

From the headteacher



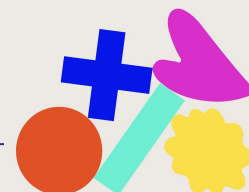
Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back after the Christmas holidays and New Year! Thank you for your patience today as we navigated the unexpected challenge of having no heating and hot water. We are delighted to inform you that everything is back to normal, and school will be open as usual on Monday.

Today, we have sent out class newsletters, topic webs, and home learning ideas. Please take a moment to read through these materials, as they will provide valuable insights into what your child will be learning this term. We are excited for the new term ahead and look forward to working together to support our children's growth and development.

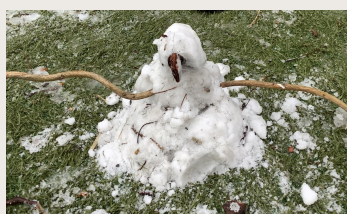
Warm regards,

Helen Darrell



THIS WEEK AT ST PAUL'S

- We have shared sign up for clubs - these are often popular so please ensure you sign your child up ASAP. If spaces have run out you can put them onto the waiting list.
- Year 4 have begun their swimming sessions this week, we are looking forward to seeing the progress they make each week.
- Year 6 enjoyed making mini-snowmen on Tuesday. Not enough snow to build a big snowman, but the children enjoyed the challenge!



**Bring a friend to
junior parkrun**

Sunday 11 January

**We want you to share the magic of
junior parkrun with a friend!**

Find your local junior parkrun event at: parkrun.com/junior

junior parkrun



Otter class news

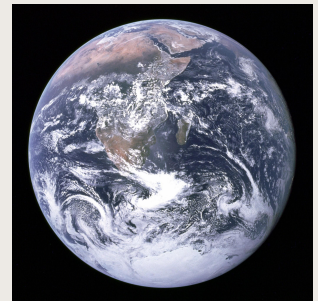
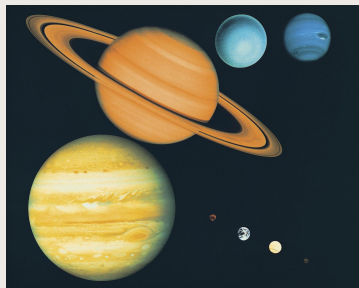
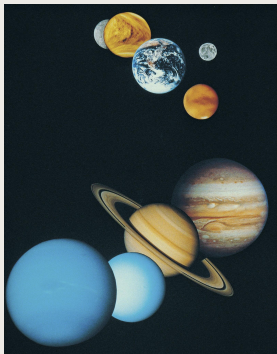
It has been a busy week back in year 5 as we gear up for an exciting term of learning!

This week in English, we began our new module looking at the wordless picture book 'The Whale'. Over the next few weeks we will be working towards writing a film pitch based on the text, and have been enjoying participating in role play activities to get in character.

In maths, we have returned to multiplication and division; looking closely at long multiplication and short division. This is a new challenge for Otter class, and we are working really hard to develop this new skill.

In history, we have begun to explore the question 'When was the worst time to be ill?' and were shocked to learn about some gruesome historical medical treatments. Furthermore, in science, we have just started our 'Earth and Space' topic. We even made our own scaled paper solar systems to help us to understand just how vast our universe is!

We are looking forwards to the rest of Spring term, including the visit from the Life Bus next week, and have come back full of energy and ready to learn.



Useful dates

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

Dates for your diary

Wed 14 Jan - Fri 16 Jan - Life
Bus

Thurs 15 Jan - PTFA meeting
7pm

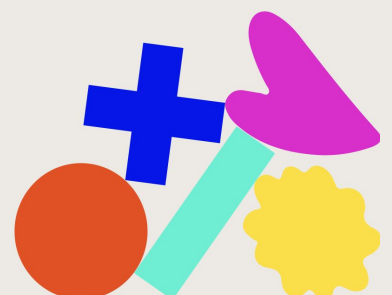
Mon 16 Feb - Fri 20 Feb -
Half term

Attendance Matters!

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!



Getting your child the right support when needed...

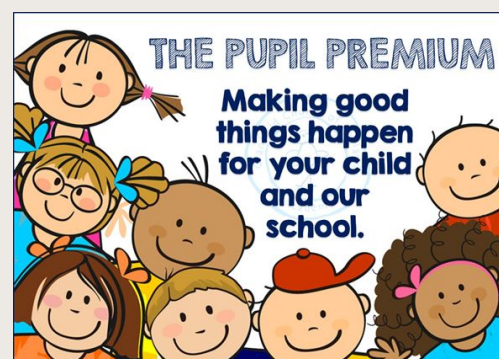
Pupil Premium and Free School Meals.

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.