



# St Paul's News



*"LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE"*

APRIL AND MAY 2026

Across the school, children have been engaging in exciting learning opportunities; outdoor activities and collaborative projects, making the most of Spring.

We are incredibly proud of the way our Year 6 pupils have approached their SATs with determination and maturity—thank you to families for your support during this important time.

Meanwhile, our younger children have been thriving in their creative and practical learning, including Beach School, the Woods, skateboarding and wider curriculum and enrichment experiences.

As always, we are grateful for the continued support from our families and wider community. We look forward to welcoming you to upcoming events next term and sharing more of the children's achievements with you.

## CONTENTS

<b>April- May- p1</b>
<b>Attendance - p2</b>
<b>Extended School- p3</b>
<b>Nursery- p4</b>
<b>Reception-p5</b>
<b>Year 1- p6</b>
<b>Year 2- p7</b>
<b>Year 3-p8-9</b>
<b>Year 4- p10-11</b>
<b>Year 5 - p12-14</b>
<b>Year 6-p15</b>
<b>David Attenborough @100-p16</b>
<b>Sports @ St Paul's-p17</b>
<b>Reading-p18</b>
<b>Winners @ St Paul's-p19</b>
<b>St Matthew's Church - p20</b>
<b>Key dates - p21</b>

# Attendance

"ALWAYS STRIVING TO BE BETTER"

**Only 11 classes had their attendance at or above 95% this term.**

Overall school attendance this month is **94.0%** which is below the national average of **94.6%** to date but an increase on last month.

We also really appreciate your continued efforts with attendance. Strong routines help the children feel settled, happy, and ready to learn, and we're grateful for your support. We are committed to providing every child with the best possible education. When children attend school consistently, they benefit from the full learning experience, build strong relationships with their peers and teachers, and develop routines that support lifelong success.

**A big well done to all 11 classes that have an attendance at or above 95%!**

## Attendance this term

RLB	98.0%	2MC	96.5%	4AB	95.5%
RBCKC	91.4%	2JS	94.5%	5JM	93.1%
RSM	94.7%	3JB	94.9%	5ER	91.6%
1HI	95.6%	3CR	96.4%	5EY	94.0%
1LG	95.0%	3GH	94.0%	6CW	95.4%
1LBLG	94.7%	4HM	96.7%	6KG	95.4%
2HONH	95.3%	4VLTS	94.4%	6ECM	97.3%

RLB-  
98.0%

# Extended Schools

"LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE"

## Extended Schools

We have been exploring different fruit and vegetables for snack time . This has been done by themes week. We have done red week , green week , vegetable only. Children have tried kiwi, pomegranate , dried cranberries , celery and raw broccoli for the first time.



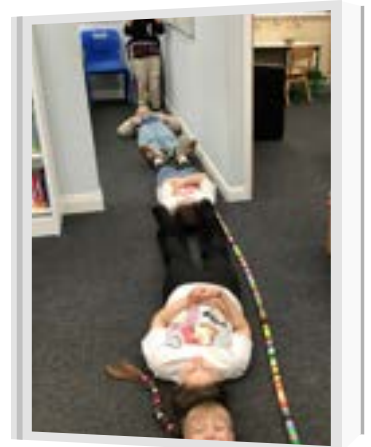
I felt proud of myself being able to make the superhero bracelets all by myself. I had so much fun ,I was able to make 4!  
Cody- Yr 3

We played with shaving cream in it was sprinkles. It was fun but made lots of mess!  
Elsa

Gelli Baff was squishy and slimy.  
Frazer- Yr 3  
We would like to play with it again  
Rory-Yr 1



## Holiday Club



I really liked making the windmills, I have it at home on my shelf. The Easter egg hunt was thrilling and a good laugh with my friends. We had a mini disco up in the Deck which I really enjoyed.

Lienne - Yr 6

# Nursery

"LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE"

Our Nursery has been buzzing with excitement this term as the children immersed themselves in our Minibeast topic. We were delighted to welcome Henry from Hastings Library, who shared some of his and our favourite stories and sparked even more curiosity about the tiny creatures in our world.

