



SCHOOL NEWS



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

This week has been RE Week across school and has been an enriching experience with the teachers planning a wide range of learning opportunities based around the key questions ranging from the Creation Story to the concept of the Trinity. The children have demonstrated great engagement throughout, immersing themselves fully in their learning and producing some super work that reflects their depth of understanding.

On Monday, we held a parent and pupil information session regarding next year's residential trip to Laches Wood for our Year 4 pupils. The session was designed to provide insights into the exciting activities offered as part of the trip and we sincerely hope that every Year 4 pupil will participate in this super educational experience. We look forward to sharing more updates nearer to the time.

Our first school discos of the academic year were held this week, and were once again very well supported so thank you to our families. The children thoroughly enjoyed dancing to their chosen songs and socialising with their peers. Thank you to the staff who ensured the safe and successful running of these events, and to the School Association for providing the refreshments, snap bands and glow sticks for us.

Although next week will be shorter, with Friday 24th October designated as an INSET day, it is still a busy one with four key events. The week commences with Year 1's Toy and Games workshop, which directly supports their learning in history and the week will end with Year 3's school trip which will also enrich their current learning in history. In between these two events, Miss Evans has organised for some of our Year 3 and 4 children to take part in a cross country competition alongside other local schools and Mrs Walsh will be hosting a session on early writing with both parents and pupils to explore writing development strategies on Wednesday. We look forward to finding out all about these special events next week and hope that many of our parents will be able to join us in school on Wednesday for the writing session which will provide an excellent opportunity for parents to understand their child's writing journey and learn how to provide supportive guidance at home too.

Have a lovely weekend!

Mrs Richards

Dear God,

Help us to treat everyone with kindness and respect each day.

Teach us to listen when others speak, to care when someone needs help, and to celebrate our differences with open hearts.

Remind us that every person is special and deserves to be treated fairly. May our words be gentle, our actions thoughtful, and our hearts filled with understanding.



Guide us to make our school a place of peace, friendship, and respect for all.

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— Hattie for a super understanding and detailed retelling of the story 'Adam and Eve'.

Reception - Covie for super Fred Talk and oral blending.

Year 1 - Lilah for recognising different ways Christians love God.

Year 2— Chester for lovely contribution in class discussions during RE week.

Year 3 - Daisy for fantastic ideas and contributions to RE Week.

Year 4 - Flori for excellent focus at all times and being a good role-model to other children on her table.

WRITER OF THE WEEK

Reception— Daisy for trying hard with her letter writing in phonics.

Year 1 - George for trying really hard with your writing in Phonics.

Year 2 - Alice for writing a thoughtful and concise list of rules about protecting God's World.

Year 3 - Roman for excellent explanations of the Holy Trinity.

Year 4 - Olivia for a humorous and well-written newspaper report.

MATHEMATICIAN OF THE WEEK

Reception— Guinevere for great work finding 1 more and 1 less.

Year 1 - Tommy for recognising what comes next on the numberline.

Year 2 - Teddy for brilliant recognition of tens and ones as well as multiples of 10.

Year 3 - Lydia for persevering with subtraction.

Year 4 - John-James for continued focus and perseverance in checking work using the inverse.

WEEKLY ATTENDANCE

Nursery—97% Reception — 97% Year 1 - 94% Year 2 - 96% Year 3 - 99% Year 4—93%

School Association News

On Thursday 16th October, we held our Annual General Meeting to elect a new Chair, Vice Chair and Treasurer as well as to discuss all of the future events that are planned for this academic year. It was also a time for us to assess the fundraising from last year and to look at how this money was spent over the course of the year and how remaining monies will be spent this year. The minutes from this meeting and a breakdown report of spending will shortly be added to our website for parents and carers to see.

One of the main discussion points was the upcoming Christmas Fair which will be taking place on Friday 5th December in school. Once again, we have lots planned to make this a great way to kick off the festive season including one very special visitor who this year is also bringing along his reindeer! Mrs Holloway, one of our governors and volunteers, has kindly arranged for this to happen so we are all very excited to welcome them. Please do look out for further information about this in the coming weeks.



EVENTS AND NOTICES

Thank You!

You brew the difference!



Thank you for bringing people together to your Coffee Morning, being part of something meaningful and fundraising a fantastic

£ 573.98



Registered with
FUNDRAISING
REGULATOR

Macmillan Cancer Support, registered charity in England and Wales (04507), Scotland (SC03907) and the Isle of Man (506), also operating in Northern Ireland. MAC12570_001

**MACMILLAN
CANCER SUPPORT**

A registered charity



EVENTS AND NOTICES

Poppies

So that we can create our poppy display again this year, we are collecting the bottom of big plastic bottles. Please send them into school by Monday 20th October.



Our House Captains will be selling poppies to raise funds for the Royal British Legion during week beginning 3rd November 2025.

