



St Wilfrid's Catholic Academy

Spring 2 2026 Newsletter

Mission Statement

“With kind hearts and a thirst for knowledge, we strive to build a community of love and service by learning from and loving others as Jesus did.”

Motto

“Love one another as I have loved you.”
John 13:34

A Message from the Principal

As we come to the end of the Spring Term, I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to our entire school community. This term has been filled with hard work, collaboration, and many memorable learning experiences, and I am incredibly proud of what we have achieved together.

First and foremost, my sincere thanks go to our dedicated staff, whose commitment, creativity, and care continue to shape a vibrant learning environment for our pupils. Their efforts day in and day out ensure that every child is supported, encouraged, and challenged to do their best.

I would also like to thank our parents and carers for their ongoing support. Whether attending events, encouraging learning at home, or offering a kind word at the gate, your partnership makes an enormous difference. Our pupils thrive because we work together as a community.

This term has offered our children a wealth of opportunities to broaden their understanding of the world. From hosting the incredible Space Dome—giving pupils a remarkable insight into space and the planets—to celebrating Science Week with curiosity and enthusiasm, the spirit of discovery has been strong.

Many classes visited Tunstall Library, engaging with books, enjoying stories, and deepening their appreciation of reading. We were also delighted to welcome a Parkrun ambassador to speak to the children about our local junior parkrun and the joys of staying active within our community.

During the season of Lent, we have taken time as a school to reflect, pray, and prepare for Good Friday and Easter Sunday. This period has allowed pupils to reflect on compassion, gratitude, and positive choices—values that strengthen us not only as individuals but also as a community. Alongside this, many of our families recently celebrated Eid, and we hope those celebrations were joyful and meaningful.

As we look forward to the Summer Term, we are excited for the learning, events, and experiences still to come. The days will grow brighter and warmer, and with them come new opportunities for growth, creativity, and community togetherness. We hope everyone enjoys a restful, safe, and happy break over the Easter holiday.

We look forward to welcoming all pupils back to school on **Monday 13th April**.

Warmest wishes,

Mr Glover
Principal

Catholic Life - Year 6 Confirmation Workshop

Year 6 took part in a special workshop exploring the gifts and fruits of the Holy Spirit in preparation for their upcoming Confirmation. The session offered a meaningful opportunity for reflection, helping the pupils understand the blessings they receive through the Holy Spirit and how these can guide them in their daily lives.

It was wonderful to welcome so many parents, grandparents, and sponsors to join the children, sharing in this important step of their faith journey. The pupils engaged thoughtfully, asking questions, reflecting deeply, and showing great enthusiasm throughout the workshop.

We are very proud of Year 6 for their reverence, curiosity, and commitment as they prepare for this important milestone.



Parish Diary of the Sacred Heart

Please see the attached link for up-to-date information on mass times and dates.

[Sacred Heart Parish Diary](#)

Year 6 Prepare for Confirmation with Canon Paul

Our Year 6 pupils were joined by fellow Year 6 children from St Peter's Catholic Academy and Canon Paul for a very special preparation session ahead of this evening's Confirmation service. Canon Paul led a thoughtful and engaging discussion with the children, helping them to reflect on the significance of the sacrament and the gifts of the Holy Spirit. The pupils listened attentively, asked and answered questions thoughtfully, and demonstrated a deep understanding of how these gifts can guide them in their everyday lives. Their reverence, focus, and respectful behaviour throughout the session were truly impressive. It was also a wonderful opportunity for the children to come together with peers from another Catholic school, fostering a sense of community and shared faith as they prepared for this important milestone. The session encouraged the pupils to consider how they can live out their faith, show kindness, and put Jesus' teachings into practice. We are very proud of Year 6 for their maturity, enthusiasm, and reflective approach during this preparation. It was clear that they are ready to receive the gifts of the Holy Spirit and embrace the responsibilities that Confirmation brings.



Catholic Life - Celebration of Confirmation at Sacred Heart



We were delighted to celebrate the sacrament of Confirmation with our Year 6 pupils in a beautiful and meaningful evening service. This special occasion marked an important step in the children's faith journey, as they publicly confirmed their commitment to living out the values of the Catholic faith and receiving the gifts of the Holy Spirit. The ceremony was led by Canon Paul, who officiated with warmth and reverence. We are extremely grateful to Father George for the ongoing guidance, support, and ministry they have provided to the pupils over the years, helping them to grow spiritually and prepare thoughtfully for this sacrament. The pupils were a true credit to the school and their families, demonstrating reverence, confidence, and a clear understanding of the significance of Confirmation. It was wonderful to see so many parents, grandparents, and sponsors join us for the service, celebrating alongside the children and supporting them in their faith journey. The evening was filled with joy, reflection, and a strong sense of community, making it a memorable experience for everyone involved. We are very proud of all our Year 6 pupils for the dedication, enthusiasm, and reverence they showed throughout this important milestone.

