

St. Laurence News



**AUTUMN 2
2024**

**YOUR HALF-TERMLY NEWSLETTER ABOUT
OUR SCHOOL!**

ST. LAURENCE TEAM

Wrens - Mrs. Chalklin
Skylarks - Miss Gomez
Kingfishers - Miss Tanvir
Swallows - Miss Ward
Doves - Mrs. Groves
Owls - Miss Corcoran
Magpies - Mrs. Prokop
Kestrels - Mrs. Khan-Blacker

Pastoral Lead - Mrs O'Dell
SENCo - Mrs. Harvey
Assistant Headteacher - Mrs. Chalklin
Headteacher - Mrs. McGhee Wallace

UPCOMING EVENTS

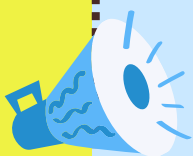
Red Hen Connect Meetings
across the Spring Term

AFTER SCHOOL WITH *SUPERSTAR* SPORTS

Dodgeball - Monday
Football/Dance - Tuesday
Girls' Football/Nature Club - Wednesday
Basketball - Thursday

REMINDER

*Pupils return to
school on Tuesday
7th January 2025.*



**VISIT THE
CLASS ONLINE
PAGES**

<https://www.stlaurence.cambs.sch.uk/page/?title=Class+Pages&pid=60>

VOICE FROM THE VATICAN



THE HOLY FAMILY CAN SERVE AS A MODEL FOR ALL FAMILIES BECAUSE IT SHOWS THAT GOD IS WITH US IN TIMES OF TRIAL. THE HOLY FAMILY'S SIMPLICITY CAN HELP FAMILIES BECOME COMMUNITIES OF LOVE, RECONCILIATION, AND MUTUAL SUPPORT. HIM.



Let us join together in prayer

*Angel OF God,
MY GUARDIAN DEAR,
TO WHOM God's
Love COMMITS ME
HERE, EVER THIS
DAY BE AT my side,
TO Light & Guard,
TO Rule & Guide.*



Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to our second newsletter, at this very special time of year.

We have had the honour and the privilege to share in the Advent journey of your children and hope that you have equally cherished the opportunity to join us for Celebration of the Word, nativity performances and the end of term carol service.

It has been a long term and the children have worked hard and it has been fruitful. Teachers are pleased with the progress they have observed and the childrens' commitment to their learning. Thank you for the part you play in supporting and encouraging your children.

Next year, is a Jubilee Year, in the Catholic church and, in school, there will be many opportunities for you to celebrate with us.

A big thank you must go out to the parents who joined us for the Christmas Craft Morning. It was very well organised by Mrs. Chalklin and very much enjoyed by our pupils.

Please remember that all upcoming events are logged on the school calendar. It will be added to, throughout the year, so please check it weekly.

Warm regards and a very, merry Christmas!

Mr McGhee Wallace and the St. Laurence Team





BREAKFAST MEETING

6TH FEBRUARY 2025

9 A.M.

SCHOOL HALL

Please join us for coffee and a chat
about exciting developments at
St. Laurence.



PUPIL PERSPECTIVE



St. Laurence Mini Vinnies meet Daniel Zeichner

Every 25 years, the Catholic Church have a Jubilee Year. This Jubilee Year is entitled 'Pilgrims of Hope' and starts on 24th December 2024 with the opening of the Holy Door in Rome.

The Mini Vinnies are using this time throughout the Jubilee Year to reflect on the needs of their community and bring hope through the actions they can take.

During his visit to St Laurence, our local MP, Daniel Zeichner meet with some of the Mini Vinnies. Mr Zeichner listened to the Mini Vinnies as they explained how they were making "Poverty a Priority" because living in poverty can impact on your life in many different ways.

Mr Zeichner answered the Mini Vinnies questions on how he helps those in poverty as an MP, what parliament are doing to try and tackle poverty and what his favourite thing is about being a politician.



