St Paul's
Church of England Primary School

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Friday 8th May

Headteacher message

It has been another fantastic week at St Paul's.
I am incredibly proud of our Year 6 pupils who completed their SATs this week. They showed outstanding resilience, determination, and maturity throughout. They approached each test with calm focus and gave their very best — they should be extremely proud of themselves.
I would also like to recognise the wider school community for the way they supported Year 6 during this important week. Staff from across the school made time to drop in and offer encouragement, and the Year 6 team worked tirelessly, including arriving early to prepare breakfast for the children each morning. A special thank you also goes to our kitchen staff for providing a wonderful, cooked breakfast for their final test on Thursday.
Across the school, pupils demonstrated exceptional respect and care, helping to maintain a calm and supportive environment so that Year 6 could concentrate and do their best. This collective effort has shown what a wonderful team we have at St Paul's — both staff and pupils working together with kindness, respect, and pride in one another.
I am extremely proud of everyone! Mrs Walton

Stars of the week

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

Nursery – Michael
Reception – Kelson
Year 1 – Lindh
Year 2 – Abigail
Year 3 – Zane
Year 4 – Fatima
Year 5 – Rudi
Year 6 – All of Y6

SPECTACULAR PUPIL 🎉 :
Annabelle Y1

Weekly Attendance
Nursery – 82%
Reception – 94%
Year 1 – 94%
Year 2 – 93%
Year 3 – 91%
Year 4 – 93%
Year 5 – 92%
Year 6 – 99% Winners this week!
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.

Year 5 & 6 had 0 lates this week! 🎉

Fidget toys/Chew toys

We have recently noticed an increase in pupils bringing fidget items and chew toys into lessons.

In line with our inclusive approach, we absolutely recognise that some pupils benefit from sensory resources to help them access learning. Where this is identified as part of a pupil's IEP or SEND support plan, these resources will continue to be provided and used appropriately within the classroom.

However, we are asking that fidgets and chew toys are not brought into school or used in lessons unless they are part of a planned and agreed support strategy. This is because we have found that, when used outside of agreed plans, they can become distracting to learning and are increasingly being swapped between pupils, which can cause disruption and inconsistency in classroom routines. If you have any questions, please speak with the class teacher.

Thank you for your understanding and continued support.

To our wonderful Year 6…

Well done to our Year 6 pupils for their fantastic effort during SATs this week. You have made us incredibly proud with your determination, resilience, and positive attitude.

You showed great focus, confidence, and maturity throughout the week—skills that will take you far beyond these tests. It has been wonderful to see how much you have grown, both academically and personally.

As we move closer to the end of Year 6, you are becoming more prepared for the exciting next step of transitioning to high school. Keep up this brilliant attitude and continue to believe in yourselves.

We are very proud of you all—well done!

Dates for your diary

20th May	Y2 Class assembly
22nd May	**School closes**
1st June	**INSET Day**
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**



Amazing things outside of school!

We love to celebrate all the wonderful things our children achieve outside of school and wow, what a celebration we have had this afternoon!

Well done to:

- Reva in Reception who brought in her dancing medals and trophies from her recent competition
- Bailey in Y5 who brought in her dancing medals and certificate for her recent achievement
- Leo in Y6 who has now been moved to green belt in Karate
- Alexia in Y3 who pass her Tap exam with a distinction!
- Alex in Y5 who got a medal and trophy for his football and a martial arts certificate for his dedication & skills.

Lots of exciting news to share and celebrate together. It's great to see so many of you St Paul's pupils achieving fantastic things outside of school – well done!

MTC Year 4

We would like to inform you that the Year 4 Multiplication Tables Check (MTC) will begin after the half-term break next week.

To help you better understand what the check involves and how you can support your child, there will be a short information meeting after school on **Thursday 21st May** with Miss Brady. During this session, we will share important details about the MTC, including how it is conducted, what children can expect, and ways to support them at home.

It is very important that you attend this meeting so that you feel fully informed and confident in supporting your child during this time.

Thank you for your continued support.

End of day collection

Please help us keep our school safe and calm at drop-off and collection times.

We kindly ask that you move away from classroom doors and gates promptly once your child has been collected, keep walkways and exits clear, and allow staff clear visibility when dismissing children safely. Please also ensure behaviour and language remain appropriate at all times, and remember that smoking and vaping are not permitted on school grounds.

We understand this can be a time to catch up with others, but we ask that any conversations take place away from entrances and exits.

Thank you for your continued support in helping us maintain a safe and welcoming environment for everyone.

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

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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