School Council Sponsored Walk



A huge congratulations to our school council, who went above and beyond by completing a sponsored walk and raising an impressive £136 for CAFOD! The children showed fantastic determination, teamwork, and enthusiasm throughout the walk, and their efforts have made a real difference to this important cause. It's wonderful to see our pupils taking such an active role in supporting others and making a positive impact on the wider community. Well done to all involved—we are extremely proud of your hard work, commitment, and generosity!



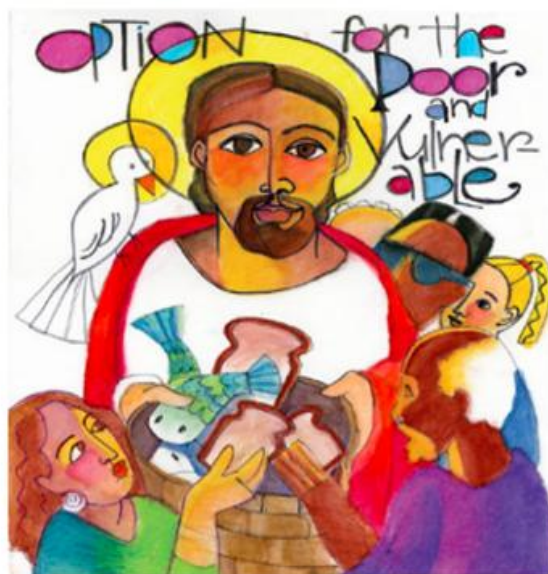
Cafod Fundraising for Lent

Loving God,
During this season of Lent, we pause to reflect with grateful hearts for the generosity shown within our school community. We thank you for the funds raised, which will bring comfort, hope, and support to those most in need. Bless all who have given so kindly, and those who will receive this help. May our actions continue to reflect compassion, kindness, and a desire to serve others. Guide us to keep the spirit of giving alive, not only in Lent but throughout the year.
Amen.

Option for the poor

God wants us to help people who are poor, who don't have enough food, a safe place to live or a community.

CAFOD
Just one world



Training Together – Cafod fundraiser

Our "Training Together" Day was a fantastic event! Pupils attended school in non-uniform sportswear and spent the day joining Mr. Glover and Mr. Sigley for their marathon training, running laps around the playground with great energy and enthusiasm. Thanks to everyone who contributed, we raised a wonderful £230 for our CAFOD fundraising., bringing the overall total to £730 ! Your support helped make the day such a success!

On Sunday, 26th April 2026, Mr. Glover and Mr. Sigley will be running the London Marathon to raise money for CAFOD, a charity that our school proudly supports every year. CAFOD works tirelessly to help communities around the world affected by poverty, climate change, conflict, and injustice. To make this a whole-school effort, we have encouraged our pupils to take on their own CAFOD Challenge , inspired by the marathon distance of 26.2 miles. The children's challenges should link to the number 26. For example: 26 laps of the local park or field, 26 minutes of exercise every week, 26 acts of kindness. When completing their challenge, pupils should ask friends and family for sponsorship so we can celebrate the wonderful ways they are raising money. There will be a prize for the pupil who raises the most money for CAFOD and a prize for the most unique way of raising money within the '26' theme. We're thrilled to see the enthusiasm and creativity of our pupils as they join us in supporting this important cause!



Catholic Life



Nursery class has been learning about the importance of prayer and understanding that God is always listening to us, just as He listened to Jesus' prayers.

As part of this learning, the children have been trying to follow Jesus' example by taking time out of their busy day to pause, reflect, and pray. They thoughtfully helped to create a special prayer focus area in the classroom. Together, they chose a purple cloth to represent the season of Lent and carefully selected meaningful items to support their prayer time, including a Bible, a candle, and a crucifix. The children also chose to include Mary, recognising her as Jesus' mother and our class saint.

During our prayer time, we listened to the scripture Mark 11:24 and reflected on how prayer is a special gift. The children learned that we are called to trust in God and believe that He hears our prayers. To help bring this idea to life, the children placed stars into a water tray, watching them open as a symbol of our prayers being heard by God.

We were incredibly impressed by how calm, respectful, and reverent the children were throughout this meaningful experience. They showed a wonderful understanding and maturity during this special time of reflection. Well done, Nursery, for such a thoughtful and prayerful session.

