WEEKLY UPDATE

Welcome back - I hope you all had a restful and enjoyable half term break and were able to spend some valuable time together as families. It has been wonderful to welcome the children back into school, ready for what promises to be a very exciting and busy half term ahead.

We have lots of fantastic events planned over the coming weeks, with many opportunities for our pupils to learn, grow and shine beyond the classroom.

This week, our Year 6 pupils took part in their residential visit to Lledr Hall alongside St Augustine's. It was a truly special experience filled with new challenges, teamwork and adventure. The children demonstrated excellent cooperation, determination and encouragement towards one another, and they represented the school brilliantly throughout the trip. They made me incredibly proud.

A huge well done to all of Year 6 for embracing every opportunity and for showing such maturity and positivity — you should all be very proud of yourselves. Check our social media sites for images from the trip.

We are looking forward to sharing more successes and celebrations with you as the half term progresses.

Friday 27th February, 2026

Website: stpaulsceprimaryschool.co.uk
Email: stpoffice@vantageacademies.co.uk

Value of the half term: COMPASSION ❤️

Stars of the week

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

Nursery – Rome
Reception –Djenice
Year 1 – Elior
Year 2 – Poppy
Year 3 – Jawad
Year 4 – Nobel
Year 5 – Bayley
Year 6 –

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 Y1-6
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

Weekly Attendance
Nursery – 91.7%
Reception – 90.58%
Year 1 – 89.78%
Year 2 – 93.21%
Year 3 – 92.66%
Year 4 – 100% - Winners this week
Year 5 – 91.7%
Year 6 – 94.87%
Green – 96 or above% Yellow – 95% Amber – 91-94% Red below – 90%
National expectation for attendance is 96%

Aspirations Day

We are excited to announce that our whole school **Aspiration Day** will take place on **Monday 31st March**.

This is a wonderful opportunity for children to begin thinking about their future goals and ambitions. **On this day, pupils are invited to come to school dressed as what they would like to be when they grow up** — whether that is a police officer, dentist, astronaut, engineer, teacher, artist or any other aspiration they may have.

Throughout the day, the children will take part in a range of workshops and activities led by visitors from different professions. They will learn about the skills, qualifications and personal qualities needed to succeed in these roles, helping to inspire them to dream big and recognise the possibilities ahead of them.

If you or someone you know would like to be involved in the day by sharing your profession, running a workshop, or speaking to the children about your career, we would love to hear from you. Please email the school office to express your interest.

We are really looking forward to what promises to be an inspiring and memorable day for all.







Attendance

Attendance across the school needs to improve. Regular attendance is vital for your child's learning, progress, and wellbeing. Missing school can affect not only academic achievement but also social development, friendships, and confidence in the classroom.

This half term, we will be working closely with **Salford City Council** to identify and support pupils with persistent absence. Please be aware that if attendance does not improve, this could lead to fines for parents, as consistent school attendance is a legal requirement.

We ask for your support in ensuring your child attends school every day, arriving on time, and is ready to learn. Together, we can help your child reach their full potential.



Come join our Team!

We have the following vacancies currently available at STP. If you or know of anyone who has the qualifications for the following role, then please apply. If you require any further information, please ask at the school office.

Level 3 Teaching Assistant — greater.jobs Salford

EYFS Teaching Assistant 3 — greater.jobs Salford

World book day

World books day is on **Thursday 5th March**. All children are invited to school dressed as their favourite book characters or dress up in pyjamas from their favourite bedtime story.

Throughout school we will be taking part in some exciting workshops to celebrate the love of books and reading. We can not wait to see all your outfits!

Online safety

We want to remind all families of the importance of monitoring your child's online activity and the content they are accessing. Recently, there have been several reports of **inappropriate use of apps such as Snapchat and WhatsApp** among pupils across different year groups, occurring outside of school hours.

Online safety is a shared responsibility, and it is crucial that children understand how to use digital platforms responsibly and safely. We strongly encourage you to **regularly check your child's devices**, discuss appropriate online behaviour, and ensure that they are only accessing content suitable for their age.

By staying engaged with your child's online activity, you are helping them to make safe choices, avoid harmful content, and protect their well-being. These conversations and monitoring practices play a vital role in supporting their safety and fostering responsible digital citizenship.

Salford's Safeguarding team have sent through the following link which shows the government's "You Won't Know Until You Ask" online safety campaign. The campaign provides simple, practical advice to help parents feel more confident talking to their children about what they see and do online, including how to start conversations, what questions to ask, and how to respond to upsetting or harmful content.

It's a helpful resource to support families in keeping children safe online.

Help your child stay safe online - Kids Online Safety

This website introduces a government campaign called "You Won't Know Until You Ask", which is all about helping parent and carers feel more confident talking to their children about what they see and do online. It offers simple, practical tips—like how to start conversations, what questions to ask, and how to support your child if they come across upsetting or harmful content.

Many children spend a lot of time online, and it's not always easy for parent and carers to know what they're being exposed to. This guidance is useful because it helps you open up regular, relaxed conversations, build trust, and make sure your child knows they can come to you if something doesn't feel right. It's a helpful starting point for keeping your child safe and supported in today's digital world.

