



# SCHOOL NEWS



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

We hope everyone had a wonderful and restful half term break. It's been lovely to see all of our pupils back in school, full of energy and ready for another busy and exciting few weeks of learning.

This week, we have been learning about and reflecting on two important events — Bonfire Night and Remembrance. In Reception and Year 1, the children have created some fantastic firework-inspired art, while in Nursery, the focus has been on beautiful poppy-themed creations.

Once again, we have been amazed by the generosity of our school community. The donations made towards the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal have been wonderful — a huge thank you to all our families for your support.

On Sunday, both myself and Mrs Pope along with some of our pupils will be joining members of our community at St. Paul's Church, and later at the Memorial Hall, for this special time of remembrance. It is always a privilege to come together as a community to honour and reflect on the sacrifices made by others.

Today, all of our pupils have been revisiting their RE learning from last half term, with an additional focus on Spiritual Pathways. The staff began by reminding the children about the 'donut analogy' for spirituality — a fun and memorable way to think about what spirituality means and how it connects to our inner selves.

Following this, pupils took part in a range of engaging activities based around the Sacred Pathways, choosing ways to explore and express their spirituality. Further up the school, children reflected on where each activity fitted best within the pathways and how these relate to their learning and personal lives.

It was wonderful to walk around school this afternoon and see the enthusiasm, thoughtfulness, and creativity of our pupils as they shared their ideas about spirituality and their own spiritual journeys.

Next week is Interfaith Week, and we are very much looking forward to celebrating this in school. Each year group will be learning more about a different world faith during our usual assembly times:

- **EYFS** - Christianity
- **Year 1** - Judaism
- **Year 2** - Islam
- **Year 3** - Sikhism
- **Year 4** - Hinduism

This will be a great opportunity for our pupils to deepen their understanding of different beliefs and traditions, fostering respect, curiosity, and appreciation for the diversity of faiths within our wider world.

As well as Interfaith Week, we have lots of other exciting events coming up — please do take a look further down in the newsletter for more details.

Have a lovely weekend

Mrs Richards

Dear God,

Thank you for those who gave their lives for peace.



Thank you for the courage of people who still work for peace today.

Help us to remember them with love and gratitude.

Help us to be peacemakers in our school, our homes and our world.

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— Juan for being so helpful and considerate of others.

Reception - Jace for great story recall.

Year 1 - Oliver for always looking out for your peers and offering a helping hand.

Year 2— Teddy for being a focused and determined learner in every lesson.

Year 3 - Aria for enthusiasm for learning in all subjects.

Year 4 - Imogen for being an excellent role-model to other children with the presentation of her work.

## WRITER OF THE WEEK

Reception— Meadow for lovely letter formation and great Fred finger spacing.

Year 1 - Milo for using a range of adjectives in your writing.

Year 2 - Charlie for using a range of exciting adjectives when creating expanding noun phrases.

Year 3 - Luca for excellent work on fronted adverbials.

Year 4 - Flori for effort and use of speech.

## MATHEMATICIAN OF THE WEEK

Reception— Blake for good use of maths language when describing position.

Year 1 - Finley for not giving up when faced with a challenge.

Year 2 - Isla for challenging herself to work independently during mental arithmetic.

Year 3 - Billy for amazing work in arithmetic sessions.

Year 4 - Annie for continuing perseverance in her times tables.

## WEEKLY ATTENDANCE

Nursery—98% Reception — 97% Year 1 - 100% Year 2 - 96% Year 3 - 95% Year 4—97%

# EVENTS AND NOTICES

## 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.



## Lighthouse Photography

Have you missed a school photograph this year or would like one with an older or younger sibling that doesn't attend our school? Our school photographers have some special school photograph promotions coming soon. They will be hosting sessions at Bilbrook Village Hall. If you're interested you'll can book a 5 minute slot with them through their website [www.lighthousephotography.co.uk/portraits/](http://www.lighthousephotography.co.uk/portraits/)

## 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!

## Children in Need Day

Next Friday, 14th November is Children in Need day. We are inviting the children to 'wear something spotty' on this day. All donations should be made through this link please:



Children in need: <https://app.parentpay.com/ParentPayShop/Foc/Default.aspx?shopid=18894>

## Stay and Play

This half term's Stay and Play sessions in EYFS are on Wednesday 12th November:

**Nursery: 10:30 to 11:30**

**Reception: 2:00 to 3:00**



## Phonics Workshop

Following the Stay and Play session for Reception on Wednesday 12th November, Mrs Walsh will be holding a Phonics Workshop for parents and carers of children in Reception. This will provide an opportunity to see how we teach Phonics here at school and look at ways in which you can support at home too.



