

Attendance target: 95% Actual Attendance: [↑]93.9%



St Laurence Catholic Primary School



Summer 2 Newsletter - July 2024

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

Ten:Ten Newsletter



Pope Francis
@Pontifex

The Gospel is proclaimed together, as a community. To do so, we must be modest in the use of things, sharing resources and gifts, so that we may be free and everyone may have what they need to live with dignity and contribute to the mission.

Dear Parents and Carers,

A big thank to you all for your continued support and encouragement. I feel very privileged and proud to be working alongside some very special and talented individuals (young people, parents and staff team).

This year, with the support of the Trust and the family and friends of St. Laurence, we have managed to have an even more successful year. We have embedded our curriculum, provided a greater variety of clubs and managed to take our children on more external visits. And, of course, we secured another Good judgement from our Ofsted inspection.

Moving on, timetables and Curriculum Maps, for the autumn term will be sent early in the autumn term, by class teachers.

To all the children and families who are leaving St. Laurence Primary School this year, I wish you all the very best for a happy and healthy future. Please do keep in touch and come and visit at any time.

All the very best to you all and have a lovely summer break.

Mrs McGhee Wallace and the St. Laurence Team

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 Mrs Chalklin

Skylarks Miss Armstrong
- Mortlock

Kingfishers Miss Tanvir/
Mrs Thompson (Friday)

Quails Mrs Kitagawa

Swallows Miss Corcoran

Doves Mrs Groves

Magpies Miss Ward

Owls Mrs Watson

Kestrels Mrs Prokop



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

Y1-Y6 return to school on Thursday 5th September.

YR begin school on Friday 6th September.

Administrative Officer
Mrs Rokitnicka

Administrative Assistant
Miss Tu

Caretaker
Mr. Tapp

Important Changes to Attendance Guidance

The Department for Education has issued new statutory guidance for attendance called *Working Together to Improve School Attendance*. This comes into effect on the 19th August 2024. It details what schools, parents and Local Authorities should do to improve pupils' attendance at school.

There are some important changes to attendance management from the 19th August 2024 which will affect the support parents and pupils receive from schools, and the legal sanctions that are used in certain circumstances.

Schools are legally obliged to provide support and intervention for pupils who are at risk of persistent absence (90% attendance or below). This will take the form of meetings with parents, school-based interventions, and the offer of support from outside agencies and professionals.

Schools are very keen to identify the barriers to attendance that families face and will welcome opportunities to overcome these barriers together. However, when a child's attendance falls outside of the parental legal obligations to send their child to school, there are legal pathways that must be followed.

Changes to Penalty Notices:

Term Time Leave

If a pupil takes unauthorised term time leave for 10 consecutive sessions or more (generally 5 days) they will be subject to a penalty notice. The fine for a penalty notice is increasing - to £80 per parent, per child. This increases to £160 if paid after 21 days but within 28 days for pupils who are of statutory school age. If a penalty notice remains unpaid, parents may be the subject of court proceedings for failing to ensure the regular school attendance of their child and this could result in a fine of up to £2,500 and/or a term of imprisonment of up to 3 months per parent.

For second offences of unauthorised term time leave (10 consecutive sessions or more) within a three-year rolling period, the fine is a flat £160 per parent, per child.

For the third offence in a three-year rolling period, the referral will be automatically considered for prosecution in relation to Section 444 Education Act 1996.

These fines will apply to term time leave taken after 19th August 2024. Previous penalty notices from the last 3 years will be taken into account when a period of term time leave is taken after the 19th August 2024. Therefore, if parents have already received one penalty notice in the last three years, they will get a fine of £160 per parent per child for their next one. If they have received two or more in the last three years, they should expect to be referred for prosecution.

Irregular School Attendance Over Time

If a parent is willing to support their child and the school in improving school attendance, and engage with school to achieve this, an *Attendance Contract* will be offered. This is a way of school and parents working together to improve attendance in a supportive and nurturing way. Having an Attendance Contract in place will mean regular informal meetings to identify any barriers to a pupil's attendance and discuss what support can put in place to overcome those barriers.

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Clarification on the issuing of PN fines

Following our meeting with schools regarding the new guidance, we would like to clarify the rules around issuing of fines. Any penalty notice issued for any offence that begins prior to the 19th of August will be issued under the existing rules. The new rules only apply if children are absent from school from the new term starting in September.



