



St Paul's Post - Issue 4 February 2026



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TOGETHER WE ARE GROWING IN STRENGTH, GROWING IN WISDOM, GROWING IN FAITH

It only seems like yesterday that we returned to school after the Christmas break, yet this term has already been full and productive, despite the very grey skies! We have been delighted by the many learning opportunities taking place across the school, including our outstanding class assemblies that showcased our children's confidence, creativity and hard work. It was also a pleasure to welcome parents into school to share in the children's writing and celebrate the

progress they have made — these moments of partnership between home and school are always greatly valued and we hope they continue to grow.

We would like to extend our sincere thanks to all parents and carers for your continued generosity and support. We have received delivery after delivery of tissues, glue sticks and books from our wish lists, and we are extremely grateful for the contributions that help us provide the very best for our children each day.

Whilst we always strive to improve our communication regarding the school calendar, please continue to check the school website for the most up-to-date information. Key dates will also be included in this bi-weekly newsletter to help keep you fully informed about upcoming events.

We look forward to welcoming everyone back after half term and, in the meantime, wish you all a restful break.

This week, our school community has been coming to terms with the sad news of the death of Miss Jones. We would like to thank you for your kindness, understanding and support on Wednesday when the school needed to close. Your thoughtful messages have been greatly appreciated. When we reopened on Thursday, Rev Paul and Judith Bloomfield (our school adviser from the Oxford Diocese) spent time supporting us in school. We gathered for a special Collective Worship led by Rev Paul which gave us chance to pause, reflect and remember Miss Jones together. Following this, the children were offered the opportunity to meet with Rev Paul and Judith if they had questions or simply wanted someone to talk to. A memory tree has been set up in the entrance area, where children and adults are invited to write their thoughts or prayers on a piece of card and hang them on the tree. It is a difficult time for many, but sharing memories, supporting one another and offering space to talk has brought some comfort. Thank you for keeping the school in your thoughts.

We will share the details of Miss Jones' funeral as soon as they are confirmed. As many of our staff will wish to attend, it is likely that the school will need to close during this time.

If your child has any questions and you would like some guidance on the best ways to approach a conversation, please see the link below to Winston's Wish which offers some age appropriate guidance to support you.

<https://winstonswish.org/>

Attendance Award



2nd February - 6th February

1st Place - Swifts

2nd Place - Kingfishers

3rd Place - Firecrests

Huge congratulations to **Swifts class** again, who have chosen to have a 'Cosy Day' in school today to celebrate.

Calendar Dates



Please see more calendar dates here on our [website](#).

KEY DATES FOR YOUR DIARY Spring 2		
DATE	EVENT	YEAR GROUP
Monday 23 rd February	Spring 2 Begins	Whole School
WK Beginning: Monday 23 rd February	Communications Week	EYFS (Wrens, Kingfishers)
Tuesday 24 th February	Davenies Superstar Day 1:30-4:00pm	Selected Finches
Wednesday 25 th February	Everyday Family First Aid Course for parents 9:00-11:30am	Whole School
WK Beginning: Monday 2 nd March	Communications Week	EYFS (Wrens, Kingfishers)
Thursday 5 th March	World Book Day and Read and Snuggle	Whole School
Friday 6 th March	Sparrows Cake Sale	Whole School
Tuesday 10 th March	Visit to Hindu Temple	Owls
Friday 13 th March	Class Assembly 9:00am – parents welcome	Swifts
Monday 16 th March	PTA Bag2School Collection	Whole School
Tuesday 17 th March	Ancient Greece Day	Finches
Friday 20 th March	Echoes Rehearsal	Finches
Monday 23 rd – Wednesday 25 th March	Bikeability Training	Owls
Tuesday 24 th March	Parent Consultations 4:30-7:30pm	Robins, Swifts, Sparrows, Finches, <u>Firecrests</u> , Owls
Wednesday 25 th March	Parent Consultations 3.30-6.30pm	Robins, Swifts, Sparrows, Finches, <u>Firecrests</u> , Owls
Friday 27 th March	Easter Service at St Paul's Church 9:30am – parents welcome	Whole school
Friday 27 th March	Break Up for Easter 1:00pm	Whole school

Writing Wonder of The Week



First, a strange creature drifted to shore.

