

From the headteacher



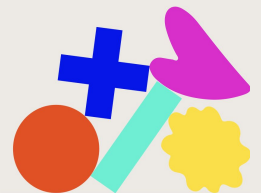
Dear Parents and Carers,

As we finish another exciting week at school, I would like to take a moment to wish Mrs Thake and her family all the best as she begins her maternity leave. The children have been sending her lots of lovely well wishes throughout the school day, and it's lovely to see their support for her during this special time. We look forward to welcoming her back after her time away, but in the meantime, we continue to foster a nurturing and positive environment for all our pupils.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Warm regards,

Helen Darrell



THIS WEEK AT ST PAUL'S

- Year 6 greatly enjoyed their science experiment on diffusion and osmosis, which saw their gummy bears increase in size!
- Year 6 have also enjoyed playing volleyball - a new sport to them.
- Squirrel class have enjoyed beginning to learn I'm a little Teapot on the recorders this week!
- Choir Club is filling up ready for after half term - if you are KS2 and would like to join the message went out on MCAS this week.
- Our English and Maths subject leaders have attended Local Authority updates for both subjects. It's good to ensure we have up to date knowledge in both these key areas of learning.



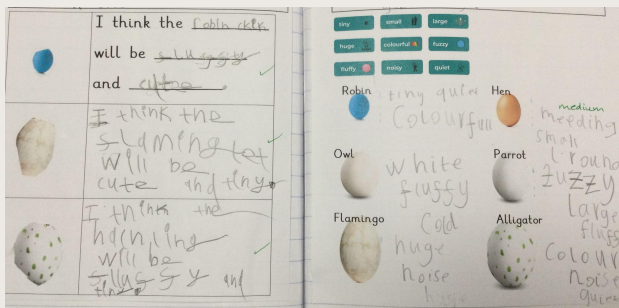
Robin class news

Robin Class have been enjoying the text 'The Odd Egg'. The story involves lots of birds who have laid eggs, and a duck who finds an enormous, spotty egg. We have discovered that flamingo chicks are actually called flaminglets, and that baby owls are called owlets. The duck's egg turns out to hatch into an alligator who thinks the duck is his mother. The Year 1 Robins have written advice for the duck to help her to look after the alligator.

The Robins have been using a range of adjectives to describe different eggs, designed ways for an egg to stay safe, and made lots of nests to keep eggs in. We have also found out about lots of other creatures that lay eggs.

We have even used eggs to help us with our Maths. We've counted them, matched them to numicon and doubled them. The Year 1 Robins have been adding and subtracting numbers up to 20 too.

In PE, we have been working on our gymnastics skills - balancing, rolling and creating simple sequences. Alongside this, we have been using a jungle theme to learn lots of yoga poses, which we are performing with increasing control and poise.



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

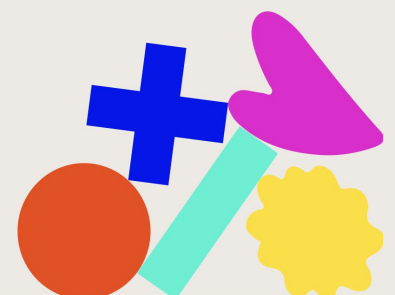
Your child can usually attend school if they have:

- 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!



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

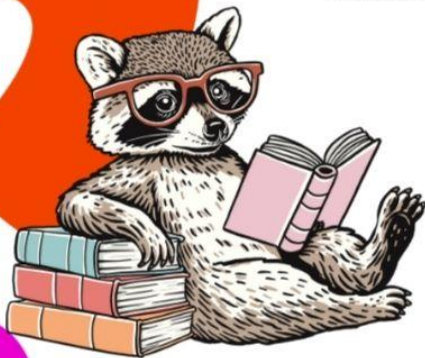
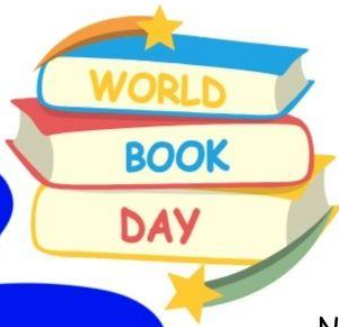
National context: National Poetry Day

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...

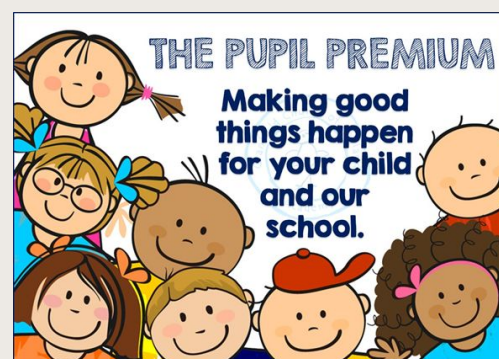
Pupil Premium and Free School Meals.

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.