

St Paul's Catholic Primary School Newsletter



Friday 17th April 2026

'Our school is a place of learning, a place of love'

Dear parents, carers and children,

I hope you all had a wonderful and blessed Easter, filled with peace, hope, and time with loved ones. It has been great to welcome the children back to school this week, and to see them return refreshed, happy, and ready for the new term ahead. Just a reminder that children can now wear summer uniform.

We have a very busy term ahead, our final one for this academic year. It is always a special time, filled with exciting learning opportunities, memorable events, and moments to celebrate all that the children have achieved throughout the year. From school trips and sports days to special liturgies and end-of-year celebrations, there is much to look forward to. We are especially mindful of our older pupils as they prepare for the next stage of their journey, and we will continue to support and encourage every child to do their very best in the weeks ahead. Our diary dates can be found below and also on our website.

Hopefully, on Tuesday, you will have seen the update from our Chair of Governors, Ms Robson, regarding the change in my role here at St Paul's. I will continue as Executive Headteacher here, leading the school with the same commitment, care and high expectations that you know, and I will remain a visible and active presence in school life. Day-to-day, you will continue to see me in school regularly, and I will remain fully involved in all key decisions regarding teaching, learning, and the wellbeing of our pupils and will continue to work closely at all times with our dedicated senior leadership team, whose experience and commitment ensure that the school continues to thrive.

This also brings opportunities for St Paul's. Working more closely with another school will allow us to share ideas, strengthen our practice, and further enrich the educational experience we offer to our children. Ultimately, this is about building on the strong foundations we already have at St Paul's.

I am incredibly proud of our school community and very grateful for your ongoing support. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to speak to me on the gate or contact me via the office.

Wishing you a restful and blessed weekend,
God bless,
Mrs Worton-Geer
Executive Headteacher



Summer Term Dates 2026

April 2026

Week Commencing 20th April – Year 3 charity week

Tuesday 21st April – Year 4/ 5 In school workshop

Wednesday 22nd April – 2:30pm - Yr 4 PGL parent meeting

Friday 24th April – St Mark House Feast Day celebration in school

Monday 27th April – EYFS open day for new parents 10am

May 2026

Monday 4th May – May bank holiday

Week Commencing 4th May - SEN child centred target IEP meetings this week

Wednesday 6th May – music workshops for year 1-6 in school

Week Commencing 11th May- KS2 SATs

Week Commencing 11th May – Year 4 charity week

Sunday 17th May – Year 4 PGL trip

Week Commencing 18th May – KS1 SATs week

Wednesday 20th May – Crowning of Mary service 2:30pm, parents invited

Half Term – 25th May – 29th May

June 2026

Monday 1st June – Children return to school

Reminders

Nursery applications

We are still accepting nursery applications and take children as soon as they turn 3 and admit children throughout the school year.

Our nursery offers the funded 15- and 30-hour spaces in addition to parents being able to top up privately. If you have a sibling or know anyone who has a child under 3, please do share our nursery offer with them and book in for a school tour.

Our admissions information can be found at [St Paul's Catholic Primary School - Admissions](#)

Medical Tracker – health care plans

If your child has a health care plan, please keep an eye out for the yearly review which will be sent to you via email. Please follow the link to review the plan and then submit. If you have any questions or there are changes, please come into the school office.

Term Dates 2026-2027

Our dates for 2026-2027 are now on our website [St Paul's Catholic Primary School - Term Dates](#)

More news and information...

Online Safety

Please find online safety on tiktok on the next page.
Further support can be found at [St Paul's Catholic Primary School - Online Safety](#)

Class Spotlight

Year 3

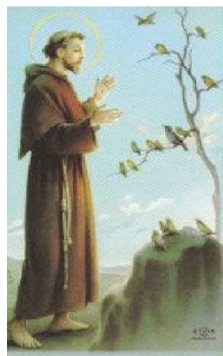
This half term our topic for Science is plant reproduction where children will learn the life cycle of a plant from seed to mature plant. Children will choose between radishes or lettuce using an online voting system on Friday.

Reception

Reception have started their new topic 'Into Space'. This week we have been learning about the planets Mercury and Venus- did you know Mercury is the smallest, yet fastest planet!

Here is a list of helpful sites that you may be interested in.

- [CEOP Online Safety](#)
- [Net Aware](#) - find out about the games your child is playing online
- [National Literacy Trust](#) - ideas for helping your child's literacy
- [Think! Road Safety](#) - Road Safety information site
- [Barnados](#)
- [ChildLine](#)
- [Rainbow Trust](#) - provides support for children with a life threatening or terminal illness
- [NSPCC](#)
- [NHS Oral Health Advice](#) - oral health and tooth brushing
- [Catholic Church in England and Wales - Catholic Bishops' Conference \(cbcew.org.uk\)](#) – Catholic Bishops website



Prayer to St. Francis of Assisi

Lord, make me an instrument
of Thy peace;
where there is hatred, let me sow love;
where there is injury, pardon;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
and where there is sadness, joy.

O Divine Master,
grant that I may not so much seek
to be consoled as to console,
to be understood, as to understand;
to be loved, as to love;
for it is in giving that we receive,
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
and it is in dying that
we are born to Eternal Life.
Amen.

