



SCHOOL NEWS



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

It has been an absolute pleasure to welcome all of our pupils back to St. Paul's First School this week, and I am delighted to report that everyone has made a super start to the new academic year. We have had the pleasure of welcoming numerous new pupils across the school, not only in our Reception and Nursery classes but also in other year groups, where children have joined us to continue their educational journey. The enthusiasm and positive attitudes demonstrated by all pupils, both returning and new, have been truly commendable and set an encouraging tone for the term ahead.

As is customary at St. Paul's, we have an exceptionally busy and engaging first term planned, with a wide range of activities and events designed to enrich our pupils' learning experiences. Full details of these forthcoming events can be found in the diary dates section later in this newsletter.

We endeavour to provide parents and carers with substantial advance notice regarding all school events and activities, recognising the importance of enabling families to plan accordingly. However, it is inevitable that circumstances occasionally necessitate changes and amendments therefore, I strongly encourage all parents and carers to check the diary dates regularly, both within our newsletter and via the school website, to ensure they remain fully informed of any updates or modifications.

This academic year, we are aiming to reduce the volume of text messages and emails distributed to families. Consequently, we will be concentrating our efforts on ensuring that all significant information is shared through our newsletter and school website. This means that while we will not be sending reminder texts, we will continue our established practice of sending an email containing a direct link to the newsletter, which will always be readily accessible on our website.

By the end of next week, all classes will also have access to Seesaw, our digital platform where teaching staff will share regular updates about pupils' activities and provide important class-specific information. This will serve as an additional valuable communication tool for keeping parents informed about their children's daily experiences and learning. Photographs are shared via this platform so please do respond to the link sent out by the school office to let us know whether or not you give consent to this.

Alongside this newsletter, you will have also received both a class newsletter and timetable, which together provide parents with an overview of the learning and activities planned for this term. We are all very much looking forward both to this new term and the academic year ahead.

Have a lovely weekend!

Mrs Richards

Dear God,

Thank you for teaching us the importance of respect and kindness through the story of the Lost Sheep. Help us to open our hearts and see those in need around us. May we always remember to love our neighbours as ourselves, just as You love us. Guide us to be independent and resilient learners who care for 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.*

EVENTS AND NOTICES

Multi-skills After School Club

This year we are welcoming a new sports coach to St. Paul's from Bee Active. Mr Chetwood will be working with the children from Reception through to Year 4 every Tuesday. He will also be running a multi-skills after school club this half term for children in Years 2—4. Further information about this will be shared shortly.

Roald Dahl Reading Challenge

This year's whole school Reading Challenge is based around books by Roald Dahl and we are really looking forward to sharing many of his texts throughout the year. We would therefore welcome any donations of any Roald Dahl books to support with this.

Children in Reception up to Year 4 will be bring home their reading diaries and their new school reading books from next Monday. Alongside today's newsletter, you will also have received a letter from Miss Woodgate about reading at home and the changing of home readers.

Healthy Eating

At St. Paul's we follow government guidance to ensure that we are a 'healthy school'. This is shared with our families during induction and the policy which further details this can be found on our website. In addition to this, the DFE have recently provided schools and nurseries with updated guidance on nutrition and below are five 'key takeaways':

- make sure children eat a balanced diet covering the 4 main food groups
- avoid foods and drinks high in salt, sugar and saturated fat
- milk and water are the only drinks you should offer
- children should eat a variety of fruit and vegetables to access different vitamins and nutrients.

We would therefore kindly like to remind all of our families that drinks bottles should only contain water. If your child is **unable** to drink water then we ask that a letter from the doctor is provided and a care plan completed. These can be obtained from the school office. School has water available for top ups throughout the day and fresh milk is provided in EYFS.

We would also like to remind families that lunchboxes should contain only **one** treat item which can either be a biscuit/cake **or** crisps.

Thank you in advance of your support.

Birthday Books

We recognise that some children like to bring in sweets or cakes to share with their friends when it is their birthday, however, we are unable to give these out due to our commitment to promoting healthy school status. We would like to invite those families whose child wishes to share something with their peers, to donate a book which will be shared in the class and added to our reading for pleasure resources.

Thank you in advance of your support.

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



As usual we will be celebrating European Languages Day again this year on Friday 26th September. This will be an off timetable day spent learning about a chosen country. This year the countries are as follows:

Nur/Rec - Spain (red and yellow)

Y1/Y2 - France (red, white and blue)

Y3/4 - Germany (red, yellow and black)

It will be a non-uniform day so please send your child to school in the colours of the country listed above. If your child has PE on that day then please ensure that the clothes that they wear are also suitable for taking part in PE based activities.

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

Scarecrow Festival

Coven Mothers Union are once again organising a Scarecrow Festival which we are delighted to also be taking part in. Mrs Hodgkins has been busy working with some of the Year 4 children to create our entries which are positioned outside the main entrance. They look great! Our School Association will also be selling refreshments over the course of the weekend too.

