



SCHOOL NEWS

"Love your neighbour as yourself." - Luke 10:27



As we reach the conclusion of another remarkable academic year at St. Paul's First School, I find myself reflecting on the experiences and achievements that have defined our journey together. On the second page of this week's newsletter are a range of the wonderful things that we have been part of over the year.

On Monday this week, our Year 4 pupils went to church to deliver their Leavers Service. The children demonstrated remarkable poise and emotion as they sang heartfelt songs and shared their most precious memories of their years with us. These moments of reflection provided an opportunity for our pupils to celebrate their growth and acknowledge the foundations they have built during their time at our school.

On Thursday our Year 4 children had the opportunity to celebrate their time here at their Leavers Party. The children enjoyed a disco featuring their chosen favourite songs, engaged in a variety of games including skittles, and enjoyed some delicious party food. The event finished with a visit from the ice cream man and a final song. It might not be as hot as recent weeks but the ice cream was still very welcome for us all. I must extend my sincere gratitude to the Year 4 parents who have provided support in the organising of this event and who thoughtfully transformed our hall into a great party venue. Thank you also for collecting and delivering the skittle alley which had been kindly loaned from the Memorial Hall.

As our Year 4 pupils prepare to embark upon the next stage of their educational journeys, we wish them the very best of luck and look forward with great anticipation to hearing about their continued success in the years ahead. Their achievements at St. Paul's have been great, and I am confident they will carry forward the values and skills they have developed here.

Thursday also witnessed our exciting Inter-house Commando Joe's Day, where every class united with their respective house teams to tackle a series of carefully designed challenges. These activities were specifically chosen to develop essential team-building skills whilst fostering endurance and collaboration amongst our pupils. The day concluded with a celebratory assembly to acknowledge the winners and recognise the outstanding effort demonstrated by all participants.



Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to express my heartfelt appreciation to our entire school community for their support and dedication throughout this academic year. The months have passed remarkably quickly, yet we have collectively achieved so much together. I wish everyone a truly fabulous summer break and look forward to welcoming you all back in September. For those who are moving on to new adventures, I extend my very best wishes for continued success in all your future endeavours.

Mrs Richards

Dear God,

Help us to learn to work together.



May we never be too proud to ask for help, not too hesitant to give it.

Thank you for the ways in which we will help and have helped one another.

Amen

ST PAUL'S VISION AND VALUES

Community Aspire Respect

Endurance

Which part of the vision do you think links to our values?

At St Paul's, *our welcoming Christian community*, accepts and enables all to flourish to *achieve their God-given potential*. We develop *independent and resilient learners*, who lovingly *respect each other with care and kindness*. All are invited to make a difference in the world in which they live following in the footsteps and teachings of Jesus Christ.

PUPIL AWARDS

STAR OF THE WEEK

Nursery— Millie for being a joy to teach during her time at St Paul's.

Reception - George for a great performance in our show.

Year 1 - Archie for always offering a helping hand to others.

Year 2— All of Year 2 for an amazing year filled with laughter and learning.

Year 3 - All of Year 3 for being the best class ever!

Year 4 - Nathaniel for demonstrating resilience and our school values in action.

ART AND DESIGN AWARD

Nursery— Jace for his lovely crafts this year.

Reception - Oliver for his fabulous full length painting of a penguin.

Year 1 - Isla for her clay duck.

Year 2 - Ethan for his Caterpillar.

Year 3 - Flori for her Mini greenhouse.

Year 4 - Jonah for his landscape painting.

Interhouse Commando Joe's Competition

On Thursday 17th July children across school all took part in a Commando Joe's Interhouse Competition organised by Mrs Walsh. The winning house was Hazel with a score of 23 points. Well done to all of the children who worked hard on a range of skills to help their teams and congratulations to all of the members of Hazel for scoring the most point over the day. Hazel's house Captains, Amber and Billy accepted the shield on behalf of their house.