Our Parish Church – St Paul's Mass times

Saturday – 5pm

Sunday – 9am and 11am

<https://parish.redow.org.uk/cheshunt/>





TikTok is a video-sharing social media app available on iOS and Android which lets users create, share, and view user created videos much in a similar manner to Facebook, Instagram and Snapchat. It's main draw, however, is that users can record and upload bite-sized looping videos of themselves lip-syncing and dancing to popular music or soundbites, often for comedic effect, which can then be further enhanced with filters, emojis and stickers. TikTok has been designed with the young user in mind and has a very addictive appeal. At the beginning of 2019 it skyrocketed in popularity to become the iOS store's most downloaded app with over 33 million downloads. Estimates suggest that it now has anything between 500 million and over 1 billion monthly active users worldwide.

AGE RESTRICTION
12+
If under 18, supervision of a parent or legal guardian required.



What parents need to know about

TIKTOK



MATURE CONTENT

On the iOS store, TikTok is listed as 12+. On the Google Play Store it is rated as 'Parental guidance recommended'. When signing up for the app, it's possible to lie about your age without any form of verification. As children scroll through their feed, most of the videos they're likely to come across are lighthearted or funny takes on dance routines which are designed to make people laugh. However there has been a slew of videos which have been reported for featuring drug and alcohol abuse, self-harm and sexual content, including young teens dressing overtly sexually and behaving suggestively. Given the deluge of material uploaded to TikTok every day, it's impossible to moderate everything and it can be quite common to come across explicit content on the 'for you' feed when logging into the platform.



INAPPROPRIATE MUSIC

TikTok revolves around creating music videos through lip-syncing and dancing. Inevitably, some of the music featured by users will contain explicit or suggestive lyrics. Given the undeniably young user base, there is a risk that children may look to imitate the explicit language they hear or the suggestive actions they see when viewing others user's videos on the app.



TIKTOK FAME

TikTok is very image focused and there is a notable preoccupation with appearing cool and attractive. Many teenagers now attempt to go viral and become what's known in-app as 'TikTok famous'. TikTok (and its predecessor musical.ly) has spawned its own celebrities - social media stars Loren Gray and Jacob Sartorius have been catapulted to fame through their initial exposure on the app. Obviously, most budding influencers looking to become the next big thing will be disappointed, but this may have the knock-on effect of making them go to more and more drastic lengths to get noticed.



ONLINE PREDATORS

As a social network, TikTok makes it easy to connect with other users. This includes the ability to comment on and react to other user's videos, follow their profile and download their content. Be aware that by default, any user can comment on your child's video if their account is set to public. Most interactions are harmless enough but as an app, TikTok is prone to predators because of the abundance of younger users.



ADDICTIVE NATURE

Social media is designed to be addictive and TikTok is no different. It can be fun and hugely entertaining. However, it is also because of this that it can be hard to put down. In addition to the short, punchy nature of the looping video format, the app's ability to keep you guessing what will come on screen next makes it easy to turn a five-minute visit into 45-minute visit.



IN-APP PURCHASES

Aside from the content, there's also the option to purchase in-app extras called 'TikTok coins'. Prices range from £0.99 for 100 coins to an eye-watering £93.99 for 10,000 coins. TikTok coins are used to purchase different emojis to reward content creators that a user finds funny or entertaining. In the iOS version of the app you can disable the option to buy TikTok coins but this sadly doesn't seem to be a feature in the Android version.



NOS National Online Safety
#WakeUpWednesday

Safety Tips For Parents



TALK ABOUT ONLINE DANGERS

Assuming your child is above the age limit to use the app, make sure you also take the time to talk to them about what they are seeing on the app. Have a dialogue, get them to give you their opinion on what is appropriate and model the correct behaviour for them. Go over why they shouldn't give out private information or identifiable photos and be positive and understanding of them. In the long run, getting them to think critically about what they're seeing goes a long way to keeping them social media savvy.



USE PRIVACY SETTINGS

Undoubtedly, the easiest way to safeguard your child on TikTok is to make sure their account is set to private. This means only those users your child approves can view, like, and follow their content. Setting the account to private may clash with your child's goal of social media superstardom, but it will keep their account secure from strangers. This setting can be enabled under the privacy and safety menu by pressing the ellipsis in the 'me' tab of the app. To be extra safe, there are additional controls available to toggle such as who can send comments and messages, among other options.



ENABLE RESTRICTED MODE

In the digital wellbeing section there's the ability to turn on restricted mode using a PIN. Restricted mode filters out content that is not age appropriate although it should be noted that this isn't always 100% fool proof. When enabling restricted mode, parents should still be vigilant to what their child is watching and take note that the algorithm moderating content is not infallible.



EXPLORE AND LEARN YOURSELF

Understanding and learning the app yourself is a great way to get to grips with TikTok. You could then even use the app with your child and watch some videos with them. If you are the parent of a teen, even if it does not make you popular, keep a close eye on what they're viewing and sharing. That said, it's a brilliant chance to turn it into a bonding opportunity with your child also. You could even unleash your inner performer and make videos with them while (more importantly) keeping them safe online.



LEARN HOW TO REPORT AND BLOCK INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

With the proper privacy settings in place, TikTok can be a safe space for your child to express themselves. However, just in case something does manage to slip through, make sure your child knows how to recognise and report content that isn't appropriate and get them to come to you about what they have seen. TikTok allows users to report offenders and comments within the app. You can also block individual users by going on their profile.



MODERATE SCREEN TIME

As entertaining as TikTok is, you can help your child moderate their time on the app by making use of the digital wellbeing section. Under the screen time management option, you can limit the daily allotted time allowed on the app in increments ranging from 40 to 120 minutes. You can also lock this preference behind a PIN number which has to be inputted in order to then exceed the daily time limit. This way your child can get their daily dose of memes without wasting away the day.