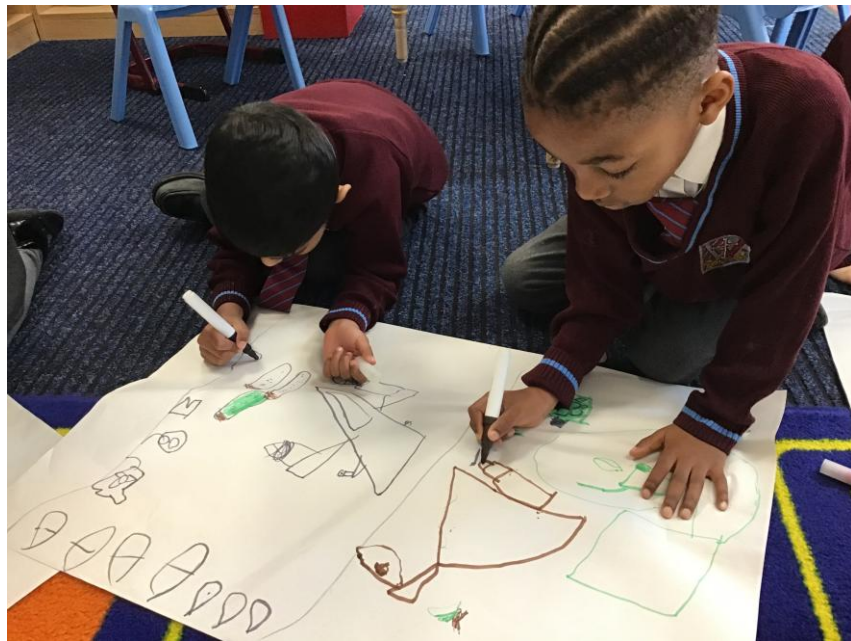


Reception – Magic Story Box

Reception have been thoroughly enjoying their latest Magic Story Box adventure, inspired by *Jabari Tries*. This week, the children were introduced to Albert the Inventor, who needed their help to create the next big invention.

The classroom has been buzzing with creativity as the children designed their own imaginative inventions, carefully drew their ideas, and wrote lists of the materials Albert might need. Outdoors, they have been exploring potion-making and junk modelling, working together to bring their inventive ideas to life.

It has been a fantastic week of creativity, collaboration, and problem-solving, and we are so proud of the children's enthusiasm and imagination. If you have any clean, dry recycling materials at home that could support our budding inventors, we would greatly appreciate your donations. Please pass these on to Miss Jones or Mrs Osborne. Thank you for your continued support!



Catholic Life



Grateful for our own gifts, for the gift of other people and for the blessings of each day; and **generous** with our gifts, becoming men and women for others.

Curious about everything; and **active** in our engagement with the world, changing what we can for the better.

Attentive to our experience and to our vocation; and **discerning** about the choices we make and the effects of those choices.

Eloquent and truthful in what we say of ourselves, the relations between people and the world.

Learned, finding God in all things; and **Wise** in the ways we use our learning for the common good.

Compassionate towards others, near and far, especially the less fortunate; and **loving** by our just actions and forgiving words.

Faith-filled in our beliefs and **hopeful** for the future.

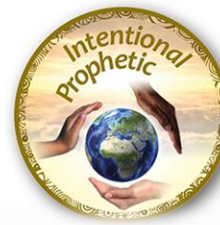
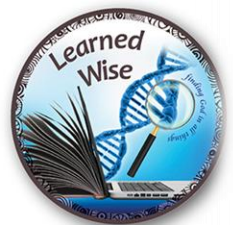
Intentional in the way we live and use the resources of the earth, guided by conscience; and **prophetic** in the example we set to others.



Values and Virtues Summer 1

Grateful & Generous

Grateful for their own gifts, for the gift of other people, and for the blessings of each day; and **generous** with their gifts, now and in the future



Attendance

Attendance Update – Spring 2

100% Attendance Trip

We are delighted to announce that this year's **100% attendance reward trip** will be to **Alton Towers**! After careful discussion, the School Council agreed that Alton Towers would be an exciting and motivating end-of-year treat in the summer. Many children shared that they had never visited a theme park before and felt this would be a fantastic incentive.

We are encouraging all pupils to aim for excellent attendance so that we can beat last year's record and celebrate together. Let's see how many children can earn their place on the trip!



Spring 2 Attendance Certificate Winners

This half term, we are incredibly proud of the number of children who achieved an end-of-term attendance certificate. In total, **256 certificates** were awarded:

Gold Certificate – Outstanding Attendance (100%): 200 children

Silver Certificate – Excellent Attendance (98–99%): 15 children

Bronze Certificate – Good Attendance (96–97%): 41 children

We have seen a fantastic improvement in **100% attendance** this half term. Well done to all our pupils for their commitment and effort—this is a wonderful achievement.

