St Paul's
Church of England Primary School

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Friday 24th April

Headteacher message

Welcome back everyone, I hope you all had a restful and enjoyable Easter break.
It has been wonderful to see the school come back to life this week. A great deal of work has taken place over the holiday to improve our grounds both inside and around the school, and we are really pleased with the difference this has made.
The children have returned looking very smart and respectable in their school uniform, which reflects our continued focus on high expectations across the school. Thank you for your ongoing support with this.
We are now looking forward to a busy and exciting Summer Term ahead, with lots to look forward to, including Sports Days, transition days, our Year 6 leavers' assembly, and much more.
Have a great weekend.
Mrs Walton

Stars of the week

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

Nursery – Ragdha
Reception – Loyiso
Year 1 – Leyah
Year 2 – Abigail
Year 3 – Rocco
Year 4 – Murphy
Year 5 – Frankie
Year 6 – Ayla

Weekly Attendance
Nursery – 86.5%
Reception – 93.7%
Year 1 – 92%
Year 2 – 88.3%
Year 3 – 92.2%
Year 4 – 94.6% - Winners this week
Year 5 – 89.2%
Year 6 – 87%
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.

Thank You for Your Ongoing Support and Respect

We would like to say a sincere thank you to all parents and carers who continue to show respect towards staff in and around school. Your positive interactions, patience, and understanding make a real difference to the school community.

New play equipment at lunch times

We are delighted to share that our new playground equipment is now in use! It has been wonderful to see the children enjoying it, especially in the sunshine this week.

With the recent improvement in the weather, we have also been able to spend more time playing on the school field at lunchtime. It has been fantastic to see so many smiles and hear so much laughter as the children explore the new space and equipment together.

The new equipment is already supporting the development of important social skills such as sharing, turn-taking, cooperation and teamwork. It also encourages active play, creativity and confidence, helping children to stay healthy and engaged during their break times.

We look forward to seeing the children continue to make the most of these exciting new opportunities outdoors!







Dates for your diary

20th April	**School re-opens**
4th May	Bank Holiday
11th-14th May	**KS2 SATs assessments YEAR 6**
20th May	Y2 Class assembly
22nd May	**School closes**
8th-19th June	**Year 4 MTC**
8th-12th June	**Year 1 Phonics screener**
16th June	Y5/6 Sports day 9:30am
17th June	Y3/4 Sports day 9:30am
18th June	Y1/2 Sports Day 9:30am
19th June	EYFS Sports Day 9:30am
25th-26th June	Year 6 Secondary transition days
29th June	Whole school assessment week
29th June	Class photographs
2nd July	Year 6 Manchester Cathedral leavers service
8th July	Year 1 class assembly
10th July	Meet the teacher afternoon
17th July	STP Reports out
17th July	Y6 leavers service at St Paul's Church
20th July	Year 6 leavers assembly for parents
20th July	Year 6 leavers disco – 5-6:30pm
21st July	Whole school celebration
21st July	**School closes**

Christian value of the Term....

This half term, we are focusing on the Christian value of forgiveness. Forgiveness means choosing to let go of anger or hurt when someone has made a mistake, and giving them the chance to make things right. It can sometimes feel difficult, but it is an important life skill that helps us build strong friendships, show kindness and create a caring community. In The Bible, forgiveness is a central message. Jesus Christ taught his followers to forgive others, just as we would hope to be forgiven ourselves. One well-known teaching reminds us to forgive "seventy times seven," showing that forgiveness should be generous and ongoing. Throughout the half term, the children will explore what forgiveness looks like in everyday life—saying sorry, accepting apologies, showing understanding, and moving forward positively. By learning about forgiveness, we help children develop empathy, resilience and strong, respectful relationships. We encourage you to talk at home about what forgiveness means in your family and how we can all practise it in our daily lives.

After school enrichment clubs

This week our new enrichment clubs have begun, alongside our usual after-school club. We are delighted to offer a wide range of opportunities including Choir, AI and Computing Club, Busy Hands Club, Times Tables Club, Science Club, Board Games Club, Wellbeing Club (at lunchtime) and Volleyball.