The creature hid.

Suddenly, the enormous and white polar bear collected leaves!

Just then, he fell!

Next, the sea spat him out.

Finally, the crows flew him home.

George - Robins

Dear Parents,

We are writing from the War Office to inform parents of the many benefits of children living in the countryside during these perilous times. London is gradually becoming more dangerous, physically and mentally for our children. Therefore, we believe it would be conducive to their safety, to live in the rural areas during the war.

Firstly, urban areas are frequent targets to enemy bombers making it a very unsafe place for our children. Consequently, they are much more likely to get hurt. Rural locations, however, are much less likely to be attacked and will provide refuge and more freedom.

Sienna - Owls

Dear Diary,

As I sit here writing this, I try to piece together the memory of today into the right order. Today was the Emperor's Parade; rumours spread that it would be a sight to see, and, oh my, it was! I will never be able to unsee it again. Unable to sleep, I had woken up to the smell of soap and lavender.

Maggie-Anne - Firecrests

General News



Children's Mental Health Week

Children's Mental Health Week gave us a valuable opportunity to highlight an area of wellbeing that is important throughout the entire year. While we recognise that supporting mental health is not limited to one week, we used this time to help educate our children, raise awareness, and encourage open, age-appropriate conversations about feelings, resilience and wellbeing. We were incredibly impressed by the children's thoughtful *Belonging Maps*, which reflected care, honesty and a strong sense of community.

We also understand that mental health can be a sensitive subject for some children and families, and we approach these discussions with care, respect and understanding. Positive mental health is essential for children's development, relationships and learning, and we are committed to creating a safe and supportive environment where every child knows there is a trusted adult in school they can talk to if they need help or reassurance.

Polite Reminder - Mobile Phones

As a reminder to all parents and carers, our setting is a no mobile phone site. We kindly ask that you do not use mobile phones during drop-off and pick-up times. This helps us maintain a safe environment, protects children's privacy, and sets a positive example, as children learn a great deal from adult behaviour. We are also working towards becoming mobile-phone free for children from September 2026, and your support in modelling healthy phone habits is greatly appreciated. Thank you for helping us create a focused and respectful space for everyone.

Mystery Monster in Our School

We're starting to suspect a cutlery-eating monster has taken up residence at St Paul's... and it has a particular taste for knives, forks, and especially teaspoons! Despite our best detective work, the numbers keep mysteriously shrinking.

If you have any spare cutlery at home (matching sets not required — our monster isn't fussy), we would be hugely grateful for donations. We're also on the lookout for tea towels in good condition, as ours seem to vanish into the same mysterious dimension.

Thank you for helping us keep snack time civilised — and for outsmarting the St Paul's Snackasaurus!

First Aid Course

Just a reminder about our First Aid Course for St Paul's parents taking place on **25th February from 9:00–11:00am**.

We're very fortunate that this session is being run specifically for our parent community — a great opportunity to learn practical, potentially life-saving skills in a familiar and supportive setting. However, for the course to go ahead successfully, we do need parents to sign up.

It's an invaluable course that we hope you'll never need to use — but will be so glad to have if you do. **Please see the flyer for more information and use the QR code to sign up.**



1 - We transformed our stage.

Firecrests Class Spotlight





Firecrests Spotlight

Welcome to Fantastic Firecrests' spotlight – written by us! (See if you can spot our Star Words from English throughout!) Firecrests have had an exhilarating and creative couple of weeks. We have thoroughly enjoyed retelling the story of 'The Emperor's New Clothes' and writing a diary entry from the perspective of the audacious boy in the crowd. One of the skills we have focussed on has been embedded relative clauses, which can sometimes be tricky! Music has brought us a lot of joy and tumultuous noise recently, as we have learnt to create eight beat breaks on the djembes. Unfortunately, for Owls next door, the sound of the drums reverberated through the corridors! In art, we have let our creativity run wild and have developed mixed media self-portraits, experimenting with different colours, diverse techniques and a range of materials. We even produced self-portraits by using growth mindset words and phrases. The results have been astonishing and are now on display in the Learning Lab for all to see. A highlight of our week has been using the apparatus in PE to build upon our counter balance skills that we have developed over the last few weeks with our partners. Recently, we have also been performing extremely well in Times Tables Rock Stars and as our reward we chose to create a lesson on Roblox to present to the teachers. Stay tuned to find out how this went!

