

From the headteacher



Dear Parents and Carers,

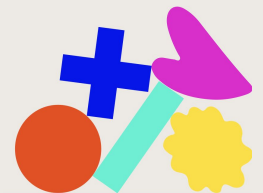
As we find ourselves at the halfway point of the school year, it has been wonderful to see the enthusiasm and positivity with which our pupils continue to approach their learning. Classrooms have been buzzing with creativity, curiosity, and determination, and I am incredibly proud of the effort the children show each and every day.

This half term has already brought many highlights, from exciting curriculum projects to enrichment activities that help bring learning to life. We are also focusing on our school values, encouraging love, wisdom, and welcoming everyone in all that we do.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. The strong partnership between home and school makes such a difference to the children's success and wellbeing. I hope you have a restful half term break and we look forward to seeing all our families back after the holiday.

Warm regards,

Helen Darrell



THIS WEEK AT ST PAUL'S

- Squirrel class had a wonderful time making instruments to explore pitch in Science this week.
- Y4/5/6 Football club did a great job practising their control and accuracy on Monday after school.
- Check out this video from Professor Stuart Fairclough: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=noc1da0V_E0 can you help your child be more active at home/outside school?
- **NEW! Launched this week for Safer Internet Day:** The NSPCC has partnered with Vodafone to develop an **online safety guide** for parents and carers of **children under 5**. The guide contains useful information about **common risks** this age group face, some guidance around **screen time limits** and lots of **practical tips** for families:
Click here: [A parent's guide to online safety for children under five | NSPCC](#)
- The teachers took part in an Anti-bullying workshop with the PSHE service - this has helped enhance our anti-bullying practice
- We hope you enjoy pancake day this coming Tuesday! Here are lots of pancake recipes for you to try out
https://www.bbc.co.uk/food/collections/kids_pancake_recipes



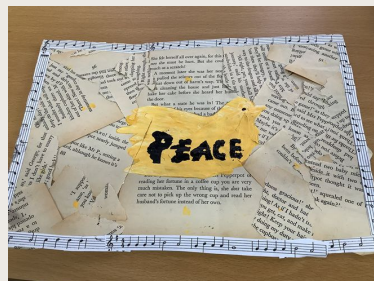
Hedgehog class news

This week, in English, Year 6 have started to look at a new text called 'Windrush child'. We had an hour long discussion about racism as there are racist incidents mentioned in the book, as it is based in the early 1960s. The children in Year 6 were appalled at what they heard and have written letters to shopkeepers and owners of hair salons, of the time, requesting that they do not introduce a colour bar. Their reasons for being against this were very powerful and persuasive.

In Maths, they have finished their unit on algebra by looking at equations, formulae and solving problems with 2 unknowns. Earlier they were able to complete 2-step function machines, form expressions and work out pairs of values. It was great to see so many of them enjoying this maths as algebra is normally an area of maths that people groan at!

In R.E. Year 6 have been finding out about Humanism. The end of this unit was brought to life by a visit from a Humanist. The children had many good questions to ask and the speaker complimented the class on their questions and behaviour.

Our art this half term, has been looking at 'Activism in art'. We thought of something that was important to us, created a collage background and then screen printed pictures or a message.



Useful dates

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

Dates for your diary

Mon 16 Feb - Fri 20 Feb -
Half term

Tues 24 Mar & 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

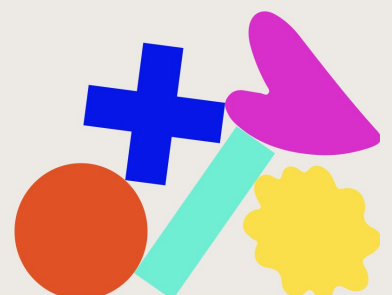
Your child can usually attend school if they have:

- 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!

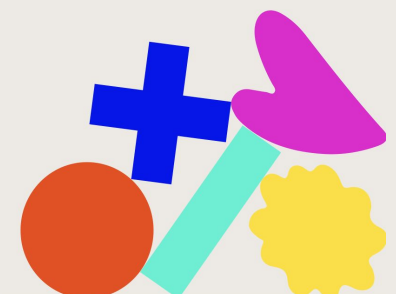


Governor news

The first meeting of the school's full governing body was held this week, at which we had time to reflect and discuss the recent Ofsted inspection experience. As one of the first schools in the county to be inspected under the new government framework and approach, we generally found it a more open experience, with greater opportunities for discussion and feedback throughout. We expect to receive a confidential version of their report in the next few days, after which we have an opportunity to respond before it can be formally released and shared most likely a little before the Easter holidays.

Governors also discussed the outlines of our new sustainability strategy. This is an area where we are already strong as a school, thanks to involvement of the children and several key adults in our eco club, various energy efficiency measures already put in place over recent years, including solar generation, and other initiatives such as bikeability. Our future strategy will expand on this by looking at further changes to procurement, waste, school food, water use and other areas. If you have any ideas, please do let us know!

This was also the last governing body that Mrs Thake and Mrs Abrey will be attending before their respective maternity leaves, the latter having served as staff governor for almost seven years. As Co-Chairs we wanted to thank both of them for their huge contribution to the leadership of the school, and to supporting us as governors to do our job well. We wish them the very best in their new phase of life, and look forward to seeing them back at school when they're ready to return!



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

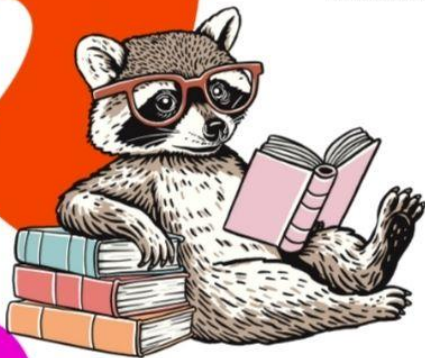
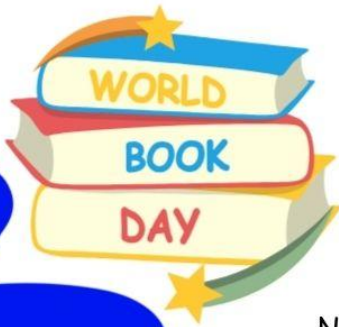
National context: National Poetry Day

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...

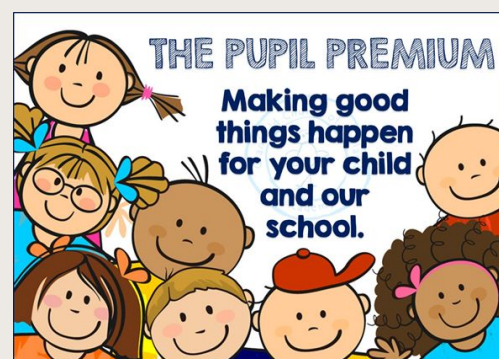
Pupil Premium and Free School Meals.

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.