THIS YEAR'S ATTENDANCE

Nursery—89% Reception — 92% Year 1 - 92% Year 2 - 94% Year 3 - 93% Year 4—96%



A Year At St. Paul's



What a year it has been here at St. Paul's! Here are some of the wonderful enrichment opportunities that our children and staff have enjoyed this year. Please head over to our website to see photos of these events: [School Trips and Events in School - St Pauls Coven](#)

EYFS visit to Amerton Farm

Year 1 visit to Selly Manor

Year 2 visit to Stafford Castle

Year 3 visit to Potteries Museum

Year 4 visit to Wolsley Centre

Year 3 and Year 4 theatre trip to Birmingham to see Horrible Histories Awful Egyptians

Young Voices

Stafford Grammar School Choral Day

Bikeability

Holi Day Celebration and Bollywood dancing

African Dance and Drumming workshops

EYFS Diddi Dance

Year 4 Viking Day

Year 1 Victorian Day

Year 1 Fire Fighter visit

Nursery Fire Fighter and Polic visit

Cross Country Event

Aldersley Inter Sports Competition

Christmas Fair

Summer Fair

Six school discos

Mother's Day sale

Mother's Day lunch

Y4 parent lunch

Christmas Jumper Day

Three Wellbeing days

Children in Need

Comic Relief

MacMillan Coffee Morning

Reading Cafes

World Book Day

TTRockstars Day

Looking after chicks

Interhouse Commando Joe's Day

Book Fair

Easter, Christmas and class trips to St. Paul's Church

Year 3 Local Nature Walk

Year 4 Leavers Play and service

Year 4 Leavers Party

EYFS Stay and Play

WOW Days

Singing at Coven Court

VE Day celebration

Thank you to the staff, School Association and parents for helping us provide these opportunities and ensuring their success and impact. Here's to even more next year!



EVENTS AND NOTICES

Goodbye and Good Luck

Today we have also said goodbye and good luck to Mrs Holloway who has decided to retire from her role as teaching assistant. We are delighted that we will still see her often though as she will remain as one of our governors and volunteers working with the children in the Spirituality Garden as well as in classes around school. We would like to offer our thanks for all of her support and hard work and wish her well for her retirement.

Summer Fair News

Thank you once again to everyone who came to the Summer Fair and for all of the generous donations that we had brought into school leading up to the day. The total raised was: £1220.94

The School Association worked tirelessly to organise this event so a very special thanks goes to them and to the staff who also supported.

School Association News

On Friday 10th October we will be having our first Reading Café of the year. This event is supported by the School Association who will be providing refreshments and information about joining. As ever, we are always ready to welcome new members.

The AGM for the School Association will be on Thursday 16th October 2025 at 4:30pm via TEAMS.

Scarecrow Festival

Coven Mothers Union are once again organising a Scarecrow Festival which we are delighted to also be taking part in. Our School Association will also be selling refreshments over the course of the weekend too.



What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

APPLE IPADS

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Tablets remain a staple of children's digital lives – and Apple's iPad is by far the most popular model. According to Ofcom, over half of younger children regularly use a tablet to play games, watch online content or access apps. With their broad functionality, iPads can be helpful tools, but without supervision, they may expose children to risks ranging from inappropriate content to screen overuse.

COSTLY TO REPAIR

Unlike some child-friendly tablets, the iPad is not built for rough handling. Its slim design and high cost mean that a drop or spill can result in a costly repair. If a child is using the device regularly, a sturdy case and screen protector are strongly recommended to help prevent accidental damage.

DATA PRIVACY

While Apple is known for strong privacy protections, a recent study found that many iOS apps aimed at children still share personal data. Over 40% of the tested apps sent at least one piece of user information to third parties, raising concerns about advertising and analytics being targeted at underage users.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

The App Store and Safari browser provide almost unrestricted access to online material. Children may stumble upon age-inappropriate content, whether through apps, advertisements or online searches. Even recommended content algorithms can surface unsuitable material.

