



St Paul's News



"LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE"

SEPTEMBER 2026

Welcome back to a new school year!

We hope you all had a wonderful, relaxing summer break and managed to enjoy some quality time together.

It has been an absolute joy welcoming the children back after the summer holidays which seems a long time ago now. The classrooms are already buzzing with excitement, energy, and a shared enthusiasm for the learning ahead.

A special, warm welcome goes out to our new families and pupils joining us for the first time—we are thrilled to have you as part of our St Paul's family

As we embark on this new academic year, our dedicated staff is fully committed to providing a safe, nurturing, and inspiring environment where every child can thrive.

At St Paul's, we believe that children flourish when home and school work closely together. We look forward to building a strong partnership with you as we support your child's happiness, development, and success.



CONTENTS

September-	p1
Attendance -	p2
Extended Schools-	p3
Nursery-	p4
Year 1-	p5
Year 2-	p6
Year 3-	p7
Year 4-	p8
Year 5 -	p9
Year 6 @ PGL-	p10
Year 6 @ School-	p11
Safeguarding-	p12
Reading-	p13
Maths-	p14
Netball Club-	p15
St Matthew's Church -	p16
Key dates -	p17

Attendance

"ALWAYS STRIVING TO BE BETTER"

Overall school attendance for this month is 96.1%; a great start to the year.

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

A big well done to the 19 classes who have achieved attendance of 95% or above this term, an excellent accomplishment

A special mention to 1HI who have achieved 100% attendance since the start of term.



Attendance this term

RLB	98.5%	2MC	97.0%	4AB	95.4%
RBCKC	98.6%	2EK	98.5%	5JM	97.6%
RSM	97.7%	3JS	96.0%	5ER	95.2%
1HI	100%	3CR	97.0%	5EY	97.2%
1JB	95.9%	3GH	96.3%	6CW	95.9%
1LBSC	95.4%	4HM	96.5%	6KG	95.1%
2HONH	96.3%	4VLTS	92.7%	6ECM	91.2%

1HI
- 100%

Extended Schools

"LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE"

Breakfast is now a more social event. We need to ask our friends to pass things to us. I like the way the tables are now. It makes me feel happy when they say please and thank you.

Pearly Year 5

Iron bridge made from Lego; this was a fun activity. I also helped to build Brighton pier with my friend. It was a good as we were creative and used our imagination.

Daisy in Year 5



Challenge - this was a sticky and hard challenge as I was working on my own at first. Then I worked with two boys and we nearly made cube!

Astrid in Year 4



I got drawn around, this made me giggle.

Thomas in Year 5

Nursery

"LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE"

We had a wonderful start to the new year! Our returning children have settled back into Nursery routines beautifully, and we are so proud of how well our new children have settled into their new environment.

The children have loved exploring different areas of the school, meeting new adults and of course, having lots of fun jumping in muddy puddles and running the Daily Mile!

We have also been practising our whole school expectation of walking quietly through the school and the children have amazed us with how quickly they have learned this new routine.



Maeve and Alfie jumping in the puddles



Miss CM reading with Ror



Amy going for a walk with the children



Rory running the Daily Mile

The nursery children, both new and returning, have settled well into their routines and are enjoying their learning and play.

Year 1

"LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE"



In Year 1, learning through play remains an important part of the school day. Through carefully planned activities, children explore, investigate, create, and collaborate, helping them to build independence, confidence, and a love of learning. Play provides opportunities to develop key skills across the curriculum while encouraging curiosity, problem-solving, communication, and imagination in a meaningful and engaging way.



Year 2

"LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE"

Taking our learning outdoors, we explored the natural environment and collected a variety of materials, including twigs, leaves, pinecones and other treasures we discovered around the school grounds. Using these resources, we carefully designed and created unique self-portraits, thinking about the features that make us special and reflecting our individual personalities. This creative activity encouraged us to observe the natural world closely, develop our fine motor skills and express ourselves artistically while enjoying the benefits of outdoor learning. We were proud to share our different creations and celebrate what makes each of us unique.