The whole school has also been thinking about our wellbeing during Mental Health Week and we have also enjoyed creating our Belonging Maps. 'I have enjoyed putting my creativity into my Belonging Map and showing what I love and belong to.' - Noah

Art

'I like how I expressed my personality through the different colours I used. I cut up my portrait based on my emotions in the moment so I really enjoyed it all because it was fun and I could express how I was feeling.' – Daniel Van Eeden

'Throughout the creation of my self-portrait, I enjoyed demonstrating my skills and emotions.' – Noah

'I really enjoyed expressing emotions through my art and I used different colours to reflect this in my self-portrait.' - Arabella

Writing

'I enjoy English because we get to use our imagination and we pretended we were the boy in the crowd. We have been learning how to move between tenses in paragraphs for our diary entries.' – Emily

'During the past week, I have very much enjoyed describing the crowd's shocked faces when the audacious boy reveals that the Emperor is not wearing anything. I feel that I have really thrown myself into my writing.' - Ben

Computing

'During Safer Internet Day, we learned that AI can be used for multiple, helpful things but is not always trustworthy!' – Barney

'In computing, I have enjoyed learning how to use a micro-bit in different ways, such as creating code for a game.' – Joshua

'We have been using micro-bits, which are small computers, and programming our micro-bits to count steps.' – Rona

'In computing we have been learning how to count steps with a micro-bit. A micro-bit is a mini computer.' – Maxx

'A micro-bit is a very entertaining piece of equipment and it has made computing even more fun. It can count steps, you can create games on it and it's just the start of programming and algorithms.' - Alby

Geography

'Scandinavia has been fun to learn about, for example, which places make up Scandinavia and if they have glaciers, waterfalls or fjords.' – Bobby.

'In Geography, I have been learning about the difference between human and physical features in Scandinavia. The physical features are fjords, waterfalls and glaciers.' - Grace

Maths

'In maths, we have all loved learning about decimals and fractions. The numbers are getting smaller and we are on thousandths!' – Evie

'We have been learning how to turn fractions into decimals. It has been a little tricky but if you make a mistake your brain grows!' – Hallie

'I enjoyed learning how to turn fractions into decimals and how to subtract and add different types of fractions.' - Reuben D

'We have been learning about decimals like tenths, hundredths and thousandths.' - Eva

PE

'All of us crave learning new things and I especially loved expressing my creativity by applying new dance techniques and counter balances in PE.' - Maggie-Anne

'In dance we have done silk movements and made circle shapes with our bodies.' - Lillie

Music

'My favourite lesson in music was when I learnt how to do eight beat breaks on the drums.' - Simon

'Music has been really fun with the djembes because I can express my love of improvisation.' - Audrey

Science

'I have loved learning about reversible and irreversible changes. Some examples are: mixing sugar and water is reversible but mixing milk and vinegar is irreversible. Mixing milk and vinegar creates a chemical reaction and a new product is made called casein.' – Charlie

'In Science, we have been learning a product, cause and reactant, which has been really fun.' - Jack

'We have used vinegar and bicarbonate of soda to make a chemical reaction. The product it produced was carbon dioxide and it exploded!' - Daniel

RE

'In RE we have been learning about Ummah and the five pillars of Islam. Ummah means community and belonging.' – Harrison

We have recently been learning about the 5 pillars of Islam which are: salah (prayer), shahada (declaration of faith), sawm (fasting), zakat (charity) and hajj (pilgrimage) and why they are important to Muslims and how they connect to Ummah (community and belonging).' - Isla

History

'All of us are like young Historians during our lessons because we have let our brains grow with fascinating information on the Anglo Saxons such as: they grew their own food on farms and they came to Britain to join the Romans but actually took over and betrayed them.' Reuben M

PSHE

In PSHE, we have been learning about dreams and goals. I have enjoyed learning what we need to do to get a certain job' – Annabel

'We have been focussing on goals and dreams. My dream is to be a Gladiator and I know I have to exercise and train a lot when I'm older so I can be one. I will have to learn more about nutrition and the body.' - Jasmine

French

'During French lessons we have been learning how to say what the date is in French and how to ask and respond to questions. This helps us to have conversations with other people in French.' – Emanually

'In French we have been learning how to pronounce the date and months to be able to respond if someone asks us the date. Learning a different language is hard but we kept on going using a growth mindset by not giving up.' - Thomas





SPARROWS CLASS ASSEMBLY



2 - St Paul's Has Values...