Kids Club Request

Kids Club are in need of Hama Beads and Christmas wrapping paper. They are also always in need of felt tip pens as the children use these every day. If you have any of these items to spare, please drop them in with Kids Club or the school office. Thank you!

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.

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.



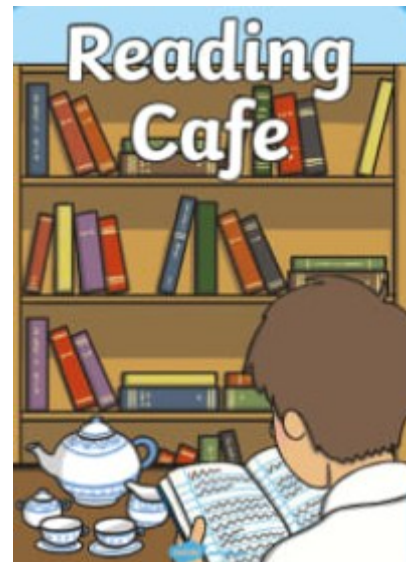
Reading Cafe

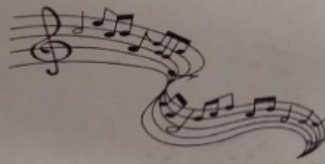
On Friday 14th November there will be a Reading Café for parents and carers of children in Key Stage 1 and 2:

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 who will be serving refreshments.





In aid of



South Staffordshire Pop Choir

Saturday 15th November at 7.30pm

Coven Memorial Hall - doors open at 7.00pm



Tickets **£10** to include a light supper. **Bar available.**
Children 5 – 12 years **£6**

Tickets at C.A. Florist, The Veg Barn, Hair Care
or Jan 07982 709 083/ 07889 178 169

This is our game.



Free Dynamos Cricket Holiday Camps in Staffordshire

Girls & Boys aged 8 - 11 years

For more information and to book
your place, scan the QR Code or visit
the link below :

https://www.staffordshirecricket.co.uk/about/dynamos_cricket/



EDUCATING KIDS OUTDOORS

EKO Holiday Club October Half Term

at Weston Park, Weston-under-Lizard, Shifnal, TF11 8LE

Tuesday 28th to Friday 31st October 2025

Sessions from 10:30am - 4:00pm - £38

Early Drop off 9:00am - 4:00pm - £44

**BOOK
NOW**



If you're new to EKO we are all about having fun outdoors whatever the weather. We might be bug hunting or plant spotting or den building or creating natural art, the list is endless and there will always be something new to try.

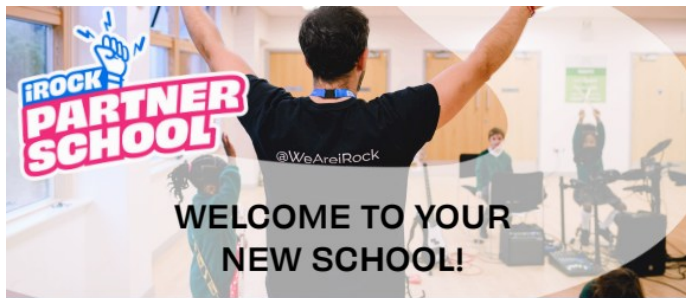
We are based at Weston Park and have our own dedicated EKO Outdoor Learning Site and Orchard Hive Classroom as well as use of the extensive grounds.

To book a place at our Holiday Club, simply visit
<https://educating-kids-outdoors.classforkids.io/>
For more information take a look at our website
www.ekolearning.org.uk
and if you have any questions or concerns email us at
info@ekolearning.org.uk



Educating Kids Outdoors Ltd, registered charity in England and Wales (1191685)
A company limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales company number 12114074.
Registered office: Astol Farmhouse, Norton, Shifnal, Shropshire TF11 9EW





You've joined a school that rocks...literally! Every week, children get to jam together in real bands with iRock School of Music. Whether they're on keys, drums, vocals or guitar, they'll learn their favourite songs and even perform live for their grown-ups to cheer them on.

But, iRock is more than music – it's about confidence, friendship and imagination. Our youngest iRockers in Reception start their musical journey through play, rhythm and teamwork, building foundational skills whilst having fun!

“It's great to see our child having the confidence to go on stage and sing. Such a proud moment and he was so chuffed with himself!”
– Proud Parent of Reception iRockers, 2025



All About iRock

- Band-based lessons for Reception to Year 6
- Real instruments and music pupils love
- Taught by expert Band Coaches in small groups
- Bands grouped by age
- Regular concerts and rewards
- Exam-free Group Performance qualification awarded by RSL
- Journey through the engaging iRock curriculum
- Simple monthly subscription service
- Log in to the iRock Parent Portal to view your child's progress.

iRock

“ 4- to 5-year-olds in a rock band...
how does that work? ”

At this early stage, your child is developing language, coordination and emotional awareness – all the things iRock supports naturally through music.