Attendance

📞 Reporting Absences

Please be reminded of our attendance procedures for reporting absences:

Parents and carers must notify the school on the **first day of an unplanned absence**, either by calling the school office/absence line on **01782 235 676** or by emailing **absence@stwilfridsnewman.co.uk**, as soon as practically possible.

Absences due to illness will be recorded as **authorised** unless the school has a genuine concern regarding authenticity. If there are concerns, parents/carers may be asked to provide medical evidence, such as a doctor's note, prescription or appointment card. We will not request medical evidence unnecessarily. If the school is not satisfied with the evidence provided, the absence may be recorded as **unauthorised**, and parents/carers will be informed.

Please also be aware that staff may carry out a **home visit from Day 1 of absence**. This is not a check-up, but a supportive measure to maintain clear communication with families and to offer guidance on next steps. Full details can be found in our **Attendance and Punctuality Policy**, available on the school website.

Do I need to keep my child off school? 

Chicken Pox Until all spots have crusted over	Conjunctivitis No need to stay off but school or nursery should be informed	Diarrhoea & Vomiting 48 hours from last episode	Glandular Fever No need to stay off but school or nursery should be informed	Hand, foot & mouth No need to stay off but school or nursery should be informed	Impetigo Until lesions are crusted & healed or 48 Hours after starting antibiotics
Measles or German Measles 4 days from onset of rash	Mumps 5 days from onset of swelling	Scabies Until after first treatment	Scarlet Fever 24 hours after starting antibiotics	Slapped Cheek No need to stay off but school or nursery should be informed	Whooping Cough 48 hours after starting antibiotics
Flu or Covid-19 Until recovered	Head Lice No need to stay off but school or nursery should be informed	Threadworms No need to stay off but school or nursery should be informed	Tonsillitis No need to stay off but school or nursery should be informed		





ATTENDANCE WINNERS

Name	Class	Attendance %
Mrs. Gravano	Nursery	92.4 %
Miss Jones	Reception	94.9 %
Mrs. Osborne	Reception	97.6%
Miss Hodgson	Year 1	95.5 %
Miss Bacon	Year 1/2	92.7%
Miss Burke	Year 2	95.4%
Miss Weir	Year 3	98.3%
Mrs. Spencer	Year 3/4	94.9%
Mr. Petrozzi	Year 4	95.8%
Miss Forster	Year 5	95.2%
Mr. Bailey	Year 5/6	98.8%
Mrs. Mortimer	Year 6	96.1%

EVERY SCHOOL DAY COUNTS

“School – where memories are made.”



stoke.gov.uk



Spring 2 Attendance winners are

Year 5/6 98.8%

Whole school attendance for this term:

95.49%

Thank you to all parents and carers for all your support so far this year!

St. Wilfrid's Catholic Academy - Attendance

Music Events

Year 5.6 recently had an exciting trip to see the Hallé Orchestra perform, and it proved to be a fascinating experience for all. The concert's theme was women in music, celebrating female composers and their contributions.

The pupils listened to pieces that were powerful, emotional, and different from what they usually study in class, gaining a new perspective on classical music. It was inspiring to learn about composers who haven't always received the recognition they deserve. The trip not only deepened the children's appreciation for music but also highlighted the importance of diversity in the arts, leaving everyone inspired and reflective. 🎵



Pupils from Year 3 and 3/4 recently attended a recorder festival at Trentham Gardens, where they had the exciting opportunity to perform alongside other schools and musicians.

Playing in the big top tent was thrilling and a little nerve-wracking, but the children rose to the challenge and showcased their skills in a large group setting. They also enjoyed listening to other performances, which sparked new ideas and inspiration for their own music.

The festival was a fun and rewarding experience, helping pupils build confidence, improve their playing, and enjoy making music together. 🎵



Forest School – Reception Classes

Reception had a fantastic time at Forest School, enjoying a full day of outdoor learning and exploration. The children spent time discovering a variety of plants, learning how to identify them, and understanding their role in the environment. They also listened carefully to a range of bird calls, developing their observation and listening skills as they spotted different types of wildlife. The day provided a wonderful opportunity for the children to connect with nature, practise teamwork, and develop their curiosity and resilience as they explored the outdoor setting. Everyone demonstrated excellent behaviour, showing respect for the environment and each other. A big thank you to Mr. Quinn for leading such an engaging and educational session. It was a memorable day that the children thoroughly enjoyed and one that has helped to bring their learning about the natural world to life.