ATTENDANCE

Why is attendance so important?



EVERY SCHOOL DAY COUNTS!

Children are required by law to attend 190 school days per year. The Government states that every pupil's attendance should be at least 95%.

HOW DO YOU MEASURE UP?

Attendance	Days Absent	Weeks Absent	Lessons Missed
95%	9 Days	2 Weeks	50 Lessons
90%	19 Days	4 Weeks	100 lessons
85%	29 Days	6 Weeks	150 lessons
80%	38 Days	8 Weeks	200 lessons
75%	48 Days	10 Weeks	250 lessons
70%	57 Days	11.5 Weeks	290 lessons
65%	67 Days	13.5 Weeks	340 lessons





Summer term in Wrens

Summer sun arrives at last!

This week Wrens enjoyed their pool party!



Green Fingers

Thank you to Mrs Quail and David Brierley who very kindly gave up their time to build us a raised vegetable bed.



The Wrens enjoyed growing and picking their vegetables.



Stories from the Past

We have enjoyed sharing a range of stories from the past including Greek myths.

We discussed that the Olympics began in Greece and made our own olive wreaths, torches and medals in preparation for the Olympic games in Paris later this month.



We have also enjoyed going pond dipping



... and rearing our own butterflies from tiny caterpillars.



This is just a small selection of all the wonderful things that Wren have accomplished this term. They have made a great start to their time at St Laurence. We wish you all a very happy summer and look forward to seeing you in September. God bless.



Skylarks summer 2024

Year One have enjoyed a lovely final half-term, doing plenty of fun activities in the sunshine, and beginning to think about their next steps as they look to Year Two. This half term is always plenty of fun, with sports' day, art week and move-up day to look forward to. In addition, we had an exciting day visiting the playground at the Pulley and playing in the paddling pools afterwards.



Our topic in history this half-term was "Parliaments and Prime Ministers", which proved to be very topical! Year One were extremely excited to get to vote in their own mini-election, with the blue party promising more playgrounds getting the most votes. We learned about

Robert Walpole, the first Prime Minister, Rishi Sunak, who was the Prime Minister when we started our topic, and Keir Starmer, who is our new Prime Minister.



We also celebrated World Ocean's Day with a dress-up day in June, and worked together on a range of themed maths, writing and craft activities.

It has been a joy to teach Year One, not just this half-term, but all year long, and I wish them the very best as they move on in their learning journey. Have a wonderful summer!



Hello lovely Kingfisher parents/carers,

What a wonderful year it has been for our hardworking, bright stars in Kingfisher Class! From exciting drip painting during Arts week to our fantastic school trip to Anglesey Abbey, energetic Sports Day, adventurous Forest School outings, and our fun-filled pool party - we've had a fantastic time!

We are so proud of how much our children's writing has improved this year, thanks to their dedication and effort. They have also shown what it means to be kind friends and are now ready to embark on new adventures ahead.

As the summer holidays approach, we encourage our little ones to relax, have fun, and make the most of their break. We hope they keep up with their reading over the holidays as well! Thank you for all your support throughout this year - it truly means the world to us.

Wishing you all a wonderful summer ahead!

Warm regards,

Miss Tanvir



Art Week

Quails class has enjoyed learning about Romero Britto during art week. They were all very proud of their Olympic themed drawings and their medals' designs which were inspired by this Brazilian artist's style. I think you would all agree that everything they made looked amazing! The children also enjoyed having an Olympic dance workshop and the Traveling by Tuba visit. They learned a whole dance based on the Olympic sports and also had the opportunity to play some instruments after an interactive concert learning about different instruments from all the continents.





Summer Term Newsletter from Swallow Class

Dear Parents of Swallow Class,

It has truly been an amazing year filled with lots of fun and learning! From Art Week to spy writing, forest school adventures, stop motion animation and studying Egyptians, the children have worked hard to excel in everything they've done.

They've made kind friends and achieved so much. Now, they're ready for new adventures with a new class and to make even more memories.

Wishing you all a fantastic summer!

With warm regards,

Miss Corcoran



Doves Class Summer Term 2

There have been many positives this past term: reading the first Narnia book as a class; playing in the forest; competing in Sports Day. However, the highlight was definitely Arts Week. Doves class enjoyed painting and collaging a few pictures in honour of Osinachi, the Nigerian artist. We also really enjoyed the Dance Olympics: see photos below.





