

# St Laurence Catholic Primary School



Spring Term - Newsletter 16 - January 2023

*Through God's grace, a community growing in knowledge and understanding.*



**Pope Francis** ✓  
@Pontifex

**Pope Francis** ✓ @Pontifex · Jan 18

Let us pray to God so that he might grant us a pastoral heart that suffers and takes risks in bearing witness. It is not only a burden, but also a duty, to bring the Word of God to those who have been entrusted to us and to those whom we meet in our daily lives.

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope that you are managing to stay warm during this very chilly weather. Unfortunately, our playground has largely been out of action, again, due to the icy surface. We're hoping for a big thaw over the weekend. If the playground is still iced over, on Monday, the side gate will remain closed and we kindly ask that you come through the front gates.

This week, we have the first of our class submissions and we're starting with Kestrels - Y5.6.

There are dates at the end of this edition of the newsletter, showing opportunities for parents and carers to join us for Masses and services in school.

I hope you've had a lovely weekend!

Mrs McGhee Wallace and the team at St. Laurence

[Ten:Ten Newsletter](#)

Committed to the words  
of Christ and the Gospel  
Values.



**Head of School**  
Mrs McGhee Wallace

**Assistant Head**  
Mrs Chalklin

**SENCo/Inclusion**  
Mrs Harvey

## Our Classes

**Wrens** Miss Tanvir

**Skylarks** Miss Armstrong-  
Mortlock

**Nightingales** Miss Peck

**Kingfishers** Mrs Chalklin

**Doves** Mr Jiggins

**Quails** Miss Ward

**Swallows** Miss Corcoran

**Magpies** Mr Fitt

**Owls** Miss Beringer

**Kestrels** Mr Pepper



***For yours and your  
children's safety, please do  
not enter the car park unless  
you have permission to do so,  
in your car.***

## TERM DATES

### Half-Term

***Monday 13th February -  
Friday 17th February***

### Easter Break

***Monday 3rd April -  
Monday 17th April***

***PD Day 17th April***

***Pupils return to school  
on Tuesday 18th April***



# Festival of Stories

**Thursday, 2 March to Monday, 20 March 2023**

**For families of children aged 0-5 across Cambridgeshire.**

**You are invited to come and hear lots of magical stories about bees and how we can give them a helping hand.**

**Please see [www.bit.ly/FestivalOfStories](http://www.bit.ly/FestivalOfStories) for details.**







# **Spotlight on ... Kestrels!**

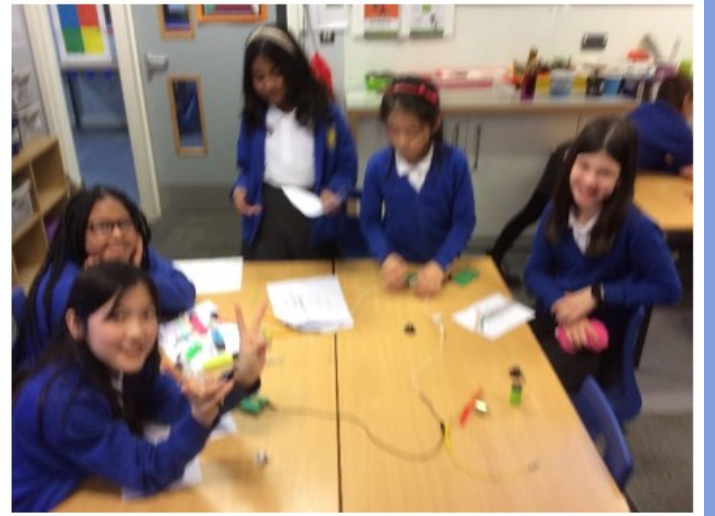
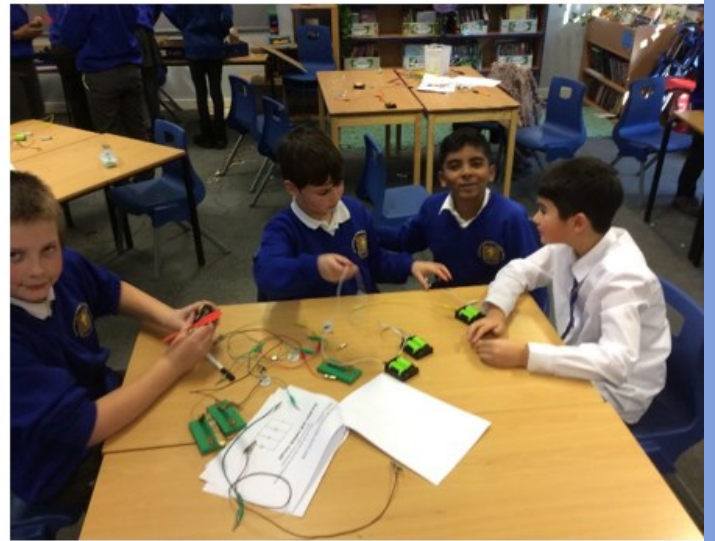
This week in Kestrels we have had a busy week.

