

From the headteacher



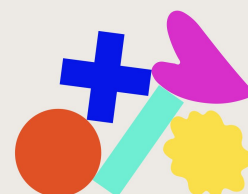
Dear Parents and Carers,

We welcomed the 'Life Bus' this week. Life Education Cambridgeshire and Peterborough works in partnership with Coram Life Education, a national charity serving the needs of children in the UK. They deliver 'life skills' based, primary drug prevention programmes to young people aged between 3-11 in schools. Their carefully developed, age-appropriate programmes are delivered in a high-tech mobile classroom.

This week, we also welcomed an Ofsted team to our school. A big thank you to all the families who took the time to complete the parent view questionnaire. The children were articulate and showcased their wonderful work, making us all very proud.

Warm regards,

Helen Darrell



THIS WEEK AT ST PAUL'S

- Code Club and Chess club have begun after school and we look forward to the sports clubs and Latin club starting next week.
- Please do read through the class newsletters, topic webs and home learning opportunities that will be sent home today, you will also find them on our website on the class pages.



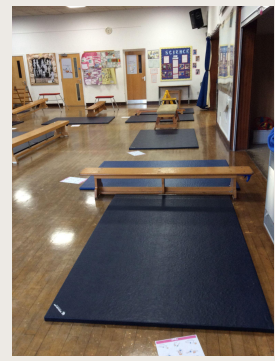
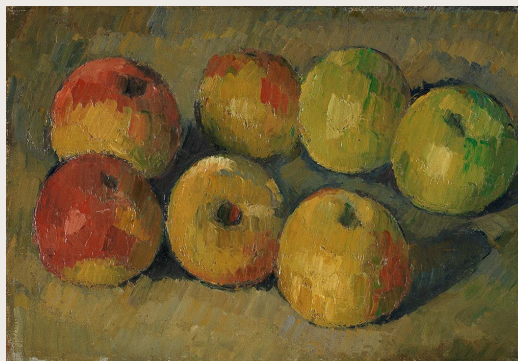
Squirrel class news

Year 4 have had a busy week! Alongside welcoming visitors into our classroom through the day on Tuesday we have continued with our learning activities. We have been really excited to begin to create our own invented crop which we will be writing a brochure about a land we want people to come to visit to see this amazing new crop. The inspiration for this has been the book 'Weslandia' we have been reading since the start of term.

All of us have had time in 'The Life Bus' which you will undoubtedly have seen on the playground the last few days. We spent time thinking about what makes a healthy body and a healthy brain and how these are connected together.

In PE we have begun our swimming with great enthusiasm and our progress over the past 2 weeks has been fantastic. In school we have begun our gymnastics unit where we look forward to getting all the equipment out in the hall each week to develop our coordination.

Last half term we visited the Fitzwilliam museum as part of our history but also spent some time looking at the still life collection of artwork. We will use what we saw there along with spending time looking at traditional and contemporary still life art to inspire us to create our own this term.



Useful dates Attendance Matters!

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

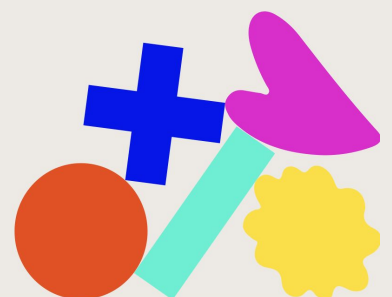
Tues 24 Mar & Thurs 26 Mar
- Parents evenings

Fri 27 Mar - End of term

As we embark on a new term, we would like to take a moment to highlight the importance of attendance and punctuality. Regular attendance is not just about being present; it plays a vital role in your child's academic success and social development. Research shows that pupils who arrive on time are more engaged and perform better in their studies. Every minute in the classroom counts, and we want to ensure that all our pupils benefit from the full learning experience.

We understand that mornings can be hectic, but establishing a consistent routine can make a significant difference. Punctuality not only helps your child but also contributes to a positive classroom environment for everyone.

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

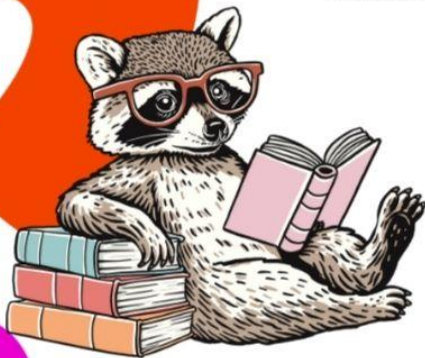
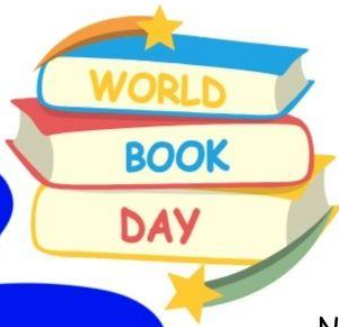
National context: National Poetry Day

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...

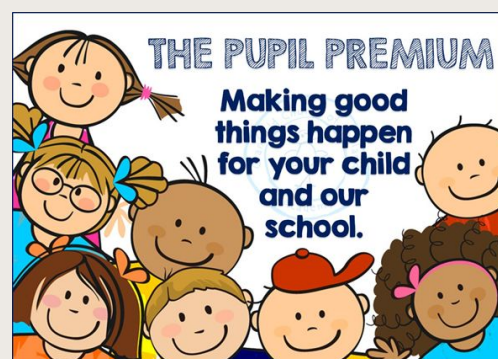
Pupil Premium and Free School Meals.

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.