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

Autumn Term Newsletter: Week Ending Friday 16th October 2026

Message from the Headteacher

A Wonderful Harvest Celebration!
Firstly, a huge thank you to everyone who so generously donated food for our Harvest Festival this week. Your kindness and generosity were overwhelming, and it was wonderful to see the church filled with donations. All contributions were so gratefully received, and we are incredibly thankful for the support of our school community.
It wasn't just the food that filled the church – it was our families too! We had the biggest turnout for a church service since I have been at St Paul's! It was absolutely lovely to see so many parents, carers and family members joining us to celebrate. In fact, we even had to bring out extra chairs to accommodate our Year 5 and 6 children!
It was a very special occasion and a lovely reminder of the wonderful school family we have here at St Paul's. Thank you for making it such a memorable celebration.
We are now very much looking forward to our Christmas celebrations in church, and planning is already underway!

Reflecting on Harvest
Our Harvest celebrations have continued in school this week through class worship. The children have spent time looking closely at beautiful paintings and listening to orchestral music, taking the opportunity to reflect on the beauty of our world and all that we have to be thankful for.
It has been lovely to give the children time to pause, notice and appreciate the wonderful world around them, thinking about the gifts of nature and the importance of gratitude.

Reception's Library Visit
Next Monday, 19th October, our Reception children will be heading off to the library at 10:00am!
We are really looking forward to this little adventure and the opportunity for the children to enjoy exploring books and developing their love of reading.
In preparation, the children have been busy practising their road safety skills. They have been learning the importance of Stop, Look and Listen and can even remember the actions to help them stay safe when crossing the road. We are looking forward to putting all this learning into practice on Monday!

Half-Term Is Nearly Here!
A reminder that we break up for half-term on Friday 23rd October and school will **reopen** to all children on **Tuesday 3rd November**.
It has been a busy and exciting first half-term, and we hope everyone enjoys a lovely, well-deserved break with family and friends.

Parents' Evenings – 4th and 5th November
Our Parents' Evenings will take place on Wednesday 4th and Thursday 5th November.
All appointments have now been booked, and we will send out reminders when we return after half-term.
We look forward to welcoming you into school and sharing your child's learning, achievements and progress so far this year.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. It has been another lovely week at St Paul's, and our Harvest celebration has certainly been a highlight!

Have a wonderful weekend!
Miss Gaskell and the St Pauls Team

Useful Information

Forest School

After half-term, Reception class and Y3/4 Badgers will be doing Forest School. Please bring waterproofs and wellies – especially as the weather will be set to get a little wetter...and Forest School happens whatever the weather! Please make sure that all clothing is named.

After school clubs

All clubs finish on Thursday 22nd October for half-term. New clubs will be sent out for children to sign up to the first week back after half-term. New clubs will start Monday 9th November. Due to parents evening, there will be no clubs the first week back.





What another busy and exciting week we have had!

In Maths, Reception have started their new unit, *It's Me, 1, 2, 3!*, exploring how to recognise, count and represent numbers to 3, including subitising (recognising quantities without counting). Preschool have also been busy exploring numbers 1, 2 and 3 through practical activities and games.

One of our highlights this week was our journey around the world! We boarded our classroom aeroplane and travelled to France and Kenya, discovering famous landmarks, different languages, foods and animals. The children loved learning about places beyond our own country!

We continued our Harvest celebrations with a visit to church and plenty of enthusiastic singing of *Big Red Combine Harvester*. Our Autumn creativity also continued as the children developed their wreaths using leaf rubbing, printing and their own artistic ideas.

In our outdoor learning, we planted rainbow chard, explored the parts of a plant and discussed how to care for living things. We also continued learning about responsibility by looking after our classroom and resources.

In RE, we explored why Christians believe Jesus is special, focusing on his kindness towards children and the importance of treating everyone with care and respect.

Reception have continued developing their phonics, reading and handwriting skills, while Preschool have been busy practising early sounds and mark-making. Our daily conversations and story sessions have also helped develop speaking, listening and new vocabulary.











We have enjoyed lots of opportunities to get moving, including jungle-themed gymnastics, outdoor PE with Mr Farmer and our Friday Forest School session.

Another fantastic week of learning and exploring! Keep up the brilliant hard work, Preschool and Reception!

Have a lovely weekend!

Mrs Gibson, Miss Tierney and Miss Evie



This week, we began our new book, The Pumpkin Thief, and discovered that we had a mystery of our own to solve when we found a loose one on the school grounds! The children became detectives, investigating and searching for clues within the book to help identify our suspects. They loved putting on their detective hats and using their investigation skills! Year 2 have been learning how to use the subordinating conjunction when to expand their sentences and have also been developing their understanding of command sentences. Year 1 have continued to build their phonics skills, using these to write clear sentences through dictation. We are so proud of their hard work and progress!





In Maths, we have been exploring addition and subtraction. Year 2 have been using their number bonds to 10 and 20 to support their calculations, while Year 1 have continued to use the part-whole model to create number sentences and explore number bonds. The children have shown great determination as they develop their mathematical understanding.



We enjoyed a lovely Harvest Service this week, where our Hedgehogs performed Dingle Dangle Scarecrow brilliantly! We were so proud of their fantastic performance. A huge thank you to everyone who donated and helped us celebrate this special occasion. In RE, we reflected on what we are thankful for and thought about the importance of appreciating the food we grow and eat. The children shared some lovely ideas about gratitude and the things they are thankful for.



