

# St Paul's Catholic Primary School

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## Newsletter

**Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March 2026**

### Lent

During the season of Lent, we are invited to grow closer to God through prayer, fasting and almsgiving. These forty days remind us of Jesus' time in the desert and prepare our hearts for the joy of Easter. During Lent, the children are encouraged to reflect on ways they can show kindness, make small sacrifices and serve others with love. Whether through extra acts of charity, spending a few quiet moments in prayer, or giving up something special, each small effort helps us grow in faith.

May this Lenten season be a time of renewal for our entire school community as we walk together toward the hope and promise of Easter.

### Sacramental Programme

The Year 3 children who are enrolled on the Sacramental Programme will be receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation on **Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> March at 6pm, St Paul's Church, Hyde**. Please ensure that you arrive at church in good time before the service starts. The children do not need to wear their uniform for this celebration. Family members are welcome to attend. We ask that you keep the Year 3 children in your prayers as they continue on their journey of faith.

### Parents Evenings

Bookings are now open for the Spring Term Parents Evenings that will take place on **Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March** and **Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> March**. Bookings can **only** be made on the Arbor app. We hope that all Parents will take this opportunity to meet their child's class teacher, look at your child's work and receive an update on their progress. If your child has Special Educational Needs this is also an opportunity to discuss their Individual Learning Plan.

### This is my Place Competition

During Children's Mental Health Week, Mrs Calderbank set the children a challenge: to create a map of the places that are important to them — places where they feel safe, happy and that help them feel they belong. Every year group took part with great enthusiasm, and the children showed wonderful thought and creativity in their maps. The standard was so high that choosing one winner per key stage was impossible, so a winner was selected from each class instead. Thank you to all the children for the care and effort put into your 'This Is My Place' maps. I hope they remind you of your special place whenever you need it.

### **Congratulations to the winners:**

- Reception – Elayah
- Year 1 – Sienna A
- Year 2 – Ariaiah
- Year 3 – Harrison
- Year 4 – Alicia
- Year 5 – Savannah
- Year 6 – Nola



## World Book Day

On Thursday, we had a fantastic day celebrating World Book Day. Mrs Speck kickstarted the day with an assembly about how we are 'Going All In' for World Book Day as part of the National Year of Reading. We discussed how we can make reading fun alongside our everyday hobbies, like reading tips to complete a tough level of a game or reading a film synopsis before watching. Key Stage 2 took part in the live Footy Booky Quiz- answering questions all about football and books! Who knew Erling Haaland was born in Leeds?! Year Six looked fabulous on their bikes dressed up as book characters. It was very entertaining to see The Lorax and Super Mario racing around on their bikes! Many classes shared stories together as part of their celebrations. Year 1 pupils quoted:

**"I loved it when my new friend from year 5 read to me!" Ella-Rose**

**"I loved it because I liked her name and she read the book really nicely." Alicja**

**"I liked when my partner read Horrid Henry to me - I think I'll read the whole book!" Mahathir**

**"I liked my year 5 friend - he was nice to me and read Dogman to me." Hugo.**

**"I liked when my new friend read my book - 101 Dalmatians. I am a dalmatian today!" Carmen.**

**"I enjoyed listening to Dogman." Paul**

Thank you for your continued support in developing a love of reading in your children. A polite reminder of how you can support our Ready, Steady, Read sponsored reading event with Usborne by Monday 16<sup>th</sup> March:

1. Please send your sponsorship money by scanning the QR Code here.
2. Please send an email to [helenalperry18@hotmail.com](mailto:helenalperry18@hotmail.com) with your child's completed reading log and the amount you have raised.
3. Alternatively please drop your forms and cash in a sealed envelope with your child's name and class on at school reception.



On **Monday 9<sup>th</sup> March**, you are welcome to join us in the hall after school to browse or purchase books from Usborne's Book Fair from **3.15pm to 4.30pm**.

