

# St Paul's Catholic Primary School

[www.st-pauls-hyde.tameside.sch.uk](http://www.st-pauls-hyde.tameside.sch.uk)  
[admin@st-pauls-hyde.tameside.sch.uk](mailto:admin@st-pauls-hyde.tameside.sch.uk)  
Twitter @StPaulsHyde  
0161 368 2934



## Newsletter

**Friday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2026**

*Good Luck to all of the children in Year 5 and Year 6 who will be competing in the Tameside Catholic Schools Swimming Gala tonight.*

### **Year 4 Class Mass**

Thank you to the Year 4 children who led the readings and prayers at the whole school Mass on Tuesday morning. The theme of the Mass was forgiveness, and Father Isidore's homily focused on the Gospel Reading of the Prodigal Son. Perhaps during the season of Lent, we can all think about how we show forgiveness in our own lives taking time to reflect, to reconcile with others and to open our hearts to God's mercy. Lent gives us a gentle invitation to pause, to grow and to make small changes that bring us closer to one another.

### **Sacramental Programme**

On Tuesday evening it was lovely to welcome so many families to church to celebrate the Sacrament of First Forgiveness with the **Year 3** children. The children led the readings and prayers beautifully, showing great reverence and confidence as they took this important step in their faith journey. It was a joy to see their excitement and pride and we are grateful to the families and staff who supported them in preparing for this special occasion. We hope that you will continue to keep them in your prayers as they continue on their sacramental journey.

### **Really Wild Roadshow**

On Thursday, Reception, Year 1 and Year 4 pupils had a visit from the Really Wild Roadshow. The children all talked very positively about their day and most of them were happy to have had the opportunity to hold or touch an animal or too! We hope that you had the opportunity to talk to them about their day.

### **Reception**



If you didn't make a payment for this enrichment activity, we politely ask that you make a donation through school fund, through the Arbor portal – thank you.

Many thanks to all of those parents who have contributed – we appreciate your support.

### Year One



### Year Four



### Parents Evenings

Bookings remain 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.

### Science Week

The theme of Science Week this year was **"What's your question?"** This inspiring focus encouraged children across the school to think like real scientists, to be curious, to wonder and to explore the world around them through thoughtful questioning. Throughout the week, pupils investigated their own ideas and shared their discoveries with great enthusiasm. It was wonderful to see their confidence grow as they realised that every scientific breakthrough begins with a simple question. You can read what the children have learnt about in each year group based on the book, *The Barnabus Project* by Eric Fan.

Many thanks to Mrs McGowan for co-ordinating such an exciting and thought-provoking Science Week this year.

In **Nursery** the children learned about what dinosaurs needed to live, including food, water, air and a safe habitat. They explored different environments such as forests and deserts, creating their own dinosaur habitats through play. The children were curious, engaged, and full of brilliant ideas as they investigated how dinosaurs survived.

**Reception** explored the conditions and habitats in which animals need to live. The children drew an animal from the story or their own made-up animal and thought about where they could live e.g. the desert/ocean/rainforest/space! They also talked about how to care for some of the animals we saw in the Wild Roadshow.

In **Year 1**, children really enjoyed listening to the story of Barnabus. After the story, they looked at all the different creatures and talked about whether they thought they were mammals or birds. They remembered that birds have feathers and a beak, while mammals have fur or hair. Then they sorted the animals into groups based on their characteristics.

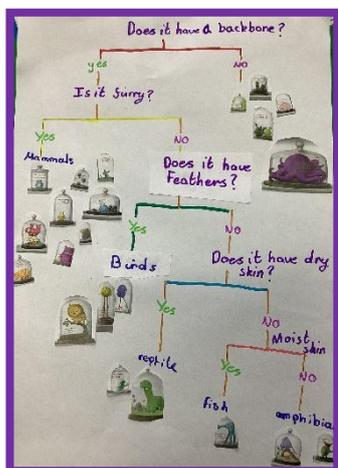
**Year 2** considered the place where the creatures in the story found a home and the things that made it suitable for them. They revisited our knowledge of habitats around the world and recorded the plants, animals, food and shelter in each and chose which creature might live in that habitat and why.

