

St Paul's Catholic Primary School

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Newsletter

Friday 27th March 2026

Holy Week

As we approach Holy Week, our school community is preparing to walk with Jesus through the most important days of the Christian year. In the coming days, pupils will reflect on the events from Palm Sunday to Easter Sunday, exploring themes of love, sacrifice and hope. Through prayer, storytelling and RE lessons, the children will deepen their understanding of Jesus' journey and the meaning it holds for us today. We look forward to sharing this sacred time together as we prepare our hearts for the joy of the Resurrection.

Mobile Phones and Devices

We kindly remind families of the importance of keeping mobile phones and electronic devices out of children's bedrooms at night. Research shows that late-night screen use can disrupt sleep, reduce concentration the following day and make it much harder for children to switch off and rest properly. We are increasingly aware, from conversations with pupils, that many particularly in Upper Key Stage 2 are online late into the night and we have noticed a noticeable dip in behaviour and focus during the school day as a result. We encourage parents to set a clear **device bedtime** and keep phones, tablets and gaming devices in a shared family space overnight. Establishing these healthy habits supports children's wellbeing, learning and overall development.



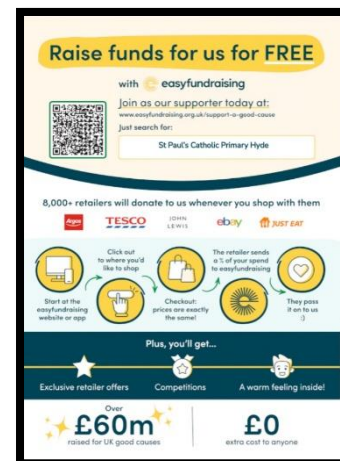
FOSP – Easter Smarties Challenge

The Friends of St Paul's are organising a Smarties Challenge 'Good Deeds during Easter to raise funds for equipment and resources required.

- Your child has been sent home with a tube of smarties, they can eat the smarties for a treat, but they need to keep the tube.
- We would then like your child to do good deeds, small chores or demonstrate good behaviour in return for any change to collect in the smarties tube.
- Please seal up the filled tube, with your child's **name and class** clearly marked & hand into your child's class teacher by **Monday 20th April**. Even if the tube isn't full, label it & send it in anyway as all money raised will be gratefully received.

FOSP Easy Fundraising

This is an easy way to raise additional funds for FOSP for school when shopping online.



Parents Evenings

Thank you to everyone who attended the Spring Term Parents Evenings on Monday or Thursday this week. We hope that you enjoyed the opportunity to meet your child's class teacher, look at your child's work and receive an update on their progress.

Rock Steady Music Concert

Our Rock Steady musicians put on a brilliant performance this week, showcasing the hard work, confidence and teamwork they've been developing throughout the term. Each band performed with enthusiasm and real stage presence and it was wonderful to see how much progress the children have made.

A huge well done to all the performers and thank you to all of the parents for your support. We're incredibly proud of every child who took part. The concert was a great reminder of how music can bring our school community together.

Year 1, 2 & 3 Dance Performance

Our Year 1, 2 & 3 children delivered a wonderful dance performance this week, showcasing their energy, confidence and growing sense of rhythm. It was a joy to see how enthusiastically they embraced the choreography and how well they worked together as a team. We are incredibly proud of each and every child who took part. Thank you to all of the families for joining us on Thursday morning.

Staffing News

Today we say goodbye and good luck To Mrs Phoenix.

On Wednesday, we will welcome back Mrs Wrigley from her maternity leave. Mrs Wrigley will be working in Year 4 on a Wednesday, Thursday and Friday for the time being.

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.

Attendance & Punctuality

Every school day matters and maintaining good attendance and punctuality ensures that children achieve well. Year 1 we would really like your attendance and punctuality to improve too. Well done to Year 4 who have the best attendance across school and to Year 5 who continue to have the best punctuality.

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/>

	Nursery	Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Overall
Attendance so far this year	95.75%	95.3%	93.4%	95.7%	96.1%	97.2%	96.6%	96.4%	95.6%
Punctuality so far this year	0.85%	0.81%	1.7%	1.6%	1.5%	1.5%	0.25%	2.2%	1.4%

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 **17th 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!

Dates for your 2026 Diary

Sunday 29th March	Deadline for photograph orders with free delivery
Monday 30th March	Start of Holy Week
Wednesday 1st April	Year 3 & 4 Stations of the Cross at 9.15am – Parents welcome Easter themed lunch – picnic lunch
Thursday 2nd April	Break up for Easter Holidays
Monday 20th April	Return to School
Tuesday 28th April	Year 3 Family Workshop at 6pm
Monday 4th May	Bank Holiday – School Closed
Wednesday 6th May	Year 1 Class Assembly at 9.15am – Parents welcome
Saturday 9th May	First Holy Communion at St Paul's Church – 9.30am
Monday 11th May	Year 6 SATs Week
Friday 22nd May	Break up for half term
Monday 8th June	Return to School

NON LEAGUE DAY




HALF PRICE ADMISSION!

Adults £6 / Concessions £4
Under 16s £2 / Under 12s £1*

*with paying adult

SATURDAY 28TH MARCH 3PM
PROJECT SOLAR STADIUM - HYDE





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 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.



SCAN HERE

manchester-info@progressive-sports.co.uk

LEGO ROBOTICS

Powered by **JuniorSTEM**

Ashton Library
Thursday 2nd April
Stockport Library
Friday 10th April

Book your slot

5-7 years: 9.15 - 11.15
7-9 years: 11.15 - 12.45
9-12 years: 1.30 - 3.00



STORY TIME

Sit back and listen to some of our favourite stories, then take part in crafts, colouring, and puzzles.

STORIES FROM 11AM
DUKINFIELD LIBRARY, CONCORD WAY, SK16 4DB

SATURDAY 14 MAR
SATURDAY 18 APR
SATURDAY 16 MAY

AIMED AT 3-4 YEAR OLDS AND THEIR FAMILIES
Free, no need to book.
Information.direct@tameside.gov.uk
0161 342 4000

Short Story Competition

FOR YOUNG WRITERS

Deadline: **Friday 1st May 2026**

Theme: "Once Upon a Storytime"

The winners will be published on



Scan to enter



CATEGORIES: 5-7, 8-11 & 12-16
500 WORDS MAX

Write your own fairy tale

WONDERDOME PLANETARIUM

HYDE LIBRARY - WEDNESDAY 8 APRIL
10AM - 4:30PM

MULTIPLE SESSIONS
CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE & FAMILIES

BOOKING REQUIRED
tamesidelibraries.eventbrite.co.uk
0161 342 4000

