



Spring Term Newsletter 6—27th February 2026

In St Pancras, we are loving and kind, we pray and we play, we learn and explore through our faith everyday.



Pope Leo XIV

"The Lenten season offers the faithful the opportunity to let the Lord cleanse them, cooperate better with God, and, in doing so, craft their lives as unique masterpieces."



Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to what promises to be a very busy, yet short end to the Spring term. Mother figures are warmly invited to Mother Figure morning on Friday 13th March for a short assembly and time in class. This annual event is definitely worth attending if you are able and we look forward to seeing you there!

Most classes will also attend Mass this half-term, so keep an eye out for when your child's class is walking up – you are very welcome to walk with us.

I think this morning was a record attendance for Celebration Assembly and thank you to all parents who came in to read with their children as well!

As mentioned on our new OPAL page of this newsletter, which will be a weekly feature, we are seeking cardboard boxes of any shape and size. Realistically, we will always be seeking these, so please feel free to give us your unwanted boxes, as long as they are not flattened. I think you will be surprised at how the children will choose to play with them!

Finally, please also support us in our drive to donate to the Ipswich Hygiene Bank. We are nominating Friday 13th March as our donation day, but the donation bin has already started to be filled!

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

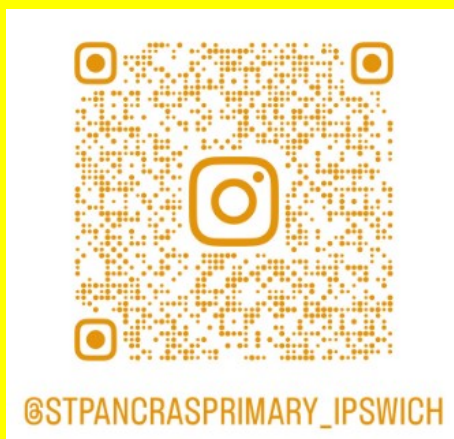
Class 4 Mrs Crowther
Mrs Katkuniene

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:

To turn off taps fully and reduce water use.



Midday supervisor

Mrs Pearson

Administrative Assistants

Mrs Ransom and Mrs Bozkurt

Caretaker

Miss Matuziene

Cleaners

Mrs Liga Viskere and Mrs Davina Pitman

SPRING TERM DATES

Below are some key dates for the diary

3rd March—Class photos

5th March—World Book Day and Westend Workshop

10th March—Science day

12th March—Y3/Celestial attending 10am Mass

13th March—Mother Figure morning

13th March—Hygiene Bank Donation day

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

16th April—Sponsored athletics event (information to follow!)

11th-14th May—Y6 SATs week

18th May—Y5 at St Albans for Creativity Day/Y6 Duxford trip

21st May—Outdoor Classroom day

3rd-5th June—Y6 residential

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**.

HYGIENE BANK

We are proud to support The Hygiene Bank and are asking for parental support on Friday 13th March. Please bring in any donations of hygiene products to support those in need!



ONLINE SAFETY NEWS

Below are a couple of updates regarding online behaviour/content. Some or all may be relevant reads!

Social media ban

As the consultations, arguments and debates continue at pace around the world around the banning of under 16's from social media, here in the UK a new report has come out from Public First which states that around half of parents would still allow their children to access social apps even new legislation was to come out. In summary:

- Although 64% of parents support new restrictions, 50% would still allow their under-16 to use social media.
- Parents are concerned about the ease of workarounds such as VPN's (which the government are also considering banning) or movement away to other unregulated apps. Many parents prefer alternate restrictions such as time restrictions and mandatory parental consent when setting up an app.

Boys in the digital wild (for parents with older boys!)

Historically there hasn't been too much about the impact of the online world for boys specifically, but Common Sense Media have recently released their newest report called Boys in the Digital Wild: Online Culture, Identity and Well-Being. The study was carried out with over 1,000 boys aged 11 - 17, It's quite a big report at 84 pages, but there are lots of fact/stats within the Key Findings section which will give you lots of useful information, for example:

- Nearly three quarters of boys regularly encounter masculinity-related content with just under a quarter experiencing high levels of exposure.
- Over two thirds encounter problematic gender stereotypes, e.g. that girls only want to date certain types of males, that girls use their looks to get what they want and that boys are treated unfairly compared to girls.
- Boys with heavy digital masculinity exposure have more negative self-esteem, with some boys feeling useless or that they're no good.

The primary driver of masculinity content is algorithms. Most boys didn't search out this content, it just started appearing in their feeds.

Whatsapp security

Police in Manchester have put out a warning about a man who has been targeting male students on WhatsApp. It appears that he has been added into a number of chat groups, and is then able to contact students individually.

Although this has been reported in Manchester, the reality is that children and young people can (and are being) targeted anywhere. There are no geographical boundaries when it comes to 'online'.

This is a timely reminder to reiterate to all children that they should not admit people they don't know into chat groups— this is an easy gateway for offenders who prey on curiosity and vulnerability.

OPAL UPDATES



The OPAL team have begun their training.

Thank you to parents who have taken the time to fill in our baseline survey—children and staff have also filled in their own surveys.