Being in a band is about so much more than just learning notes – the benefits of iRock help develop so many vital skills during early childhood.

Social

Children learn to take turns, share ideas, and play as a team. Listening is essential, and bandmates build empathy, situational awareness and reasoning whilst working towards a shared goal.



Language

Children follow musical cues, learn new words, and grow confidence in speaking and listening. iRock builds strong language and listening foundations through music-led communication.



Motor Skills

Strumming, tapping, and pressing keys develop fine motor control. iRock strengthens hand coordination and muscle memory through clapping and instrument use each week.



Cognitive

Reception pupils build focus by keeping rhythm and solving musical challenges through play. iRock boosts attention spans and early reasoning in a fun, structured way that supports classroom learning.

Emotional

Playing music helps children release energy and feel proud of what they achieve. iRock builds a sense of belonging, responsibility, and joy—key emotional tools as they enter structured school life.



www.irockschool.com/enrol

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators DEALING WITH TRAUMATIC & CHALLENGING EVENTS

Children and young people may face a wide range of traumatic or challenging events – from bereavement and illness to bullying, family breakdowns, or witnessing violence. These experiences can affect their mental health, behaviour, relationships, and academic progress. With the right support from trusted adults, children can begin to feel safe, rebuild resilience, and develop healthy coping strategies. This guide offers practical and empathetic ways to provide support and promote positive outcomes.

1 A PREDICTABLE ENVIRONMENT

Children who have experienced trauma often feel unsafe or uncertain. Creating routines, setting clear expectations, and maintaining consistency can help restore a sense of security. This structure offers reassurance and helps children feel more in control of their surroundings.

2 USE LANGUAGE THAT MATCHES THEIR AGE

Speak clearly and sensitively, choosing words that are appropriate for the child's age. Avoid overwhelming them with too much information at once. Offer gentle, honest explanations and focus on reassurance, especially when talking about difficult or sensitive subjects.

3 TRAUMA AND THE BODY

Mention briefly that trauma can show up in physical ways, such as changes in sleep, appetite, concentration, or as physical aches and pains. Consider this before labelling behaviour as 'difficult' or 'lazy'. Some children may become withdrawn, while others may be more outwardly challenging. Highlight that there's no 'one way' children respond.

4 AVOID RETELLING OR RELIVING TRAUMA

Children sometimes get asked to explain or repeat their experience multiple times. Striking a balance of when to listen and when to gently redirect can help to avoid unnecessary re-traumatisation. Acknowledge, but don't probe for detail unless safeguarding procedures require it.

5 AVOID DISMISSING OR MINIMISING FEELINGS

Seemingly well-meaning comments like "It's not that bad" or "You're okay" may shut down children's emotional expression and are often not helpful. Instead, acknowledge what they're feeling, even if it seems small. Validating a child's emotions helps them feel seen and encourages open communication in future.

6 UNDERSTAND HOW THEY'RE FEELING

Many children don't have the words to express their emotions, especially during distress. Supporting them to name what they're feeling – such as angry, scared or sad – builds emotional literacy. Tools like emotion charts, drawing, or storytelling can help externalise feelings in a safe, manageable way.

7 BE AWARE OF YOUR OWN RESPONSES

Children pick up on adult emotions and reactions, often mirroring them. Staying calm, even in challenging situations, helps children feel more secure. Practising your own self-regulation is an important way to model healthy stress management and encourages children to do the same.

8 SEEK PROFESSIONAL SUPPORT

While many children benefit from everyday emotional support, some will need more specialised help. If symptoms persist, worsen, or disrupt their daily life, consult with school safeguarding leads, a GP, or a mental health professional. Early intervention can prevent long-term difficulties and support healthy recovery.

9 MAINTAIN CONNECTION

Isolation can worsen the impact of trauma. Encourage involvement in group activities, praise their efforts, and ensure they feel like a valued part of the school or family community. Meaningful connection with trusted adults and peers builds resilience and a sense of belonging.

10 BE PATIENT – HEALING TAKES TIME

There's no quick fix for emotional recovery. Children may have good days and setbacks, and progress may not always be visible or linear. Your ongoing support, patience, and presence can help them move forward at their own pace, knowing they are not alone.

Meet Our Expert

This guide has been written by Anna Katsman. Anna is passionate about placing prevention at the heart of every school by integrating mental wellbeing within the curriculum, school culture, and systems. She has been a member of the advisory group for the Department for Education, advising them on their mental health green paper.



Wake Up Wednesday

The National College

DIARY DATES

OCTOBER 2025	
Monday 20th October	Y1 Toy Workshop
Monday 20th October	Y3/4 Cross Country Event
Wednesday 22nd 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 – 3:35 pm to 6:00 pm (Reception/Year 1, 2, 3 and 4)
Wednesday 5 th November	Parents’ Evening – 3:35pm 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	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
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