Forest School Year 2

Year 2 had a truly fantastic and enriching time at Forest School!

As part of our outdoor learning, the children explored the woodland environment with great enthusiasm, developing their curiosity and teamwork skills along the way. We focused on identifying and understanding different animal habitats, and the children were delighted to discover a variety of examples in their natural surroundings. These included a fox den, mouse holes, bird nests, and squirrel dreys, sparking lots of discussion about how and why animals choose specific places to live.

Throughout the session, the children also spent time quietly observing wildlife. They were particularly excited to spot and listen to a range of birds, using both sight and sound to help identify them. This encouraged patience, careful observation, and respect for the natural environment.

The day provided a wonderful opportunity to link our learning to science topics, helping the children to better understand habitats, living things, and how animals adapt to their environments. It also supported the development of key skills such as communication, problem-solving, and resilience, as the children worked together and explored independently.

We are incredibly proud of how engaged, respectful, and enthusiastic Year 2 were throughout the session. Their positive attitudes and curiosity made the experience even more special.

Well done, Year 2, for a brilliant day of outdoor learning!



Nursery – Lunar New Year



The nursery class had a wonderful time learning about the Lunar New Year! The children explored how families prepare to welcome the New Year and discovered some of the special traditions and celebrations that take place. They were very excited to join in with traditional dance moves, watch dragon dancing, and even create their own paper chain dragons to dance with! As part of our learning, the children had a go at writing numbers 1–5 in Mandarin and enjoyed making colourful decorations to brighten up our classroom. We also learned that red is considered a lucky colour, so many of the children came dressed in red for our non-uniform day on Friday, which made the day feel even more festive. A highlight was tasting some delicious Chinese food. The children were very adventurous and particularly enjoyed the spring rolls and egg fried rice! We are so proud of how enthusiastic and engaged the Nursery was throughout this topic. They showed great curiosity and excitement while learning about a different culture and its traditions. Well done, Nursery, for such a fun and memorable learning experience!



Dance Performance Success

We were absolutely blown away by the incredible performance from our talented young dancers on Monday evening. The “Walking in the Footsteps of Wednesday Addams” theme was brought to life brilliantly, with every child fully embracing their character with confidence, expression, and attitude. From the choreography to the storytelling, the performance was captivating from start to finish. All of the children should feel incredibly proud of themselves for such a polished and engaging show. A special thank you goes to Kizzy for her hard work and support in helping to create such a fantastic performance.



Year 3/4 Library Visit

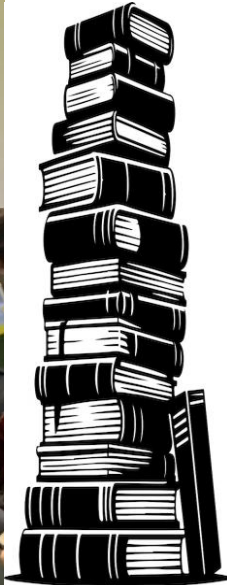


Year 3/4 visited our local library and enjoyed spending time exploring everything it has to offer.

After listening to a story, the children browsed the shelves and chose books that interested them, taking time to sit and read in a quiet space. It was lovely to see them so engaged and enjoying their reading.

The children were excited to receive their own library cards and are looking forward to visiting again to borrow books from the wide range available.

An enjoyable experience for all.



Year 1/2 Library Visit

Year 1/2 visited Tunstall Library, where they had the exciting opportunity to listen to a story read by a real librarian. The children were thoroughly engaged and enjoyed bringing the story to life through listening and discussion. They also spent time exploring the children's section, looking through a wide range of books and discovering new favourites. It was wonderful to see their enthusiasm for reading and their curiosity as they browsed the shelves, each child was lucky enough to receive their own library card to take home, giving them the opportunity to return and continue their reading journey. All of the children had a wonderful afternoon and represented the school brilliantly.



Year 2 Library Visit

Year 2 had a wonderful and memorable visit to Tunstall Library as part of our commitment to fostering a love of reading!

During the visit, the children thoroughly enjoyed exploring the children's reading area, where they could browse a wide range of exciting and engaging books. They showed great curiosity, asking thoughtful questions about how the library works, how books are organised, and how they can borrow and return items.

One of the highlights of the visit was that every child received their very own library card. This was met with great excitement, as the children can now visit the library with their families and borrow books to continue their reading journeys at home.

The experience helped to build confidence, independence, and enthusiasm for reading, while also introducing the children to an important community resource.

A huge thank you to all the volunteers and library staff who made us feel so welcome and supported us throughout the visit. We are very grateful for your time and effort in making this such a special experience for Year 2!