Coven Mothers Union
Registered Charity Number: 249942

Coven Scarecrow Festival Competition Weekend

Prizes:
1st Place: £50
2nd Place: £25
3rd Place: £10

Coven Community to vote for their winner
Friday 5th September 2025 - Sunday 7th September 2025

Open to all residents. Entry £5. All proceeds split between Coven Mothers Union Charities

Please contact Jo Knight on 07564 013668 or Jan Carr on 01902 791443 for an entry form.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about NINTENDO SWITCH 2

Nintendo launched its Switch 2 games console in early June 2025 – its first new console in eight years. While it builds on the original's success by remaining compatible with certain existing games, it also adds powerful hardware and new features like GameChat and a USB-C camera. As more children look to upgrade, it's important to understand how this new console might affect their play and safety.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

EASIER TO ACCESS MATURE CONTENT

18
CENSORED

Despite Nintendo's reputation for family-friendly titles, mature games like *Cyberpunk 2077* and *Hitman* have been released onto the platform. With the Switch 2's improved performance, developers will be able to port even more mature-rated games. These may appeal to children due to their popularity, but they contain content that is highly unsuitable for young audiences.

IN-APP & GAME STORE PURCHASES

The Nintendo eShop enables purchases with just a few taps. If payment details are saved and PIN protection is disabled, children may unknowingly make costly purchases – including game add-ons, cosmetic items or entire new releases – without parental approval.

UNRESTRICTED ONLINE PLAY IN SOME GAMES

While GameChat is one feature, Switch 2 also connects to the broader Nintendo Switch Online service. Many free-to-play titles like *Fortnite* or *Splatoon 3* allow voice or text chat with strangers unless chat settings are adjusted, meaning children could encounter inappropriate language or unwanted contact.

GAMECHAT & REAL-TIME VOICE COMMUNICATION

GameChat enables live chatting with up to 12 people, even across different games, with optional video and screen-sharing. Though children under 16 are restricted to chatting only with approved friends, the sheer interactivity could raise privacy concerns or create pressure to remain online longer.

CAMERA COMPATIBILITY & PRIVACY CONCERNS

The optional USB-C camera supports video calling and facial overlays in games; however, this also raises the risk of cyberbullying or the unwanted sharing of personal images. The camera can be disabled, removed or covered, and parental controls are essential to manage how and when it is used.

POWERFUL PULL OF FAMILIAR CHARACTERS

Nintendo's mascot, Mario – along with Pikachu, Donkey Kong and others – remains hugely appealing to younger audiences, especially after the success of the recent film, *The Super Mario Bros. Movie* (2023). These beloved icons are central to Nintendo's branding and often feature in merchandising, adverts and in-game promotions, creating strong emotional attachments in children and a sense of urgency to keep up with their peers.

Advice for Parents & Educators

CHECK RATINGS & USE PARENTAL CONTROLS

Every Switch and Switch 2 game comes with a PEGI age rating. Before buying one, ensure the content matches your child's age. Use the Nintendo Parental Controls app to monitor gameplay, set screen-time limits and manage friend requests.

REMOVE OR RESTRICT PAYMENT METHODS

Avoid accidental spending by unlinking credit cards from the device. Instead, consider adding funds via prepaid eShop cards or requiring a PIN for purchases. Some banking apps can also be set to approve transactions manually.

REVIEW FRIEND LISTS AND CHAT PERMISSIONS

Child profiles are restricted to chatting with approved friends only, but it's good practice to regularly check their friend list and communication settings. Use the Parental Controls app to switch off voice or video chat if necessary.

ENCOURAGE OPEN CONVERSATIONS

Teach children how to block, report and capture any behaviour or content that makes them uncomfortable. The console's built-in tools allow them to create screenshots and video clips, which can aid in reporting any issues. Keeping an open dialogue helps children feel supported and safe.

Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is the Games Editor of Daily Star and has been working in the gaming and tech industry for five years. A regular visitor to the App Store to try out new tools, he's also a parent and understands the importance of online safety. He's also a tech and fitness writer and has been published on sites including ION, TechRadar, and plenty more.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

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 WOW day for EYFS (Non-uniform – wearing blue and green)
Monday 8 th September	History Topic WOW day for Year 1 (Children dress as their grandparent from when they were
Friday 12 th September	School Photos, individual and sibling photos Please note: All children should be in school uniform and not PE kits on this day.
Tuesday 23 rd and Wednes-	Bikeability
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
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-
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 Parents and carers are invited into school to read with their children and meet members of our School Association
Saturday 11 th October	10:00 am to 12:00 pm
Thursday 16 th October	School Discos - £5 for ticket, snap bands and refreshments
Friday 17 th October	School Discos - £5 for ticket, glow sticks and refreshments
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	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
Tuesday 18 th November	Flu Vaccine
Friday 14 th November	Children in Need – £1 donation for charity Children invited to wear something spotty
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.
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 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
TBC	EYFS trip
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
Mon 22 nd Dec to Friday 2 nd Jan	School closed – Christmas Holidays
Monday 24 th December	Crib Service at Church – everyone welcome – 5:00 pm - Families welcome to attend
JANUARY 2026	
Monday 5 th January	INSET Day = school closed to pupils