Help your child stay safe online - Kids Online Safety

Thank you for your continued support.





A Heartfelt Farewell to Mrs. Casasola

After more than 30 incredible years at St. Paul's, it's time to say goodbye to the one and only Mrs. Casasola, who is retiring. Her dedication to our school community and her impact on the lives of so many children and families will be felt for years to come. From nurturing young minds to offering a listening ear, Mrs. Casasola has truly made a difference in countless lives.

As she steps into this exciting new chapter of life, we wish her all the happiness and health in the world. Retirement is now her time to kick back, relax, and—dare we say—finally *not* be in charge of 30 squiggly crayons or sorting through a never-ending pile of paperwork! We hope she fills her days with the joy of reading, gardening, or maybe even a well-deserved afternoon nap without any school bells ringing.

Mrs. Casasola, thank you for everything you've done over the years. Your contributions have shaped St. Paul's into the warm and caring community it is today. We wish you a future filled with laughter, adventure, and more time to enjoy all the "retirement things" that come with it—whether it's sipping coffee on a porch or visiting every corner of the world (or just your backyard!).

You'll always be part of the St. Paul's family. Congratulations on your retirement!

With love and gratitude,

The St. Paul's School Community xx

At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one area of many which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit www.nationalonlinesafety.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

"Inappropriate" means different things to different people. What's acceptable for one age group, for example, may be unsuitable for a slightly younger audience. Online, young people can chance upon inappropriate content in various ways – from pop-up ads to TikTok videos. The increasingly young age at which children become active in the digital world heightens the risk of them innocently running into something that they find upsetting or frightening. Trusted adults need to be able to help children be aware of what to do if they're exposed to age-inappropriate content.



SOCIAL MEDIA

Age-inappropriate content is easily accessible through many social media platforms. TikTok, for instance, is hugely popular with young people but is arguably best known for clips featuring sexualised dancing or profanity. Some social media users also express hate speech or promote eating disorders and self-harm, which could cause lasting damage to a child's emotional and mental health.

GAMING

Gaming is an enjoyable source of entertainment, but many popular titles can expose children to inappropriate material such as violence, horror, gambling or sexually explicit content. Playing games unsuitable for their age risks normalising to children what they are seeing. Some games also include in-game chat, where other (usually older) online players often use language that you probably wouldn't want your child to hear or repeat.

STREAMING

The range of video streaming services available online means that users can find almost anything they want to watch on demand. Children are therefore at risk of viewing TV shows and movies which contain nudity, drug and alcohol abuse, explicit language and extreme violence. Unfortunately, these streaming platforms can't always determine that it's not an adult who's watching.

ADVERTS

Online adverts frequently include age-inappropriate content: usually gambling and nudity or partial nudity. Although adverts for alcohol or e-cigarettes are also common. Some search engines also feature adverts that are responsive to your search history: so if you've recently looked up a new horror movie, shopped for lingerie or ordered alcohol online, then the ads appearing on screen could reflect this the next time your child borrows your device.

18 Advice for Parents & Carers

TALK IT THROUGH

Embarrassment or fear of getting into trouble can make it difficult for children to talk openly about age-inappropriate content they've watched. Remind your child they can always come to you if they're troubled by something they've seen online, without worrying about consequences. Before offering advice, discuss what they saw, how they felt and how they came to find the content in question.

CONNECT, DON'T CORRECT

If your child's been particularly distressed by exposure to content that wasn't suitable for their age, it's important to offer guidance to prevent them from repeating the same mistake – but it's equally vital to help them deal with the emotions that the situation has raised. You could tell them about any similar experiences you might have had at their age, and how you dealt with it.

BLOCK, REPORT, CONTROL

After discussing the problem, you and your child can take action together. This could include blocking any inappropriate sites and reporting any content which violates a platform's rules. To further safeguard your child online, set up parental controls on internet-enabled devices that they use. This will significantly reduce the chances of your child being exposed to age-inappropriate content in future.

GET SPECIALIST HELP

Age-inappropriate content can potentially have a negative impact on a child's mental health, which is sometimes displayed through changes in their behaviour. If the problem becomes more severe, you might consider reaching out to a mental health professional or an expert in this field who can provide you and your child with the proper support.

STAY CALM

Even though it is obviously difficult to stay rational in a situation where your child has been put at risk, it's essential to think before you react. Your child may well have hesitated to open up to you about watching inappropriate content for fear of the consequences, so being calm and supportive will reinforce the notion that it would be easy to talk to you about similar issues in the future.

Meet Our Expert

Cayley Jorgensen is a Registered Counsellor with The Health Professions Council of South Africa, and she runs a private practice offering counselling to children, teenagers and families. Her main focus is creating awareness and educating the community on the mental health pressures of today's world, as well as resources and techniques to understand and cope better.



National Online Safety

#WakeUpWednesday

Sources: https://www.education.gov.za/Resources/Publications/Articles/Inappropriate.aspx?; https://www.saferinternet.org.za/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/Internet-Safety-Tips-for-Parents-and-Teachers.pdf

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