



SCHOOL NEWS

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



Our final week of this half term started with Year 1 having a Toys and Games workshop which looked very exciting each time I popped in to check how things were going. The day included lots of hands on experience with a wide range of toys from the past. The children were very keen to share their enthusiasm about the day and one pupil summed it up perfectly by reporting that 'It has been the best day ever!'

Following this, Miss Evans and Mrs Walsh accompanied a group of Year 3 and 4 children to Marshbrook First School after school to take part in a cross country competition. Miss Evans and Mrs Walsh said that all of the children who took part showed great perseverance throughout, making us all very proud. Out of the seven local schools, we came fourth but were very close to third! Poppy in Y4 came first out of the Year 4 girls and has therefore qualified for the District Final in late March / late April.

Year 3 have finished the first half of the Autumn Term with a trip to the Potteries Museum in Hanley. Miss Woodgate reports that the children have all had a great time and learned lots about all things Stone Age, enhancing their history learning this term. They were given the opportunity to create their own Stone Age pots, learn more about the Stone Age way of life and took part in a workshop linked with their Science topic, skeletons. Staff at the museum commented on how well behaved and enthusiastic the children were. Please do look out for photos of the day on Seesaw and on the School Trips and Events section on our school website soon.



Finally, we would like to thank you for all of your support so far this academic year and wish you all a great half term break. We look forward to welcoming the children back on Monday 3rd November.

Dear God,

Thank you for this half term —
for all the things we have learned,
for the friends we have made,
and for the fun we have shared together.

Thank you for our families and
teachers and everyone who
helps us each day.
As we come to the end of this
half term,
help us to rest, play safely,
and enjoy time with our families and
friends.



Be with us in all we do,
and bring us back ready to learn,
to care, and to shine once again.

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— Star for painting a beautiful picture of a bear.

Reception - Parker for always listening carefully during Topic time and sharing her ideas confidently.

Year 1 - Chase for always enthusiastically participating in every lesson.

Year 2— Abbie for making incredible progress throughout the first half term of year 2.

Year 3 - All of Year 3 for their fantastic behaviour on the trip.

Year 4 - Annie for always focusing on her work and trying her hardest with everything she does.

WRITER OF THE WEEK

Reception— Jamie for trying really hard with his letters sounds in phonics.

Year 1 - Eboni for writing different sentences using a range of nouns and verbs.

Year 2 - Harper for a fantastic persuasive letter.

Year 3 - Evaline for a lovely Stone Age job application.

Year 4 - Harley B for putting extra effort into his handwriting during English lessons.

MATHEMATICIAN OF THE WEEK

Reception— Covie for quick calculations of 1 more.

Year 1 - Ava S for effectively using the part whole model when adding.

Year 2 - Darcy for persevering when she found a task challenging.

Year 3 - Bella for amazing work on Column addition and subtraction.

Year 4 - Elliot B for showing an excellent understanding during our lessons on area.

DT AWARD

Nursery—Eddie for a super junk-model house.

Reception—Eddie for a great model of a windmill, using sticklebricks.

Year 1 - Lilah for her excellent garage.

Year 2 - Finley H for a fantastic puppet.

Year 3 - Daisy for her pop up book *The Girls*, Faye for the pop up book *Free the Little Pig* and Lydia for her pop up book *Rainbow Bunnies*.

Year 4 - Jessica for brilliant sewing.

WEEKLY ATTENDANCE

Nursery—58% Reception — 98.3% Year 1 - 92% Year 2 - 96% Year 3 - 92% Year 4—87%

EVENTS AND NOTICES

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!

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.



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.

Trips and Workshops

We have lots of exciting events planned for this school year. Please pay for activities as soon as you are able to do so. We are not able to run these activities without sufficient support from our families. We do try to keep the cost of trips to a minimum, unfortunately the cost of coaches rises each year. If you need a copy of any letters or information on how to pay please contact the school office.

Year 1 Toy Workshop in school - 20th October

Year 3 Potteries Museum Trip - 23rd October

Year 2 Twycross Zoo Trip - 21st November

N/R Farm on Wheels in school - 4th December

Y3/Y4 Young Voices - 13th January

Y4 Laches Wood Residential - 23rd - 25th March

A poster for a South Staffordshire Pop Choir performance. At the top left is a photo of the choir on stage. To the right is a musical note graphic. Below these is the text 'In aid of' followed by the Guide Dogs logo. The main text reads 'South Staffordshire Pop Choir', 'Saturday 15th November at 7.30pm', and 'Coven Memorial Hall - doors open at 7.00pm'. At the bottom left is a photo of a Guide Dog. To the right of this is the ticket information: 'Tickets £10 to include a light supper. Bar available. Children 5 - 12 years £6'. At the bottom right, it says 'Tickets at C.A. Florist, The Veg Barn, Hair Care or Jan 07982 709 083/ 07889 178 169'.

EVENTS AND NOTICES



BEE ACTIVE

Aim ... shoot!
Join us every week for target games

Sessions will give your child the opportunity to develop their aim, skills and confidence.
Open to all children from Years 2, 3 & 4

Meet your coach
Jamie

ONLY £5 PER SESSION

Target Games - 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

Sessions for children of all abilities!

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

Bee Active Target Games Club

Next half term, Bee Active will be running a target games club for children in Years 2, 3 and 4. Further information about this can be found on the letter emailed out alongside this newsletter. Places are limited to 20 and will be allocated on a first come, first served basis.

Extra-curricular Clubs

Please see below for details about the clubs for the second half of the autumn term. If you wish to book a place then please do so via ParentPay.