We also had a brilliant trip to the History Centre this week, where the children represented St Paul's wonderfully. They were fantastic ambassadors for our school! We took part in an Elves and the Shoemaker workshop, exploring the history of the Lotus shoe factory and role-playing the different jobs involved in shoemaking.

We then explored the William Salt Library, where the children particularly loved dressing up! We completed exciting missions and challenges around the centre, learning more about the history of Stafford along the way. To finish our visit, we explored a collection of puppets and old-fashioned toys, giving us a fascinating glimpse into the past. It was a fantastic day full of curiosity, teamwork and hands-on learning.

Enjoy your last weekend before half-term, Hedgehogs, and have a lovely, restful break. We look forward to hearing all about your adventures when we return! Miss Boulter.





We've had another fantastic week in class, with the children continuing to show enthusiasm, creativity and resilience across all areas of their learning.

In Writing, we have begun planning our own dragon stories inspired by *How to Train Your Dragon*. The children have been collecting exciting ideas, developing characters and settings, and creating story mountains to help structure their narratives. There have been some wonderfully imaginative ideas shared, and we can't wait to see these stories come to life over the coming weeks.



In Maths, Year 3 have been focusing on addition skills, particularly adding numbers that cross into the next ten or hundred. Meanwhile, Year 4 have been working hard on subtraction using the column method with exchanging. The children have shown great determination and are becoming increasingly confident when tackling more challenging calculations.



In Reading, we listened to *The Bare Necessities* and explored the meaning behind the song. We discussed the setting, the themes within the lyrics, and how the song helps us understand the characters and their outlook on life. The children contributed some thoughtful ideas during our class discussions.

In Geography, we have been learning about different settlement types by categorising places across Staffordshire as hamlets, villages, towns or cities. This linked brilliantly with our history learning, where we continued our theme of invasion and settlement by exploring the remains of Skara Brae. The children then became virtual archaeologists and builders, creating their own versions of this famous Neolithic settlement using Minecraft Education.



In Science, we investigated the question: "What happens to a light bulb if I add more cells to a circuit?" The children made predictions, tested their ideas, and observed how changing a circuit can affect the brightness of a bulb. It was fantastic to see so much curiosity and scientific thinking. In Art, we continued developing our skills in line, shape and shading by drawing a range of organic materials. Many of the children's choices reflected the season, resulting in some beautifully harvest-themed artwork showcasing their growing observational drawing skills.



It has been a busy and exciting week of learning in Year 5/6!



On our visit to the Wolseley Centre, the children explored the importance of conservation and learned about the incredible work being done to protect wildlife and habitats across Cannock Chase. They enjoyed investigating the local environment and thinking carefully about how people can help look after natural spaces for future generations.

In Art, the children became installation artists, designing and creating their own miniature rooms. They carefully considered layout, colour, texture and the placement of objects to create unique art installations that expressed their ideas and personalities. It was wonderful to see such creativity and attention to detail on display.

In Computing, we focused on collaboration by working together through Microsoft Teams. The children practised sharing ideas, communicating effectively and completing tasks as a team using digital tools. They quickly discovered that successful online collaboration is harder than it looks, requiring patience, organisation and good teamwork skills!





In Geography, we explored water sustainability and investigated the journey of bottled water around the world. The children were amazed to discover just how much bottled water is imported and the environmental impact this can have. This led to some thoughtful discussions about making sustainable choices and reducing our environmental footprint.

We are incredibly proud of the enthusiasm, curiosity and teamwork the children have shown this week. Have a wonderful weekend!

This week's winners



	Values	Swords of Success
Year 1	Vishakha	Arlan
Year 2	Arthur	Blossom
Year 3	Reuben	Victor
Year 4	Ewan	Mila
Year 5	Annabelle	Harley H
Year 6	Phoebe	Harley C











IMPORTANT



At St Pauls we love sharing the wonderful learning, achievements and special moments that happen in school. Moving forwards, we'll be introducing a slightly different approach to how we capture and share these moments. As part of our ongoing commitment to safeguarding and online safety, we'll be working towards using more photographs that focus on the experience rather than the child's identity.

You'll begin to see this approach reflected across our Facebook page and website. This is something we'll be developing over time, and there will still be occasions where photographs of children are appropriate, and parental/carer permissions are in place. Our aim is simply to be increasingly thoughtful about what we share publicly, while still giving families a lovely window into school life.



IMPORTANT


SEND
Support at St Paul's
Working together so every child can flourish
ST PAUL'S PRIMARY SCHOOL
A safe, happy place to learn and grow
Inclusion
Support
Understanding
Belonging
Brighter Futures
Different needs, brighter together
Information and support for parents and carers
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.
STAFFORDSHIRE CONNECTS
SEND LOCAL OFFER
Click below to visit Staffordshire Connects
https://www.staffordshireconnects.info
This information is always on our school website, but you can click the link above to take you to the home page. From there you will find the Local Offer for parents and carers.
If you have any concerns or questions about children with additional needs, our SENDCo is Miss Gaskell. She can be contacted through the school office email:
StPaulsOffice@stbartsmat.co.uk
Inclusion today ... brighter tomorrows