**Year 3** designed their own science lab creature thinking about what special features it could have and how these would help it to survive in its environment. They also learnt about some amazing scientific mistakes that changed the world! For example, Alexander Fleming's discovery of penicillin when mould accidentally grew in a petri dish! This led to antibiotics and has saved millions of lives.

'Not all scientific mistakes are a failure' Ashley

'My creation failed at first but I tried it a different way and it worked.' Tommy

'You can learn from mistakes. That's what scientists do.' Marcella



In **Year 4**, the children discussed how different animals adapt to live in different environments, climates and biomes. They made models to show different biomes and the animals which have adapted to them.

**Year 5** created a classification key for the failed creatures in the lab.



**Year 6** LOVED the story of Barnabus and cheered very loudly when he escaped! They shared very passionate opinions about the ethics of Science: they felt that classification systems like the Linnaeus system are important to science and understanding, but they felt it definitely wasn't a scientist's job to decide what was classified as 'perfect'. They created some interesting classification systems and creatures.

### Usborne Book Fair

Thank you for your continued support in developing a love of reading in your children – It was great to see the school hall so busy on Monday evening. Thank you to all who have supported the Ready, Steady, Read sponsored reading event and the Book Fair itself. All monies should be in school by **Monday 16<sup>th</sup> March**. Once all of the money has been collected, we will let you know the grand total.

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.



### Nursery Building

Work will commence on Monday to repair and refurbish the Nursery Building. We are looking forward to Nursery being able to return to their original classroom. Please be mindful when entering and leaving the school site that workmen may be around, although during drop off and pick up time work will be kept to a minimum.

## 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!

## Attendance & Punctuality

Every school day matters and maintaining good attendance and punctuality ensures that children achieve well. We are delighted that the attendance of **Nursery** has now improved and taken them above 95%. Year 1 we would really like your attendance and punctuality to improve too.

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
	95.25%	95.3%	93.5%	95.6%	96%	97.2%	96.7%	96.4%	95.6%
Punctuality so far this year	0.93%	0.78%	1.8%	1.6%	1.5%	1.6%	0.25%	2.1%	1.4%

### Dates for your 2026 Diary

<b>Friday 13<sup>th</sup> March</b>	TCSSA Swimming Gala – evening event
<b>Monday 16<sup>th</sup> March</b>	Final day to hand in Usborne Sponsorship money
<b>Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> March</b>	Class Photographs
<b>Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March</b>	Summer Term Nursery Starters visit at 9.30am TCSSA Cheerleading Competition starting at 1pm
<b>Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March</b>	Deadline for ordering a picnic lunch
<b>Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March</b>	Parents Evenings – 3.30pm to 6.30pm
<b>Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> March</b>	Key Stage 1 Dance Performance – Parents welcome at 8.10am Rock Steady Music Concert – Parents welcome at 8.30am 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>Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> April</b>	Year 3 Family Workshop at 6pm
<b>Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> May</b>	Year 1 Class Assembly at 9.15am – Parents welcome
<b>Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> May</b>	First Holy Communion at St Paul's Church – 9.30am
<b>Monday 11<sup>th</sup> May</b>	Year 6 SATs Week
<b>Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May</b>	<b>Break up for half term</b>
<b>Monday 8<sup>th</sup> June</b>	<b>Return to School</b>



# Progressive Active Camps

*Be happy, healthy and active!*



Fully funded places available as part of the HAF Programme at some locations.

Tax free childcare vouchers accepted.

Sibling discount applied using code 'SIBLING'



**Active Camps run across Greater Manchester in all school holidays**

**In some setting wraparound childcare is also available**



**Go-Karts, Bouncy Castles,  
Glow Sports  
Arts and Crafts, Creative  
Arts and Gymnastics  
Battlefield Archery, Nerf  
Wars, Football and much  
more**

**We have something for  
everyone!**

**To check which camps  
are running and to  
reserve your space  
scan the code below.**



**manchester-info@progressive-sports.co.uk**