We are going to gradually be implementing different methods of play this half-term and will be inviting parents in to see this later in the year.

One of the first resources we will be introducing is cardboard boxes.

Therefore, please do not throw out any delivery boxes—we will take them off your hands now and forever more! Feel free to send your child in with them any day of the week!



SPOTLIGHT ON RAINBOWS

It has been a busy Spring half term in Rainbows!

In phonics, the class have learnt all of their digraphs and trigraphs in Reception and are now working hard using their phoneme skills to sound out and write longer words and simple sentences. The children are enjoying their reading sessions twice a week involving prosody and comprehension skills.



Our Power of reading text this half term is 'Astro Girl', following a young girl (Astrid) who dreams of becoming an astronaut. The children have enjoyed this text, which has involved many engaging activities in class including baking rocket cookies, writing instructions and making puppet heroes!



In Maths Mastery lessons, the children have been learning about the composition of numbers and comparison. We have continued to focus on the formation of numerals during continuous provision.



SPOTLIGHT ON RAINBOWS

PSHE this half term is 'taking on challenges'-where the class learnt to persevere in the face of challenges, learn to communicate effectively and practice 'grounding' breathing techniques.

In knowledge and understanding of the world, the children have been learning about 'Space'. They have applied their knowledge well and used their imaginations to create solar system pictures, galaxies and constellations.

We have started our daily tooth brushing programme in class, learning the importance of looking after our bodies in order to keep healthy.



In Communication and Language, the children have been listening to lots of stories and working in pairs to develop their confidence and language skills. The children do daily hand gym to help with their fine motor skills and pencil grip as well as name writing and formation of letters.

In maths, Year one's have been focusing on place value and counting in multiples of twos, fives and tens. The children have been working hard in their phonics lessons, working on phase 5 graphemes and learning new tricky words.

In Science, the Year One children have been learning about the seasons and weather. They have enjoyed exploring the different equipment used to measure the weather and when outside recognised that the rain gauge was overflowing-we have had so much rainfall this month!



In our DT lessons, the children have been learning to make stiches with a needle and thread. They have created their own wildlife bunting- so imaginative and we can't wait to hang it up in the classroom!

Well done Rainbows-keep up the great work!

LUNCHTIME COMPANY

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
MAIN MEAL	Meat Wholemeal Pizza served with Baked Baby Potatoes, Peas & Sweetcorn	Chicken Burger served with Selection of Sauces Potatoes Wedges & Crunchy Veg Sticks	Beef Bolognese served with Spaghetti, Wholemeal Garlic & Herb bread, Seasonal Vegetables	Sausage Pork served with Potatoes, Carrots, Cabbage, Yorkshire Pudding and Gravy	Fish Fingers served with Chips, Garden Peas or Baked Beans & Ketchup
MEAT FREE	Margherita Wholemeal Pizza served with Baked Baby Potatoes, Peas & Sweetcorn	Vegetable Burger served with Selection of Sauces Potatoes Wedges & Crunchy Veg Sticks	Plant Based Bolognese served with Spaghetti, Wholemeal Garlic & Herb bread, Seasonal Vegetables	Quorn Sausage Roast served with Potatoes, Carrots, Cabbage, Yorkshire Pudding and Gravy	Fishless Fish Fingers served with Chips, Garden Peas or Baked Beans & Ketchup
PASTA & JACKETS	Jacket Potato with Choice of Toppings served with Fresh Salad	Jacket Potato with Choice of Toppings served with Fresh Salad	Jacket Potato with Choice of Toppings served with Fresh Salad	Jacket Potato with Choice of Toppings served with Fresh Salad	Jacket Potato with Choice of Toppings served with Fresh Salad
DESSERTS	Choose One of Our Fabulous Desserts Sprinkle Cookie Fruity Jelly Fresh Fruit Pot	Choose One of Our Fabulous Desserts Syrup Sponge Fruit Yoghurt & Coulis Fresh Fruit Pot	Choose One of Our Fabulous Desserts Chocolate Mousse with Orange Wedge Fruity Jelly	Choose One of Our Fabulous Desserts Carrot Cake Fruit Yoghurt & Coulis Fresh Fruit Pot	Choose One of Our Fabulous Desserts Victoria Sponge Fruity Jelly Fresh Fruit Pot

Please see above for next week's menu.

Meal of the week:

We would definitely recommend the roast on Thursday, especially the roast potatoes!

SPRING SPORTS CLUBS



The poster features a group of five children in school uniforms on a grassy field. A circular logo in the top left corner contains the letters 'XC' and 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, there is a QR code, a 'BOOK TODAY!' call to action, a target icon, an 'I ♥ PE' logo, and a blue and white striped sports jersey with the number 1.

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 3 Girl's football—6th March

Y5 Girl's football—9th March

Swimming gala—20th March

Y5/6 Cross Country—25th March

**We have entered the London Mini
Marathon—more information to follow!**

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

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

STARS OF THE WEEK

Rainbows – [Ella](#) – for writing a beautiful Lent promise in our RE lesson this week.

Celestial class – [Amiyah](#) for a great start in Celestial Class. She has settled in really well.

