



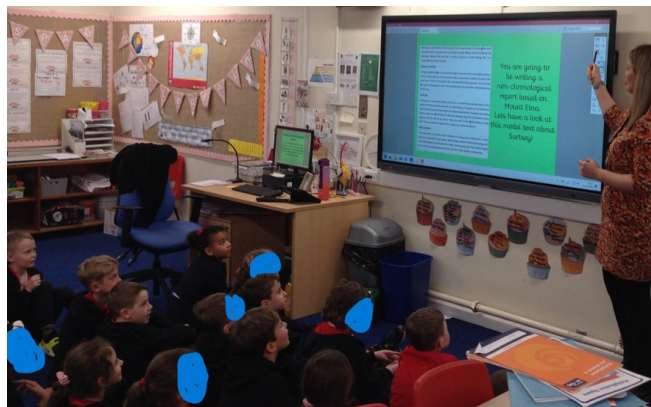
SCHOOL NEWS



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

On Monday, Chris Wood who is the South Staffs School Games Organiser, came into school to work with the Year 4 children, supporting them to be play leaders. Although this is a role taken on by a group of Year 4 children who support daily on the playground, Chris agreed to come in and work with all of Year 4 on positive play and games. Following on from the first session, all of Year 3 joined in so that Year 4 could put their newly acquired skills to the test as well as impart some of their knowledge to prepare Year 3 for future leadership when they themselves are in Year 4. They all took part in a Pentathlon and some achieved Gold which was something that Chris says rarely happens! Miss Evans and the staff are all very proud of our Key Stage 2 children. Each child has been awarded their certificate today in our Celebrate and Praise assembly.

This week we have had three new interactive whiteboards installed in Key Stage 2 and Year 2 which will make a huge difference both to the teachers and the pupils since they replace our outdated monitor screens. We are extremely grateful to our School Association and all of our families who have supported with each of the fundraising events that have taken place and allowed us to reach this goal. We are hopeful that with all of the future events planned and some remaining funding, that we will soon be able to have new boards in Year 1 and EYFS too.



Today, Sir Gavin Williamson visited St. Paul's and we gave him a tour of the school, showcasing all of the learning that our pupils do. The children had lots of questions especially in Year 3 since they had recently been learning all about Parliament in their PSHE lessons. His visit really helped bring this learning alive. We then took him out to have a look at the field and we explained how such a fabulous resource is currently unusable due to persistent waterlogging. He has assured us that he is going to pursue this further so that our children can finally access this area and all it has to offer.

Have a lovely weekend
Mrs Richards

Dear God,
Thank you for making every person special and loved.
Help us to use kind words and gentle actions each day.

Teach us to listen to others, to share and take turns, and to care for people even when we disagree.

Help us to respect our teachers, our friends, and our families, and to look after our school and the world you gave us.

Please help us to treat everyone the way we would like to be treated.
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— Viv for quickly becoming a positive role model to her peers.

Reception - William for super Fred Finger spelling and speedy reading in Phonics.

Year 1 - Robin for trying really hard in every lesson and participating in class discussions.

Year 2— Toby for being engaged and enthusiastic during History and English lessons all about Christopher Columbus.

Year 3 - Luca for always putting 100% into his work and following our school values.

Year 4 - Henry for being a team player in PE and supporting his classmates.

WRITER OF THE WEEK

Nursery— Ruben for a super pirate ship drawing in Drawing Club.

Reception— Teddy for lovely handwriting in Phonics.

Year 1 - Elsie for identifying and writing different compound sentences.

Year 2— Morgan for excellent sentences using precise vocabulary.

Year 3 -

Year 4 - JJ for using correctly punctuated prepositional phrases in his writing.

MATHEMATICIAN OF THE WEEK

Nursery— Jasper for super 2D shape recognition.

Reception— Evelyn for finding different ways to make numbers 1-6 using the Numicon.

Year 1 - Olly for estimating different numbers on a number line.