# 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](http://beeactive.co.uk)

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

Search: 'Bee Active'

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

## Open Morning/ Afternoon

On 26th November and 8th January we will be holding open day events at the times below:

Wednesday 26th November: 9:30am

Thursday 8th January: 4:00pm

These events are aimed at families who are looking to choose a school or nursery for their child in September 2026. They will provide families with an opportunity to see our school in action as well as learn about all that we have to offer here at St. Paul's.

## OPEN MORNING & AFTERNOON

Join us for our upcoming Open Day events!

Discover what makes St. Paul's such a special place for learning, growth, and community.

### DATES & TIMES:

- Wednesday 26th November – 9:30 AM
- Thursday 8th January – 4:00 PM

### WHO IS IT FOR?

Families who are considering a school or nursery place for their child starting in September 2026.

### WHAT TO EXPECT:

- Tour our school and see learning in action
- Meet our friendly staff and leadership team
- Learn about our values, curriculum, and community life

†+ Come and experience the warm, welcoming atmosphere of St. Paul's School – where every child is encouraged to shine.

## 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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
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
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



## School Association News



Our School Association is eager to hear your thoughts and insights! We value your opinions and experiences so much, and that's why we've created a **short questionnaire** to gather your feedback. It's quick and simple to complete—just click on the link

<https://forms.cloud.microsoft/e/7tB0giCqxC>

Your voice truly matters, and your responses will help to shape the future of our school activities, events, and support.

### Christmas Fayre

On Friday 5th December, we will be holding our annual Christmas Fayre here at St. Paul's First School. Everyone is welcome to join us for what promises to be a great start to the Christmas festivities for this year. For the first time ever, we will also be having a visit from some reindeer who will be accompanying another very special visitor!

A festive poster for the Christmas Fayre. The top section has a dark red background with white stars and the text 'ST PAUL'S SCHOOL COVEN' and 'CHRISTMAS FAYRE' in large white letters. Below this, Santa Claus is depicted in a red suit and hat, waving. The background features green Christmas trees and a brown reindeer. The date and time '5TH DECEMBER 3:30PM' are written in large, bold, dark red letters. A green speech bubble contains the text 'Santa's Grotto + special guests!' followed by a list of activities: 'Food Stalls', 'Raffle', 'Tombola', 'Gift Stalls', and 'plus much more'. At the bottom, a line of text states 'All proceeds go to the School Association to enhance our children's experiences.'

\* ST PAUL'S SCHOOL COVEN \*

# CHRISTMAS FAYRE

5TH DECEMBER  
3:30PM

Santa's Grotto  
+ special guests!

- Food Stalls
- Raffle
- Tombola
- Gift Stalls
- plus much more

All proceeds go to the School Association to enhance our children's experiences.

## What Parents & Educators Need to Know about **FORTNITE**



### WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

With over 650 million registered users, Fortnite remains one of the most played and discussed online games globally. Known for its vibrant graphics, fast-paced gameplay, and cultural crossovers with everything from music artists to superhero franchises, the game continues to capture the attention of young people. This guide outlines the risks trusted adults need to know about, including game updates, and offers practical safety tips to help address them.

### ALWAYS ONLINE

There's no single-player, offline mode in Fortnite; it can only be played online. Internet access can sometimes be an issue when you're out and about, both in terms of connectivity and using up data. You may find that dedicated, young Fortnite players are often less enthusiastic about family time or trips away – such as days out and holidays – than you might expect.

### IN-GAME COSTS

Fortnite is free to download and play, but it does offer various additional purchases – limited-time cosmetic 'skins', music tracks, LEGO items, and battle passes. Children can feel pressured to spend money on V-Bucks – the in-game currency – to avoid missing out, particularly as exclusive items rotate frequently. Some items may not return to the store for years, while Battle Pass rewards are often "gone when they're gone".

### VIRTUAL VIOLENCE

There's no avoiding that Fortnite is about shooting other players to eliminate them from the contest. That said, there's no blood or gore. The violence is rendered in a cartoonish style, and there are frequent comical touches to lighten the mood, such as mini-games and emotes. Guns and other weapons often look and behave realistically, so discretion is advised. Past seasons have introduced characters and references from mature franchises like The Witcher and Halo.

### CROSSPLAY AND PARTY CHAT

Fortnite is popular with many gamers of various ages. Crossplay allows friends to play with each other, regardless of whether they're on an Xbox, PlayStation, Nintendo Switch or PC, while the Party Chat feature allows them to talk to each other during the game. This can put youngsters at risk of exposure to strangers, inappropriate language, and cyberbullying.