## Year 5 River Study Visit

*We began our day at Crowden Environmental Centre where we were greeted by our guide Matt. He led us to the river where we completed lots of experiments. We measured the rivers depth, length and speed of the river and used nets and trays to study animals that live in the river. We found leeches, a mayfly nymph and a midge larva. After that, we hiked up a nearby hill and tracked down the source of the river. It was what could only be described as a muddy bog! It was such a fun, educational day with lots of laughs, wet socks and a great chance to explore the Peak District.*

*Written by Grace L*



## Year 5 Class Assembly

Congratulations to the Year 5 children who led a wonderful assembly on Wednesday morning. You enthusiastically shared so many interesting facts about your learning during the Spring Term. Thank you to all of the Parents and Grandparents who joined us for the assembly.

*On Wednesday, we had our class assembly. Everyone in the hall felt a buzz of excitement as we all took to our seats. All the children read their lines so clearly and we loved singing all the songs. It was so nice to see all our grown ups and sharing our learning with them.*

*Written by Amelia and Heidi*

## Year 6 Bikeability

Year 6 have loved having bikeability on World Book Day, it was the first time we had all seen The Lorax, a dinosaur, a princess and many other book characters ride bikes.

"I enjoyed learning how to do an emergency stop." Barney

"It was fun and we learnt loads of road safety." Joe

"I enjoyed doing the hand signals for turning." Thomas

"I enjoyed going down the massive hill in Hyde Park." Mia

"I enjoyed riding and I've learnt how to control my bike and ride safely on the road." Amelia



## School Budget

Like many schools, we are currently experiencing increased pressure on our school budget due to rising operational costs. These challenges impact our ability to maintain and enhance the resources that support learning. We invite all families to consider making a **regular voluntary contribution** to the school fund. All contributions are greatly appreciated and directly support the St Paul's school community.

These funds play an important role in supporting educational resources and activities that enhance learning opportunities for our children. All contributions can now be made through the School Arbor App. Thank you for your continued support and partnership.

## Royal Mint Museum Short Story Competition 2026

The **Royal Mint Story Writing Competition** for KS2 pupils. This exciting competition encourages children to use their imagination and develop their writing skills by creating an original story inspired by the Royal Mint. This year's theme is gold, and children are invited to let their imaginations shine in a short story of up to 500 words. We can't wait to read the fantastic stories our young authors will produce!

There are also some super prizes: A gold coin for the winning writer, £5,000 for the winner's school or local library and the winning story will be professionally illustrated. The competition is now open and runs to **17<sup>th</sup> April 2026**. Entries will need to be directly uploaded to <https://www.royalmintmuseum.org.uk/learning/short-story-competition/> but Miss Smith would love to read any entries as well!

**Every school day brings new learning, new opportunities — being here every day makes a difference.**

**Regular attendance helps children feel part of the school community and supports their learning, wellbeing and future success.**

## Attendance & Punctuality

Every school day matters and maintaining good attendance and punctuality ensures that children achieve well. Please follow the link that may help you to decide if your child is fit for school <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

Attendance so far this year	Nursery	Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Overall
	94.95%	95.3%	93.4%	95.4%	96.1%	97.1%	96.7%	96.5%	95.68%
Punctuality so far this year	0.99%	0.78%	1.8%	1.7%	1.5%	1.6%	0.26%	2.1%	1.34%

## Dates for your 2026 Diary

<b>Monday 9<sup>th</sup> March</b>	Usborne Book Fair – Parents welcome from 3.15pm to 4.30pm Start of whole school Science Week
<b>Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> March</b>	Whole School Mass led by Year 4 at 9am – all welcome First Forgiveness at St Paul’s Church at 6pm
<b>Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> March</b>	Reception, Y1 & Y4 Really Wild Roadshow Visit
<b>Friday 13<sup>th</sup> March</b>	TCSSA Swimming Gala – evening event
<b>Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> March</b>	Class Photographs
<b>Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March</b>	TCSSA Cheerleading Competition
<b>Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March</b>	Parents Evenings – 3.30pm to 6.30pm
<b>Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> March</b>	Parents Evenings – 3.30pm to 6pm
<b>Monday 30<sup>th</sup> March</b>	Start of Holy Week
<b>Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> April</b>	Year 3 & 4 Stations of the Cross at 9.15am – Parents welcome Easter themed lunch – picnic lunch
<b>Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April</b>	<b>Break up for Easter Holidays</b>
<b>Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April</b>	<b>Return to School</b>
<b>Monday 11<sup>th</sup> May</b>	Year 6 SATs Week