



Pope Leo XIV

"Yes, Jesus is God's song of love for humanity," he said. "Let us listen to this song! Let us learn it well, so that we too can sing it with our lives."



Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy New year! We are very glad to welcome Gary Rolfe and Kate Bozkurt to the St Pancras team—Mr Rolfe will now be teaching Year 3 and Mrs Bozkurt will be working in the school office on a Thursday and a Friday. In addition, we also have Miss Begum working in Celestial class for the Spring term—a warm welcome to her!

Thank you for all of your support at the Christmas bazaar - the PTA have raised £823.54, which was £100 more than last year. Thanks to Mrs I and the whole team for their tireless efforts, as well as the games room provided by Y6.

Please feel free to recycle your Christmas cards at school—thanks to all who have already done so—Mrs Smith has a box in the foyer and will be working with the Green School Council on a number of reuse projects.

Parent forum: This will return after Celebration Assembly on 16th January and the focus will be on attendance—a very hot topic, and we would love for you to hear the school's views and offer insight and questions.

PTA AGM: The PTA AGM will take place after Celebration Assembly on Friday 23rd January at 09:30. We warmly invite all parents to attend and there will be coffee and biscuits. This is the perfect opportunity to hear about the year's activity, as well as potentially offer support! We look forward to seeing you there!

Kind regards, Mr McGill and Mrs Berry

Our Gospel Values

Creativity

Courage

Forgiveness

Generosity

Humility

Joy

Perseverance

Stewardship

Executive Headteacher

Mrs Berry

Head of School

Mr McGill

SENCO

Mr Bentley

Our Classes

Rainbows Miss Aldous
Mrs Iannelli

Celestial Mrs Thackeray
Ms Abbott
Mrs Durston

Class 3 Mr Rolfe
Mrs Harvey
Mrs Nwafor

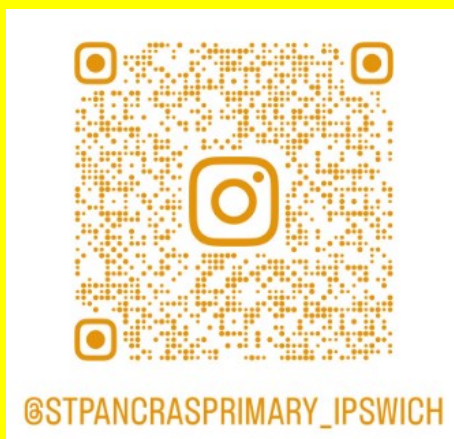
Class 4 Mrs Crowther
Mrs Katkuniene

Class 5 Miss
Pursehouse

Ms Borley

Class 6 Mrs Jones
Mrs Smith
Mrs Tella

Please follow our newly resurrected Instagram page. Content will be posted regularly to here and Facebook!



Sustainability focus of the week:

To reduce the amount of photocopying/ printing.



OPAL PLAY

We are excited to announce that St Pancras will be launching OPAL play in February. This has been planned since the summer, but due to the popularity of the approach, we have not been able to launch with our consultant until now.

OPAL play transforms playtimes into rich, purposeful experiences that help children thrive in every part of school life. By giving pupils the time, space and freedom to play imaginatively, OPAL helps them develop confidence, resilience, communication and problem-solving skills that simply cannot be taught from just having a breaktime. Children learn to negotiate, take sensible risks, cooperate with others and manage their emotions, all while being active, happy and engaged. Schools using OPAL consistently see calmer lunchtimes, fewer behaviour issues and happier children returning to class ready to learn. In short, OPAL play turns breaktimes into a powerful engine for wellbeing, social development and lifelong learning, because play is not a break from learning, it is learning.

We are very excited as a school to embark on this journey and would love some parent ambassadors to support us with this—please keep an eye on emails for further details!

In addition, we will be asking for donations of materials and resources to enhance play over the next few weeks, so that we can hit the ground running when we start. You may be surprised at some of the materials we are requesting, but we are confident that when you see it in action, all will become clear!