These clubs provide wonderful opportunities for children to explore new interests, develop their talents and build confidence. They encourage teamwork, creativity, problem-solving and resilience, while also helping children to make new friendships and enjoy learning in different ways beyond the classroom.

If you would like to sign your child up for a club, please do so via the Arbor app or contact the school office for assistance.







Contact us...

Email: stpoffice@vantageacademies.co.uk

St Paul's CE Primary – Cross Lane

Stpaulsceprimary_crosslane

Parent workshop

This week we held a parental workshop focused on managing emotions and supporting parenting at home. Thank you to everyone who attended. It was wonderful to see parents sharing ideas, experiences and practical strategies, as well as offering encouragement and support to one another.

Workshops like these are so valuable because they strengthen the partnership between home and school. By working together and using consistent approaches, we can help children to better understand their emotions, develop self-regulation skills and build resilience. Supporting emotional wellbeing not only improves behaviour and relationships, but also helps children to feel safe, confident and ready to learn.

We look forward to offering more opportunities for parents to come together and continue these important conversations.



SATs breakfast club

This year, the Standard Assessment Tests will take place from Monday 11th May until Thursday 14th May and we will, once again, be running our 'Assessment Week Breakfast Club' which has been so successful in previous years.

The children are invited to arrive in the Y6 classroom at 8.30am for toast, fruit and refreshments on the mornings of the tests. We will also have board games/colouring available to create a calming environment. In the past, we have found that this not only provides the children with energy for the day ahead, but also settles any nerves and worries by providing a relaxed atmosphere in which to talk over any concerns with the Year Six staff/Mrs Walton who will be available each morning.

The tests will be as follows:

Monday 9th May – English Paper 1: Spelling, punctuation and grammar test.

Tuesday 10th May – English Paper 2: Reading Paper

Wednesday 11th May – Arithmetic Paper 1 and Maths Reasoning Paper 2.

Thursday 12th May – Maths Reasoning Paper 3.

Online Safety

Common Sense Media have produced some excellent parent guides. These consist of individual social media apps, games and for when children receive their first phones. They also have key age-related information about what the digital world is like for children of their age group.

Parents' Ultimate Guide to Your 2- to 4-Year-Old's Digital World | Common Sense Media

Parents' Ultimate Guide to Your 5- to 7-Year-Old's Digital World | Common Sense Media

Parents' Ultimate Guide to Your 7- to 9-Year-Old's Digital World | Common Sense Media

Parents' Ultimate Guide to Your 10- to 12-Year-Old's Digital World | Common Sense Media

At The National College, our #WakeUpWednesday guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. Formerly delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit nationalcollege.com.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about MINECRAFT

AGE RATING 7+

Minecraft is a beloved classic of modern gaming, still boasting over 160 million players who happily return to it at least once every month. The game has also been used in schools to teach coding, science and other skills. Encouraging creativity, Minecraft has plenty to offer, and it's available on almost all video game platforms.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

PUBLIC SERVERS

Joining a public Minecraft server lets children potentially interact with strangers through text chat. Some servers focus on building, while others are dedicated to playing mini-games or competitive modes that pit players against each other. Anyone can join a public server and connecting to one is relatively simple. A public server's IP address is easy to find with search engines and can potentially be used to determine the host's location.

GRIEFING

Some people in Minecraft delight in purposefully damaging or destroying another player's creations. This is called 'griefing' and is a form of bullying: it intentionally spoils someone else's experience in the game by deleting hours of their work and forcing them to start from scratch. Many public servers treat griefing as a severe offence and frequently ban offenders.

ADDICTIVENESS

Minecraft's gameplay is relatively simple, and seeing the result of hours of resource gathering and building can be extremely gratifying. This can make the game highly addictive. It's easy to lose track of time while playing Minecraft, causing committed young players to forget about other activities like homework or enjoying family time.

