

**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,

Thank you to parents who attended Mass with Y4 and Y6. Our readers read very confidently and all did very well. Mass will continue in March for other year groups.

Thank you to all parents who attended the PTA AGM this morning. There were some fantastic ideas around communication and the introduction of new ideas, so watch this space! We are very grateful to all of the hard work from all of our members led by the fantastic Mrs Ianelli.

Additionally, thank you for attending the reading sessions in class this morning before Celebration Assembly—hopefully this was beneficial for you and your child and it would be lovely to welcome more of you next month. A reminder that Mother Figure Morning takes place on Friday 13th March.

Next week sees us sending our Y6 chess team to Woodbridge School and our Y4 basketball team out to a competition—we wish all children the best of luck! Also, please remember our digit dress-up day on Friday for the NSPCC Number Day.

A reminder that you are all warmly invited to attend our Candlemas liturgy at 1pm on Monday.

Wishing everyone a lovely weekend.

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

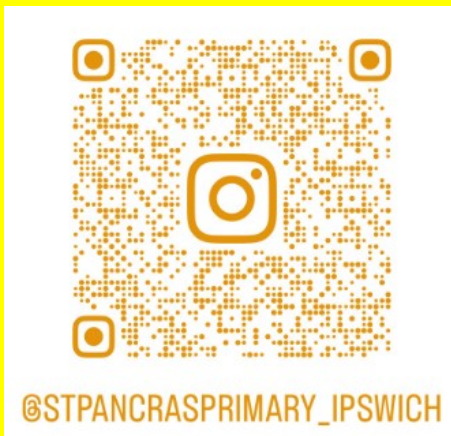
Class 4 Mrs Crowther
Mrs Katkuniene

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:**

Pick up litter and avoid dropping litter



SPRING TERM DATES

Below are some key dates for the diary

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

12th March—Y3/Celestial attending 10am Mass

13th March—Mother Figure morning

13th March—Y4 Robotics workshop at Woodbridge School

19th March—Rainbows and Year 6 attending 10am Mass

24th and 26th March—Parent Consultation Evenings

26th March—Year 4 and Year 3 attending 10am Mass / Passion performance to parents -14:00

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 CELESTIAL

What a busy start to the Spring term we have had! In English the children have enjoyed reading Peter Rabbit by Beatrix Potter. They loved the illustrations and were hoping that Peter escaped from Mr McGregor and didn't end up in a pie! In writing, they have written recounts about their Christmas holidays, a poem about nature and are about to start informal letters.

In Maths, we have concentrated on addition and subtraction to 100. We have used tens and ones to support this and are progressing to drawing these to work out the answers to calculations. This is a working progress and the children are becoming more confident.

In Science, we have just come to the end of our unit about animals and their needs. The children have great knowledge about what animals eat and we will continue to work on the groups animals belong to. They have grouped animals based on their characteristics and have drawn detailed pictures of fish, just like a scientist would.

Our Geography unit is interesting as the children are learning about the UK. So far, they have learnt about Scotland and Wales and how the Union Jack was created. England and Northern Ireland are to come.

The bunting is slowly coming together in DT. The children are showing great perseverance in sewing their designs and I am looking forward to displaying it in the classroom.

In RE, the children are learning about Jesus' mission and how they can be like him, bringing light to the world. We enjoyed a delightful Candlemas procession in the classroom complete with lanterns!

Another two busy weeks to go!

ONLINE SAFETY

The government has issued guidance this week on the use of mobile phones in school (see below for information).

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/mobile-phones-in-schools>

As a Primary School, we already have a policy that phones are not used within school. However, some UKS2 children do bring them in if they are walking home alone.

We would appreciate parents who know that their child brings a phone in for safety purposes to remind them:

- Only bring a phone if one or more journeys from school are unaccompanied by parents
- Phones are not used on school premises—we expect them to be turned off at the gate once parental contact has been made
- Phones are handed in to the class teacher and securely locked away for the duration of the day
- Phones are turned back on once exiting the school gate

The children also know that if phones are not handed in or are used on premises that they will be confiscated and handed back to parents.

SPRING 1 SPORTS CLUBS

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

Y6 Chess—4th Feb

Year 4 Basketball—5th Feb

Year 3 Girl's football—6th March

Y5 Girl's football—9th March

Swimming gala—20th March

Y5/6 Cross Country—25th 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 – **Albie B** – for using his imagination and expressing his ideas well in our class poem in our Literacy work. Well done Albie!

Celestial class – **Jude** for his perseverance whilst sewing his design for his bunting.

Flora class – **Naomi** – for excellent work in RE. She has made lots of thoughtful contributions and connection between the scriptures we have studied and how we can adopt these in our lives.

Stars of the Week



Fauna class – **Ezra** – for a renewed focus in all lessons as well as demonstrating great determination and pride in her work. Mrs K and I have been very impressed!

Ocean class – **Lysander**– for fantastic involvement in lessons and for sharing thoughtful ideas that help create brilliant discussions in writing.

Mountain class – **Ravenna** – for a fantastic third person narrative using a range of figurative language. Well done Ravenna.

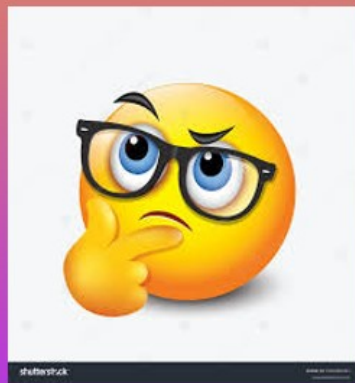
QUESTION OF THE WEEK

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:

- Should everyone in the world speak the same language?



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 - Monday 13th 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!