Autumn Term 2nd Half Term 2025



Day	Year Groups	Time	Club	Staff	Cost
Monday	Y3/Y4	12:30 to 1pm	Young Voices Choir	Mrs Clews	Free to children attending Young Voices 2026
Monday	Rec/Y1/Y2	3:25 – 4:25pm	Commando Joe's	Miss Evans	£5 per week £25 for 5 weeks 10.11.2025 to 8.12.2025
Monday	Y1/Y2/Y3/Y4	3:25 – 4:25pm	Board Game Club	Mrs Walsh	£5 per week £25 for 5 weeks 10.11.2025 to 8.12.2025
Tuesday	Y3/Y4	12:30 to 1pm	Reading Club	Miss Woodgate	Free to attend
Tuesday	Y2/Y3/Y4	3:25 – 4:25pm	Target Games	External Coaches	£5 per week £25 for 6 weeks 4.11.2025 to 9.12.2025
Tuesday	R/Y1/Y2/Y3/Y4	3:25 – 4:25pm	Mindful Craft Club	Miss Ball	£5 per week £25 for 5 weeks 11.11.2025 to 9.12.2025
Friday	Y1/Y2/Y3/Y4	3:25 – 4:00pm	World Changemakers Club	Mrs Pope	£2.50 per week £12.50 for 5 weeks 14.11.2025 to 12.12.2025
Thursday	Y2/Y3/Y4	3:25 – 4:25pm	Times tables Club	Mrs Richards	£5 per week £25 for 5 weeks 13.11.2025 to 11.12.2025

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about MEMES

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Memes may look like simple jokes, but, for many teenagers, they form a shared cultural language. Quickly created and reworked, they spread across social media platforms as images with text or short videos. Nearly eight in ten teenagers share memes (79%, YPulse), making them part of daily life. While memes encourage creativity and participation, they can also spread misinformation or reinforce harmful stereotypes.

SPREADING MISINFORMATION

While memes help to communicate complex topics, they can also spread misinformation. Memes may sometimes include content presenting false facts or biased viewpoints, especially around health, politics, or current events and, as they're designed to be shared quickly, young people may not question their accuracy.

EXPOSURE TO INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Memes are widely circulated, and not always age-appropriate, meaning young people may encounter explicit language, sexual content, or graphic imagery, even without searching for it. As memes spread fast on platforms like Instagram, TikTok, or WhatsApp, it's nearly impossible to filter them completely.

MASKED MESSAGES

Some memes are designed to be confusing or layered with hidden meanings, making them harder for parents, and, sometimes, other young people to understand. Online groups often create these memes to look like inside jokes, but they can sometimes conceal offensive, harmful, or misleading content.

HIDDEN HARMS & LOSING SENSITIVITY

When serious topics like violence, racism, or mental health are turned into jokes, children and young people may become less sensitive to these issues over time. While a funny meme may seem light-hearted, it can carry messages that belittle certain groups, encourage risky behaviour, or mock personal struggles. Repeated exposure through memes can make harmful behaviour seem normal or less important. Over time, this can blur their understanding of what is funny versus what is discriminatory, harmful, or damaging to themselves and others.

PERMANENT DIGITAL FOOTPRINT

Unlike spoken jokes, memes leave a trail. Created or shared memes can resurface later and be misunderstood, even if intended as harmless. Once online, memes may be copied, saved, or spread beyond a young person's control - digital actions can follow them into their future, shaping how they are perceived by peers, teachers, or even employers long after the original meme has been shared.

Advice for Parents & Educators

ENCOURAGE OPEN CONVERSATIONS

Talk regularly with young people and try to understand their online world - discuss what they find funny about the memes, and why. By listening without judgement, you build trust, making it easier for them to come to you if they see something harmful. Open conversations also help children and teens think critically about the messages behind memes rather than simply accepting them at face value.

MODEL HEALTHY BOUNDARIES

Show children and teens positive online behaviours, such as taking breaks from screens, avoiding late-night scrolling, and engaging in offline activities. Setting clear routines around screen time at home can help to reinforce healthy boundaries and reduce the risks of overuse. By modelling balanced technology use, adults can help children and young people see that digital entertainment, including memes, should be just one part of life.

TEACH DIGITAL LITERACY

Help children and young people learn to question where information comes from and whether it's reliable - developing media literacy skills prepares young people to understand and navigate through their future online lives. Show them how memes can sometimes exaggerate or misrepresent facts for laughs, and encourage them to check credible sources when memes claim to present truth.

FOSTER EMPATHY ONLINE

Remind children and young people that memes should never come at someone else's expense. Encourage them to think about how a meme might make another person feel before sharing or creating it. Highlight examples of positive memes that celebrate creativity without hurting others. Fostering empathy, respect, and kindness in digital spaces will help them become more aware of promoting a safer, more supportive online culture.

Meet Our Expert

Dr Cristina Moreno-Almeida is a Senior Lecturer in Digital Culture at Queen Mary University of London. She specialises in memes, online networks, and youth culture, examining how digital spaces shape identity and everyday life.



The National College

DIARY DATES

OCTOBER 2025	
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 21 st November	Year 2 trip NB: Uniform should be worn as normal for Y2 children only Non –uniform day—donations of sweets or chocolate for the Christmas Fair
Friday 28 th November	Non-uniform day – donations of bottles 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 4 th 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
Friday 5 th December	Christmas Fair—3:30pm to 5pm
Tuesday 9 th 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 16 th 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