

From the headteacher



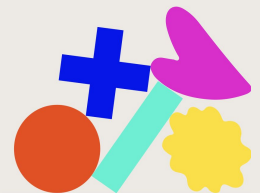
Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been wonderful to see the children arrive in their own clothes for **Sparkle and Shine Day**—the school has been full of colour, glitter and excitement. A huge thank you to everyone who has kindly sent in gifts to help build our raffle boxes; your generosity makes such a difference. We hope you'll join us at the upcoming disco and take the chance to buy a few raffle tickets too!

In contrast to all the sparkle around school today, Year 5 stepped back in time for their Victorian Experience Day, beginning with a very stern teacher welcoming them into a traditional Victorian classroom. It certainly created quite the atmosphere and gave the children a memorable glimpse into school life of the past.

Warm regards,

Helen Darrell



THIS WEEK AT ST PAUL'S

- Code club really enjoyed their trip on Wednesday morning to Raspberry Pi, learning all about AI machine learning and coding their own wire game. Some were interviewed by The Guardian and pictures were taken too!
- Poetry club runs every Thursday from 12.30-12.55 pm. We are a friendly group that meets each week in a cosy corner of the library and this year we have some very enthusiastic boys and girls from both KS1 and KS2. We have a lot of fun learning by heart (and occasionally acting out) all kinds of poems. Sometimes we perform these to an individual class and sometimes to the whole school in an assembly.
- Squirrel class enjoyed a walk along the river to compare it to the Nile as part of their geography work.
- Year 5 have enjoyed a fabulous Victorian themed day today.
- We were fortunate to have Joshua Siegal - an award winning poet - visit our school this week. Every class had the opportunity to spend some time with Josh and be inspired by his work. Please do take a look at his website: <https://www.joshuaseigal.co.uk/> . A big thank you to the PTFA and school community for making this possible.
- Year 6 greatly enjoyed a morning at the pantomime. Many shouts, screams of laughter and 'they're behind you' could be heard.

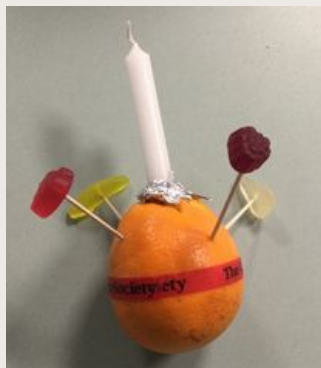
Robin class news

After the excitement of last week's performances, we have been continuing with all things Christmas!

The Reception children have been reading The Jolly Christmas Postman and discovering the cards, letter, jigsaws and games that the different story characters send to each other, before having a go at making their own. We have a postbox in the classroom and they have enjoyed making cards and envelopes to go in it.

Robin Class (along with Badger Class) enjoyed a visit from the poet Joshua Siegal. He performed a number of his poems in a lively and interactive presentation.

We were also visited by Rev Imogen and Anna from St Paul's Church. They talked to us about Advent and what it means. Later, they also told us all about Christingles, explaining what each part represents before helping us to all make a Christingle of our own.



Useful dates Attendance Matters!

Autumn Term 2025
Wednesday 3rd Sept 2025 -
Friday 19th Dec 2025

Dates for your diary

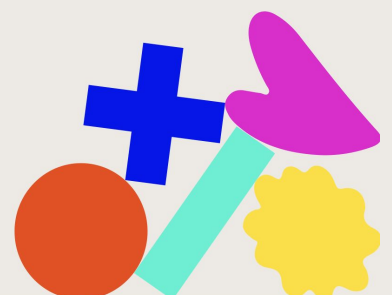
Wed 17 Dec - Christmas
dinner

Thurs 18 Dec - Christmas
service

Fri 19 Dec - Last day of term

Good attendance is essential for your child's learning and progress. We work hard to build strong relationships with families, understand barriers to attendance, and provide support where needed. Parents are legally responsible for ensuring their child attends school regularly. We place high priority on improving attendance and work closely with families to address any difficulties. **If your child is struggling to attend, please contact us early so we can work together to find solutions.** We're here to understand what makes attendance difficult and provide tailored support. Every day in school counts towards your child's success and wellbeing.

Let's talk
attendance!



Getting your child the right support when needed...

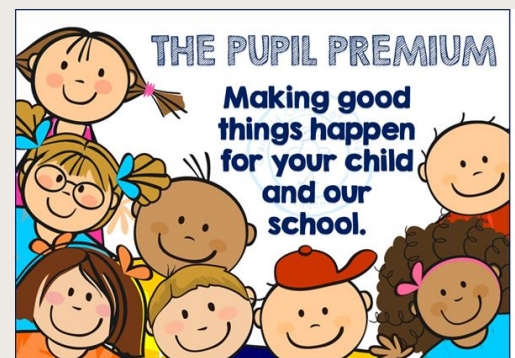
Pupil Premium and Free School Meals.

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?



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.

Collective worship theme

Advent

The Christmas Story

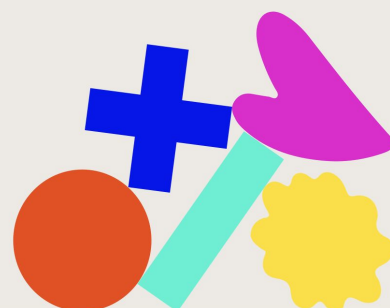
As we approach Christmas, many of us find ourselves returning to the timeless story at its heart - a story of hope arriving in the most unexpected of places. The birth of Jesus in a quiet stable reminds us that important moments don't always come with fanfare; sometimes they are found in simplicity, kindness, and the warmth we share with others.

The Christmas story encourages us to look beyond ourselves and notice the needs of those around us. It speaks of welcome, compassion, and the idea that even small acts of care can bring light into someone's life. These are values our school community lives out each day - through helpful hands, thoughtful words, and the way we support one another.

As we prepare for the festive season, may the message of the Christmas story inspire us to slow down, offer kindness where we can, and make space for hope and joy to shine brightly.

Please do read more about our school's values...

[St. Paul's vision and values](#)



Christmas

at St Paul's 2025

Christmas Nativity (Robin and Badger class)

Thursday 4th December - Children arrive at 5.30pm and performance starts at 6pm.

Friday 5th December - Performance starts at 9.30am.

Tickets available here: <https://forms.gle/nAZDUhxiaHRtV3Uv9>

Pyjama Day

Friday 5th December

Children can come to school in their pyjamas or lounge wear for this day.

Please bring a donation of a raffle prize.

Christmas Jumper Day (on top of school uniform)

Thursday 11th December

Sparkle and Shine Day

Friday 12th December

Come to school in your most sparkly outfit. Please bring a donation of a raffle prize.

PTFA School Disco at St Paul's Church

Friday 12th December

St Paul's Christmas Lunch - you will be able to book on School Grid closer to the day.

Wednesday 17th December

Church Service at St Paul's church starting at 9.15am

Thursday 18th December

We will require parent volunteers to support with walking to church for this event.

Sign up here: <https://forms.gle/9tSVAksvpL4jj5gK9>

Last day of term - full day

Friday 19th December - We wish you a very Merry Christmas

MERRY CHRISTMAS