BYPASSING RESTRICTIONS

Siri – Apple's voice assistant – can potentially override restrictions, especially with the newer text-based commands introduced through Apple Intelligence. Without safeguards in place, children may inadvertently access inappropriate topics simply by asking a question, bypassing certain filters previously set by adults.

SCREEN ADDICTION

iPads can be highly immersive, and excessive screen time may affect a child's emotional and behavioural development. Signs of overuse might include mood swings, irritability, and difficulty focusing on non-digital activities.

REDUCED ATTENTION & COGNITIVE IMPACT

Prolonged use of tablets has been linked with reduced memory, slower processing speeds and difficulties in concentrating. Research shows that children who spend excessive time gaming or consuming media on tablets may struggle with language development and executive functioning over time.

Advice for Parents & Educators

ENABLE FAMILY SHARING

Family Sharing allows you to create a dedicated Apple ID for your child and manage their activity. You can approve purchases, control what content they can access, and set time limits – all done remotely from your own device. It's a simple but powerful way to maintain oversight.

FILTER APPS, WEBSITES & IN-APP PURCHASES

Parental controls in iOS let you block explicit content in Safari, restrict app downloads, and manage in-app purchase permissions. You can also filter websites automatically to prevent access to adult material and disable the installation of certain app types completely.

USE SCREEN TIME FEATURES EFFECTIVELY

Tools like Downtime and App Limits can reduce device overuse. Downtime allows you to block access during key times – such as before bed or during homework – while App Limits sets daily time caps on specific games or apps. Alerts help children anticipate when their time is almost up.

PREVENT UNAPPROVED SPENDING

Children can accidentally (or intentionally) make purchases within apps. Activating Ask to Buy under Family Sharing ensures you receive a notification to approve any app or in-app purchase. This stops surprise charges and allows you to discuss purchases together before they're made.

DIARY DATES

SEPTEMBER 2025	
Monday 1 st September	INSET Day – School closed to pupils
Tuesday 2 nd September	INSET Day – School closed to pupils
Wednesday 3 rd September	School reopens for pupils in Years 1-4
Wed 3 rd to Fri 5 th September	Staggered starts for pupils in Nursery and Reception
Monday 8 th September	Autumn Topic <u>WOW day</u> for EYFS (Non-uniform – wearing blue and green)
Monday 8 th September	History Topic <u>WOW day</u> for Year 1 (Children dress as their grandparent from when they were younger. Bring in old toy)
Friday 12 th September	School Photos, individual and sibling photos
Tuesday 23 rd and Wednesday 24 th September	<u>Bikeability</u>
Thursday 25 th September	MacMillan Coffee morning – timings to follow
Friday 26 th September	European Day of Languages – non-uniform in country's flag colours Nur/Rec – Spain Y1/Y2 – France Y3/4 – Germany
OCTOBER 2025	
Friday 3 rd October	School Harvest – donations of non-perishable food items for the food bank Parents are invited into school at the following times: 9:15 am in school for Reception and Year 1 11:00 am in school – Nursery activities in the classroom 2:30 pm at Church for Years 2, 3 and 4
Friday 10 th October	World Mental Health – Children to come to school in sports clothes for a well-being off timetable day
Friday 10 th October	School Association Reading Café 9:15 – 9:45 – N/R, 9:45 – 10:15 – Y1/Y2, 10:15 – 10:45 – Y3/Y4
Saturday 11 th October	10:00 am to 12:00 pm Open Morning for new Nursery and Reception parents for September 2025 intake
Thursday 16 th October	School Discos - £5 for ticket, snap bands and refreshments 3:30 – 4:30pm for Nursery, Reception and Y1
Friday 17 th October	School Discos - £5 for ticket, glow sticks and refreshments 3:30 – 4:30pm for Years 2, 3 and 4
Thursday 23 rd October	Y3 School trip
Thursday 23 rd October	Last day of term
Friday 24 th October	INSET – School closed to pupils
Monday 27 th to Friday 31 st October	Half Term Holiday