St Paul's
Church of England Primary School

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Friday 13th March

Headteacher message

What a fantastic week it has been! This week we celebrated British Science Week, and pupils from Year 1 to Year 6 have been engaged in lots of exciting investigations – it's been wonderful to see their curiosity and enthusiasm in action.
We've had a busy week with a Crucial Crew visit for Y6 who set a fantastic example for STP's with their behaviour outside of school and this afternoon we've had a Mother's Day afternoon tea in early years.
Across the school, it has been calm and purposeful, with our children demonstrating the STP way in everything they do. Well done to everyone for another great week!
Wishing you all a lovely weekend.
Mrs Walton

Stars of the week

Well done to the following children who had achieved the star of the week award! ⭐

Nursery – Sofia
Reception – Mahour
Year 1 – Sereen
Year 2 – Aseel
Year 3 – Lovell
Year 4 – Haneen
Year 5 – Chimdalu
Year 6 – Kendal

Weekly Attendance
Nursery – 87.7%
Reception – 90.8%
Year 1 – 95.6%
Year 2 – 93.1%
Year 3 – 93.2%
Year 4 – 97.9% - Winners this week
Year 5 – 96.8%
Year 6 – 94.6%
Green – 96 or above%
Yellow – 95%
Amber – 91-94%
Red below – 90%
National expectation for attendance is 96%

Terrific timekeepers

Please ensure your child arrives at school on time each morning. Education is important, and all core subjects are taught first thing in the day. Being punctual helps pupils start their learning calmly and confidently.

Thank you to all parents who consistently ensure their children are on site for **8:45am**, when classroom doors open. Your support makes a real difference.

Change to assembly times

Please refer to the letter sent out on Arbour referring to the change of our assembly times from next week.

Thank you for your cooperation

National Science Week

This week we have celebrated National Science Week in school. Children across Years 1–6 took part in a range of exciting investigations inspired by their curiosity and questions about the world around them.

This year's theme, "What is your question?", encourages children and young people to take the lead in their learning by asking questions and exploring possible answers through investigation and discovery.

Curiosity is at the heart of STEM, driving research, innovation and new ideas. It has been wonderful to see our pupils thinking like scientists—asking thoughtful questions, experimenting, and sharing their findings with enthusiasm.







Uniform

We have recently noticed an increase in pupils not wearing the correct school uniform. Wearing the correct uniform is important because it helps promote a sense of belonging, equality, and pride in our school community. It also supports a focused learning environment where all students feel part of the same team.

We kindly ask for your support in ensuring that children come to school wearing the correct uniform each day. This includes, white polo/shirt, blue jumper or cardigan, grey trousers or skirt and appropriate shoes.

Due to the number of children not following our current policy, after Easter we will be challenging any uniform which is not in line with our policy. We will also be changing the expectations of footwear to a shoe and not a trainer.

Children will still be welcome to change into trainers for outside break times when playing sports.

We understand that sometimes it can be challenging to keep track of uniforms, and we appreciate your cooperation in helping your child meet these expectations. If there are any difficulties in obtaining the correct uniform, please contact the school so we can offer support.

Dates for your diary

24th February	School re-opens
25th-27th Feb	Y6 Lledr Hall residential
5th March	World book day
12th March	Y6 Crucial Crew
16th March	Assessment week Y1-5
20th March	Audacious church Easter performance
20th March	Comic Relief Day
25th March	Parents Evening R-Y6
31st March	Aspiration day
2nd April	School closes

Mobile phones

If you choose to send your child to school with a mobile phone - please remind them and ensure they hand it in to the office on arrival. It should not be collected until they are leaving school .

Thank you for your ongoing support with this.



Parents Evening

Parents' Evening will be held in school on **Wednesday 25th March from 3:30pm–6:00pm**. Appointment booking links will go live on **Arbor from Monday**.

Please ensure you book your appointment early to avoid disappointment, as slots can fill up quickly. I strongly encourage all parents and carers to attend. Parents' Evening is an important opportunity to discuss your child's current levels of attainment, celebrate their achievements, and talk about how we can work together to support their learning and progress at home and in school.

These meetings provide valuable time to ask questions, gain a clear understanding of how your child is doing, and learn about ways you can help support their development moving forward.

Assessment week

Next week is Assessment Week for Years 1–5. It is very important that your child is in school every day and on time to ensure they can take part in their Spring Term assessments.

These assessments help us understand your child's current levels of learning, identify their strengths, and highlight areas where they may need additional support. They are a key part of helping teachers plan targeted learning activities and ensure each child is making the best possible progress.

Year 6 have already completed an initial assessment and will undertake another **practice assessment** before their SATs in May to help prepare them fully.

Your support at home makes a big difference in helping your child perform at their best and continue to grow in their learning. Thank you for helping us make Assessment Week a success!