Afterwards the Mini Vinnies commented that:

"It was very interesting talking to Mr Zeichner and to hear what life is like as a politician"

"He was impressed with our fundraising activities and liked our motto: See, think, do"

"We hope to talk to Mr Zeichner again during Jubilee Year and see how parliament are supporting those in Poverty"

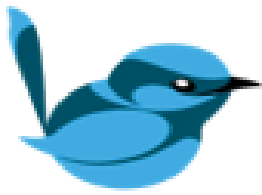
A MASSIVE THANK YOU



THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES FOR THEIR EXCELLENT EFFORTS, HELPING US TO RAISE FUNDS FOR MORE BOOKS THROUGH ATTENDING THE BOOK FAYRE OR TAKING PART IN THE READING CHALLENGE. IN TOTAL, SO FAR, WE HAVE RAISED MORE THAN £550.



Wrens



Happy Christmas from Wrens!

We hope you have a lovely holiday and a happy new year.

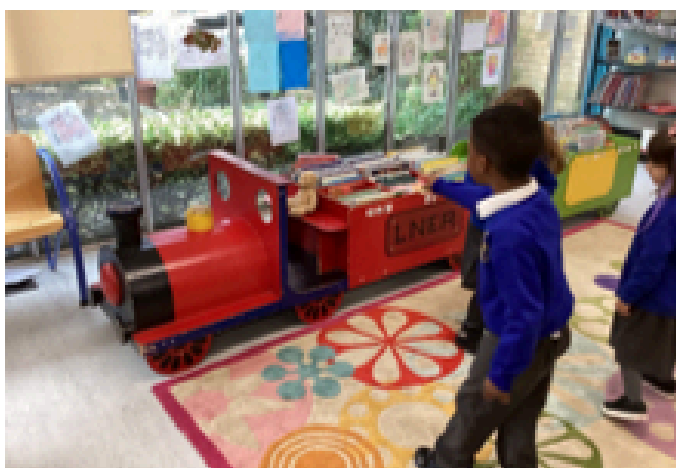
It has been a very busy but equally enjoyable term in Reception. Here is a selection of a few of the things that we have been doing!

This term our topic has been Transport.

We have worked in our mechanic garage....



.... and built our own Tuk Tuk.



We visited our local library, where we finally found our missing
Everywhere Bear riding on the steam train!

We have made our own Advent Wreaths to share with our family as we prepare for the coming of Jesus this Christmas.



We decorated our class Christmas tree....



... and enjoyed Christmas dinner with our Year 6 buddies.



And we posted our Christmas letters to St Nicholas



We hope this Christmas brings you much joy and look forward to welcoming you back to school in the New Year.

Skylarks have had a fantastic finish to their autumn term! They have continued to improve with their classroom learning routines fantastically, and I have been very impressed with their focus during carpet learning time.

Our core texts this half term have been 'Where The Wild Things Are' and 'The Storm Whale'. We have studied a variety of poems, too! It has been truly amazing to hear their all their ideas and opinions develop as they explore new vocabulary and concerns of environmentalism. They are all becoming more able readers. The children have made brilliant progress with their writing and I have particularly enjoyed reading aloud their morning activity sentences. Many of these independently written sentences have displayed their love for God through powerful prayer.

In science, children have learnt about animals. They enjoyed learning all about what animals eat and categorisation, applying some very big words to their discussions.

Perhaps the highlight of the half term was our nativity performance. It has been really fun to learn all of songs and to participate with our friends in Year Two and Reception to put together a wonderful performance, celebrating the joy of Our Lord's miraculous birth!



Kingfishers have been working really hard this term! Reading has been a particular highlight. The children really enjoyed 'Paddington' and their enthusiasm has been infectious. It was great to finish the term with a reward to see Paddington in Peru on the big screen. We have also made a lot of progress in our writing. I particularly enjoyed reading their formal invitations where they used exciting language to encourage you to come to their Nativity Play. I do hope it lived up to expectations!

Another highlight has been our history learning on the Romans. The children have been so absorbed by learning about the Roman Army and their successful invasion of Britain. We really enjoyed our Roman day where we had the opportunity to make our own mosaic and write our name using the Roman alphabet.



As always, this term is full of excitement as we lead up to Christmas. A big thank you to all the children for being so wonderful during our Nativity rehearsals. We are all very proud. Wishing you all a very happy Christmas and new year.

