

## From the headteacher



Dear Parents and Carers,

This week has been particularly exciting for our Year 1, Year 2, and Year 4 classes, as they have had the opportunity to embark on some educational trips. These excursions provide invaluable enrichment to our curriculum, allowing the children to engage with their learning in a way that extends beyond the classroom. Our outdoor learning and Botany Trip has meant we have been awarded a silver award - and we are very close to gold!

A huge thank you to all the parents who contributed their time and support to make these trips possible. Your involvement truly enhances our children's experiences, and we recognise that we couldn't carry out these activities without your assistance.

As we look to the future, I would also like to take a moment to wish Miss Hao all the best as she embarks on her next chapter. We are still recruiting - Please do have a look at the office admin role that we are currently advertising for. Start date after October half term.

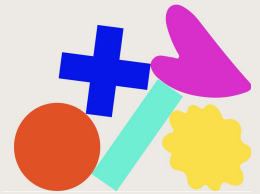
### School vacancies



As we approach the half-term break, I wish you all a lovely time with family and friends.

Best wishes,

Helen Darrell



## THIS WEEK AT ST PAUL'S

- Year 1 and Year 2 visited the Botanical Gardens for an expert led session. We went tree spotting and mini-beast hunting. We were even able to gain some points towards the school's Green Tree School Award. Getting outside this half term has been inspiring and great for our wellbeing.
- The children have made a fantastic start to gymnastic club, with club numbers having tripled from last year's last block. So far, the focuses have been single balances, combined balances, rolls, and combinations - and everybody has showed a keen interest in improving each week, whilst improving their body tension and stillness and control of their movements and balances.
- Year 4 enjoyed a trip to the Fitzwilliam museum to see the Egyptian exhibits and look at still life artwork. Reflecting on our Ancient Egyptian history and looking ahead to art later this year.
- 10 children from KS2 participated brilliantly in a multi sport competition today at The Leys school run by Youth Dreams Project. We are really proud of how hard they worked.
- Rabbit and Squirrel class had a fantastic time doing an OAA competition in their house teams.



## Robin class news

Robin Class have been enjoying searching for the signs of Autumn this week. We walked around our school grounds searching for as many colours as we could find to add to our cards. The leaves were stunning and the colours were beautiful!

It has been a busy half term, especially for our Reception children who have settled really well into school life (although I'm sure they are ready for a half term break). The Year 1 Robins have done an excellent job of demonstrating the routines and expectations, and everyone has made some new friends. What a great start to the school year!



## Useful dates

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

### Dates for your diary

**Fri 24 Oct** - End of term

**Tues 4 & Thurs 6 Nov** -  
Parents evenings

**5-10 Nov** - Book Fair

**Thurs 13 Nov** - Open  
afternoon

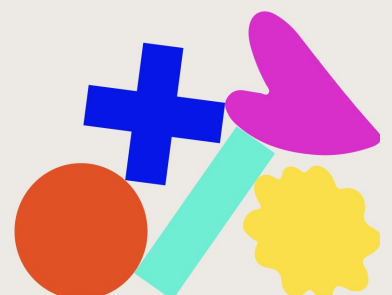
## Attendance Matters!

As we begin this new term, I would like to emphasise the importance of regular attendance and punctuality for all students. Establishing good habits from the start lays a strong foundation for academic success. Consistent attendance ensures effective learning. Conversely, lateness can disrupt an individual's learning process.

I encourage families to support their children in prioritising attendance and arriving on time. Together, we can ensure a productive and enriching educational experience for all.

Thank you for your continued support.

Let's talk  
attendance!





## Other News

### SILVER AWARD!

We are delighted to share that our school has achieved the **Silver Award** as part of the **Green Tree Schools initiative** by the Woodland Trust! 🌳 Whilst in the centre of the city - we truly value the power of outdoor learning!

This recognition celebrates our ongoing commitment to environmental education, sustainability, and caring for our planet. From litter picking and outdoor learning projects to eco-friendly learning activities, our pupils and staff have worked together to make a real difference.