Year 5 Library visit and World Book Day



Year 5 had a fantastic visit to Tunstall Library, enjoying a morning filled with books, stories, and excitement. The children had an amazing time listening to a wonderfully unusual and interesting story, which truly captured their imagination.



Following the reading, pupils were given the opportunity to explore the children's section and choose from a wide range of library books to read and enjoy. It was lovely to see so much enthusiasm for reading, with many children eager to discover new authors and genres.

As part of the visit, every child was given their own library card, allowing them to return and continue their reading journey. They were incredibly excited about this opportunity and keen to visit again soon.



As we had recently celebrated World Book Day on 6th March, this visit was a perfect way to continue sharing our love of reading. It reinforced the importance of books in inspiring creativity, curiosity, and a lifelong passion for learning.



World Book Day

World Book Day Celebrations Across the School!

Our whole school had a fantastic time celebrating World Book Day with a wide range of exciting activities. In Years 3–6, children engaged in creative and interactive tasks, including online quizzes, designing bookmarks, and planning books they would love to read. Their imagination and enthusiasm for reading really shone through! A particular highlight was the way our older pupils shared their love of reading with younger children. Year 6 read stories to small groups of Year 2, and some of Year 3/4 read to our Nursery class, inspiring our youngest learners and spreading the joy of books across the school.

It was wonderful to see so many children enjoying stories, showing creativity, and connecting through reading.

Well done to everyone for making World Book Day such a fun and memorable celebration!



School Council

Our School Council Leads on Anti-Bullying.

Our school council has been working hard to create a pupil-prepared Anti-Bullying Policy, ensuring that every child's voice is heard and that everyone understands how we can work together to prevent bullying. They proudly led an assembly to share their policy with the whole school, explaining the importance of respect, kindness, and looking out for one another. Their confidence, enthusiasm, and dedication were truly inspiring. A copy of the policy is available in our reception area if you would like to take a closer look.

Well done to our school council for all your hard work in promoting a safe and caring school community!



KS2 Chess Club



Our pupils are showing fantastic enthusiasm for chess, enjoying the opportunity to play with friends, learn new strategies, and teach each other the rules of the game. These sessions are helping to develop critical thinking, problem-solving skills, and patience, all while having fun.

The children have been focusing on understanding and applying the **en passant** rule. They were excited to incorporate this into their games, demonstrating a growing confidence and a keen interest in mastering new challenges.

It's wonderful to see so many pupils engaging with chess and developing skills that extend beyond the board, fostering teamwork, concentration, and a love of learning. We have some future chess masters in the making!



British Science Week

St Wilfrid's had an incredible day celebrating British Science Week! We were delighted to welcome Dr Scott Walker from Keele University, who brought along the amazing Star Dome. Pupils from Year 1 to Year 6 had the chance to step inside and explore space in a truly immersive, planetarium-style experience.

This year's Science Week theme, "Curiosity – What's your question?", inspired every class—from Nursery to Year 6—to investigate their own space-related questions. The children carried out hands-on activities, explored new ideas, and thought like real scientists.

The school buzzed with curiosity and excitement all day, and it was wonderful to see so many brilliant scientific discoveries taking place. It was a truly inspiring way for our pupils to celebrate science and fuel a lifelong love of learning about the universe.



Year 2 Shine at KSI Football Tournament



A big well done to our Year 2 pupils who brilliantly represented St Wilfrid's at the KSI football tournament at Dimensions after school. The children competed against six other schools, demonstrating determination and skill despite challenging weather conditions. They demonstrated excellent sportsmanship and teamwork throughout, celebrating a fantastic 4-0 victory in one of their matches! Their enthusiasm and effort were truly impressive, making the school very proud. A huge thank you to all the parents who came along to support the team in the wet and blustery conditions—it really made a difference!



Burslem Park junior parkrun

What is Burslem Park junior parkrun?

A free, fun, and friendly weekly 2k event for juniors (4- to 14-year-olds). Nearby Saturday parkrun events can be found [here](#).

When is it?

It is held every Sunday at 9:00am.

Where is it?

The event takes place at Burslem Park, 182 Moorland Rd, Stoke-On-Trent, ST6 1EA.

See [Course page](#) for more details.

What does it cost to join in?

Nothing - it's free! but please register before you first come along. Only ever register with parkrun once and don't forget to bring a **scannable** copy of your barcode ([request a reminder](#)). If you forget it, you won't get a time.

How fast do I have to be?

The aim is to have fun. Please come along and join in whatever your pace!

Help Burslem Park junior parkrun happen!

All parkrun events are organised by volunteers - email burslemparkjuniors@parkrun.com to help.

