

From the headteacher



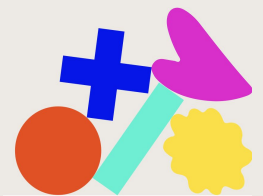
Dear Parents and Carers,

This week we welcomed external advisers and governors into school as part of our ongoing commitment to continual improvement. We regularly work with external colleagues who support us in reviewing and developing our practice. These experienced professionals bring fresh perspectives, valuable expertise and constructive challenge, helping us reflect on what we do well and identify where we can continue to improve.

Their guidance supports staff development, strengthens teaching and learning, and helps ensure our priorities remain focused on providing the best possible education for our pupils. By working in partnership with external colleagues, we continue to develop as a school and provide a high-quality learning environment for all our children.

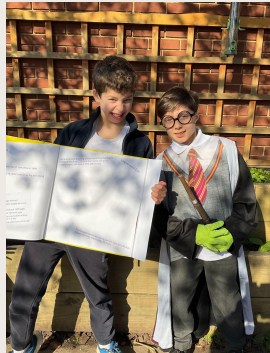
Warm wishes,

Helen Darrell



THIS WEEK AT ST PAUL'S

- World Book Day was celebrated across the school with a range of reading activities and fantastic costumes. Pupils enjoyed sharing their favourite books and celebrating a love of reading together.
- Mrs Rowson, a parent volunteer, kindly supported a DT lesson this week. Their help gave pupils valuable guidance as they developed their practical design and making skills.
- Maths lessons were observed across the school this week. It was great to see pupils engaged in their learning and demonstrating strong number knowledge.
- Our pupil librarians supported the World Book Day assembly alongside Ms Dunn. They helped lead the celebration and shared their enthusiasm for reading with the whole school. Poetry club performed a wonderful poem.
- We are looking forward to the school Quiz Night tonight. It promises to be a fun evening for our school community.



Squirrel class news

In Squirrel Class we have been delighted to start our science unit on electricity. We have already been building series circuits using cells, battery holders, crocodile clips, bulbs and bulb holders. It is also linking into our DT unit where we will be understanding, designing and creating our own torches. Including building the electrical circuits, considering the best kind of design for a specific specification. This week we have explored different types of torches to understand the different styles available.

In English we have done a short unit of writing around the book 'Peace on Earth'. From this we have considered what traits and characteristics peacemakers need to have. We then planned and wrote our own School Charter, outlining what we want St Paul's to be like and how we will achieve it. Some of the ideas the children created:

- In our school we want children to work hard, show kindness
- We promise to give the children a happy and fun environment
- We want our school to respect and appreciate community
- We want our school to be a happy and calm place where children like learning and friendship
- This small school is welcoming and most importantly has a good heart
- A small school with kind people
- Our school wants to be fun, curious, amazing and peaceful.

We have spent a long time this week learning our songs for our Spring Concert 'This is me', we have created posters for the performance as well and are starting to include some actions with our songs now we know all the words! We are looking forward to sharing this with you in a couple of weeks!

Finally, Fridays are fitness for our class. We have been working hard doing 30 seconds work out and 1 minute rest in between. This week we recorded our score and tried to improve it the next time we did that activity. Why not try them at home: star lunge, step lunge, mountain climber, high knees, star jump and lunge walk.

Useful dates

Spring Term 2026
Monday 5th Jan 2026 -
Friday 27th Mar 2026

Dates for your diary

Fri 6 Mar - Quiz night

20th Mar - Red Nose Day
non-uniform day

Tues & Thurs 26 Mar -
Parents evenings

Fri 27 Mar - End of term

Attendance Matters!

We know it can sometimes be tricky to decide whether your child is well enough to attend school. To help support everyone's wellbeing and reduce the spread of illness, we've put together some simple guidance below.

Please keep your child at home if they have:

- A high temperature or fever
- Vomiting or diarrhoea (children should stay at home for 48 hours after the last episode)
- A bad cough, sore throat, or feeling generally unwell and unable to take part in normal school activities
- An infectious illness such as chickenpox, measles, or hand, foot and mouth (please follow NHS guidance and inform the school)
- Any condition where they need close adult care or rest to recover

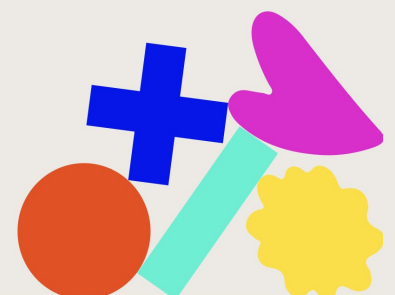
Your child can usually attend school if they have:

- A mild cold or runny nose
- A mild cough with no fever and they feel well in themselves
- Are eating, drinking, and able to take part in lessons and play

If your child becomes unwell during the school day, we will contact you to arrange collection if needed.