Year 2 have thoroughly enjoyed taking their learning outdoors this term, making the most of the natural environment around our school. Through a range of exciting activities, the children have explored nature, developed their teamwork skills and applied their classroom learning in a hands-on way. Whether investigating seasonal changes, creating artwork using natural materials or taking part in problem solving challenges, the children have shown curiosity, enthusiasm and resilience.



Year 3

"LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE"

Mindfulness -

In 3CR we have been thinking about mindfulness and have been trying different mindfulness activities to find ones that work for us. We have found that simple repeating patterns help to calm and focus our mind.



Maths -

In Year 3, we have been getting practical and making the most of the sunny weather. In maths, we have been learning about place value and how this can be applied to different real-life situations, such as measuring weight and capacity.

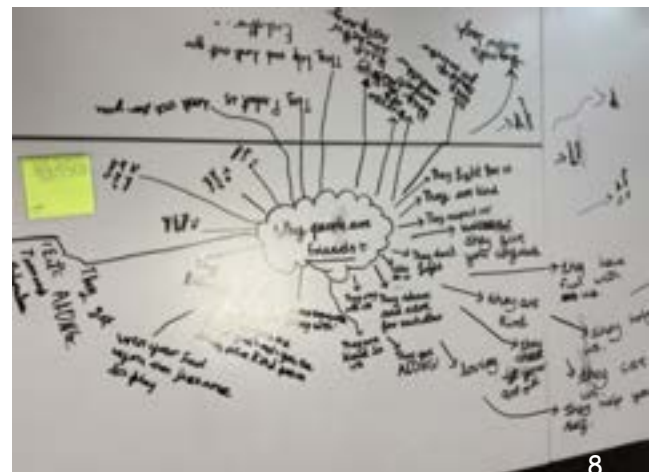


Hello!



A hand-drawn mind map on a piece of paper, titled "Why people are friends" in the center. The branches and their content are as follows:

- Top Branch:** "People are friends because they like company."
 - Sub-branch: "People are friends because they like each other."
- Right Branch:** "People are friends because they need friends who..."
 - Sub-branch: "People are friends because they need friends who can help them." (with a small drawing of a person)
 - Sub-branch: "People are friends because they need friends who can play with them." (with a small drawing of two people playing)
- Bottom Branch:** "People are friends because they need friends who..."
 - Sub-branch: "People are friends because they need friends who can help them." (with a small drawing of a person)
 - Sub-branch: "People are friends because they need friends who can play with them." (with a small drawing of two people playing)
- Left Branch:** "People are friends because they need friends who..."
 - Sub-branch: "People are friends because they need friends who can help them." (with a small drawing of a person)
 - Sub-branch: "People are friends because they need friends who can play with them." (with a small drawing of two people playing)



Year 5

"LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE"

Year 5 have been learning how to write descriptively. As part of this they learnt by heart (please feel free to ask your children to tell them this story) a section of the Jungle Book by Rudyard Kipling. We did a short drama activity, freeze framing parts of it to consolidate our learning.



Mowgli slumped under a telescopic tree, freeze frame of Indian jungle



Freeze frame of Indian jungle

5EY had their first Class Worship of Year 5. We discussed what we have been learning about in RE so far this term. The children all took turns speaking and sharing our God displays.



Year 6 @ PGL

"LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE"

Just a few photos to show the activities that were on offer at PGL.
Photos will be uploaded onto the website ASAP.



Abseiling



Survivor



All Aboard



Giant Swing



Jacob's Ladder

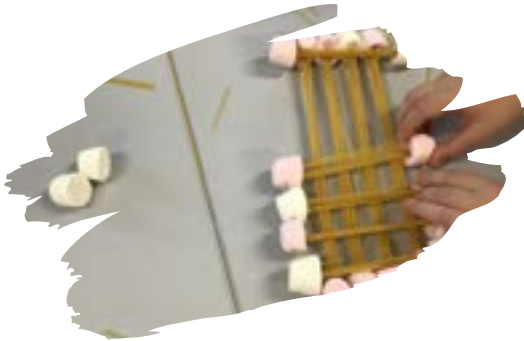


Raft Building

Our Year 6 pupils had an unforgettable experience on their PGL residential, taking part in a wide range of exciting outdoor activities that challenged them to step outside their comfort zones. Throughout the trip, children demonstrated resilience, teamwork, independence and determination while building lasting memories with their friends. It was wonderful to see their confidence grow as they embraced new experiences and supported one another every step of the way.

