



St Paul's News



"LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE"

JANUARY 2026

Happy New Year

New Year's Day seems a long time ago now as we approach the end of Term 3.

A cold start to the new year which brought some cold and icy weather which the children loved!

January also brought colds, flu and classes which have been affected by Chickenpox.

We are incredibly proud to see our children thriving so brilliantly in their learning! Every day, they amaze us with their curiosity, determination, and enthusiasm. Whether they are tackling new challenges, sharing ideas with their peers, or celebrating their successes—big or small—the children "let their light shine".



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Attendance

"ALWAYS STRIVING TO BE BETTER"

10 classes had their attendance at or above 95% this term.

Overall school attendance this term is **94.0%** which is below the national average of **94.6%** to date both percentages have fallen over the last month.

We are committed to providing every child with the best possible education. One of the most important factors in achieving this is regular and punctual attendance. 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 10 classes that have an attendance at or above 95% so far this term and to 3JB who have managed two whole weeks with 100% attendance!

Attendance this term

RLB	94.5%	2JS	90.3%	4AB	94.5%
RBCKC	95.1%	2MC	95.3%	5JM	95.0%
RSM	96.7%	3GH	95.5%	5ER	93.1%
1HI	96.7%	3CR	94.0%	5EY	91.7%
1LG	92.3%	3JB	97.9%	6CW	93.7%
1LBLG	93.6%	4VLTS	96.0%	6KG	92.0%
2HONH	95.2%	4HM	95.9%	6ECM	94.2%

3JB-
97.9%

Extended Schools

"LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE"

What a wonderful start to the term. Splash started with a week of fitness. Children were able to do some yoga; enjoyed bench ball and an obstacle course.

Then it was Science week which started with a bang  as the children explored making citrus volcanoes.

The fun continued with the egg drop challenge, sensory 'oobleck' and magic milk. The month has ended on a creative craft monster week, making hand monsters, tube monsters as well as monster book marks.

Mrs Fairweather



It was hard trying to wrap it all up so it didn't crack ... 'ohh' mine didn't crack. Kacie 4VLTs

Citrus Volcanoes

It was a good science experiment. It was really fun when I got to mix up the left over ingredients together.- Jesse 6 KG

I like that at splash I get to have food I don't normally have at home. I like the rice dishes. Although I have a dietary need, I still feel included at light tea" Tommy 5ER

Nursery

"LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE"

January has been bursting with imagination, muddy adventures and plenty of pre-historic magic!



Nursery children and staff have been embracing the outdoors in every kind of weather, with rainy days offering brilliant opportunities for talk, exploration and early scientific thinking.

The children took to the Daily Mile track with the energy of flying pterodactyls, swooping and gliding around the course. Pre-school children cheered on our determined two-year olds, who added extra splashes of joy by stomping through every puddle they could find.

Outdoors, dinosaurs were whisked away on magical journeys, exploring forests and mountains and even the occasional unicorn meadow. In the water trays the dinosaurs lined up for a splash of colour and a whoosh of bubbles as the children joyfully painted them before giving them a bubbly bath to wash them clean again!

There was huge excitement at the weighing station, where dinosaurs of all shapes and sizes took turns on the scales as the children compared, predicted and giggled at the results.

Indoors, the malleable area became a prehistoric bakery as the children crafted dinosaur birthday cakes, proudly using their subitising superhero skills of "I can see a number in a flash!" The pre-school children showed real focus and determination to cut up the dinosaurs' favourite "superfoods" into bitesize portions which led to lively chats about which ones we enjoy at home. We watched some of Andy's pre-historic adventures on CBeebies and the children made a sign for our 'Dinosaur world' and wrote some entry tickets.

Reception

"LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE"



Let it snow!!



Practising my phonics



Cold day painting - using blue and white paint to create a winter scene

Year 1

"LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE"

In Year 1, we learnt how to draw dragons to link to our English text 'The Moonlight Dragon.' First, we learnt how to draw scales in different ways - hills, ovals, diamonds and inverse. We then followed how to draw a dragon and added our own detail using the techniques we had learnt.