Year 2 - Martin for fantastic prior recall used in new learning.

Year 3 - Avery for the impressive use of 'although', 'as' and 'while' to start sentences.

Year 4 - Imogen for excellent explanations in her reasoning questions.

Nursery Passport Challenge

Well done to these Nursery children who have completed their Nursery Passport Challenge this week:

John William Ruben Juan Brody Eddie

Reception Brain Challenge

Eddie Covie Guinevere Willow S Evelyn Louie Blake

Willow F

WEEKLY ATTENDANCE

N 1—100% N2—82.2 R— 95.8% Y1 - 97.7% Y2 - 95.2% Y3 - 92.2% Y4—88.9%

EVENTS AND NOTICES

Year 4 Multiplication Check Parent Information Session

On Friday 30th January, there will be an opportunity for parents and carers to find out about the statutory Year 4 Multiplication Check that all pupils in Year 4 will take part in at the start of June 2026. The purpose and process of this assessment will be fully explained and there will be the opportunity to ask any questions too. We strongly recommend that, where possible, parents attend for this session which starts at 9am and will last for approximately 20 minutes.

Attendance

Did you Know?

Children start their Phonics, English and Maths learning and practice sessions as soon as they arrive in the morning. Teachers also run additional learning sessions for groups of children if they are finding any aspects of their learning challenging.

Most importantly, staff ensure that daily checking in with each child, sharing the daily timetable and any important messages for the day happens first thing in the morning- this helps children feel regulated and informed and develops their sense of belonging.

Good attendance supports learning and the development of social skills and friendships, as well as building good habits that are essential for adult life.

Lateness

- 5 minutes late each day = 3 days lost over the year
- 10 minutes late each day= 6.5 days lost over year
- 15 minutes late each day= 10 days lost over the year
- 30 minutes late each day = 19 days lost over they year



Absence

If a child had an attendance figure of 83% in an academic year, this would mean they had been absent FOR A WHOLE TERM.



If they had the same percentage for all their primary school years, this is the equivalent of MISSING AN ENTIRE YEAR!

The damage this would do to their academic achievements and friendships would be huge and unrecoverable.

Lunchtime Supervisor Vacancy

We are currently recruiting for a new lunchtime supervisor. Please visit our website: [Lunchtime-Supervisor-Vacancy-January-2026.pdf](#) or call our school office for further details.

The closing date for this is Monday 26th January at 5pm.

EVENTS AND NOTICES

Park Run

Members of our school community regularly run in local park runs, which we are very keen to promote here at St. Paul's. We will therefore shortly be launching this initiative with the children in the coming weeks.



parkrun primary initiative: our local impact so far



Energize communicate with schools to promote
 Energize Programme Manager - CYP - launches in schools with assemblies
 November: Mereside and Radbrook join the family
 Over 230 known children attended so far from parkrun primary schools
 September: parkrun primary launches nationwide
 Schools register on parkrun website
 October: Trinity and Pontesbury first schools to attend Shrewsbury JPR
 December: Meole Brace latest school to takeover



“ Trinity Headteacher: 'Junior parkrun is a great way to encourage children and their families to be active at the weekend and connect with their local community in a unique way.' ”
 Meole Brace parent: 'He says he wants to do it every week!'



Mothers' UNION
 Christian care for families
 Registered Charity Number: 249942

MEET THE EASTER BUNNY OVER BREAKFAST

**On Wednesday 1st April 2026 at
 Coven Memorial Hall, 9:30am**

Ring Jo Knight on 07564 013668
 to book your space

Breakfast includes cereal, toast,
 croissants, orange juice, hot drinks

All children to make an Easter craft
 and receive an Easter egg to take home

£5 per admission

Mothers' UNION
 Christian care for families
 Registered charity Number: 249942

Cuppa & Cake Event

**Saturday 7th March 2026
 2pm-4pm at St. Paul's Church, Coven**

Raising money to support
 The Haven, Wolverhampton and other Mothers'
 Union charities

Covens Mothers' Union




School Association News



Movie Nights - Coming Next Week!