Our Breakfast Club children also enjoyed preparing breakfast for our very noisy crickets and locusts, although a little bit hesitant at first, they soon got stuck in and loved helping to care for them.

The children have been thrilled by our real-life visitors including a 7-year old African land snail that belongs to one of our lovely St Paul's families who lent him to us for the day. The Two-Year-Olds have loved going on minibeast hunts around the school grounds, spotting worms, bumble bees, ants and more.

Music sessions with Corin were a big hit too, especially the energetic call-and-response drumming which had everyone joining in with confidence and rhythm.

Across the term, the enjoyed sharing Minibeast books, drawing minibeasts and creating Loose Parts minibeasts and engaging with our Plant of the Week series, which continues to inspire their curiosity about nature and growth.

It's been a joyful, hands-on topic full of wonder, discovery and brilliant early learning.



African land snail    Feeding the bugs    Making our own minibeast



Music with Corin

Investigating minibeasts



Helping out in the Nursery



# Reception

"LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE"

## Learning in RSM



Singing—Our God is a Great Big God!



Finding worms in our outside area.



Beautiful ladybird hatches from its egg.

Reception have been working hard both inside and outside the classroom- exploring and learning about the world around them.



What hatches from an egg!



The caterpillars are wiggling!



Easter Bonnet winner RSM.

# Year 1

"LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE"



"Recycle cardboard, paper, plastic, and it can be made into something else." - Barney

"Bees use pollen from plants to make honey" - Oscar

"Don't litter because it can hurt the animals." - Alfie J

We enjoyed a very wholesome morning celebrating '**Earth Day**' on  
**22<sup>nd</sup> April 2026.**

We discussed what we can do to help protect our planet, then went outside to plant seeds, make daisy chains, look for and appreciate signs of spring, identify insects and plants and make dens for animals.

# Year 2

"LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE"



I liked learning the songs and learning the storm whale story. I liked learning about and seeing the instruments. (Revan)

It was helpful because we learnt about the musical instruments. (Joey)

It was really fun. I enjoyed the story. (Lilith)



Year 2 were invited down to the White Rock theatre to hear a re-telling of the story '**The Storm Whale**' by Benji Davies. The story was retold with songs that had been specially written to help bring the story alive. As the story went along, we learnt parts of the songs so that we could join in and accompany the musicians.

# Year 3 - Beach school

"LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE"



All Year 3 classes are visiting the beach three times throughout Year 3 with **'The Garden Classroom'**. Children are thoroughly enjoying their sessions.

During these sessions they will take part in:

- Outdoor experiences devised to promote self-discovery, stimulate growth and inspire a respect for nature. The Beach School programme works with children over a term (or longer) to build their understanding of the marine environment, practical skills, confidence, communication and ability to self-regulate their emotions.
- The children will take part in a range of activities such as team games, natural art, campfire cooking and using a range of tools. These will also develop an understanding and respect for their natural environment.



# Year 3 - Beach school

"LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE"



# Year 4

## "LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE"

My name is Olivia and I am writing about the student experience. I love food, gaming, school, teachers, family and my dog (Dougie). My favourite joke is: What is a crocodiles favourite Christmas song? Crocking around the Christmas tree!



I interviewed some children and this is what they said.



What was **your favourite part of this year so far**?

Willow (5EY): learning about the Victorians.  
Mario (5ER): learning different football skills.

What are you **looking forward to next term**?

**Willow (5EY):** Making electronic games.  
**Mario (5ER):** Learning about Mount Everest

My name is Jaxon O and I have chosen to write about the sports that happened this year. So, if you want to hear all about it, read on! I have interviewed Viv (6KG) and Nya (5JM).