### FREQUENT UPDATES

Seasonal releases introduce new map changes, gameplay mechanics, and cosmetics. Ongoing updates can increase screen time and potential for obsession as children try to unlock rewards before the season ends. These regular renewals help to hold players' interest, but also give young gamers plenty of reasons to keep coming back. Seasons often change thematically.

### POP CULTURE REFERENCES

Part of Fortnite's appeal is its ongoing crossovers with other popular franchises, ranging from films and TV shows like Power Rangers and Avatar: The Last Airbender, to comic book characters including Batman. Other collaborations with series, artists, and influencers may expose children to music, language, or ideas that are more suitable for older audiences.

## Advice for Parents & Educators

### DISCUSS SAFE SOCIAL INTERACTION

Talk with children about who they're playing with online. Coordinate play time with the child's friends for socialisation and safety in numbers. Encourage them to avoid private voice chats with strangers and remind them not to share personal information. Use real-life examples to explain potential risks, and remind them that if they see something concerning, they should tell a trusted adult.

### SET SPENDING LIMITS

Fortnite's rotating store is a not-so-subtle mechanism for coaxing players into buying sought-after items before they disappear for weeks or months. This could lead to surprise transactions on bank cards if children are tempted into an impulse purchase. Parents could consider getting a prepaid card for the child or ensuring that purchases require adult authorisation. This can be done through parental settings on a console or account settings in the Epic Games app on PC.

### ENJOY FORTNITE TOGETHER

Fortnite also offers split-screen gameplay, meaning that two people can play simultaneously on the same console or computer. This can be a good option for siblings or for when a child's friends visit, but it also offers an opportunity for parents to do something fun with their child, while making sure they're playing the game safely. Who knows? You might even teach them a thing or two!

### BE WARY OF SCAMS

The immense popularity of Fortnite with younger audiences – that are generally more trusting – means there's no shortage of scammers looking to fraudulently obtain passwords and other personal data through techniques like phishing. As the developers point out on many of Fortnite's loading screens, they never ask for a player's account password outside of the game. Make sure any young player knows this.

# DIARY DATES

NOVEMBER 2025	
Sunday 9 <sup>th</sup> November	Remembrance Sunday – church service at 9:30 am / Memorial Hall at 11:00 am
Wednesday 12 <sup>th</sup> 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 <sup>th</sup> November	Flu Vaccine
Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> November	Children in Need – £1 donation for charity Children invited to wear something spotty
Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> 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 * <b>NB Change of date and time</b>
Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> November	Year 2 trip <b>NB: Uniform should be worn as normal for Y2 children only</b> Non –uniform day—donations of sweets or chocolate for the Christmas Fair
Friday 28 <sup>th</sup> November	Non-uniform day – donations of bottles for the Christmas Fair

<b>DECEMBER 2025</b>	
Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> 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 <sup>th</sup> December	EYFS Nativity Farm on Wheels visit to school
Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> December	Non-uniform day – donations of cakes for the Christmas Fair
Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> 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 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Fair—3:30pm to 5pm
Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> 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 <sup>th</sup> December	3:25 – 4:25pm: Christmas Craft Club for Year 2, Year 3 and Year 4 £5 per child
Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> December	Wear your Christmas Jumper
Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> December	Kids club Christmas Party 3:30pm to 4:30pm
Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> 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 <sup>th</sup> December	9:30 am – Y1/2 Christmas Play 2:00 pm – Y3/4 Christmas Carol Concert
Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> December	9:30 am – Y3/4 Christmas Carol Concert 2:00 pm – Y1/2 Christmas Play
Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> December	Nursery and Reception Christmas Singing and Activities in the hall at 9:15 am
Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> December	Homework passports to be brought into school for showcasing
Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup> December	Polar Express Day
Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> December	Y2/3/4 Party Day – children in Y2/3/4 to wear party clothes to school
Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup> December	Nur/Rec/Y1 Party Day – children in Nur/Rec/Y1 to wear party clothes to school
Sunday 14 <sup>th</sup> December	Nine Lessons Carol Service at Church 6pm Year 3 and Year 4 to sing
Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> December	Last Day – Non-uniform - £1 donation for school fund School closes for Christmas
Mon 22 <sup>nd</sup> Dec to Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> Jan	School closed – Christmas Holidays
Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> December	Crib Service at Church – everyone welcome – 5:00 pm - Families welcome to attend
<b>JANUARY 2026</b>	
Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> January	INSET Day = school closed to pupils