



SCHOOL NEWS



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

This week started with the Bikeability programme for our Year 3 and Year 4 pupils. This valuable initiative provided an opportunity for pupils to develop their cycling skills and confidence. The professional trainers were really impressed with those children who took part and today I have been able to present them with their well-deserved certificates as part of our Celebrate and Praise assembly.

On Thursday, we hosted our annual MacMillan Coffee Morning, an event promoted and organised by Mrs Pope. The response within our school community was amazing with lots of people joining us and making generous contributions by sending in cakes and making donations. I am thrilled to announce that we collectively raised an impressive £558.98 in cash! Special thanks are also extended to our School Association, who provided refreshments and supported the event's smooth running by helping with setup and cleaning. The kindness and generosity of our school community in raising money for this very worthwhile cause is very much a demonstration of our school vision of 'loving your neighbour as yourself.'.

Today has marked European Languages Day so staff have organised an exciting off-timetable day where each key stage explored a different European country. It was lovely to see the children wearing such an array of flag colours so thank you to all of our families for supporting with this. The day culminated in a whole-school assembly where each class shared their what they had been doing. It was great to find out how each class had approached learning about their chosen country and to see and hear about the wide range of learning experiences that had taken place. The staff have been capturing the day's memorable moments, so I encourage you to look out for photographs on Seesaw and our school website in the coming days once we have received all photo consents.

Finally, following feedback, we have decided to move our planned SA Reading Café which was due to take place on 10th October. We recognise that, along with this week's events and Harvest Festival next week, it was another event that parents may have to request time off for. We have therefore moved the reading café to Friday 14th November for Years 1, 2, 3 and 4 and added it in as part of the phonic workshop with parents for Reception on Wednesday 12th November. Please see the diary dates further down in the newsletter for timings. We will schedule another one in for our Nursery children later in the academic year.

Have a lovely weekend!

Mrs Richards

Dear God,
Thank you for all the blessings you have given us. Help us to remember that it is important to respect and care for one another, just as you have taught us. May we learn to share what we have and to love our neighbours as ourselves. Guide us to be kind and generous, following in the footsteps of Jesus, so we can make a difference in the world around us. 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— Ted for a lovely drawing of his family.

Reception - Seren for always listening carefully and trying hard.

Year 1 - Oscar for always trying his hardest and showing a positive attitude towards learning.

Year 2— Isla for being a kind and considerate friend to others at all times.

Year 3 - Oliver for fantastic role playing of emotions in PSHE.

Year 4 - Nancy for being kind and helpful to all children during playtimes.

WRITER OF THE WEEK

Reception—Freddie for lovely letter and number writing.

Year 1 - Bella for writing excellent sentences with a range of nouns and verbs.

Year 2 - Lottie for using the conjunction because in a range of lovely sentences.

Year 3 - Penelope for excellent work on effective adjectives.

Year 4 - Poppy for amazing noun phrases.

MATHEMATICIAN OF THE WEEK

Reception— Parker for great counting work with the Numberblocks.

Year 1 - George for confidently counting back from 10.

Year 2 - Archie for working exceptionally hard in lessons this week.

Year 3 - Noah for excellent work on problem solving with place value.

Year 4 - Jess for great rounding of 10, 100 and 1000.

WEEKLY ATTENDANCE

Nursery—94% Reception — 95% Year 1 - 99% Year 2 - 92% Year 3 - 96% Year 4—92%

EVENTS AND NOTICES

Open Morning

We will be holding our annual Open Morning on Saturday 11th October from 10:00am to 12:00pm. This is aimed at prospective parents who are interested in securing a place at St. Paul's for either Nursery or Reception.



St Paul's First School Open Morning

Saturday 11th October 2025
10:00am - 12:00pm

For parents who are interested in applying for Nursery or Reception places for September 2026

Before and after-school club information and application packs for Nursery/Reception will also be available to collect on the day

Please come along to find out what our lovely school has to offer

Contact us on 01902 291124
or office@st-pauls-coven.staffs.sch.uk for more information

Reception Early Writing Workshop

Parents and carers of children in Reception are invited into school on Wednesday 22nd October to learn about how they can support their child's fine motor and early writing development. This will be an interactive session with Mrs Walsh and Mrs Clemson leading a lesson with the children and their parents/carers.

Please do come along to find out how your child learns and how you can support at home too.



Harvest & PE

There will be no PE on Friday 3rd October due to the Harvest events. Please come to school in uniform

Year 4 Parents Meeting—Laches Wood 2026

We are excited to announce that St. Paul's will be returning to Laches Wood in March 2026. All of Year 4 have the opportunity to attend this residential experience and in order to provide parents with as much information as possible about the visit, a member of Laches Wood will be visiting on Monday 13th October for a parent information session held at 2:50pm. A letter with further details has been emailed out to all Year 4 parents alongside

Polar Express Day

On Tuesday 16th December we will be having a Polar Express Day which will be an off timetable day with a wide range of activities all linked around the theme of the Polar Express. We would like to invite children to come to school on this day in their pyjamas. Further information about this will be shared nearer the date but we wanted to ensure that parents had notice well in advance of the date.