Year 6 @ School

"LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE"



While many of our Year 6 pupils enjoyed PGL, those who remained in school had a fantastic time taking part in a range of fun and engaging activities. The children enjoyed opportunities to work together, be creative, and celebrate their final year at St Paul's. There was a wonderful atmosphere throughout the week, with plenty of laughter, teamwork, and memorable experiences shared with friends.

Safeguarding

"LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE"

Screen time

You may be aware that new screen time guidance has been issued for parents of under-5's. It's recommended that children under the age of 5 have no more than 1 hour of screen time a day. Juggling family life and raising children in a digital world can be challenging. Find out more about how to support healthy screen habits for children under 5.

- 90% of brain growth happens before age 5. Young children learn best through warm, responsive interactions with parents and carers.

The government website 'Best start in life' is a useful site with lots of practical information and helpful tips and tricks.

[Baby and toddler screen time guidance – Best Start in Life](#)

In our busy homes it can be really challenging to avoid using screens but there are lots of things that we can do to try and minimise use.

Safe Screen Swaps

Mealtimes: Try swapping screens for background music, simple conversation, table games, colouring or even 'I Spy' with colours or letters.

Bedtimes: Swap screens for reading bedtime stories together. Try to avoid screens for the hour before bed, as this could affect sleep.

It's also really important to remember that children are taking their lead from us. Try and be mindful of how often you use your screen around your child, possibly leaving the room for a short time to read or answer an email can help with how they view our screen habits. Our children want attention and interaction, even playing a simple game such as 'count the coloured cars' gives them that valuable interaction and helps them feel secure.

There is advice around the type of content that young children should be viewing with slower content being advisable, simple stories, characters speaking slowly, faces showing emotions are all helpful to children's development so thinking about what their viewing is vital.

The safeguarding team will be sending out more advice and ideas for our Early Years parents over the next few weeks.

Reading

"LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE"

September is a particularly exciting time for me and for every teacher. New classrooms, new friendships, and new topics bring a renewed sense of energy and possibility. For our youngest members of St Paul's in Reception, it is also the time when their reading journey truly begins.

There is something incredibly special about hearing young children recognise and say sounds, then begin to blend them together to read their very first words. Watching this process unfold is a privilege, as it opens the door to a whole world of stories, knowledge, and discovery for them to explore.

Reading is something we use every single day, often without even thinking about it. We read menus when choosing a treat, recipes when making something delicious, signs to help us find our way, and messages to stay connected with family and friends. Reading helps us understand the world around us, participate fully in it, and, importantly, enjoy it. Every confident reader starts somewhere, and it all begins here with those first sounds, first blends, and first words.

Mr Trimmings



We run a reading raffle every term. Your child will receive raffle tickets if they read at least 5 times each week.



We are really pleased to introduce the Big Cat eBook library for every child in Reception and KS1.

Passwords are stuck inside your child's Reading record.

<https://www.collinshub.co.uk/login/>

Reading

"LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE"



Just wanted to say how absolutely AMAZING the children were this morning out at the Reading podcast we recorded in Eastbourne.

Aside from impeccable behaviour, the children were phenomenal during the podcast! We had prepared some responses to some prompts over the last few weeks which paid off today because they were naturals when responding to the host, Jane Branson, and kept the podcast like a conversation the whole time.

Please if you get a chance, ask them about their experience because I'm sure they would love to tell you about the recording studio booths, speaking into the microphones and what they learnt about the sound designers who work for the company.

It was a wonderful morning and they are keen for you and their children to listen to the podcast when it is published in the next couple of days.

Miss Campbell- Marshall

Maths

"LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE"



NumBots & Times Tables Rock Stars Update

Children across the school have made a fantastic start to the term with their engagement in NumBots and Times Tables Rock Stars (TTRS).