What **sports have you taken part in so far?**

**Viv (6KG):** Rugby, Athletics, Cricket and running.  
**Nya (5ER):** Football, Tag Rugby, Cross Country and Athletics.

What **sports are you planning on doing next term?**

**Viv (6KG):** Cricket and Netball.

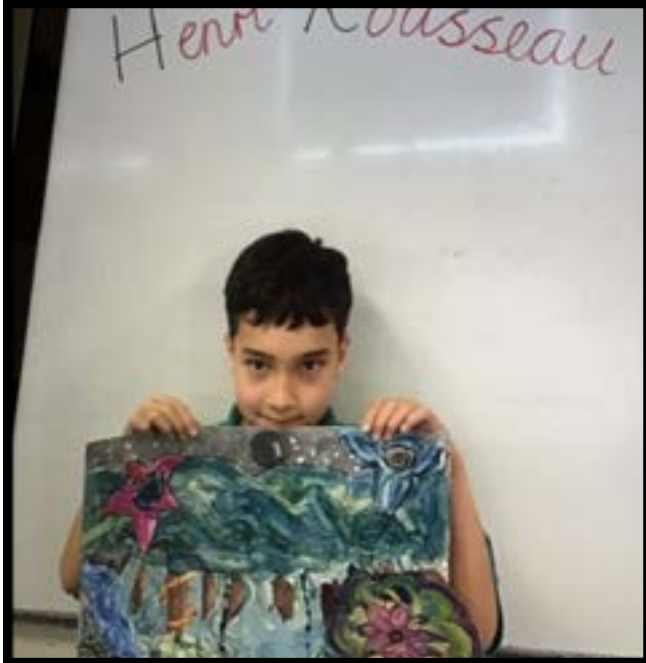
Is there a **sport you wish St Paul's did that we do not do at the moment?**

**Nya (5JM):** Horse riding would be amazing



# Year 4 - Rosseau

"LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE"



In Art, Year 4 have been exploring the work of Henri Rosseau. They planned and then painted their own pieces of Rosseau artwork. Well done Year 4!

# Year 5

*"LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE"*

## Brightpath Foundation Film Project

Some of our Year 5 pupils, have participated in an exciting project run by the Brightpath Foundation. The children planned and filmed a music video. The children in Year 5 have learnt an attendance rap called '**Let your Light Shine**'. The children involved in the project have filmed and edited a music video to accompany the rap. They even animated sections of the film. The finished film is being entered in to the International Children's Festival which is being held at the White Rock Theatre on the 18<sup>th</sup> June. We are all really excited to watch the premiere of the film after half term.



# Year 5

*"LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE"*



I have loved the film project. It was brilliant. I think I might be an animator when I grow up.



# Year 5

"LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE"

We have been making electrical games using buzzers.  
We started our learning by playing some different electrical component games.



Skateboarding begins again!



I'm really excited about making our own game and I'd love to make it in the shape of Mount Everest.  
Willow



Our boat floated successfully because its large surface area helped it stay on top of the water.  
Aurora and Willow  
5EY

Will our boat float?



# Year 6 - SATs week

"LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE"



A huge well done to all of Year 6 as they have navigated SATs this week. The children have worked incredibly hard over the course of the year in preparation for the SATs. It was great to see so many enjoying their SATs breakfast; applying themselves in their tests this week, and having fun during their downtime!

# David Attenborough @ 100

*"LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE"*

David Attenborough turned 100 on **8th May**, as a school we wanted to mark this special occasion.

Children came dressed in green, animal print, or anything inspired by the natural world. Lots of fun activities were planned for the day, helping everyone learn more about wildlife and how we can look after our planet.



Year 5 made posters



We planted sunflower seeds





# Sports @ St Paul's

"LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE"



What a great afternoon for our Year 3s  
Best in Hastings and Rother and now 3<sup>rd</sup>  
best in Sussex.  
Such a great achievement for the school to  
be back to back medal winners in this  
competition.

Mr McGowan



Our Year 3 and 4 pupils enjoyed a successful day at a recent Hastings United tournament, bringing home three sets of medals. The girls' teams performed particularly strongly, finishing an impressive third overall, while both the Year 3 and Year 4 teams went on to achieve success in the **'Shield'** competition, securing bronze and gold medals respectively.