Our **School Association Movie Nights** are happening **next week**, and we're really looking forward to welcoming the children for a cosy after-school treat.

 **Thursday 29 January & Friday 30 January 2026**

Important year group update:


To help balance numbers across the two evenings, **Year 2 children will now attend the Friday night showing.**

Nursery families - please note:

We apologise that **Nursery was missed from the original posters**, and we would love to welcome Nursery children to attend the **Thursday showing.**

Booking is required for attendance

| All tickets and food options must be **pre-booked** in advance.

 **Important:** The booking window will close on **Tuesday 27 January 2026 at 23:59**

Don't forget to vote for the film showing:

Thursday: <https://forms.cloud.microsoft/e/eX2jJKT5YF>

Friday: <https://forms.cloud.microsoft/e/WQcd7qDCMO>

For full details and to book, please head over to our PTA Events page:

 <https://www.pta-events.co.uk/stpaulscovenschoolassociation>



School Association News




School Uniform Swap Shop - Now Online!

We're excited to announce that our **School Uniform Swap Shop** has moved **online** 🛍️

We've started uploading an initial selection of uniform items which are **now available to purchase**, with **all proceeds going directly to School Association fundraising** to help enhance our children's experiences at school. Keep checking for updated stock levels!

Please support the Swap Shop where you can — **not the supermarkets** — and help us keep school costs down for families 💛

 Browse available items here:

 <https://www.pta-events.co.uk/stpaulscovenschoolassociation/index.cfm?event=products>

We'll be **adding more stock shortly**, and if you have any **donations**, please feel free to drop them into the school office.

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What Parents & Carers Need to Know about GROUP CHATS

Occurring through messaging apps, on social media and in online games, group chats are among the most popular ways that young people engage with their peers online. Involving, by definition, three or more individuals, these groups allow users to send messages, images and videos to everyone in one place. While they are useful for helping friends, people with shared interests or members of a club to communicate and coordinate activities, they can also leave young people feeling excluded and bullied – as well as providing opportunities for inappropriate content to be shared and viewed.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

BULLYING

Unkind comments or images which are purposely aimed at an individual can be shared freely in a group chat – allowing and often encouraging others to join in the bullying behaviour. If this content is shared in a group of their peers (especially a larger group), it serves to amplify the hurt, embarrassment, anxiety and isolation that the victim feels.

EXCLUSION AND ISOLATION

This common issue with group chats can happen in several ways: starting a new group, for instance, but deliberately excluding a certain child. Likewise, the chat may take place on an app which one child doesn't have access to, meaning they can't be involved. A child can also feel isolated when a group chat is used to discuss or share images from an event that everyone else but them attended.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Some discussions in group chats may include inappropriate words, swearing and unsuitable images or videos. These could be viewed by your child if they are part of that group, whether they actively engage in it or not. Some chat apps have a disappearing message function, so your child may be unable to report something they've seen because it can only be viewed once or for a short time.

SHARING GROUP CONTENT

It's important to remember that – while the content of the chat is private between those in the group – individual users can easily share a message, photo or video with others outside of the group or screenshot what's been posted. The risk of something your child intended as private becoming public (and potentially going viral) is higher if there are people they don't know well in the group.

UNKNOWN MEMBERS

Within larger group chats, it's more likely your child will be communicating with people they don't really know. These strangers may be friends of the host, but not necessarily friendly toward your child. It's wise for young people not to share personal details and stay aware that they have no control over the messages and images they share after they've put them online.

NOTIFICATIONS AND FOMO

A drawback of large group chats is the sheer number of notifications. Every time someone in the group messages, your child's device will be 'pinged' with an alert; potentially, this could mean hundreds of notifications a day. Not only is this highly distracting, but young people's fear of missing out on the latest conversation results in increased screen time as they try to keep up with the chat.