The Moonlight Dragon

Moonlight Dragons are unusual and bizarre creatures. They are the smallest breed of dragon. Most of them are as small as a mouse. Some are even smaller!

All Moonlight Dragons have small wings, delicate horns and long tails. Some of them can also breathe fire.

Moonlight Dragons live in shady forests. They inhabit small crystal caves behind waterfalls.

Usually, they eat brightly coloured fruit. They love red apples, yellow bananas and pink grapes. Sometimes, they like to nibble colourful flowers. They never eat kiwis because they are terrified of the colour green.

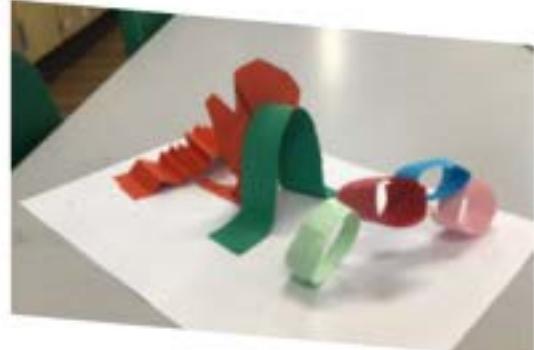
The most amazing thing about Moonlight Dragons is that they are luminous. This means they glow in the dark!

Year 2

"LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE"

In Art this term, Year 2 having been learning about sculpture. In preparation of making bird sculptures using various materials at the end of term, 2MC have practised manipulating paper in different ways to make it 3D.

We learnt how to loop, make triangular prisms and fringes that stood up from the paper. The children absolutely loved this activity so much so that we had to make an extra one to take home with us. It was brilliant to see the children so engaged!



Year 2 have been working with Create Music to compose and write their own piece of music. The children threw themselves into the workshops with brilliant enthusiasm—experimenting with rhythm, movement, and singing as they collaborated to create their very own musical pieces. It has been a joyful experience filled with creativity, confidence-building, and plenty of smiles.



Year 3

"LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE"

Year 3 Dance - This term we have been looking at the story of 'Matilda' and working in pairs and groups.

3JB Attendance - 3JB have won the attendance bear twice this term including getting 100% in one week.

3CR Shop - This term we made and ran a shop. We took turns selling and buying. We wrote shopping lists, worked with money and created receipts, putting our maths learning into the real world.

Nina - Nina brought in a 'Beano' book to which she has been featured in. Keep reading!



Year 4

"LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE"



I liked exploring pop up books in DT because it is interesting to see all the different flaps and pop ups.
Suhayla

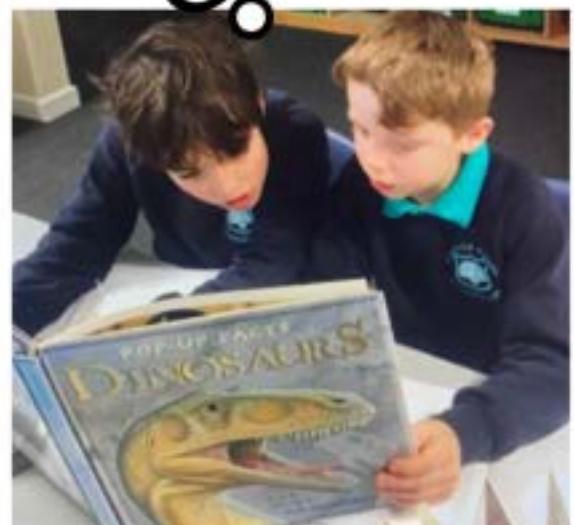
We made different flaps before designing our own pop ups.
Matilda



Year 4 have researched pop-up books to start the DT process of researching, designing, making and evaluating their own pop-up books!



I liked exploring pop up books in DT it's cool to be able to make things move. I also enjoy working with other people
Sammy



Year 5

"LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE"

In PE this month, we are studying Dance. We have started learning about Bollywood style of dancing.

We have learnt these Bollywood actions:

Bhangra Bounces
Bhangra Street dance
Mudras

Priya: I like the lotus flower hand position.

Ethan: I like the Bhangra street dance elbow brush

We learnt Bollywood and line dancing moves, my favourite is line dancing as there are interesting steps-Scarlett



Year 6

"LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE"

Art- Still Life



In Art, we looked at art to see what things looked like from different angles and perspective .