3 - The judges even got to press the golden buzzer

Marvellous Manners

Congratulations to this week's group of children who have consistently been demonstrating those marvellous manners in our lunch hall.



Community News

Feb Spring 2 Parent Courses YR-Y2



Buckinghamshire Family Learning



FREE ONLINE SCHOOL COURSES for PARENTS and CARERS

TO BOOK
YOUR PLACE



📞 01296 383582

OR SCAN the QR code or CLICK on the [course code link](#) below

RECEPTION

EARLY READING

Simple, practical activities to boost your child's early reading skills with story sacks



Tue 24th Feb - Tue 24th Mar
Thurs 26th Feb - Thurs 26th Mar
9:30am - 11:30am

Choose from 1 of
these 2 dates

Course code:
FMER021



YEARS 1 & 2

WELLBEING

Support your child's wellbeing and learn ways to help children deal with setbacks and build their resilience, both at school and home



Tue 24th Feb - Tue 24th Mar
 12:30pm - 2:30pm

Course code:
FMWB008



YEARS 1 & 2

READING & COMPREHENSION

Simple, practical activities to support your child with Reading and Comprehension



Mon 23rd Feb - Mon 23rd Mar
 7pm - 9pm
 Wed 25th Feb - Wed 25th Mar
 9:30am - 11:30am

← Choose from 1
of these 2 dates

Course code:
FMRC067



YEARS 1 & 2

PHONICS & READING

Simple, practical activities to support your child with Phonics and Reading



Tue 24th Feb - Tue 24th Mar
 9:30am - 11:30am

Course code:
FMPR064



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adultlearningbc.ac.uk



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Feb Spring 2 Parent Courses Y3-Y6 (1)



Buckinghamshire Family Learning



FREE SCHOOL COURSES for PARENTS and CARERS

TO BOOK
YOUR PLACE



☎ 01296 383582

OR SCAN the QR code or CLICK on the [course code link](#) below

YEARS 3 & 4 WRITING

Learn how you can make writing fun with your child



Mon 23rd Feb - Mon 23rd Mar



9:30am - 11:30am

Course code:
FMWG031



YEARS 3 & 4 READING & COMPREHENSION

Simple, practical activities to support your child with Reading and Comprehension



Wed 25th Feb - Wed 25th Mar



6:30pm - 8:30pm

Course code:
FMRC059



YEARS 3 - 6 WELLBEING

Support your child's wellbeing and learn ways to help children deal with setbacks and build their resilience, both at school and home



Wed 25th Feb - Wed 25th Mar



7pm - 9pm

Course code:
FMWB020



YEARS 5 & 6 FUN WAYS TO BOOST YOUR CHILD'S GRAMMAR, VOCABULARY & PUNCTUATION

Build confidence in key grammar, punctuation, and vocabulary - to boost success at the end of KS2



Thurs 5th Mar
Thurs 12th Mar

← Choose from 1
of these 2 dates



6:30pm - 8:30pm

Course code:
FMWG033



YEARS 4, 5 & 6 EXPLORING READING AND WRITING TOGETHER- Practical Tips for Parents

Discover simple, fun ways to make reading and writing fun at home while boosting your child's confidence, creativity, and love of stories



Thursday 19th March
Thursday 26th March

← Choose from 1
of these 2 dates



6:30pm - 8:30pm

Course code:
FMRC060



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Family Learning

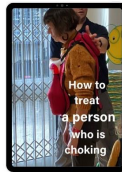


Everyday First Aid

Led by a qualified first aider

For parents and carers of children at
St Paul's Cof E Combined school

Wednesday 25th February
9.00-11.30



SCAN ME



To book your FREE place, click on the date above or
scan the QR code
Any problems call enrolments on 01296 383582



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