

January 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to Badger Class! We hope you have had a restful break and enjoyed the festive period. We have welcomed many new families to our class community this year and we continue to welcome new families to our ever growing class. For your reference, Mrs Thake will be teaching the class on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, while Ms Stenhouse will teach on Thursday and Friday. We will keep you updated with news as Mrs Thake departs for her maternity leave.

Curriculum this Term

Badger Class will be exploring two lines of enquiry in our topic this term:

1. Geography: What is Madagascar like?
2. History: Have people always travelled like me?

These questions will form the basis of our history and geography units. A topic map outlining further details of the children's learning across the subjects this term is available for your reference.

Reading

Reading is vital. The best way to encourage reading is to read aloud to your child and share books every day. Reading not only opens the door to knowledge but also significantly improves spelling. We will be reading regularly with your children and conducting reading activities in class every day. However, there is nothing quite like the joy of reading with a parent or carer. Please invest this time with your child; it truly makes a difference!

In Badger Class, we use two types of reading books: 'I Read' and 'You Read'. The 'I Read' books are specifically designed for children to read to an adult and are matched to their phonics ability, while the 'You Read' books consist of engaging stories intended for adults to read. Over time, as your child becomes more confident, they may begin to read these to you; however, we encourage these to be enjoyed together to share the love of reading.

Typically, your child will retain their reading book for one week; however, those in Year 2 participating in the fluency scheme may keep their book for up to two weeks. We recommend that children read daily at home, including re-reading their books to develop fluency, prosody, and comprehension—essential skills for effective reading.

We kindly ask that you record the title of the book in the Reading Record Book, along with the pages read and whether it has been completed. For maximum support in their reading journey, children should bring their reading books and records to school each day. We will monitor their progress through the Reading Record books, and we will change books at the beginning of each week.

Please complete the activities in the reading records each week. These are closely aligned to your child's learning in their spelling lessons and will enable your child to embed some valuable learning from school.

St Paul's C of E Primary School

Life in all its fullness

Maths

Children in Badger Class have spent the last term focusing on place value, addition and subtraction and shape. To support at home, please continue to practise adding and subtracting two digit numbers to support fluency.

This term we will introduce multiplication and division for Year 2. Please practise counting in 2s, 5s and 10s as well as beginning to learn multiplication facts for 2, 5 and 10 times tables.

For Year 1, we will continue building up knowledge of place value and addition and subtraction.

Both Year 1 and Year 2 would benefit from continuing to practice addition and subtraction as well identifying tens and ones in two digit numbers.

Homework

Children will be given 'Home Learning Ideas', which provide a menu of possible extensions for their learning at home. These activities do not need to be formally handed in; however, we encourage children to share their efforts with their teacher should they wish to do so.

Children should read their book daily, complete their weekly spelling task and access Numbots or TTRS regularly.

P.E. Kits and Uniform

Our P.E. lessons will take place on Tuesdays and Thursdays. For health and safety reasons, children with long hair must have their hair tied back, and earrings must be removed. We are unable to assist with removing earrings, so please support your child in this matter. Children are encouraged to wear their P.E. kit to school on these days to maximise their time in the lessons.

P.E. Kit requirements:

- Plain white t-shirt
- Plain navy blue or black shorts or tracksuit bottoms
- Trainers or plimsolls, children should wear their school jumper on top of their P.E. kit.

School uniform requirements:

- Grey skirt, pinafore dress, trousers, or shorts (no leggings, jeans, or tracksuit bottoms)
- A royal blue check dress can be worn in summer
- A white shirt or a white/royal blue polo shirt
- A royal blue sweatshirt, zip-through, V-neck sweater, or cardigan (preferably with the school logo)
- Black shoes (no shoes with high heels)
- White or grey socks or tights. Jewellery and nail varnish must not be worn in school, with the exceptions being watches and stud earrings. Items must be removed during physical education lessons, and long hair should be tied back. Please ensure that every item of your child's clothing is clearly labelled with their name.

St Paul's C of E Primary School

Life in all its fullness

Lunches

To save time in school, we kindly request that you make your child's lunch choices before school. You can complete a term's worth of decisions at once, so please log in and take care of these choices until Christmas. If you have misplaced your login details, the office can assist you.

Snack

As part of our commitment to promoting healthy eating habits, children are encouraged to bring in a nutritious snack, which is usually a piece of fruit or a vegetable.

It is important to note that our school operates as a nut and sesame free environment. This policy is in place to protect our students who have allergies and to ensure a safe and inclusive atmosphere for all. As you prepare snacks for your child, please be vigilant and consider all items that they may wish to bring. Many products, including those which we often perceive as healthy, may contain either nuts or sesame.

For instance, items such as sesame-topped bread, sesame rolled sushi, Kinder Bueno products, and Nutella are common culprits. Additionally, hummus products contain sesame, which can be overlooked. We kindly ask that you scrutinise labels carefully and avoid sending children to school with any products containing nuts or sesame.

We greatly appreciate your cooperation and support in keeping our children safe.

Parent and Staff Communication

We encourage parents to communicate with us to provide children with the best possible support.

We are asking children to walk through the courtyard and meet us in the classroom themselves. This is to minimise the traffic through the school. There are still many ways to communicate with us:

- You can email us at badger@stpauls.cambs.sch.uk
- Mrs Thake can often be found on the big gates on a Thursday and Friday morning.
- We will walk the children to the designated meeting point in the afternoon where you can share information with us.

If you need to pass on an important message for the day, please do pop through to the courtyard and pass this on.

It is essential for us to be informed if your child is going home with someone else unless it is a regular arrangement already known to us. We will not permit any child to leave with an adult not pre-arranged by you, including extended family members. Should you have any concerns, queries, or need to communicate with us, please do not hesitate to reach out through the office or by email at badger@stpauls.cambs.sch.uk.

Kind regards,

Mrs Thake and Ms Stenhouse