Safeguarding

parkrun is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and adults at risk. For our full safeguarding processes and policies please see our [Safeguarding Hub](#).

To report a safeguarding concern please email safeguarding@parkrun.com.

We're friendly!

Every week we grab a post parkrun coffee in the Pavilion Park Café (located in the park opposite the bandstand) - please come and join us!





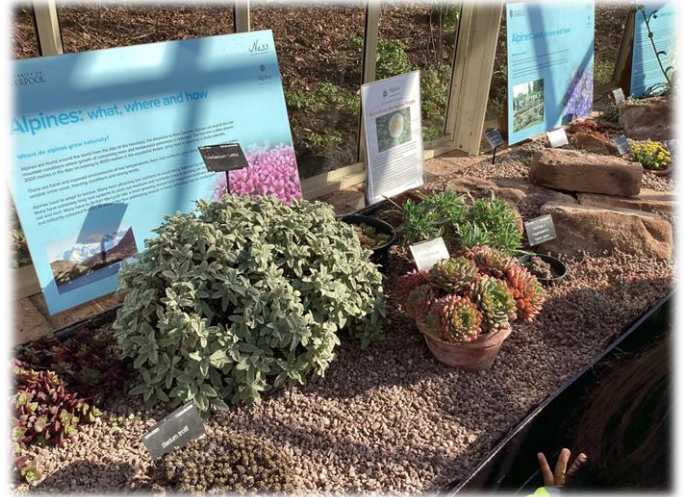
Mother's Day Breakfast



What a lovely morning we had celebrating Mother's Day! Thank you to all the FS and KSI mums, grandmothers, and family members who joined us for a special breakfast. It was wonderful to see so many smiling faces, enjoying time together, and celebrating the important role that mums, nans, and families play in our school community.



Year 1 Trip – Ness Botanic Gardens



Year 1 enjoyed a truly fantastic day on their visit to Ness Botanic Gardens, with the sunshine making it even more special! Throughout the day, the children had the opportunity to explore the beautiful gardens and learn all about a wide variety of plants. A highlight of the trip was meeting Rose, who shared her excellent knowledge and taught the children many interesting facts about different plants and how they grow. The children listened carefully, asked thoughtful questions, and showed great enthusiasm for their learning. The visit provided a wonderful opportunity to bring our classroom learning to life, helping the children to deepen their understanding of plants and the natural world. They demonstrated excellent behaviour throughout the day and were fantastic explorers, showing curiosity, respect, and excitement as they moved around the gardens. To round off the trip, the children also enjoyed some time at the woodland playground, where they had lots of fun playing together and making the most of the outdoor space. We are incredibly proud of Year 1 for their positive attitudes and exemplary behaviour—well done to you all for such a successful and enjoyable trip!



Year 6 – Chester Zoo trip

Year 6 had a fantastic day at Chester Zoo, enjoying a mix of weather while exploring the zoo's many exhibits. The visit provided an excellent introduction to their next science topic, as the children learnt about evolution and animal adaptations. The pupils were keen to explore, walking many steps as they discovered the amazing variety of animals on display. Their enthusiasm and curiosity were matched by exemplary behaviour throughout the day—well done, Year 6! It was a fun and educational trip that will inspire their learning in science for weeks to come.



Year 1 Parent Lunch

We had a wonderful turnout for Year 1's Parent Lunch today! It was fantastic to see so many parents joining their children for a special meal, sharing smiles, conversation, and laughter. The children were thrilled to have their families in school, and it made for a very happy and memorable lunchtime. Thank you to everyone who came along to make the event so enjoyable!



Parent support

Registered charity number: 1148385

New Group Starting 19th January

alice
Supporting children in our community

big cup
community play group

St Wilfrid's Catholic Academy

Monday
9.00am - 11.00am

St Wilfrid's Catholic Academy
Queen's Avenue
Tunstall
ST6 6EE

about us
Come along and enjoy a variety of stimulating, educational and fun activities. This is a FREE group for all parents/carers and children. For more information please contact
Use Hot on 0772908272 or info@alicecharity.org

Supported by

Stoke-on-Trent
300 CHILDREN IN NEED

For further information please contact - info@alicecharity.org
01702 634 838 | Unit 19 Whieldon Road Industrial Estate, Fenton, Stoke-on-Trent ST4 4JP

What is Big Cup?

Becoming a new parent is one of life's most wonderful times. But for some, this transition can be terrifying and completely isolating. With no support network to help financially or emotionally, the sudden responsibilities of new parenthood can be overwhelming. New families struggling on low incomes can find this time especially hard.