Mothers Day afternoon Early Years

This afternoon, Early Years children invited their mums and special loved ones to a special Mother's Day celebration. Families spent time chatting, enjoying snacks, and sharing quality time together.

The children were also excited to give out the special gifts they have been working hard on all week, which made the afternoon even more memorable.

We wish all our mums and special loved ones a wonderful Mother's Day this Sunday!

Uniform swap shop

The last week of term we will be holding our uniform swap shop in the hall. Bring down your outgrown sweaters, cardigans, trousers and swap them for another size – all items are free!

Contact us...

Email: stpoffice@vantageacademies.co.uk

St Paul's CE Primary – Cross Lane

Stpaulsceprimary_crosslane



COMIC RELIEF DAY 2026

WEAR SOMETHING FUNNY FOR MONEY

On **Friday 20th March** we will be celebrating Comic relief and raising money for this fantastic charity. We are inviting children to come to school **wearing something funny (silly costume, crazy hair) or wearing something red in return for £1 donation**. Comic Relief is a UK-based charity that uses the power of comedy and entertainment to raise money for people in need. Through events like Red Nose Day and other campaigns, it encourages donations by combining humor with fundraising. The funds collected support projects both in the UK and internationally, providing essential help such as education for children, access to healthcare, food, clean water, and support for vulnerable communities. By engaging audiences in a light-hearted way, Comic Relief turns laughter into meaningful action that creates real, lasting change.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

GROUP CHATS

On messaging apps, social media and online games, group chats are among the most popular ways that young people engage with their peers online. Involving three or more individuals, these groups allow users to send messages, images and videos to everyone in one place. While they can be great for connecting with others, there are several risks posed by these tools.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

BULLYING

Teens are often trying to find their place in their social group. Unfortunately, group chats can sometimes lend themselves to unkind comments being shared freely, putting people down to make their peers laugh – often creating a vicious circle that encourages others to join in. Being bullied so publicly – in front of friends and acquaintances – can also amplify the hurt, embarrassment and anxiety that the victim feels.

SHARING GROUP CONTENT

Group chats can feel more private and protected, allowing children to share inside jokes and video calls with a smaller group of friends. It's important to remember that while the chat's content is private between those in the group, individual users can easily share material with others outside of the group, or screenshot what's been posted. The risk of something a child intended as private becoming public is higher if there are strangers in the chat.

EXCLUSION AND ISOLATION

This common issue with group chats can happen in several ways: for instance, starting a new group, but deliberately excluding a certain child. Likewise, the chat may take place on an app which one person 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 events that exclude them – for example, sharing photos from a day out that they didn't attend.

UNKNOWN MEMBERS

Within larger group chats, it's more likely for children to communicate with people they don't know. These strangers may be friends of the host, but not necessarily friendly towards everyone present. It's wise for young people to avoid sharing personal details and remember that they have no control over what others do with the material they send into the chat.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Some discussions in group chats may include inappropriate words, swearing and unsuitable images or videos. These could be viewed by a child if they are part of that group, whether they actively engage in it or not. Some apps have features that cause messages to disappear after they're viewed, so children may be unable to report something they've seen, as it can only be viewed once or for a short time.

NOTIFICATIONS AND FOMO

A drawback of large group chats is the sheer number of notifications they tend to generate. Every time someone sends a message, each member's device will be 'pinged' with an alert. This could result in hundreds of notifications a day. This is often highly distracting, and young people's fear of missing out (FOMO) can cause increased screen time as they try to keep up with the conversation.

Advice for Parents & Carers

CONSIDER OTHERS' FEELINGS

Group chats can become an arena for young people to compete for social status. This could cause them to do or say things on impulse which could upset others. Help children consider how people might feel if they behave in this way. If the child *does* upset someone, encourage them to reach out, show empathy and apologise for their mistake.

GIVE SUPPORT, NOT JUDGEMENT

Group chats are an excellent way for children to connect and feel like they belong. However, remind them that they can confide in you if they feel bullied or excluded, instead of responding to the person who's upset them. Validate their feelings and empower them by discussing how they'd like to handle the situation. You can also encourage children to speak up if they witness others being picked on.

BLOCK, REPORT AND LEAVE

If a child is in a chat where inappropriate content is being shared, advise them to block whoever sent the material, report that person to the host app or platform and exit the group. If any of this content could put a minor at risk, contact the police. Emphasise that it's OK for children to simply leave any group chat that makes them feel uncomfortable.

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. Ensure children understand 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 can't be certain where it might end up and how it might be used.

AVOID INVITING STRANGERS

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

SILENCE NOTIFICATIONS

Having a device bombarded with notifications from a group chat can be an irritating distraction – especially if it's happening late in the evening. Explain to children that they can still be part of the group chat while disabling notifications – and that it would be healthier for them to do so, avoiding a situation where they could feel pressured to respond.

Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



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