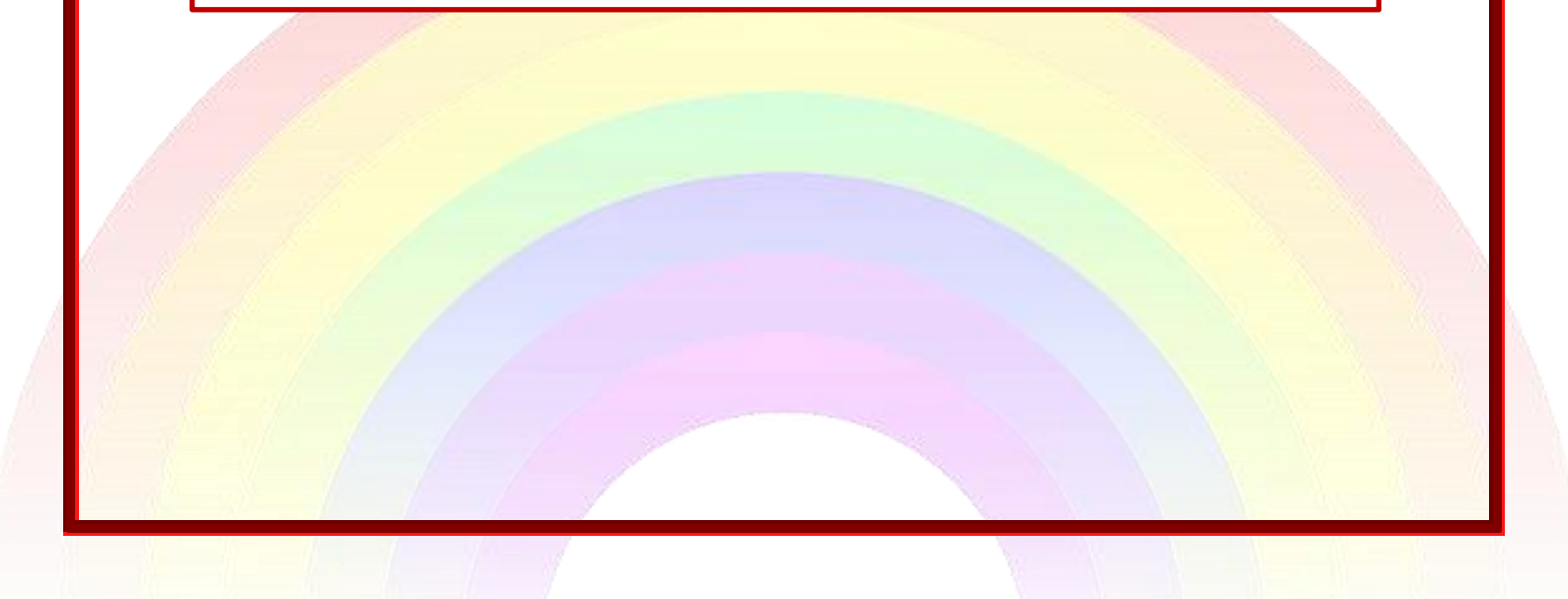
I began the week leading Whole School Worship, and it was a pleasure to share a story from the bible and interact with the children. The theme this week, continuing with the value of Service had the important message 'Don't judge a book by its cover' and we explored this through storytelling and discussing when David was chosen to be King (from the first book of Samuel) Even though there were other men who could have been chosen on height and appearance, David was chosen for his heart – and his willingness to serve God and others.

A reminder that it is less than 3 weeks until our colour run, taking place on the last day of this half term – Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May. Children have gone home with Sponsor forms to help raise money for St Paul's Church. We would really appreciate as much support as possible for this incredible cause.

We have sent out Summer Term Dates – and these will also be on the website and on class dojo. Over the next few weeks we are moving across to a new platform to be able to communicate better with you all – so temporarily we are unable to send out our Newsletter to the whole school. It will be posted on our website and on class dojo.