Magpies



Summer Newsletter

Over the last few weeks, we have been creative. During Art Week we studied Sarah Graham. She is a local artist, who loves nostalgia and colour. Sarah painted some campervans for charity and various celebrities joined in. The Samaritans were the beneficiary of the money.

The pupils had the opportunity to use pastels, oils, chalk and pencils over the week. The artist uses the grid method and the pupils were able to use this several times during the creation of their work.

As Sarah uses sweets and toys as her subject, the pupils thought this was great.



These are on display in the corridor, if you would like to visit them.

The pupils also took part in a dance session, based on the Olympics, drumming and all of Key Stage 2 created a giant mosaic for the school.

It has been fantastic this year to see how many of the pupils have grown in their independence, confidence, and consistency. Art week was proof of that! Many of the pupils have been a helper and this has allowed them to do small jobs and improve their independence, and communication skills. This has been extremely supportive to me and their class. I hope they continue to show that they are fantastic pupils!

This term in Owl class we have enjoyed Arts week. We learnt about Betty Adoah and her art. We used paint, pencils and collage to create pictures in her style. The dance session at the beginning of the week, mosaic workshop and Travel by Tuba sessions were really enjoyable for us all.

Year 5 enjoyed a visit to Flag Fen where we learnt about the history of the site.



The Year 6 Kestrels had an incredibly busy and exciting summer term! Our students tackled their SATs exams with determination and focus, showing great resilience and hard work. Alongside their academic efforts, they participated in transition workshops to prepare for secondary school, ensuring they are ready for the next big step in their educational journey.

A standout moment was their successful Year 6 play, where the Kestrels dazzled us with their talent and teamwork. Adding to the excitement, the class enjoyed a memorable PGL residential trip, complete with thrilling activities and the adventure of sleeping in tents.



As we bid farewell to our Year 6 Kestrels, we wish them an amazing summer filled with fun and relaxation. Good luck in secondary school—we know you'll continue to soar!

Mini Vinnies



The Mini Vinnies have had an amazing year and have accomplished so much – all with a focus of putting Faith into Action!

The Summer Fayre toy stall was run by the children with all proceeds going to the St Vincent de Paul Society.

The Summer Sleep Over was a lovely event with 16 Mini Vinnies staying overnight in the school hall to raise awareness to those who experience the many forms of homelessness. Together they raised over £350 and were thanked personally by Kate Ramsey, the Mini Vinnies Manger for the St Vincent de Paul Society.



Parent Carer Sensory Needs Workshop

Tuesday 24th September 2PM

St Laurence Catholic Primary School

Come and find out about Sensory Needs in a hands on session with other parents and carers.

You can also browse through a demonstration copy of our fantastic neurodiversity booklet, which you can later download for free!

Join us for a chat over a cup of coffee - we're excited to meet you!

Your child's school is currently collaborating with the Local Authority, Health, and Pinpoint – the parent carer forum for Cambridgeshire – to enhance inclusivity A pilot project. PINS



You've been an important part of the team, and we'll miss you. Good luck in your new role!

Mrs. Kitagawa, who has been teaching Quails Class this year, is leaving us today as her temporary contract has come to an end.

Mrs. K has been a brilliant member of the St. Laurence Team and we will miss her very much.

Mrs. Watson, who has been teaching Owls Class this term, and Kingfishers in the autumn, is leaving us today as her temporary contract has also come to an end.

We thank Mrs. Watson for supporting us.



Mr. Nickson, who has been at St. Laurence for 4 terms, has completed his teacher training and leaving us for his first teaching post, abroad.

Congratulations and good luck in your future!

Mr. Kelly, who has been supporting Magpies Class since the spring term, is leaving us today as his temporary contract has come to an end.

We wish Mr. Kelly the best in his new appointment!



Miss Armstrong-Mortlock, Skylarks class teacher, is leaving St. Laurence for a new opportunity.

Miss A-M joined St. Laurence in September 2021, as an ECT, completing her training last year.

In her time at St. Laurence, Miss A-M has been our Art & D.T. Lead and we thank her for her leadership, in that area.

We will miss Miss A-M, very much, and we wish her the very best in her future career!