SPRING TERM DATES

Below are some key dates for the diary

5th January—INSET day

6th January—start of Spring term

16th January—Parent form on attendance: 09:30

23rd January— PTA AGM—all parents warmly invited

6th February—NSPCC Number Day

10th February—Year 6 Enrichment activity at Woodbridge School

10th February—start of our OPAL journey

13th February—House point prize for winning house—extra break

17th February—Shrove Tuesday

18th February—Ash Wednesday—start of Lent

3rd March—Class photos

5th March—World Book Day and Westend Workshop

13th March—Mother Figure morning

13th March—Y4 Robotics workshop at Woodbridge School

24th and 26th March—Parent Consultation Evenings

27th March—House point prize for winning house—film afternoon

ADMISSION APPEALS PANEL MEMBERS

Volunteers Sought to Support School Admission Appeals

The Diocese of East Anglia Schools' Service is seeking volunteers to serve as school admission appeals panel members, helping ensure parents' rights are upheld when a child is not offered a place at their preferred Catholic school.

Panel members play a vital role in considering cases where parents wish to challenge a refusal of admission. Each hearing typically lasts between 20 and 30 minutes, although some may take longer depending on their complexity. During the busy summer term, multiple appeals may be scheduled on the same day, and volunteers may occasionally be asked to sit for two or even three consecutive days. Importantly, panel members are always able to decide their own availability, making this a flexible opportunity suited to those available during school hours.

Appeals may be heard in person or via video conferencing, and volunteers can express a preference for the type of hearings they are comfortable with. All panel members will receive training from the Diocese.

To ensure a balanced and fair process, each panel is made up of both lay members, people without professional involvement in education, and education members, people with experience working in or understanding schools. Individuals cannot sit on panels for schools with which they have a personal connection, for example being a parent, governor or staff member.

Anyone interested in volunteering or finding out more is invited to contact Helen Bates, Assistant Director (Schools' Service), at the Diocese of East Anglia, 21 Ugate, Poringland, Norwich, NR14 7SH, by email at ssc@rcdea.org.uk or by telephone on **01508 495509**.

SPOTLIGHT ON YEAR 5

Year 5 have had a productive and engaging first week back. In Religious Education, pupils explored the Beatitudes from The Sermon on the Mount, developing their understanding of Christian teachings and reflecting on the values of compassion, humility and forgiveness in everyday life. In Reading, we have started to read *I Am Not a Label*, which prompted thoughtful discussions around diversity, resilience and the importance of celebrating individual differences. In Writing, Year 5 have also started to write biographies, focusing on presenting information in a clear and engaging manner.

This week we also had our first swimming lesson of the year; pupils demonstrated increasing confidence and perseverance as they practised their swimming strokes and worked to improve their technique.

ONLINE SAFETY

<https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/resource/what-i-wish-my-parents-or-carers-knew-a-guide-for-parents-and-carers-on-managing-childrens-digital-lives/>

The above link is produced by the Children's Commissioner (Dame Rachel de Souza) and was sent to schools with the attached letter. It is very thought provoking for schools and parents and a very interesting read.

Dear Headteacher,

I am writing to inform you that I have recently published a new guide, What I wish my parents or carers knew: A guide for parents on managing children's digital lives.

Supporting children's safety is a shared responsibility between families, schools and wider society. For parents and carers, this responsibility has become increasingly complex as children's lives are now deeply intertwined with the digital world. Many parents face difficult decisions about how to balance protecting children from online harm with enabling access to spaces that are now central to learning, socialising and play.

The last time I published a guide like this, The things I wish my parents had known: Young people's advice on talking to your child about online sexual harassment, in December 2021, it was to help parents and carers navigate difficult conversations about sexual harassment online. This guide is different in scope, in recognition of the complex, rapidly evolving landscape in which children – and parents – are navigating. It focuses on the challenge of managing children's everyday online habits.

This guide was written with the direct involvement of children in England. It is a reflection of their views. My office visited schools to speak to teenagers, and spoke to my Youth Ambassadors and Youth Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Panel to get their expertise on what works and what doesn't work between parents or carers and children in the 21st Century.

When I speak to children about what they would do differently when it comes to being online, with the benefit of hindsight, I ask them: would they give a smartphone to their own teenager? Almost unanimously, they tell me no. They want to be protected from it as long as possible.

As educators and leaders, you play a vital role in supporting parents and carers to navigate these challenges. Responses to my recent school survey show just how concerned school leaders are about their children's safety online, despite most already taking steps to limit or ban devices from the classroom. Children are clear that they value firm, informed and protective boundaries when adults have concerns about the content they are accessing online.

As parents, carers, and educators, our job must begin and end with our children's care and safety. It's what they expect and what they want from you.

As one young person told me: "Don't be afraid to be firm... If you are worried [that] your child is seeing harmful content and you don't know what they're watching and it's affecting the behaviour, just take it that you know best – they don't." I hope this guide will be a useful resource for your school community, and I encourage you to share it with staff and parents where appropriate.

