St Paul's Catholic Primary School

Newsletter

Friday 23rd October 2026

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

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we come towards the end of the first half term, it is wonderful to reflect on all that we have achieved and celebrated together as a school community. The children have made a fantastic start to the academic year, approaching their learning with enthusiasm, determination and a positive attitude towards new challenges. We are incredibly proud of their efforts and the progress they have made, both academically and personally.

This week, our Year 6 children enjoyed their residential trip to PGL, taking part in an exciting range of activities, including zip-lining, wall climbing, archery, fencing, team sports and even a disco! The children had a fantastic time, building confidence, strengthening friendships and developing valuable life skills. A huge thank you to the staff who gave up their time to accompany the children and ensure they had such a memorable experience.

Last week, we welcomed representatives from Greener Schools for our termly enrichment morning, focusing on sustainability and the environment. The day began with a whole-school assembly, followed by interactive, hands-on workshops for each class. These activities encouraged the children to think about the world around them and understand how even small changes in our everyday lives can make a positive difference to our planet. Thank you to everyone who supported the day by sending in resources for the workshops. We are proud of our enrichment opportunities here at St Paul's which go above the National Curriculum to ensure the children get the very best opportunities.

Finally, I would like to wish all our families a safe, happy and restful half-term break. Thank you, as always, for your continued support and for being such an important part of our school community. We look forward to welcoming the children back on **Wednesday 4th November**, wearing their winter uniform, refreshed and ready for another exciting half-term of learning.

God bless,

Mrs Worton-Geer

Executive Headteacher



Autumn Term Dates 2026

Monday 2nd and Tuesday 3rd November	**INSET day – school closed to children**
Wednesday 4th November	**Children return after half term**
Wednesday 4th November	**Year 6 parents SATs meeting and workshop (reading) 9am-10:30am**
Week commencing 9th November	**Open parent phonic sessions for EYFS/KS1 classes (times/ days to be confirmed)**
Monday 9th November	**Parent Forum with leadership team – 9:15am**
Week commencing 9th November	**Just Talk and Anti-Bullying Week led by School Council**
Wednesday 11th November	**10:45am – Remembrance Day service – parents invited to attend**
Monday 16th November	**School photos**
Week commencing 16th November	**Road safety week**
Week commencing 16th November	**Year 2 charity week**
Week commencing 16th November	**Topic celebration afternoons (KS2 classes) - parents invited to attend their child's class to take part in the sharing of this terms learning. Days/ times to be confirmed**
Wednesday 18th November	**Year 6 parents SATs meeting and workshop (maths) 9am**
Week commencing 23rd November	**Topic celebration afternoons (KS1 and EYFS classes) - parents invited to attend their child's class to take part in the sharing of this terms learning. Days/ times to be confirmed**
Monday 23rd November	**9:30am - EYFS open morning, presentation and school tours for new Reception and Nursery applicants 2027**
Tuesday 24th November	**Yr 5 and 6 Mass at St Paul's Church (9am)**
December 2026	
Monday 30th December	**10:30am – Start of Advent Mass – parents invited**
Week commencing 1st December	**Year 4/5/6 reconciliation in school with Fr Clement**
Friday 4th December	**Santa funrun for Carers in Herts and Herts Young Homeless**
Tuesday 8th December	**2:40pm – Parent and Parish Advent Service led by Chaplaincy Team**
Wednesday 9th December	**Christmas lunch**
Thursday 10th December	**Choir Trust Carol Service pm – details to follow**
Thursday 10th December	**Whole School Pantomime**

Reminders

After school and breakfast club

Please use the dedicated after school and breakfast club email and phone number to make bookings St Paul's Catholic Primary School - Breakfast and Afterschool Club

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 an online safety guide below about TikTok. Further support can be found via our website St Paul's Catholic Primary School - Online Safety

Spotlight

Year 1

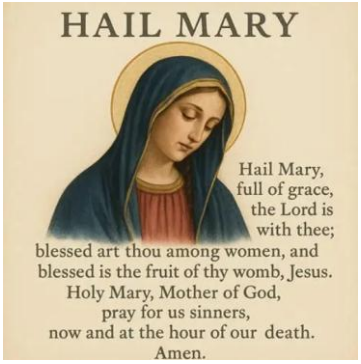
n English this week, we've been using The Gruffalo to inspire our instruction writing. The children have enjoyed coming up with ideas for how to trap a Gruffalo and writing their own instructions using bossy verbs and numbered steps.

Nursery

In nursery this week they have been continuing with their all about me topic and using mirrors to create self-portraits. The children have produced some fantastic pieces of artwork!

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



Our Parish Church – St Paul's Mass times

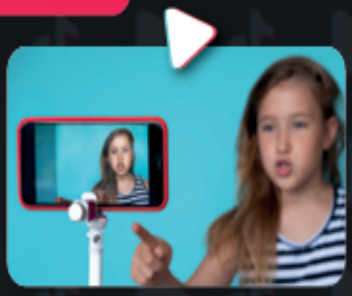
Saturday – 5pm
Sunday – 9am and 11am
https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/cheshunt/

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 1billion 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



18+

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 Sartorious 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.



Join the

Bauble Brigade

Every ticket brings us one step closer to preventing homelessness

Be part of something magical this Christmas!

Spread festive cheer and help Herts Young Homeless raise vital funds by selling Christmas Raffle tickets to your friends, family, neighbours or colleagues.

Every ticket sold helps create brighter futures for young people facing homelessness — plus there are brilliant prizes to be won, including a Warner Bros Family Studio Tour, restaurant vouchers, champagne and more!

Taking part is as easy as hanging a bauble on your tree! Scan the QR code below to sign up, we'll then send you a festive fundraising pack in the post with everything you need to get started. Including a pre-paid envelope to send the stubs back afterwards!

As a special thank-you, every participant will receive a homemade Bauble Brigade gingerbread bauble to hang on their tree.

hyh
Herts Young Homeless

Please note, if you are under the age of 18 you must be supervised by a responsible adult when taking payments for raffle tickets.