First we looked at the angle from our chair. Then we looked at it from above which made the drawing look completely different.

Finally, we looked up at the objects on the table and it looked different from the first two. This goes to show that depending on what angle you look at objects every piece of art you look at it is always from a different perspective.

Delilah

Recognise that light travels in straight lines experiment.

We cut the line vertically and shone it in the vertical hole and it always was going straight in different directions and the other person holding one side and holding the other side and the target I got a fact about if you put the light close to the hole it will go in different directions but straight and if you put it a bit far away it will only have one light going through the hole straight.

Mahad



Chess Tournament

"LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE"

Children from Years 5 & 6 took part in a Chess tournament at Sandown. The 9 children selected to attend had a great experience.

Special mention for the majority Year 5 team in group D who won their group, and particularly Muhammad (6CW) who had 100% success.

Chess club runs every Thursday lunchtime and there's likely to be more friendly fixtures.
Please do attend and play a game or two.

Mr Russell

Final Results

Group A

- 🥇 1st – Sandown A (10.5)
- 🥈 2nd – St Paul's A (8)
- 🥉 3rd – Ore A (5)
- 4th – St Thomas A (0.5)



Group B

- 🥇 1st – Sandown B (11)
- 🥈 2nd – Baird A (7)
- 🥉 3rd – Castledown A (3)
- 3rd – Ore B (3)



Group C

- 🥇 1st – Sandown C (11)
- 🥈 2nd – St Paul's B (9)
- 🥉 3rd – Castledown B (3)
- 4th – St Thomas B (1)



Group D

- 🥇 1st – St Paul's C (8.5)
- 🥈 2nd – Castledown C (6)
- 🥈 2nd – Baird B (6)
- 4th – Ore C (3.5)

Sports @ St Paul's

"LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE"

It was my first time representing my school
at a tournament.
I had my friends with me so I wasn't
worried.
Thomas

We won! It was really fun!
We were coached really
well by Mr McGowan.
Emily

Friday 16th January- Year 3 / 4 Football



Thursday 29th January- Netball Tournament -



The St. Paul's 1st team grew into their games and got into the semi-finals and won. Then played brilliantly in the final (without realising it was the final) and won that comfortably without conceding a goal!

Miss Young

It was fun, I was really excited that we won- Connor
I was really happy as we came joint first and not second!- Cooper

Wellbeing

"LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE"

Children's Mental Health Week

The theme of this year's mental health week is 'creating a sense of belonging'. All our children will have PHSE lessons around this theme during the week. Betty, our Mental Health Support Practitioner, will also be leading an assembly about taking care of our mental health.

Miss Watson is our Senior Mental Health Lead.

If you would like to discuss your child's wellbeing or mental health, please contact her.

Place2Be's

**CHILDREN'S
MENTAL HEALTH
WEEK**

**9-15
FEB
2026**

This is My Place



[MORE PHOTOS](#)

TOP TIPS FROM OUR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE ON HOW TO HELP THEM FEEL A SENSE OF BELONGING

- Parents, Carers or Community Groups can help belonging by asking questions about things they see us becoming passionate about.
- By checking in with you, providing support and making you feel safe and important.
- By being there and being happy
- By doing things that make you feel happy and safe
- Letting us choose our likes and interests and letting us explore new things.
- Parents taking time to listen and speak to us, reassure us.
- Making a comfortable, welcoming place for us.

Behaviour

"LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE"

Join Us For A

Coffee Morning

Thursday 5th February

9am-10am

In The Pier

Join Miss Watson
and Mrs Webber
for a cuppa and a chat



Share ideas to help support
your child to **behave well**
and stay calm.



Y5 Aspirations Project

"LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE"

Year 5 Aspirations Project

We are delighted that the Education Futures Trust are running an exciting project with a group of our Year 5 pupils over the next 8 weeks. During the first session, the pupils met a 'mystery' guest. They had to try to work out what this person's job was. Amri is a doctor at Brighton University. The children were able to ask him questions about his career path. Over the next few weeks, they will be meeting a number of professionals from different health and social care roles.