A huge thank you to everyone who helped us reach this milestone — your enthusiasm and dedication have truly helped our school grow greener! 💚

Let's keep up the great work as we aim for the **Gold Award** next!



### WE ARE HIRING!

#### School Office Administrator



Please do have a look at the office admin role that we are currently advertising for. Start date after October half term.

[School vacancies](#)

## Collective worship theme

### Ask the Question!

We learn so much by asking questions. Every new discovery, invention, and idea began when someone dared to ask, "Why?" or "How?" or "What if?"

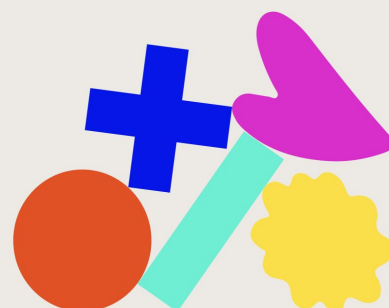
Imagine if Alexander Fleming hadn't wondered why a mould was stopping germs from growing — he might never have discovered penicillin, the medicine that has saved millions of lives!

Asking questions helps us to understand the world, solve problems, and make things better. Whether it's "How does that work?", "What can I do to help?", or "Why is the sky blue?", every question opens a new door to learning.

So this week, let's be curious. Let's ask questions, listen carefully to the answers, and keep exploring. Remember — every big discovery begins with a small question.

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

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



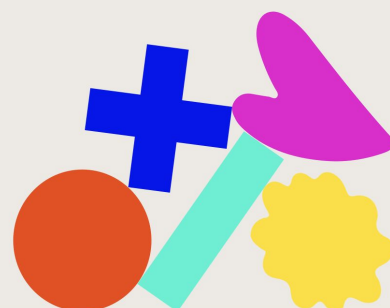
## Governor News

The governing body had our first full meeting of the year this week and used it to agree our strategic priorities for the year - focussing on improvements to how we teach calculation and handwriting skills, and reducing incidences of disruptive behaviour. We also intend to further develop our approach to assessing pupils' progress 'in the moment' and looking at the next steps of learning for each child, and hope this will also enable us to keep parents better informed of how your child is doing - something we identified as an area for improvement in the last annual parent survey. Governors will be monitoring each of these throughout the year as the school's staff and leadership team work to implement them and measure the impact they have.

As a church school we benefit hugely from the input of Imogen and Anna from St. Paul's church, as well as significant financial assistance every year from the Church Schools of Cambridge trust. This status also comes with responsibilities as we are expected to demonstrate how the school's Christian ethos benefits our pupils and staff on a daily basis through our culture, curriculum and collective worship. We are likely to be inspected on this by the Church of England's school's body this year, so were delighted to see a preliminary external assessment report on how well pupils are able to articulate the school's vision and values (Wisdom, Love and Welcoming Community), and noting how well these are lived out in our 'one big family'.

Finally, we agreed specific monitoring duties for each governor for the rest of the year, including lead governors for particular classes, cross-cutting themes such as safeguarding and special educational needs, and other specialisms such as finance. On the latter, we will shortly be advertising for an additional governor - ideally someone from the local community with expertise in finance. If you or someone you know would like to know more about this, please approach any of the governors or Mrs Darrell or Mrs Thake to register interest.

El De Vaux and Alex Smith  
Co-Chairs, St Paul's Governing Body



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**TIME:**

3.40pm - 4.15pm

**DATE:**

5th, 6th, 7th, 10th November

**LOCATION:**

St Paul's Primary School - The Hive  
(the old Fox class)

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Primary School

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# OPEN AFTERNOON

Book your school tour today at:  
[www.stpauls.cambs.sch.uk/open-afternoons](http://www.stpauls.cambs.sch.uk/open-afternoons)  
or call the school office for an  
alternative date.

Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> October 2025  
Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> November 2025  
1.30pm - 3.00pm

St Paul's CE VA Primary School  
Coronation Street  
Cambridge  
CB2 1HJ

Please share our poster with families and friends.  
If you are able to display one in your front window, we  
can print a poster for you to collect.