Flora class – [Ifeanyi](#) – for an excellent attitude towards his learning in the classroom - working with focus and having a positive can-do attitude.

Stars of the Week



Fauna class – [Phoebe-Grace](#) – for challenging herself in lessons and always trying her best.

Ocean class – [Miky](#) – for your amazing enthusiasm in our music lesson this week! You joined in with confidence, sang and brought fantastic energy to the lesson.

Mountain class – [Dylan](#) – for consistently displaying excellent learning behaviours in all lessons.

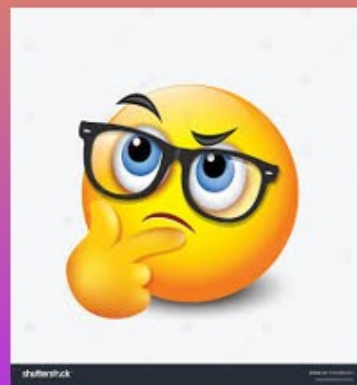
QUESTION OF THE WEEK

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 :

- Are some feelings more important than others?



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

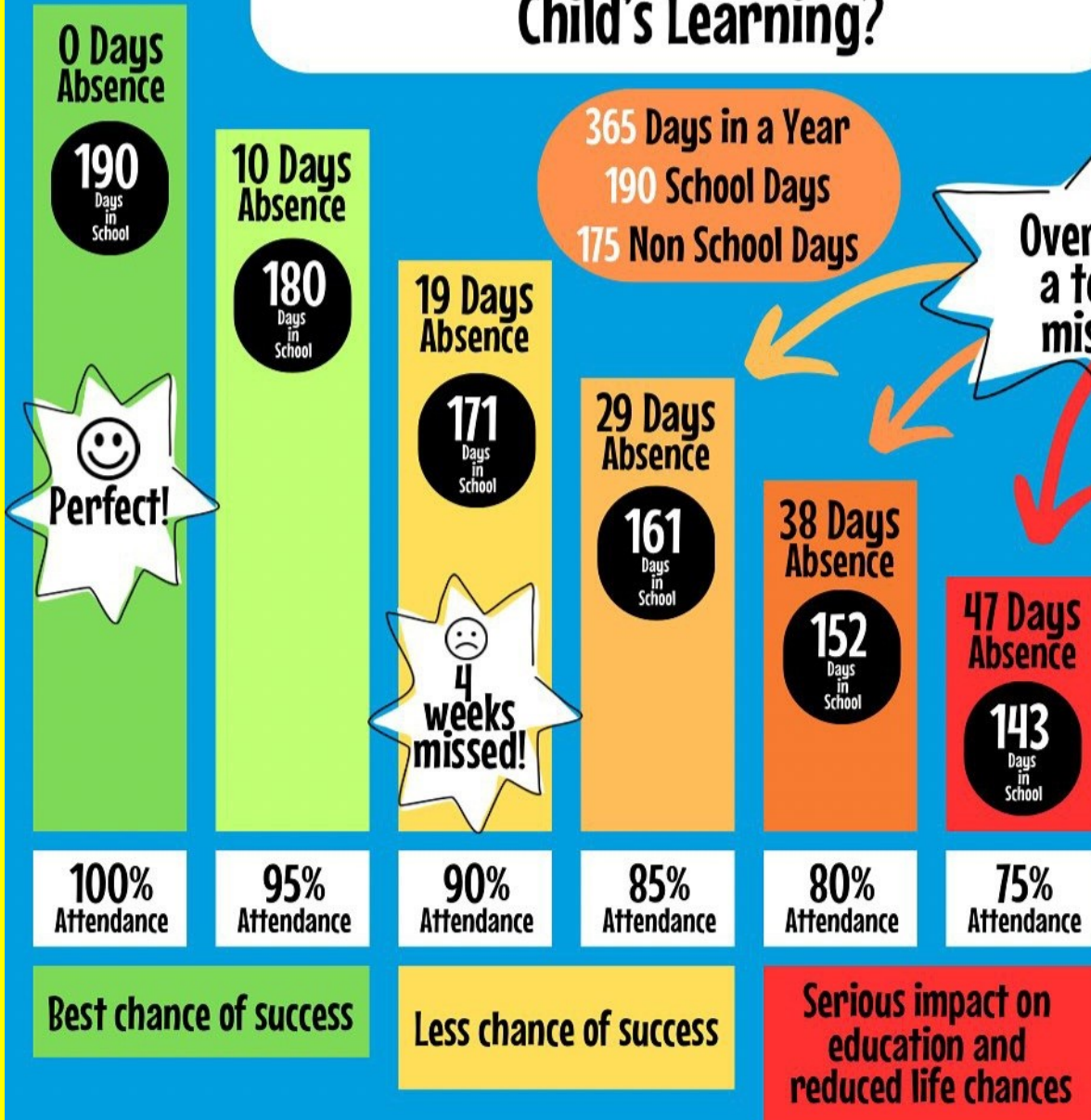
Staff Professional Day – Monday 20th July

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!



0 Days Absence

190 Days in School

10 Days Absence

180 Days in School

19 Days Absence

171 Days in School

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

Perfect!

4 weeks missed!