In **NumBots (Years 1-2)**, **1JB** have been the standout performers, achieving an incredible 100% participation in both Weeks 2 and 3, while **1LBSC** also reached **100% participation** in Week 2. Congratulations to all classes for their commitment to developing number fluency.

For **TTRS (Years 3-4)**, **4AB** produced an impressive turnaround, climbing from third place in Week 1 to secure first place in both Weeks 2 and 3, with participation rates of **93% and 90% respectively**.

In **TTRS (Years 5-6)**, **6CW** topped the table in Week 1, while **5JM** claimed the Week 2 trophy. Week 3 saw **6KG** take first place with an excellent **83%** participation rate, demonstrating fantastic dedication and improvement.

Regular practice on NumBots and TTRS helps children develop rapid recall, improve fluency and accuracy, and build confidence in mathematics. Well done to all pupils who have taken part, and we look forward to celebrating even more success in the weeks ahead!

Why It Matters?

Regular practice on NumBots and Times Tables Rock Stars helps children:

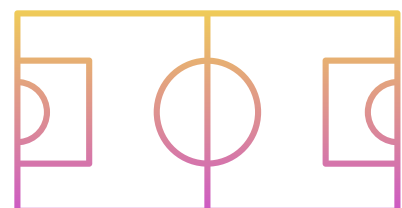
- Develop rapid recall of number facts
- Build confidence in maths lessons
- Improve fluency and accuracy
- Strengthen mental arithmetic skills

Keep Practising and Aim for Next Week's Trophy!

Netball Club

"LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE"

The Year 5 and 6 Netball Club has got off to a fantastic start, with pupils demonstrating great enthusiasm, determination and teamwork. Over the past few weeks, the children have been working hard to develop their shooting skills, improve their footwork and refine their passing techniques through a range of fun and challenging activities. They have shown increasing confidence in applying these skills during game situations, learning the importance of communication, positioning and working together as a team. It has been wonderful to see their progress already, and we look forward to watching their skills and teamwork continue to grow throughout the term.



St Matthew's

"LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE"



Welcome.

At St. Matthews you'll find a church family of all ages keen to grow in our Christian faith, committed to learning from the Bible and actively seeking to serve our local community as an expression of our love for Jesus Christ.

We're a church for the whole family with our main Sunday gathering at 11am each week. Please see our website about the activities we are currently running for children and families.

Find out more:- www.stmatts.co.uk or facebook: StMatthewsChurchStLeonards

Get in touch

Mrs Pauline Blythe

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St Matthews
Sunday Club
Every Sunday during our 11am Service
For children in Reception to Year 6



Sunday Club is a group for children from Reception to Year 6 that runs alongside our morning service. Come along for lots of fun games, crafts and learning about Jesus from the bible.

All our groups are led by leaders who care about children and have passed the necessary Child Safeguarding checks.

Our Sunday Services

10:00am Morning Worship For more details, please click [here](#)

Church Centre

Click [here](#) for information about hiring our Church Centre



Please also refer to the St Matthew's Church website

Key Dates

"LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE"

Thursday 15 October- New Reception 2027-28 Parents Morning @ 9.30am

Thursday 22 October- New Reception 2027-28 Parents Mmeeting 5.30pm

Thursday 22 October- last day of Term 1

Friday 23 October - INSET Day

Term 2

Monday 2 November -First Day of Term 2

Tuesday 10 November- Parent Consultations 3.30pm to 6pm

Thursday 12 November - Parent Consultations 4.30pm- 7pm

Friday 13 November Children in Need

Thursdday 12th & 19th November- - 9.30am- New Reception 27/28 Open Mornings

December- Reception , Year 1 and Year 2 Nativity dates TBC

Thursday 10 December @ 2.20pm- Year 3 Christingle in the Main Hall

Friday 18 December-@ 10am- Years 4,5 and 6 Christmas Carol Concert @ St Matthew's Church

Friday 18 December- Last day of Term 2

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**We'd love to hear some feedback
from you as well as any new
ideas for things we could include
in our St Paul's News. Please send
any comments to
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