SPRING 1 SPORTS CLUBS



The poster features a group of five children in school uniforms standing on a grassy field. One child in the center is holding a colorful ball. In the top left corner, there is a circular logo with 'XC' and a smiley face, surrounded by the text 'EXTRACURRICULAR CLUBS'. The main title 'EXTRACURRICULAR CLUBS AT YOUR SCHOOL' is written in large, bold, white letters on a purple background. Below the title is a table with five columns: Day, Activity, Year(s), Time, and Price. The table lists three activities: Dodgeball on Monday, Gymnastics on Tuesday, and Fencing on Thursday, all for years R-6 and 15.20-16.20, with a price of £55. At the bottom left, there is a QR code and the text 'BOOK TODAY!'. At the bottom right, there are icons for a target, a t-shirt with the number 1, and the text 'I ❤️ PE'.

EXTRACURRICULAR CLUBS

EXTRACURRICULAR CLUBS AT YOUR SCHOOL

Day:	Activity:	Year(s):	Time:	Price
Monday	Dodgeball	R-6	15.20-16.20	£55
Tuesday	Gymnastics	R-6	15.20-16.20	£55
Thursday	Fencing	3-6	15.20-16.20	£55

BOOK TODAY!

I ❤️ PE

SPORT UPDATES

Upcoming competitions

Year 5 and 6 Sportshall Athletics—15th Jan

Year 4 Basketball—4th Feb

Year 3 Girl's football—6th March

Y5 Girl's football—9th March

Swimming gala—20th March

Junior Parkrun: Check out your local Junior Parkrun at 9am on Sunday morning.

Local options include Christchurch Park, Kesgrave and Ravenswood Primary School.

We've heard lots of fantastic Parkrun stories and are looking forward to hearing more!

STARS OF THE WEEK

Rainbows – **Presley** – for using her phoneme skills to independently write some CVC words- well done!

Celestial class – **Blythe** for an excellent start to the term. She is focused, showing the correct learning behaviours and constantly has her hand up. Well done!!

Flora class – **Mason** – for setting an excellent example to the other children in the classroom; he has been ready to learn and is working hard to be the best he can be.

Stars of the Week



Fauna class – **Jordan** for an excellent start to St Pancras.

Ocean class – **Raivenne** – for demonstrating outstanding creativity and imagination in their writing, using ambitious vocabulary and developing engaging ideas throughout the lesson.

Mountain class – **Aurora-Mae** – for superb geography work, keeping focused and completing the challenge, showing great geographical understanding of the world.

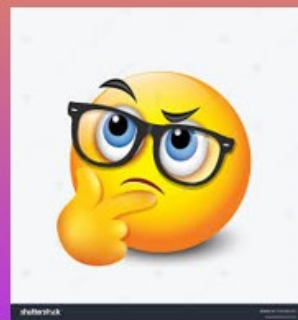
QUESTION OF THE WEEK

In order to encourage independent thought, critical thinking and the confidence to form opinions, we are going to be introducing a question of the week. This is a philosophical question aimed at the children, but one that has a wider context or meaning and would also be applicable to adults. We want the children to form their own opinions and not be shaped by those of others around them. In addition, we want to open their eyes to the current political and moral issues within the world around them.

Therefore, the question will be posed in Celebration Assembly every Friday and will feature here, but most importantly, it will not be answered by adults in school. Instead, we want children to arrive at their own conclusions and be confident in their own assertions, without influence or bias.

Question of the week

- Can someone change who they are?