Cross Country Event

Miss Evans is taking a group of Year 3 and 4 pupils to a Cross country event at Marshbrook First School on Monday 20th October. A letter about this will be sent home on Monday 22nd September. If your child would like to take part in this then please return the consent as soon as possible.

For those children who do wish to attend, there will be two training sessions after school on:

Tuesday 7th October 3:25pm—4pm

Tuesday 14th October 3:25pm—4pm



**Sessions for
children of
all abilities!**

BEE ACTIVE

**Improve your skills
with our expert
sports coaching!**

Sessions will give your child the opportunity to develop their agility, balance, confidence and social skills through an introduction to sport.

Open to all children from Years 2, 3 & 4



Meet your coach
jamie

**ONLY
£5
PER SESSION**

Multi Skills - Tuesdays

3:25-4:25pm

Book now at beeactive.co.uk

Places are limited and will be secured on a first come, first service basis

f X @ d Search: 'Bee Active'

Read our reviews ★★★★★
See what others say about Bee Active.

Mothers' UNION
Christian care for families
Charity Number: 249942

In support of The GEM Centre and other Mothers Union charities

SOS Charity FASHION SHOW

**Favourite
brands
at up to
75% off**

**6:30pm
doors open
7pm start**

M&S, White
Stuff, Wallis,
Evans, Next, Top
Shop, Monsoon,
Hobbs,
Warehouse &
many more

Friday 3rd October 2025
Coven Memorial Hall

£6 entry. Ticket includes free glass of prosecco
Tickets can be obtained through Mothers'
Union members or Jo Knight, 07564013668



STAFFORD
GRAMMAR SCHOOL

01785 249752



admissions@staffordgrammar.co.uk



SCHOOL OPEN MORNING 2025



BOOK YOUR VISIT TODAY:
Saturday 11th October
9:30am-12:30pm

To secure your place, please register on our website:
www.staffordgrammar.co.uk/school-events.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

SNAPCHAT

With over 500 million active monthly users and billions of 'Snaps' sent each month, Snapchat is a popular messaging app among children and young people. It allows users to share fun, spontaneous pictures and videos with friends and family while using playful filters. One of Snapchat's unique features is that pictures, videos and messages are only viewable for a short period of time.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Snapchat's use of artificial intelligence (AI) includes features like the 'My AI' chatbot and AI-powered filters, offering interactive experiences that can be fun but also pose risks. These tools may share unfiltered or inaccurate responses, promote unrealistic beauty standards, and collect personal data. Advanced filters and deepfake-style lenses can distort reality, potentially leading to manipulation, impersonation, or inappropriate content.

SCREEN ADDICTION

Snapchat boosts user engagement and daily use with features like streaks (daily Snapchat exchanges between you and a friend). When a streak is seen going for a few days, users will see a 🔥 emoji. The number alongside it shows the number of days, but if users miss a day and break the streak, the only way to restore it is to pay. This encourages daily use habits, and frequent notifications can keep users returning to the app even more often.

SEXUATION

Because Snapchat's disappearing messages feature may foster a sense of safety, users may become targets of sextortion. For example, a predator may pressure someone into sending nude images, then somehow capture those images to threaten and intimidate the victim. This might involve claiming they will share the images with friends or family unless money is paid.

SNAPCHAT+

Snapchat+ is the platform's premium subscription service, offering early access to new and exclusive features. In June 2023, Snapchat introduced a new tier called **lenses**, giving subscribers access to hundreds of lenses and AR experiences for playing, creating, and sharing Snaps. These paid features may encourage young users to spend money to access exclusive content, increasing the risk of overspending or feeling pressured to make in-app purchases.

ACCESSIBILITY

Snapchat is now accessible from a web browser, meaning children can use it on a laptop or tablet without downloading the app. This can make activity harder to monitor, reduce the effectiveness of parental controls, and increase the risk of unsupervised communication or exposure to inappropriate content.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Some content on Snapchat isn't suitable for children. The hashtags used to group content are determined by the poster, so even an innocent search term could still yield age-inappropriate results. The app's disappearing messages feature also makes it easy for young people to share explicit images on impulse – so sexting continues to be a risk associated with Snapchat.

Advice for Parents & Educators

ACCESS THE SNAPCHAT FAMILY SAFETY HUB

Created with guidance from Common Sense Media, Snapchat has developed a Family Safety Hub that explains how the app works and how to use its in-app protections for teens. It's recommended that you review this guidance before allowing a child to download Snapchat. Remember, the app is only intended for children aged 13 and over.

ENCOURAGE OPEN DISCUSSIONS

Snapchat's risks can be easier to handle if you nurture an open dialogue. Talk about scams and blackmail before letting children sign up. If they're lured into a scam, encourage them to tell you immediately. Talk openly and non-judgementally about sexting, emphasising its inherent risks. Furthermore, explain how popular 'challenges' on the platform can have harmful consequences.