We have been busy in English writing an adventure story all about a terrible weather event. It has to be very exciting and really capture the reader's imagination and interest. We have been working on all the exciting vocabulary we will be using in our story.

In Maths, in Year 5 and 6, we have been exploring fractions and using fractions to solve challenging word problems. We know that we need to know our times tables really fluently to help us with our Maths each day.

In Science, we were able to explore electricity and working in groups we constructed various circuits. We created series circuits and challenged ourselves to construct parallel circuits which is similar to what is used in domestic homes.

We are going on to create a game using electrical circuits next week.



Inspirational People is our focus in RE this week and we looked at The Beatitudes as a set of teachings from Jesus to live our lives by each day. In groups, we read a story related to each Beatitude and then used drama to bring this alive to the rest of the class.

On Wednesday we were visited by the Cambridge mental health team who gave us an assembly on how to regulate our emotions and recognising when we get upset or angry. The team gave us really useful ways to control our strong emotions and reflect on the effect we have on other people's emotions around us.

We were lucky to be visited by an upcoming author (Toke's Mum) who read some of her exciting book based on the Mayan people. It was a mixture of non-fiction and fiction and we were all transfixed by this fascinating story. We all had a chance to ask her questions about becoming an author and how to write a story like this.

Netball is this half term's learning in PE and we have been using different passing techniques and playing mini-games. It is a fast-paced game and requires a lot of great communication and teamwork.

Following on from our project on 'Friendship' some of the children are digging holes to plant our friendship trees which will be near Kestrels' classroom. This is a reminder to be kind and caring with adults and children alike.





***Thank you, from Kestrels.***

## Making Storytelling Open To All



### An Online Workshop

**Monday 20 February 2023: 7pm-8pm via Zoom**

[Talking Together in Cambridgeshire](#) will be welcoming internationally acclaimed, inclusive storyteller, Cassandra Wye to deliver her online Making Storytelling Open To All workshop ahead of this year's [Festival of Stories](#). By holding the workshop in advance of the festival, those working in the early years, parents and carers will have the opportunity to practice the inclusive storytelling techniques, so they can try out the ideas for themselves when sharing stories with little ones over the festival period and beyond.

Throughout this session early years practitioners, parents and carers will have the opportunity to explore the range of storytelling techniques we can use to enable storytelling to be accessible to every audience, including children who are learning to speak more than one language and children with special educational needs or disabilities.

Cassandra will be performing her Take A Little Walk Little Bear sensory story, which is suitable for children aged 2-5 years, on two occasions later in the festival period. She will be using the Little Bear story as the focus for the workshops, so those attending the workshops will then be able to see how she uses the techniques in practice when delivering the storytelling sessions.

This 1-hour workshop will include:

- An interactive demonstration on inclusive storytelling - with Little Bear
- An interactive discussion on the techniques demonstrated and how they enhance communication and engagement in storytelling
- Breakout room discussion - on how to apply the techniques demonstrated to any storytelling session

This online training is free for parents, carers, and early years educators to access.

This session will be delivered for a second time on: **Wednesday 8 March 2023 from 7pm-8pm.**

Booking is essential as places are limited. Please click on this link to book a place:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/518538802517>

More information about Cassandra Wye, International Inclusive Storyteller can be found on her [website](#).





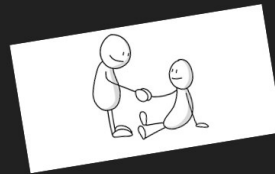
# The *new* School Rules

*Please speak to your children about these new rules and encourage them to follow them to the best of their ability.*

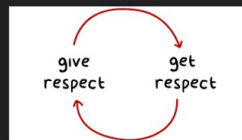
*We launched them in an assembly and had a great chat about what they mean for us.*

## Be Ready

I AM  
READY TO  
WORK!