SCARY ELEMENTS

The visual design and gameplay of Minecraft is purposefully child friendly, so there's no mature content in the game. However, some enemies might prove scary for younger players. In the game, certain creatures come out at night and are accompanied by spooky audio – such as zombie moans and skeleton bone rattles – that may be unnerving. There are also enemies called 'creepers' which sneak up silently and explode, which could startle and upset young users.

ADDITIONAL PURCHASES

After initially buying the game, players can make optional purchases for cosmetic items and other bonuses. Additionally, Minecraft Realms is an optional online subscription service that lets users run their own private server to play with their friends. Some games consoles also need a separate active subscription – such as PlayStation Plus – to enable online play, so multiplayer Minecraft can quickly become an expensive hobby.

Advice for Parents & Educators

RESEARCH CONTENT CREATORS

There are a lot of Minecraft content creators who release helpful videos about the game on YouTube and Twitch. Not all of these, however, are suitable for children. Watching these content creators' channels yourself first is a safe way to find appropriate videos to share with children. This also helps you learn more about the game itself.

CHOOSE THE RIGHT MODE

Selecting 'Creative' or 'Peaceful' mode allows children to play Minecraft without having to contend with enemies. It's also a great way for you to get used to playing the game with them, since the difficulty level is far lower. This allows you to work together on a long-term project, creating something special without the threat of zombies attacking you, or creepers exploding and damaging your build.

HOST A PRIVATE SERVER

The easiest way to find a safe server for children to play on is to make one yourself. Hosting a server prevents strangers from finding it, unless they've been given its address and password. A private server also lets you control who's allowed to enter and – if necessary – ban anyone who shouldn't be there. This is the closest equivalent to parental controls in Minecraft. However, hosting a private server will cost a monthly fee.

ENCOURAGE BREAKS

It's easy for the hours to fly by while a child is playing Minecraft, so remind them to take regular breaks. This is a useful way for them to learn good time management, which they'll benefit from as they get older. It will also teach them to play their favourite games in moderation – limiting addictive behaviour and allowing them to manage their day better.

TALK ABOUT STRANGERS

At some point in their lives, almost everyone will make contact with a stranger online. Talking to children about online safety, therefore, is essential – as is having a plan for dealing with any hostile or difficult people. Ensure that a child knows to never tell a stranger about themselves online, and that they should come to you straight away if they do encounter a problem.

Meet Our Expert

Daniel Lipscombe is a writer specialising in technology, video gaming, virtual reality and Web3. He has also written 15 guidebooks for children, covering games such as Fortnite, Apex Legends, Valorant, Roblox and Minecraft. With work published by the likes of PC Gamer, Kotaku, Pocket Gamer and VG247, he has reviewed more than 50 games and products over the past year.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

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Salford
Integrated Care Partnership

Salford City Council

Understanding The Factors Which Might Impact How My Child Learns

ND PARENT/CARER WORKSHOPS 2025/2026

A 1.5 hour virtual workshop focused on:

- The factors which might impact how neurodivergent children and young people learn (e.g., attention skills, motivation, self-confidence, sensory needs, emotion regulation etc.) and,
- What strategies/approaches can be used to support their learning at home

To reserve your place, **click here** or **scan me:**

For guidance on how to use the booking system, please visit: Event Booking System Guide

Further information at: Salford's Neurodevelopmental Offer

2025-2026 Workshop Dates and Times

EYFS/Primary

2025
14th October 10-11.30am
19th November 6.30-8pm

2026
15th January 10-11.30am
12th February 10-11.30am
18th March 6.30-8pm
23rdApril 10-11.30am
14th May 10.11.30am
10th June 6.30-8pm

Secondary

2025
15th October 6.30-8pm
13thNovember 10-11.30am

2026
21st January 10-11.30am
11th February 6.30-8pm
26thMarch 10-11.30am
21stApril 10-11.30am
13th May 6.30-8pm
18th June 10-11.30am