

St Paul's Catholic Primary School

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Newsletter

Friday 28th November 2025

Year 4 Class Assembly

On Wednesday morning, our Year 4 children led a truly fabulous assembly on the theme of Ancient Greece. Their enthusiasm for learning shone through as they confidently shared a wide range of fascinating facts and demonstrated their skills in so many areas of the curriculum.

The children impressed us all with their knowledge and energy and it was wonderful to see them working together to bring their learning to life. We are very proud of their achievements. Thank you to parents and carers for your continued support in encouraging your children to shine.

TCSSA Hockey Tournament

Our hockey team delivered an outstanding performance at the TCSSA Hockey Competition, earning an impressive second place. We are incredibly proud of the skill, determination and teamwork they showed throughout the event. Congratulations to all the players for their hard work and fantastic effort. A big thank you to the parents and family members who came along to support the children on a very cold night. Thanks also to Mr Allen for organising and attending the tournament.



Year 3 parents - Sacramental Programme

Thank you to those who attended the initial meeting on Tuesday evening and to those who have already returned their enrolment form. Please return your form by Monday if you would like your child to be part of the programme this year. All Parents are invited to the **Enrolment Mass on Tuesday 9th December** at 9am.

Year 6 Visit to the Whitworth Art Gallery

On the 27th November 2025, Year 6 went on a very exciting trip to Whitworth Art gallery. We had an amazing time! The adults were Miss Smith, Mrs Cooney, Miss Girven and Mrs Pedley.

On the bus, there were conversations filled with excitement, curiosity and pure joy to go on a school trip. Firstly, we met a nice woman who was an artist called Izzy. She told us about what will happen throughout the day. She gave us clipboards and we explored the Santiago Yahuarcani: The Beginning of Knowledge thinking about our spirit animal and designing one. Year 6 drew and wrote parts of paintings or facts on the wall. After that, Izzy led us downstairs where we worked in teams to design and create a stop motion animation. It was so much fun and ours was very impressive.

In the afternoon, we got to design on graph paper our own computer avatar and design it on ipads! We were the first class to ever do the activity and use the new software. Steven said that we were very talented and he was really impressed with our behaviour.

We also wandered round lots of the gallery and got to explore the art work and completed a mini sketchbook. We spent a long time discussing whether we agree that, "Abstract art is pointless, boring, and involves no skill." Most of us didn't agree!

All in all, it was a great day- thank you Mrs Pedley for coming along!

Report written by Barney



Advent

This year, to celebrate Advent and prepare for the birth of Jesus on Christmas Day, we are inviting families to create an Advent wreath together. The Advent Wreath will then be blessed by Father Isidore at our KS2 Carol Concert on Friday 19th December 2025. The hope would be that families will then have an Advent Wreath to share prayers at home at Christmas time. If possible, we would like to also try and tie in *Stewardship* and encourage the use of recycled items to make the wreaths. Please bring your advent wreath to school by Monday 15th December 2025 labelled with the name of your child or your family name.

Key Stage 2 Times Tables Rock Star Battle 🎸

Congratulations to all who took part in the TTRS Battle. The winning class was **Super Stars** with a class total of 31, 873. The most valuable players from each class were:- **Y6 - Virtue** with a score of 4,436




Y5 - Ellis with a score of 16, 630

Y4 - Laura with a score of 15, 085

Y3 - Mia with a score of 1881

Parking

We've received several complaints this week about careless and dangerous parking in the Visitor's Car Park and near the main gate. To keep everyone safe, please follow these rules at all times:

- Park only in marked bays
-  Do not stop or park near the entrance on double yellow lines
-  Avoid parking in the old drop-off zone
-  Do not park around the central area marked off by cones
- Drive slowly and with consideration for pedestrians and other vehicles

Your co-operation ensures the car park remains safe and accessible for everyone.

Friends of St Paul's



FINAL CALL - Invitation to all children currently on Sandwiches to have a Christmas Dinner

On **Wednesday 17th December** we will be having the annual Christmas Dinner. All children across school are invited to take a Christmas Dinner on this day. We just ask that you complete the form and make your payment of £3.25 on the Arbor App by **Monday 1st December 2025**. Payment is only required for children in Nursery, Year 3, 4, 5 or 6. If your child is in Reception, Year 1 or Year 2 the meal is free!

If your child currently has school meals you do not need to do anything as they will automatically have a school meal.

School Building Fund

As in previous years, voluntary contributions to the **School Building Fund** are being requested from all parents with children in our schools. The Fund is of great importance in helping meet the 10% liability on building and major repair projects and managing property, as it enables schools to be able to take advantage of Government funding. The voluntary contributions made by parents in respect of children attending our schools play a vital role in this. The Pdf document explains how you can make their voluntary contribution Online and Gift

Aid. Voluntary contributions can also be made by cash/cheque.