## Be Respectful



## Be Safe



St Vincent de Paul Society  
(SVP)



## *Supporting people in need this winter*

Increasing costs of living have stretched many families – if you are one of them, we can help – we can call, visit & listen, and provide practical financial support where needed.

For example, our local St Laurence's parish SVP can help families with the costs of children's shoes, provide grocery vouchers, source clothing etc

If you need help, please  
contact Ciaran Ward 07540 842 078  
or email [svp@saintlaurence.org.uk](mailto:svp@saintlaurence.org.uk)  
All enquiries will remain totally confidential.



# ONLINE SAFETY



## Internet connected devices

Get advice about internet connected devices or toys and how to keep your child safe.

NSPCC

EVERY CHILDHOOD IS WORTH FIGHTING FOR

To learn more, click [here](#)



# Cost of Living Support Pop Up

Alongside the regular Hub Hospitality, with free hot drinks and refreshments!



All Welcome! Everyone that attends will get FREE entry into a prize draw to win a mini cooker!

**Downing Place United Reformed Church CB2 3EL**  
**Wednesday 15th February**  
**1 - 3pm**

## What support will be available?

- Bringing down your household bills
- Improving your home's energy efficiency
- Housing, health and financial advice
- Avoiding energy and cost of living related scams
- Checking you're receiving all the benefits, discounts and grants you're entitled to
- Saving money on pet care

**Citizens Advice Cambridge \* Woodgreen \* Cambridge Water**  
**Cambridgeshire Home Improvement Agency**  
**Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Against Scams**  
**Cambridge City Council and Cambridgeshire County Council Officers**



Cambridgeshire  
County Council



Think  
Communities

MORE INFORMATION

[www.cambridge.gov.uk/cost-of-living-support-popups](http://www.cambridge.gov.uk/cost-of-living-support-popups)





# Cost of Living Support Pop Ups



Drop in to get information and advice. Helping you with the challenges you're facing this winter.  
**PLUS** Free hot drinks and refreshments!

All Welcome! Everyone that attends will get **FREE** entry into a prize draw to win a mini cooker!

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- Saving money on pet care

**Citizens Advice Cambridge \* Healthy You \* Woodgreen  
Cambridgeshire Home Improvement Agency  
PECT \* Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Against Scams  
Cambridge Water \* Cambridge City Council and Cambridgeshire  
County Council Officers**



Cambridgeshire  
County Council



Think  
Communities

TURN OVER FOR INFORMATION ON WHERE TO FIND YOUR NEAREST EVENT



MORE INFORMATION

[www.cambridge.gov.uk/cost-of-living-support-popups](http://www.cambridge.gov.uk/cost-of-living-support-popups)





### **Development Manager Alder Court**

We are recruiting a Development manager to work in a  
Modern residential development in Chesterton in Cambridge.

This is NOT a carer's position.

The Residents are all over 60 but are independent in living.

The hours are 25 hours per week between 9 and 2 but can be flexible Monday to Friday

The Salary is £ 10.69 per hour with a pay rise due in April 2023

We are looking to speak to people who have the following experience:

1. Working within a face to face customer service environment
2. Self-motivated but also enjoys working as part of a team
3. IT savvy and are confident using laptops / tablets

If you think this sounds like you and are currently looking for a varied role

Where you get to work with people on a daily basis, get in touch today.

For an informal chat please call Bob on 01223 369642

For more information and to apply online, please visit our website at

[Hhttp://www.firstportcareers.co.uk](http://www.firstportcareers.co.uk) or contact Sonia Richards at [careers@firstport.co.uk](mailto:careers@firstport.co.uk)





**Friday 3rd February - PTA Discos - KS1 (5 p.m.)**

**- KS2 (6p.m.)**

**Wednesday 22nd February - Ash Wednesday Service (2.15 p.m.) *Parents and carers are welcome to attend.***

**Friday 3rd March - KS2 Reconciliation Service (2.15 p.m.) *Children only.***

**Friday 10th March - YR and KS1 Lenten Liturgy (2.30 p.m.) *Parents and carers are welcome to attend.***

**Friday 17th March - Y3/4 Mass (2.30 p.m.) *Parents and carers are welcome to attend.***

**Wednesday 22nd March - Y5/6 Stations of the Cross at St. Laurence Church (9 a.m.) *Parents and carers to drop their child at the church.***

**Wednesday 29th March - Passion Play - time tbc**