As we look ahead to our 4 day week, morning Year 6 Revision sessions will be on every day in the countdown to SATs week. SATs week begins Monday 11<sup>th</sup> May and the last Assessment Paper is Thursday morning. We are so proud of everything the Year 6 class have achieved so far and look forward to seeing them shine. We really would like as many Y6 children as possible arriving at 8:00am this week.

**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](mailto: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

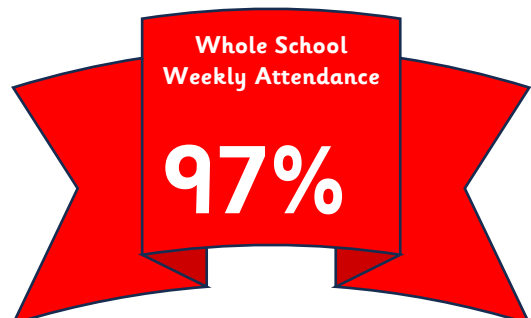
Children will come to school on a **Friday** in PE Kit



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	98.3
Year 3/4	97
Year 5/6	97.1



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 busy week we have had enjoying the sunshine and getting involved in the curriculum!

This week the Year 1 children have continued their writing journey on their trip to the farm. They have really impressed me with the knowledge they have retained of the grammar skills we have been focusing on. The children have also been building their planning skills and using the work they've already done in the journey in their planning. The children completed their journey this week and they were feeling proud to share their personal recount with their peers. In Reception, the children have been focussing on labelling illustrations from *The Gingerbread Man*. They

were confident to share what they could see in each picture and use their phonics knowledge to help them spell the word.



In Maths, Year 1 have begun their new topic on multiplication and division. This week, we have learnt how to count in 2s, 5s and 10s. We explored these different counting patterns through songs, games and rhymes. By the end of the week the children were beginning to show more confidence in counting in these different ways. In Reception, the children have

looked at manipulating shapes. They have been introduced to words such as *rotate* and *fit*. They then used their knowledge to build pictures matching the 2D shapes.



In the wider curriculum, the children learnt about the weather forecasts. They looked at the importance of a weather forecast and why you need to look at the forecast to plan what you are going to do. In History, they learnt about Nelson Mandela and the important work he did and the change he made in the world. As part of their Science journey, this week the children focused on how animals adapt in the seasons. They learnt if animals migrate, hibernate or stay active.



In Reception this week, we have introduced a new traditional tale. The children have loved reading *The Gingerbread Man* and joining in with the repeating phrases in the book. The role-play area has been transformed into a bakery this week and the bakers have been very busy! Each day they have made sure there are gingerbread men made and on display ready for customers to buy! In the Maths area, the children reviewed their learning on addition and used digit cards and counters to work to practise this skill. The children have enjoyed getting creative and creating junk models. In the

outdoor provision, they have loved performing on the stage. They have worked together to create a performance of 'The Greatest Showman'. They requested to use my iPad for the music and they bought chairs to create an audience and they each had a role to play from ringmaster to 'props guy'. It was amazing to see them creating something together.

Well done on another super week everyone. I hope everyone has a lovely bank holiday weekend!



*Miss Goddard*



Another fab week for Year 2!

We are now in the second week of our BRANCHES journey in writing. The children have been exploring the conjunction "because," using time adverbials, and learning how to plan their own personal recount. They carefully wrote their drafts, making sure to include everything from the checklist. We then used our editing technique "CUPS" (capital letters, use of words, punctuation and sentences) to improve our work. The children showed great focus when editing, and I was so



impressed with the final pieces they produced.

In grammar, we have started a new approach to our lessons. Each day, the children applied their grammar skills across different subjects: on Monday we wrote sentences about geography, Tuesday was history, and Wednesday was science. We finished the week with a grammar speed test.



In maths, we continued our work on fractions, looking more closely at unit and non-unit fractions. The children learned that a unit fraction always has a numerator of one and that fractions represent equal parts of a whole.



In geography, we had a fun lesson exploring weather forecasts. We discussed why it is important to know the weather before the day starts so we can plan what to wear or what activities to do. We also looked at how the weather and temperature can vary across different parts of the UK. The children then created their own weather forecasts on a map, using the four points of the compass.



