

From the headteacher



Dear Parents and Carers,

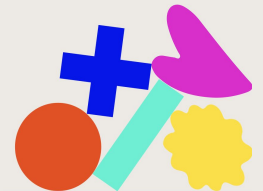
As we move through the winter term, I would like to thank you for your continued support of our school community. This time of year can feel particularly challenging for many families, and with Blue Monday on 19 January, it serves as a helpful reminder to pause and check in on our well-being. Small actions can make a big difference...

- Spend time outdoors together, even for a short walk or trip to the park
- Keep routines as consistent as possible to provide reassurance
- Talk openly with children about their feelings and encourage them to share worries
- Celebrate small achievements and positive moments from each day
- Enjoy calm, screen-free time together such as reading, drawing, or playing a game

We continue to place a strong emphasis on kindness, connection and looking after ourselves and one another. Please remember that if you or your child need extra support, our staff are always here to help.

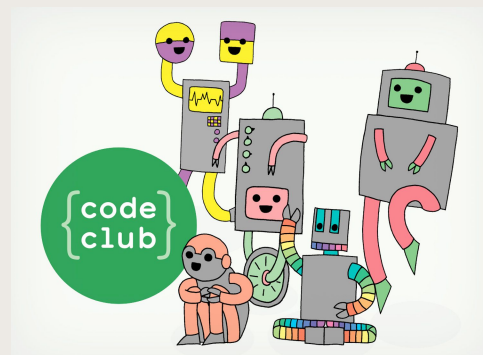
Warm regards,

Helen Darrell



THIS WEEK AT ST PAUL'S

- Year 4 continue to enjoy their swimming session this week, some were jumping into the big pool and swimming a full length, others were having a go at backstroke for the first time and the third group were collecting sinkables from the bottom of the pool. Their progress is amazing for all!
- Code Club featured in The Guardian this month, following their visit at the end of December to Raspberry Pi. If you'd like to see the article find it here: <https://www.theguardian.com/education/2026/jan/05/generation-ai-fears-of-social-divide-unless-all-children-learn-computing-skills>
- On Thursday afternoon Years R, 1 and 2 enjoyed a drama workshop run by Perform for all, with Victoria. Children had to find the key to a magical cupboard to save a toyshop! It was a very dynamic session which they all seemed to highly enjoy. Information was sent home with each child but if you didn't receive it there are spare flyers in Badger class.

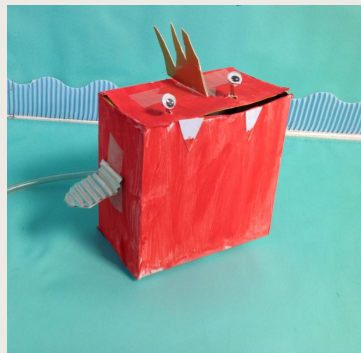
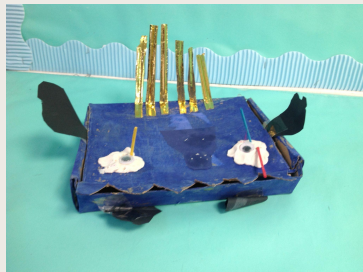


Rabbit class news

Since the beginning of this term, we have begun lots of new topics and units of work. In history, we have been asking the question, 'Who went on holiday?' in various eras. So far, we have learnt about holidays in the Tudor period, understood the concept of the Grand Tour and learnt about the impact of the railways in Victorian times. Next week, we're asking, 'Did people in the UK holiday during the world wars?'

In English, we have just completed our stories based upon Black Dog by Levi Pinfold. Our stories follow a family who believe they have encountered a scary being, i.e. a monster, a ghost, a witch... until the smallest and bravest member of the family discovers that there is something a lot less sinister in their house. Rabbit Class have done an excellent job of telling their stories and are proud of their efforts.

Below, are pictures of some of our moving monsters/dragons that we completed just before the Christmas break. Our models include a pneumatic system; enabling our monsters to open their mouths! Don't be scared - they're very friendly!



Useful dates

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

Dates for your diary

Thurs 29 Jan - PTFA meeting
7pm

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

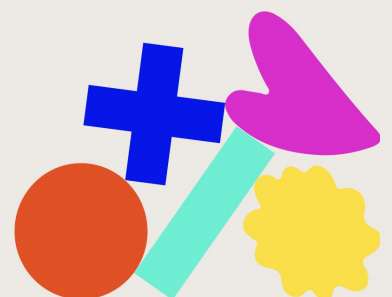
Your child can usually attend school if they have:

- 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

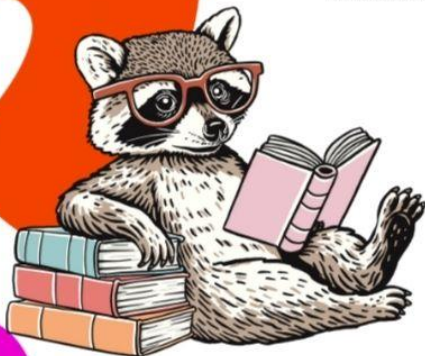
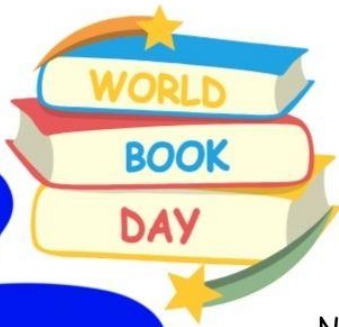
National context: National Poetry Day

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...

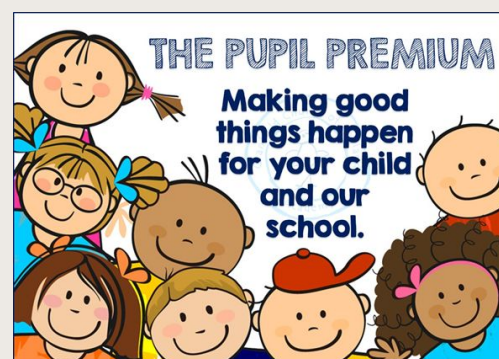
Pupil Premium and Free School Meals.

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.