If you are ever unsure, please don't hesitate to contact the school office for advice. We really appreciate your support in helping to keep all children and staff healthy.

Let's talk
attendance!



Year of Reading 2026

The National Year of Reading 2026 is the biggest campaign in a generation designed to help more people (re)discover the joy of reading and make it part of their everyday lives. Look out for some of St Paul's reading initiatives throughout the year.

January - Reading Resolutions

National context: New Year focus on habits and wellbeing

February - Storytelling & Oracy

National context: National Storytelling Week

March - World Book Day

National context: World Book Day (UK)

April - Reading Outdoors

National context: Spring renewal / wellbeing focus

May - Libraries & Choice

National context: Libraries Week (May)

June - Reading Aloud

National context: Empathy Day / reading aloud research focus

July - Reading for Pleasure Celebration

National context: End-of-year reflection

August - Summer Reading

National context: Summer Reading Challenge (Libraries)

September - Reading Culture Reset

National context: Start-of-year routines

October - Poetry & Language

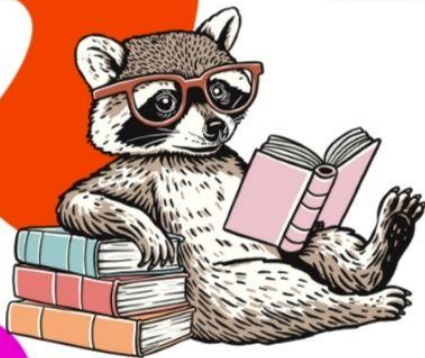
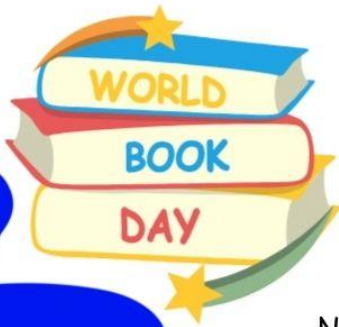
National context: National Poetry Day

November - Reading & Wellbeing

National context: Anti-Bullying Week / wellbeing focus

December - Reading for Joy

National context: End-of-term reflection



Getting your child the right support when needed...

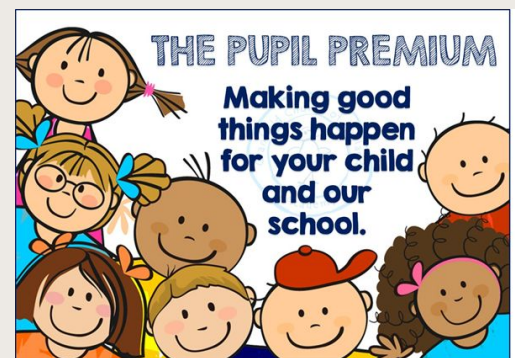
Pupil Premium and Free School Meals.

Checking whether your child is eligible for Free School Meals (FSM) is quick, confidential, and can make a real difference to their education. Even if your child chooses not to take the meal, simply being registered can bring valuable **Pupil Premium funding** into the school. This additional money is used to provide extra support, resources, and opportunities that directly benefit children—such as smaller group work, academic interventions, enrichment activities, and wellbeing support. By taking a moment to apply, you could help unlock funding that strengthens your child's learning and benefits the whole school community.

We encourage you to check your eligibility

here: <https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/children-and-families/schools-learning/help-with-school-learning-costs/free-school-meals>

No matter which year group you are in, this funding can begin to support your child and the school when they first join us. If you are not sure, please either ask or submit an application to see if you are eligible.



Young Carers

Letting your school know that you are a young carer can make a big difference to your wellbeing and success at school. When staff understand the responsibilities you have at home, they can offer the right support—such as extra time for homework, someone to talk to, or flexibility when things become difficult. Schools can also connect you with helpful services, clubs, or young carer groups so you don't feel alone. Sharing your situation doesn't mean you'll be judged; it simply helps the school make sure you're treated fairly, understood, and given the support you need to balance caring with your education and your own wellbeing.

If you believe your child is a young carer, please do reach out to Mrs Thake who can offer support as and when needed.

IS THIS YOU?



"My Mum is sick.
I have to stay home
from school some
days to help her."

"I have to make sure
Dad takes his
medication each
morning and night-
time."

"I need to make sure
my younger brother
and sister get ready
for school"

SIBS

Sibs is a UK charity that supports **siblings of children and adults with disabilities, long-term health conditions, or additional needs**. They provide information, advice, and emotional support for both young siblings and adult siblings, helping them deal with the challenges and responsibilities that can come with having a brother or sister who needs extra care. Sibs also works with schools and professionals to raise awareness and make sure siblings get the understanding and support they need.

If your child has a sibling with disabilities, long term health conditions or additional needs, please do let us know. Mrs Thake would be your first point of contact.