The children demonstrated excellent teamwork, effort and sportsmanship throughout the day - a fantastic achievement for all involved.

# Reading

## "LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE"

**Top 10 tips to help children enjoy reading To help make reading enjoyable and fun, we asked experts and authors what they recommend to help get kids reading.**

- 1. Make books part of your family life** - Always have books around so that you and your children are ready to read whenever there's a chance.
- 2. Join your local library** - Get your child a library card. You'll find the latest videogames, blu-rays and DVDs, plus tons and tons of fantastic books. Allow them to pick their own books, encouraging their own interests.
- 3. Match their interests** - Help them find the right book - it doesn't matter if it's fiction, poetry, comic books or non-fiction.
- 4. All reading is good** - Don't discount non-fiction, comics, graphic novels, magazines and leaflets. Reading is reading and it is all good.
- 5. Get comfortable!** - Snuggle up somewhere warm and cosy with your child, either in bed, on a beanbag or on the sofa, or make sure they have somewhere comfy when reading alone.
- 6. Ask questions** - To keep them interested in the story, ask your child questions as you read such as, 'What do you think will happen next?' or 'Where did we get to last night? Can you remember what had happened already?'
- 7. Read whenever you get the chance** - Bring along a book or magazine for any time your child has to wait, such as at a doctor's surgery.
- 8. Read again and again** - Encourage your child to re-read favourite books and poems. Re-reading helps to build up fluency and confidence.
- 9. Bedtime stories** - Regularly read with your child or children at bedtime. It's a great way to end the day and to spend valuable time with your child.
- 10. Rhyme and repetition** - Books and poems which include rhyme and repetition are great for encouraging your child or children to join in and remember the words.

# St Matthew's

*"LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE"*

Welcome to St Matthew's Church,  
St Leonards on Sea



We are delighted to announce that the parish of St Leonard Hollington (Church in the Wood) will be joining St Matthew's Church and St Ethelburga's Church to create a new family of churches later this year.

As part of this new partnership, the Diocese of Chichester will be investing £168,000 to help subsidise a second full time member of clergy and £200,000 to help fund two new lay workers over the next 6 years. The first of these two lay roles will be a full time Families and Schools Worker to be based at St Matthews but with a brief for outreach to schools across the parishes and the second will be a full time Families and Community Worker to be based at Church in the Wood but with a brief for community outreach work across the churches.

We are also excited to announce a new partnership with Ashburnham Trust to help provide a new weekly community café in Hollington which will start later this summer. We believe that this investment and the appointment of new staff will help us significantly as we seek to put into action the Diocesan Vision of helping people know, love and follow Jesus.

We are very grateful to God for all our partners who have helped make this project possible and we trust the LORD that he may be at work among us in the years ahead.

# Winners at St Paul's

"LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE"

## **BBC 500 Words - Finalist**

We are extremely proud of Suheyla (Year 4) who was a finalist in the BBC 500 word writing competition. Her story is called, 'My Two Worlds in One.' You can read it [here](#). She attended an award ceremony at Windsor Castle.



## **A Town Explores a Book**

A number of our children were winners at the recent '**Town Explores a Book**' writing competition. Well done Jude, Sammy and Rye.

# Key Dates

"LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE"

**Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May** - End of Term 5  
**Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June** - Start of Term 6  
**Monday 15<sup>th</sup> June**- Years 1,2,3 Sports Day  
**Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> June**- Nursery and Reception Sports Day  
**Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> June**- Town Sports  
**Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> June**- Class photos  
**Friday 19<sup>th</sup> June**- Years 4,5, 6 Sports Day  
**Friday 11<sup>th</sup> July**- Years 4, 5 and 6 White Rock Show  
**Monday 20<sup>th</sup> July** Open Afternoon  
**Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> July**- 9.30am-Year 6 Leavers ' Service @ St Paul's [parents welcome]  
**Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> July** - Year 6 Prom  
**Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> July** - End of Term 6  
**Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> July** - INSET Day

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from you as well as any new  
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