In history, we were introduced to a new significant individual, Nelson Mandela. The children enjoyed learning about how he stood up for what was right and how his actions link to our rainbow values.

In science, we explored how animals survive through the different seasons, focusing on migration, hibernation and staying active. The children particularly enjoyed pretending to hibernate!



Finally, in RE, we discussed forgiveness and why it is important to let go of negative feelings and accept apologies, even when someone has made a mistake.

Well done Year 2, keep going! Have a lovely bank holiday and we will see you on Tuesday. Miss Boulter.



This week in Maths, Year 3 have begun a new unit on Time and Money, with a particular focus on learning how to make the same amounts of money using pounds and pence in different ways. The children have been practising recognising notes and coins and exploring how the same total can be represented using different combinations, building on their understanding from previous years.



Year 4 continued their unit on Statistics, where they have been learning how to plot points on a grid using the x and y axes. They have also been using this skill to help them draw and identify 2-D shapes, developing both accuracy and confidence when working with co-ordinates.

**In English**, we have continued to develop our grammar and composition skills in preparation for our big write, which will be a narrative retell of *The Egyptian Cinderella* story. The children have been revisiting and applying key grammar features, including fronted adverbials, prepositional phrases and expanded noun phrases modified with prepositional phrases. These skills are helping the children to add more detail and interest to their writing, improving both sentence structure and storytelling.



**In Science**, we have continued our unit on Forces and Magnets. This week, the children explored which materials are magnetic and which are not, making predictions before testing different objects. They showed great curiosity and enthusiasm while investigating and discussing their findings using scientific vocabulary.

**In Geography**, we carried on learning about the water cycle and how it helps to keep rivers flowing. The children are beginning to make clear links between rainfall, rivers and

the wider environment, strengthening their understanding of natural processes.

**In History**, we continued our learning about Ancient Greece, focusing this week on what life was like for the Ancient Minoans. The children were fascinated to learn about daily life, homes and culture, and they asked some thoughtful questions during discussions.

I am also really enjoying sharing the beautiful photographs from last week's trip to Victoria Park. The children had a fantastic experience and learned so much. They explored the importance of bees, learning how they behave and what they eat, planted their own plants, discovered ancient weapons, and visited the greenhouse, where they observed different habitats and admired the stunning tropical plants. This visit provided



valuable inspiration and will be especially useful when the children later design and build their own greenhouses during DT lessons.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

Wishing you all a restful and enjoyable weekend.

**Miss Campbell**





We have continued to build on our strong start to the Summer term in Year 5/6, with pupils approaching their learning with confidence, focus and enthusiasm. Routines are now well embedded, and classrooms have remained calm and purposeful as children continue to challenge themselves and take pride in their work.

In Reading, pupils explored an engaging non-fiction text about the Titanic. They showed great interest as they discovered key facts, discussed the events surrounding the disaster and developed their skills in retrieving information and making thoughtful inferences. In Writing, pupils completed their narrative pieces inspired by the Blitz during WW2. Their finished stories demonstrated careful sequencing, vivid description and effective use of language to create tension and atmosphere, and we have been very impressed by the quality and effort shown.

In Maths, pupils have been focusing on shape, developing their understanding of regular and irregular polygons as well as recognising and describing 3D shapes. They applied their reasoning skills confidently, using precise mathematical vocabulary to explain their thinking.

Across the wider curriculum, pupils continued to deepen their understanding in a range of subjects. In Geography, they used compass points to map the movement of the River Sow, further strengthening their map skills and spatial awareness. In History, pupils explored how Roman rule came to an end in Stafford, discussing the impact this had on Britain and the changes that followed.

In Science, pupils completed their end-of-unit assessment before taking part in an exciting creative task where they designed their own creatures. They then classified them using a classification key based on Linnaeus' system, demonstrating strong scientific thinking and a secure understanding of how living things are grouped.

It has been another productive and enjoyable week, and we are very proud of how positively pupils continue to engage with their learning as the Summer term progresses.





**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**