BLOCK AND REPORT

If a stranger connects with a child on Snapchat and makes them feel uncomfortable by pressuring them to send or receive unwanted or inappropriate images, the child can tap the three dots on that person's profile to report or block them. There are options to state why they're reporting that user, with a tailored reporting section under the 'Nudity and Sexual Content' category. In this category, there's the option to report somebody for threatening to leak sexually explicit images, or 'nudes'.

USE PRIVACY SETTINGS TOGETHER

Sit down with the children in your care and explore Snapchat's privacy settings on a shared activity. You can help them adjust who can contact them, view their stories, or see their location on Snap Map. It's a good opportunity to explain why some settings are safer than others, reinforcing their understanding of online boundaries. Encourage them to regularly review these settings, especially after app updates or changes in their friendship groups.

Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.

#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/snapchat>

DIARY DATES

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 time-table day
Saturday 11 th October	10:00 am to 12:00 pm Open Morning for new Nursery and Reception parents for September 2026 intake
Monday 13 th October	2:50pm—Year 4 Laches Wood Residential parent information meeting—all Year 4 parents are invited to attend
Thursday 16 th October	School Discos - £5 for ticket, snap bands and refreshments 3:25 – 4:30pm for Nursery, Reception and Y1
Thursday 16 th October	School Association AGM 4:30pm to 5:30pm
Friday 17 th October	School Discos - £5 for ticket, glow sticks and refreshments 3:25 – 4:30pm for Years 2, 3 and 4
Monday 20 th October	Y1 Toy Workshop
Monday 20 th October	Y3/4 Cross Country Event
Wednesday 22 nd October	Reception Early Writing Workshop—parents and carers are invited into school at 9:00 to join their child as they learn about how to develop early writing skills.
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

NOVEMBER 2025	
Monday 3 rd November	School reopens for pupils
Tuesday 4 th November	Parents' Evening – 3:30 pm to 6:00 pm (Reception/Year 1, 2, 3 and 4)
Wednesday 5 th November	Parents' Evening – 3:30 pm to 6:00 pm (All year groups)
Sunday 9 th November	Remembrance Sunday – church service at 9:30 am / Memorial Hall at 11:00 am
Wednesday 12 th November	Stay and Play EYFS (N - 10:30 to 11:30, R – 2:00 to 3:00) Phonics Workshop for Reception parents 3:00pm to 3:25pm Refreshments from the SA
Tuesday 18 th November	Flu Vaccine
Friday 14 th November	Children in Need – £1 donation for charity Children invited to wear something spotty
Friday 14 th November	School Association Reading Café 2:00—2:30 – Y1/Y2 2:45—3:15 – Y3/Y4 Parents and carers are invited into school to read with their children and meet members of our School Association * NB Change of date and time
Friday 21st November	Year 2 trip
Friday 28 th November	Non-uniform day – donations of bottles or chocolate or sweets for the Christmas Fair
DECEMBER 2025	
Tuesday 2 nd December	Maths Parent Workshop 9:00am and repeated at 2:45pm This session is designed to give parents and carers an insight into how we teach maths at St. Paul's First School.
Thursday 4th December	EYFS Nativity Farm on Wheels visit to school
Friday 5 th December	Non-uniform day – donations of cakes for the Christmas Fair
Friday 5 th December	All children to visit church to decorate the tree – parent helpers needed to walk to church 9:15am for Nur/Y4, 10:15 for Rec/Y2 and 11:15 for Y1/3
Tuesday 9th December	9:00am Irocks concert—parents and carers of children who take part in Irocks are invited into school for their termly concert.
Tuesday 9 th December	3:25 – 4:25pm: Christmas Craft Club for Year 2, Year 3 and Year 4 £5 per child
Wednesday 10 th December	Christmas Lunch in school Wear your Christmas Jumper
Wednesday 10 th December	Kids club Christmas Party 3:30pm to 4:30pm
Thursday 11 th December	3:25 – 4:25pm: Christmas Craft Club for Nursery, Reception and Year 1 £5 per child. Morning Nursery children are welcome to come back at 3:25 pm to join us.
Thursday 11 th December	9:30 am – Y1/2 Christmas Play 2:00 pm – Y3/4 Christmas Carol Concert
Friday 12 th December	9:30 am – Y3/4 Christmas Carol Concert 2:00 pm – Y1/2 Christmas Play
Monday 15 th December	Nursery and Reception Christmas Singing and Activities in the hall at 9:15 am
Monday 15 th December	Homework passports to be brought into school for showcasing
Tuesday 16th December	Polar Express Day
Wednesday 17 th December	Y2/3/4 Party Day – children in Y2/3/4 to wear party clothes to school
Thursday 18 th December	Nur/Rec/Y1 Party Day – children in Nur/Rec/Y1 to wear party clothes to school
Sunday 14 th December	Nine Lessons Carol Service at Church 6pm Year 3 and Year 4 to sing
Friday 19 th December	Last Day – Non-uniform - £1 donation for school fund School closes for Christmas