Curriculum Information

This week the focus is on is Reading and Phonics - [St Paul's Catholic Primary School: English - Reading](#)

At St Paul's, we value reading as a key life skill which underpins every element of the curriculum. We know that proficiency in reading, writing and spoken language is key for pupils' success in school. Without reading, we cannot develop our children into the next generation of historians, geographers, scientists etc. Therefore, we are dedicated to ensuring that by the time children leave St Paul's, they are fluent, confident readers and speakers, who can communicate effectively and coherently.

Support for Parents

Parental support in reading is invaluable. By enjoying books together and discussing stories, you can nurture a love of reading in your children. To promote reading for pleasure at home, consider setting aside a regular reading time, creating a comfy reading nook, and offering a variety of books that capture your child's interests. Visiting local libraries and joining book clubs can also make reading fun and social. By fostering a reading-friendly atmosphere at home, you are helping your children appreciate the joy of books and the world of imagination they open up. Suggestions from the [Reading Framework](#) for sharing a story together at home:

Make reading aloud feel like a treat. Make it a special quiet time and cuddle up so you can both see the book.



Show curiosity about what you're going to read: 'This book looks interesting. It's about an angry child. I wonder how angry he gets...'



Read through the whole story the first time without stopping too much. Let the story weave its own magic.



Read with enjoyment. If you're not enjoying it, your child won't.



For a more in-depth overview of strategies to support the development of your child's reading skills, please visit the [Phonics at St Paul's](#) page and/or download the file [Phonics Information for Parents](#).

Nursery and Reception Admissions

Please promote our lovely school with anyone you may know who may be looking for a nursery place for September. Visits to school can be arranged through the school office.

Nursery Places – September 2026

The online form is now open for applications <https://www.st-pauls-hyde.tameside.sch.uk/page/forms/5938> for **Nursery** places for September 2026. The closing date for applications is **31st January 2026**. Please be aware that we also require additional evidence such as baptismal certificates to accompany your online application. This should be brought to the school office before the closing date in January 2026.

Reception Places – September 2026

The online portal <https://www.tameside.gov.uk/admissions/psa> is now open for applications for Reception 2026. The closing date for applications is **15th January 2026**. Please be aware that we require additional evidence such as baptismal certificates to accompany your online application. This should be brought to the school office before the closing date in January 2026.

Attendance & Punctuality

For the first time this term overall attendance has dipped below 95%. We are aware that there have been a number of children absent during this last week, so we look forward to seeing an overall increase again next week.

Attendance so far this year	Nursery	Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Overall
	92.2%	95.2%	92.3%	94.2%	94.5%	95.8%	96.3%	96.4%	94.8%
Punctuality so far this year	1.6%	0.77%	2.2%	1.9%	1.3%	1.7%	0.21%	2.3%	1.5%

Dates for your 2025/2026 Diary	
Monday 1 st December	Last day for Christmas Dinner orders Year 2 Theatre Visit -The Snowman Depart at 9.45am
Tuesday 2 nd December	New Nursery Starters – Induction Session 9.30am to 11am Year 4 visit to Hyde Library - pm
Tuesday 9 th December	Year 3 Sacramental Programme Enrolment Mass at 9am in the school hall – Parents/Carers welcome
Wednesday 10 th December	EYFS Nativity – 10.30am (Ticket only event - each child will be allocated 2 tickets only) KS1 Nativity – 2.15pm (Ticket only event - each child will be allocated 2 tickets only)
Thursday 11 th December	Before School Dance Club performance at 8.10am
Friday 12 th December	Before School Dance Club Performance at 8.10am
Tuesday 16 th December	FOSP Christmas Event at 3.30pm
Wednesday 17 th December	Christmas Dinner
Thursday 18 th December	Rock Steady Music Concert at 9.30am
Friday 19 th December	KS2 Carol Service at St Paul's Church at 9.30am Break up for Christmas holidays
Dates for 2026	
Monday 5 th January 2026	Staff INSET Day
Tuesday 6 th January	Return to school – start of the Spring Term
Monday 12 th January	Fire Service to visit Nursery
Wednesday 14 th January	School Nursing Team in to talk to Year 5
Thursday 15 th January	Closing date for Reception applications
Tuesday 20 th January	Year 4 visit to Chester
Wednesday 28 th January	Year 2 Class Assembly at 9.15am – parents welcome
Saturday 31 st January	Closing date for Nursery applications
Wednesday 11 th February	Year 3 visit to the Laudato Si Centre