

From the headteacher



Dear Parents and Carers,

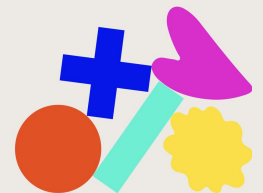
I am delighted to share some exciting news with you! We have been pleased to welcome Mrs Erminia Carillo into our school as our new office administrator. Mrs Carillo has been visiting us recently to familiarise herself with our systems, staff, and, most importantly, our wonderful children.

Her warm personality and dedication to creating a positive school environment will undoubtedly make her a great asset to our team. We are confident that she will contribute significantly to our school community. Once the recruitment process is completed, she will officially join us, and we look forward to her becoming an integral part of our school.

Thank you for your continued support.

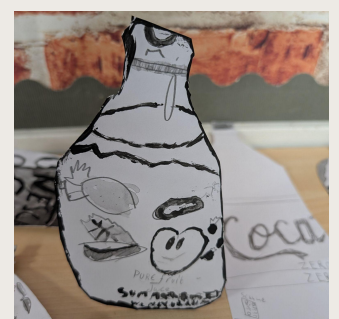
Warm regards,

Helen Darrell



THIS WEEK AT ST PAUL'S

- Take a look at this useful guide for parents for TikTok <https://parentzone.org.uk/article/tiktok>
- Year 4 have enjoyed creating still life paintings of bottles
- Children across the school have been writing their reading resolutions on stars in our school library. These will go up in the library to remind us throughout the year.
- We have completed inductions for volunteer students and parents this week, providing extra support for our teaching and learning.
- It has been wonderful to visit some of the exciting clubs available to our children. These clubs offer creativity, friendship, new skills, fun, and exercise, making for a fantastic experience for everyone involved. This week we have set up a new choir that will be run after school for the children.





Badger class news

This week in Badger Class, we have finished our maths units: Year 2 – Addition and Subtraction and Year 1 – Place Value to 20. Our next units will be Multiplication and Division for Year 2, and Addition and Subtraction for Year 1. Across all maths units, children are shown how to apply their new learning through reasoning and problem-solving activities.

We are all really enjoying our Geography unit on Madagascar. Using the fantastic BBC iPlayer documentary *Tropical Islands*, atlases, and extracts from *National Geographic Junior*, we have learned about the physical features of the island and how its mountainous spine affects the weather on each side. We have also explored the many weird and wonderful creatures unique to Madagascar, and soon we will move on to studying the local flora. We will finish the topic by creating *Postcards from Madagascar*, which the children will bring home to share their learning with their families.

In PE, we are focusing on gymnastics in the hall. Badgers have enjoyed using the climbing wall and building their core strength through balances and shapes such as squat, 'dish', 'arch', and different types of rolls. Please do ask your children for a demonstration and encourage them to hold each pose for a short time. We have been practising holding shapes in a strong and engaged way—try gently pushing their arms to feel the resistance!

Last week, Robins and Badgers took part in a free drama workshop hosted by Perform for All. Flyers were sent home, but if these were misplaced and you would like more information about joining a local drama club with Perform, please request another form from the Badger classroom.

We have just begun our new Literacy Tree text, *A Walk in London*. The children are already enjoying reading the story and discovering fascinating facts along the way. Our final outcome will be to create a walking guide for Cambridge. If you have some time over the next couple of weekends, we encourage you to take a walk around the city and explore some of the places we will be discussing, such as the River Cam, the Fitzwilliam Museum and the Museum of Zoology.

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

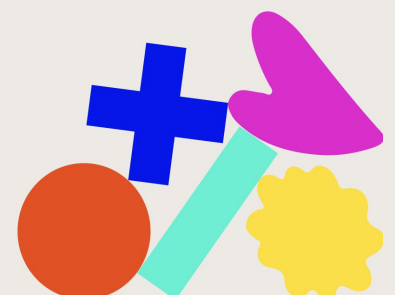
Your child can usually attend school if they have:

- 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

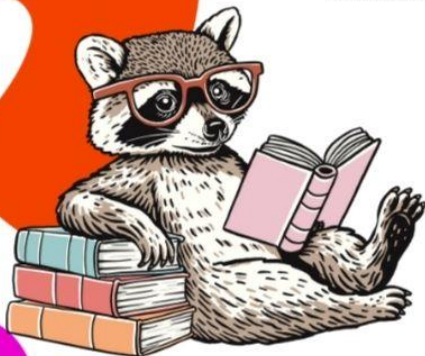
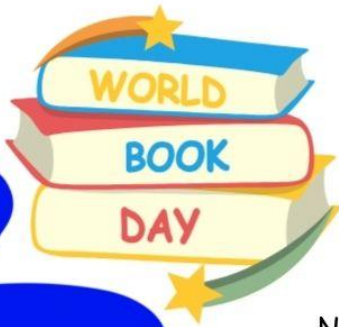
National context: National Poetry Day

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...

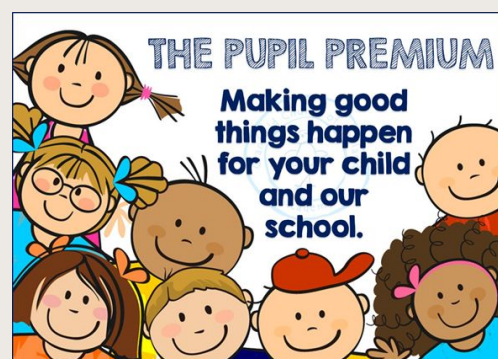
Pupil Premium and Free School Meals.

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.