Term Dates 2025-2026

Autumn Term 2025

Staff Professional Day - Monday 1st September

Staff Professional Day - Tuesday 2nd September

Term Commences - Wednesday 3rd September

Half Term - Monday 27th October to Friday 31st October

Staff Professional Day – Monday 3rd November

Term Ends - Friday 19th December

Spring Term 2026

Staff Professional Day - Monday 5th January

Term commences -Tuesday 6th January

Half Term - Monday 16th February to Friday 20th February

Term Ends - Friday 27th March

Summer Term 2026

Term commences - Tuesday 14th April

May Bank Holiday - Monday 4th May

Half Term - Monday 25th May to Friday 29th May

Term Ends - Friday 17th July

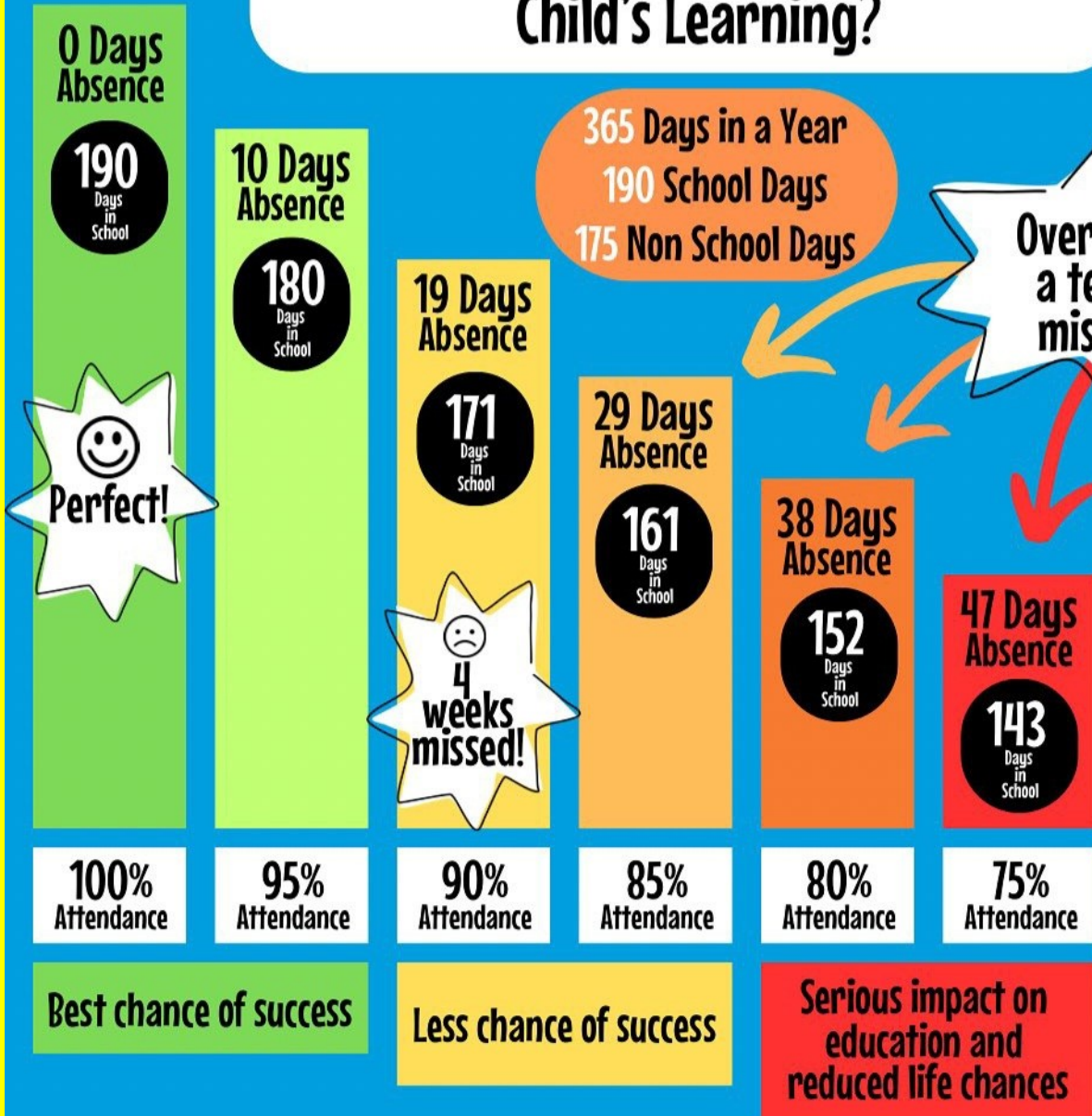
Staff Professional Day – Monday 20th July

How Does School Attendance Affect a Child's Learning?

365 Days in a Year
190 School Days
175 Non School Days

Over half a term missed!

Having 90% over 5 school years, is half a school year's work missed!



0 Days Absence

190 Days in School

Perfect!

10 Days Absence

180 Days in School

19 Days Absence

171 Days in School

4 weeks missed!

29 Days Absence

161 Days in School

38 Days Absence

152 Days in School

47 Days Absence

143 Days in School

100% Attendance

95% Attendance

90% Attendance

85% Attendance

80% Attendance

75% Attendance

Best chance of success

Less chance of success

Serious impact on education and reduced life chances