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Advice for Parents & Carers

CONSIDER OTHERS' FEELINGS

Group chats are often an arena for young people to gain social status. This could cause them to do or say things on impulse, which could upset others in the group. Encourage your child to consider how other people might feel if they engaged in this behaviour. If your child does upset a member of their group chat, support them to reach out, show empathy and apologise for their mistake.

GIVE SUPPORT, NOT JUDGEMENT

Remind your child that they can confide in you if they feel bullied or excluded in a group chat, instead of responding to the person who's upset them. Validate their hurt feelings and help to put them back in control by discussing how they'd like to handle the situation. On a related note, you could also empower your child to speak up if they're in a chat where others are being picked on.

BLOCK, REPORT AND LEAVE

If your child is in a chat where inappropriate content is being shared, advise them to block the users sending the material, report them to the host app or platform and exit the group. If any of this content could be putting a minor at risk, contact the police. Emphasise to your child that it's OK for them to simply leave any group chat that they don't feel comfortable being a part of.

PRACTISE SAFE SHARING

In any online communication, it's vital for young people to be aware of what they're sharing and who might potentially see it. Discuss the importance of not revealing identifiable details like their address, their school or photos that they wouldn't like to be seen widely. Remind them that once something is shared in a group, they lose control of where it may end up and how it might be used.

AVOID INVITING STRANGERS

Sadly, many individuals online hide their true identity to gain a child's trust – for example, to gather information on them, to exchange inappropriate content or to coax them into doing things they aren't comfortable with. Ensure your child understands why they shouldn't add people they don't know to a group chat – and, especially, to never accept a group chat invitation from a stranger.

SILENCE NOTIFICATIONS

Having a phone or tablet bombarded with notifications from a group chat can be a massive irritation and distraction – especially if it's happening late in the evening. Explain to your child that they can still be part of the group chat, but that it would be healthier for them to turn off or mute the notifications and catch up with the conversation at a time which better suits them.

DIARY DATES

Thursday 29th January	School Association Movie Night 3:30pm to 5:30pm (Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 2)
Friday 30 th January	9:00am - Year 4 Parents Information Session on the statutory Multiplication Tables Check – all parents of children in Year 4 are encouraged to attend so that they can find out all about this statutory assessment.
Friday 30 th January	School Association Movie Night 3:30pm to 5:30pm (Year 3 and Year 4)
FEBRUARY 2026	
Friday 13 th February	Interim Reports to go home
Friday 13 th February	School closes – last day of half term
Mon 16th to Fri 20 th Feb	School closed- half term
Monday 23 rd February	School reopens for all children
Tuesday 24 th February	Parents' Evening – 3:40 pm to 6:00 pm
Thursday 26 th February	Parents' Evening – 3:40 pm to 6:00 pm
MARCH 2026	
Wednesday 4 th March	9:00am Year 1 Parents Information Session on the statutory Phonics Screen Check – all parents of children in Year 1 are encouraged to attend so that they can find out all about this statutory assessment.
Thursday 5 th March	World Book Day – Dress up as your favourite Roald Dahl character
Friday 13 th March	Mother's Day Services in school - 9:15 am for Rec/Y1 10:15 am for Y2/3/4 11:15 am for Nur in the classroom
Monday 16 th March	Homework passports to be brought into school for showcasing
Thursday 19th March	School Discos - £5 for ticket, glow sticks and refreshments 3:25 - 4:30 pm for Years 2, 3 and 4 * Change of date
Friday 20th March	School Discos - £5 for ticket, snap bands and refreshments 3:25 – 4:30 pm for Nursery, Reception and Y1 * Change of date
Monday 23 rd March to Wednesday 25 th March	Y4 Residential
Thursday 26 th March	Easter Services - 9:15 am in school for Rec/Y1 11:00 am – Nursery Easter activities in class 2:30 pm at church for Y2/3/4
Friday 27 th March	End of term
Monday 30 th March to Friday 10 th April	School closed – Easter Holidays
Monday 13 th April	School reopens to all pupils