Reading

"LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE"

Part of the
National Year of Reading 2026

GO
ALL
IN.

10 MINUTES READING A DAY

Reading helps you:

- Feel calm and relaxed
- boosts mood
- improves memory, focus and concentration

10 minutes reading
equates to 60 hours, and
almost one million words
more in a year!

Did you know?

Readers are 21% less likely to report feelings of depression, and 10% more likely to report good self esteem

EVEN READING FOR JUST SIX MINUTES CAN REDUCE STRESS LEVELS BY UP TO 68%

Also!

- expands vocabulary
- improves general knowledge
- more likely to score higher in tests

Teaches empathy

- Reading about the life and times of people who live or lived in different circumstances from you
- can make it easier for you to understand and relate to those who are different from you.

It makes you more empathetic.

Musical achievement

"LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE"



Well done to the St Paul's Academy Choir
who managed to raise £114.02 for St
Michael's Hospice with their Christmas carol
singing.

They received a certificate in the post
thanking them for their efforts!



Maths

"LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE"

A couple of weeks ago, our Year 4 children took part in a Trust wide timetables battle. The children battled against 21 other schools for a week and we had some fantastic results which we are extremely proud of and we hope you are too!

Out of the 1857 pupils taking part across the trust, we had 3 children who scored in the top 10 - such an amazing achievement!



Jaxon O



Mohammed G



Emjay B

Out of the 97 classes taking part across the Trust, we achieved second place!



A huge well done to 4AB on this result.

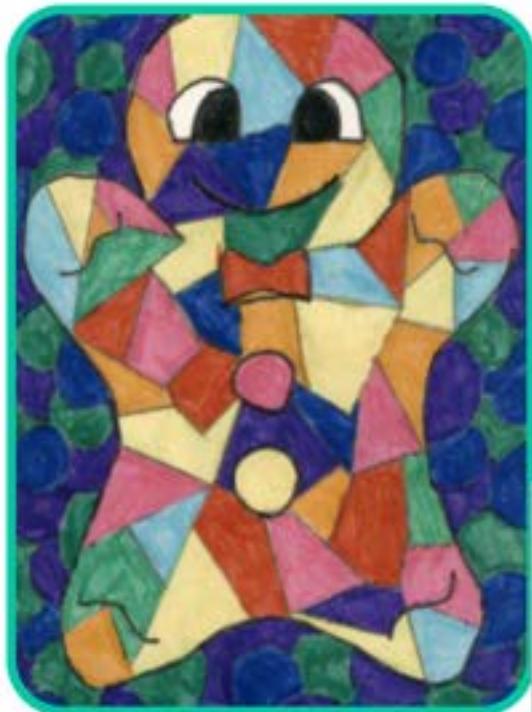
Out of the 22 schools taking part, we are very proud to say that we came 4th overall.



Art

"LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE"

DCAT Key Stage 2 winning
Christmas card design.



We wanted to share a few of the fantastic entries for a competition organised by DCAT to design a Christmas card they could send to schools and feature in their December newsletter. The gingerbread won first place. Well done, Grace in Year 6.

Miss Shackel



St Matthew's

"LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE"



At St. Matthew's you'll find a church family of all ages keen to grow in our Christian faith and committed to helping local people follow Jesus Christ. Our main Sunday service is at 11am each week and this includes activities for children from babies through to school year 11.

Please use this site to find out more about us and do get in touch if you have any questions. You are very welcome at any of our services or activities.



The Hub @ St Matthew's
Serving the Community

'Pancake Special'
at St Matthew's Church Centre
Tuesday 17 February 2026

10 am-12 noon
Tea, Coffee and Pancakes
Everybody Welcome

Key Dates

"LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE"



Friday 13th February - End of Term 3
Monday 23rd February - Start of Term 4
Friday 27th March - End of Term 4
Monday 13th April - Start of Term 5
Monday 11th May - Year 6 SATs week
Friday 22nd May - End of Term 5
Monday 1st June - Start of Term 6
Tuesday 21st July - End of Term 6
Wednesday 22nd July - INSET Day

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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
office@stpaulsceacademy.org