Big Cup helps families overcome isolation by bringing them together through free weekly parent-and-toddler play groups across Newcastle & Stoke. Big Cup offers parents the opportunity to meet up with other local families. It offers the chance to discuss common concerns, address a toddler's needs, and find space to smile and relax in a friendly environment. Building a critical support network for parents.



- Family Lives is an online provider that offers a wealth of online parenting and family support through their confidential hotline, FREE online courses, live chat, parent advice videos, and more.
- Their free online parenting courses are a great way to get advice and learn new skills in the comfort of your own home, and at times to suit you. All of their courses are filled with helpful techniques and ideas developed by their experienced parenting professionals to help you become a confident and happy parent. Crucially, you can do our course whenever and wherever suits you and work through it at your own pace.
- Family Lives' range of courses includes:
 - Parents Together
 - Let's play
 - Coping with teens
 - New baby in the family
 - Raising confident children
 - Sibling arguments
 - Co-parenting

▪ Family Lives

▪ <https://www.familylives.org.uk/>

▪ 0808 800 2222

Tax Free Childcare

You can receive up to £500 every 3 months (up to £ 1,800 a year) for each of your children to help with the cost of childcare.

If you receive Tax-Free Childcare, you will need to set up an online childcare account for your child. For every £8 you pay into this account, the government will pay £2 to use toward your provider.

What can you use Tax-Free Childcare for?

You can use it to pay for approved childcare, for example:

- Childminders, nurseries and nannies
- After school clubs and play schemes

Childcare Choices

Apply

You can apply online here:

<https://www.gov.uk/apply-for-tax-free-childcare>

Childcare support is expanding

More before and after-school childcare places are here to help parents

To find out more visit [ChildcareChoices.gov.uk](https://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk)

Childcare



Eligibility

Your eligibility depends on:

- Whether you're working
- Your income (and your partner's income if you have one)
- Your child's age and circumstances
- Your immigration status

If you're self-employed, you may still be eligible.

Your Child

Your child must be 11 or under and usually live with you. They stop being eligible on the first September after their 11th birthday.

Adopted children are eligible, but fostered children are not.



KEY DATES

SUMMER 1 TERM 1 2026



Monday 13th April	School re-opens to all
Tuesday 14th April	Reception & Year 6 Vista Photographs
Tuesday 14th April	Long Division Workshop Yr 5 & Yr. 6 @ 3.15pm
Thursday 16th April	Long Division Workshop Yr 5 & Yr. 6 @ 8.45pm
Thursday 16th April	Forest School Nursery class
Thursday 16th April	Reception trip to Gentleshaw(both classes)
Thursday 16th April	Year 5 Class Saint Prayer Service @ 2.40 pm
Thursday 16th April	Inter town competition @ Birches Head Academy
Friday 17th April	Swimming Gala- KS2
Friday 17th April	Year 2 Parent Lunch
Thursday 23rd April	Whole School Mass
Thursday 23rd April	Year 3/4 Class Saint Prayer Service @ 2.40 pm
Thursday 23rd April	School Games Yr. 3 & Yr. 4 (Girls & Boys)
Thursday 30th April	Year 3 Forest School morning session



KEY DATES

SUMMER TERM 1 2026



Thursday 30th April	Year 3/4 Forest School afternoon session
Thursday 30th April	Year 4 Class Saint Prayer Service @ 2.40 pm
Friday 1st May	Rosary Prayer group
Friday 1st May	Year 3 Parent Lunch
Monday 4th May	May Day – School closed to all
Tuesday 5th May -Monday 11th May	Scholastic Book Fair
Friday 8th May	Rosary Prayer group
Monday 11th May – Thursday 14th May	SATS Week
Tuesday 12th May	First Holy Communion session
Friday 15th May	Year 3.4 Parent Lunch
Sunday 17th May	Family Mass @ Sacred Heart
Wednesday 20th May	Year 3 trip to Trentham Gardens
Wednesday 20th May	Year 3.4 & Year 4 trip to Wollaton Park
Wednesday 20th May	Yr. 6 Library Visit



KEY DATES SUMMER I 2026



Thursday 21st May	Year 2 Forest School morning session
Thursday 21st May	Year 1.2 Forest School afternoon session
Thursday 21st May	Whole School Mass
Thursday 21st May	Rosary Prayer group
Thursday 21st May	Year 4 Parent Lunch
Friday 22nd May	School Closes for Half-Term
Monday 1st June	School Opens to pupils

You can keep up to date with events in school by checking the key dates on our school website:

<https://www.stwilfridsnewman.co.uk/>

Or

Visit our school Facebook page.

<https://www.facebook.com/St.WilfridsNewman/>

Please contact the school office should you require any further information.