

From the headteacher



Dear Parents and Carers,

A message from Mrs Thake:

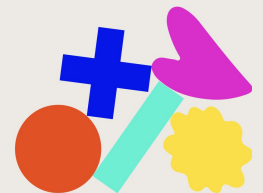
I hope you all had a wonderful half term break.

I am delighted to share that our newest family member, Hudson Thake, arrived safely in the middle of half term. We're all doing well and adjusting to life as a family. I'm looking forward to bringing Hudson in to visit once we're a little more settled.

I would also like to say a heartfelt thank you for all the kind messages and well wishes from across the school. A very special thank you to Badger Class for the thoughtful gifts and lovely messages I received before starting my leave.

Wishing you all the very best for the spring term, and I look forward to seeing you soon.

Mrs Thake



THIS WEEK AT ST PAUL'S

- Year 4 have been delighted to get back to swimming this week with 2 groups now using the deep pool.
- The poetry club are busy preparing for World Book Day next week.
- We've had a great start to the new half term in school and it's been lovely to see the sun shining and signs of Spring!
- In collective worship we have been thinking about the Bishop's Lent Challenge and Rev Imogen has also been talking to the children about Lent.
- This week we have welcomed Mrs Keri Lennon as our Acting Deputy Headteacher whilst Mrs Thake is on maternity leave. She has been enjoying getting to know the children and have been out on the gate meeting our families at the beginning and end of the day.
- We are also very pleased to announce that Mrs Erminia Carillo will be starting with us on Monday as our new office administrator. She will be in the office between 8am and 3pm. We have really appreciated your patience as we have navigated a term of reduced staff in the office.



Otter class news

Otter class had a wonderful end to our last half-term, spending lots of time busy making: programming micro:bits to make our own activity pickers, learning to use collage and monotype printing to make poetry zines and designing and creating our own papier-mâché planets (see below!). It truly was a hands-on, and often messy, learning journey!

We are confident that this half-term, though shorter, will be even more jam-packed with enriching experiences. We have already begun to prepare our songs for our upcoming singing concert, have made a great start on our 'Forces' unit in science with an exciting experiment on gravity, and are excited to be beginning our bridge-building project in DT with the help of an expert parent volunteer.

In the next few weeks, we will even be making a visit to the University's chemistry department for an explosive look at the gases in our atmosphere. We will also have an engineering team visiting us to learn about water-resistance through a hands-on and exciting building competition. As always, Otter class is busy, bustling and excited to learn!



Useful dates

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

Dates for your diary

Thurs 5 Mar - World Book Day

Fri 6 Mar - Quiz night

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

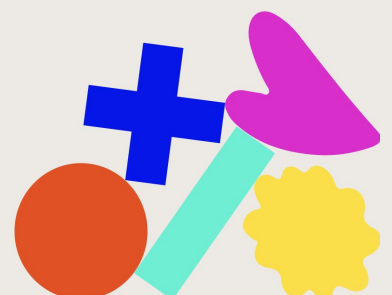
Your child can usually attend school if they have:

- 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

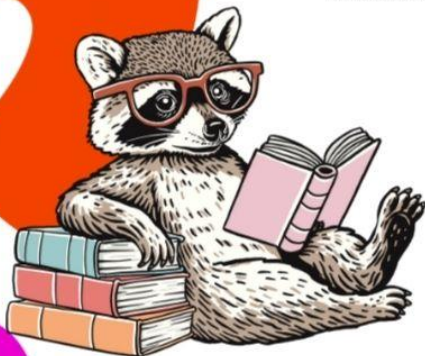
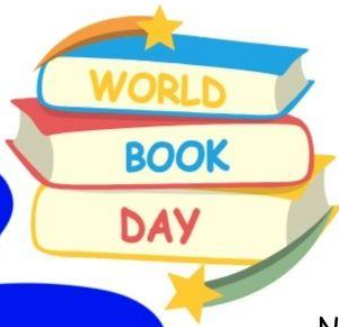
National context: National Poetry Day

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...

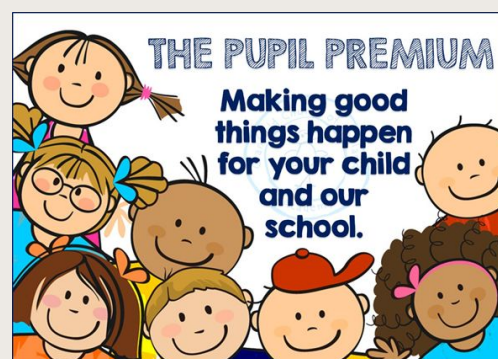
Pupil Premium and Free School Meals.

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.