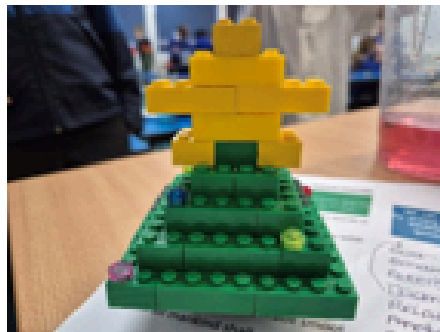


Swallows

During the last half term, the pupils have had the opportunity to take part in various activities. We started by creating poppies and taking part in a two-minute silence to remember the sacrifices and the lives lost in many wars.

Computing has been one of the pupil's favourite subjects this half-term. The children have planned and created a podcast on their favourite subjects. They ranged from crochet to animal noise, football and jet engines! The pupils all worked well in their pairs and in spite of the excitable noise it was great to see the passion and confidence that pupils had.

In R.E., we have been discovering more about prophecy and promise, especially John the Baptist. The children always enjoy reading the scripture and the confidence, vocabulary and maturity gained and shown is lovely to witness.

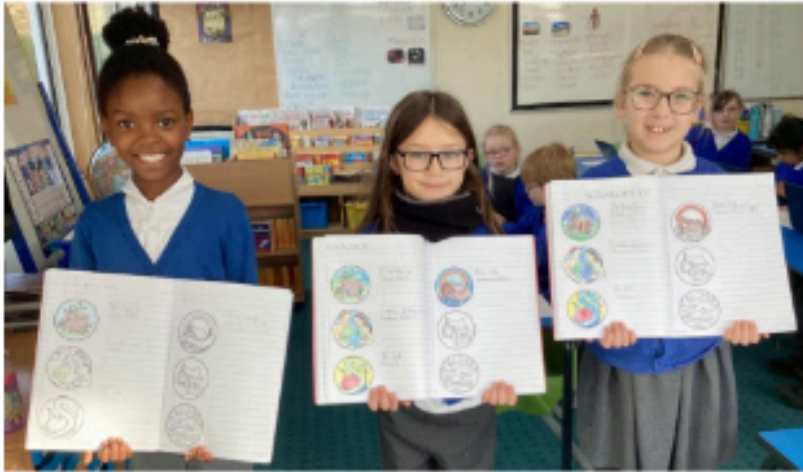


We are now in Advent and building towards the Jubilee year. The pupils have been learning about the Jesse tree, which tells key moments from Jesus's life. We have made crowns for the Christmas lunch, where Swallows went as Rudolph the red nosed reindeer. We still have more Advent activities to come, and we are almost ready for Christmas.



Doves Class have really enjoyed learning about and creating their own Jesse Trees. These trees remind us that Jesus had a long family history tree, stretching all the way back to Jesse, Abraham and Adam. Every ornament represents a Bible story and every Bible story reminds us that the whole Old Testament points to the coming of Jesus that we celebrate at Christmas.

Doves students coloured the ornaments in their books, explaining how the Scriptures pointed to Jesus. Then we made ornaments for our class Christmas tree, reminding us that during Advent we are watching and waiting for the coming of Jesus again.



Dear Parents and Carers,

As we near the end of the Autumn term, I wanted to share some of the exciting things your children have been up to in Owls Class this term! It has been a fantastic half-term filled with learning, creativity, and fun activities.

In **English**, the class has been having a great time writing first-person narratives set in Ancient Greece. The children have really brought Greek myths and heroes to life with their imaginative storytelling! To deepen their understanding of this captivating topic, we organised a visit to the Classical Archaeology Museum at Cambridge University. While there, the children had the opportunity to examine artefacts, which sparked their imagination and inspired their writing.



In **Maths**, we've been diving into some interesting concepts like factors, prime numbers, cube numbers, and square numbers. The children have shown great enthusiasm in solving problems and discovering how these numbers work together.

Our **Science** lessons have been all about chemistry and materials. We've been learning about solutions and mixtures, and the students enjoyed a fun investigation to find out which materials make the best thermal insulator for a cup of tea! The experiments have been exciting, and the children loved getting hands-on in their learning.



As **Christmas** approaches, we have kicked off our festive activities! The children have been busy completing Christmas crafts and enjoying our school Christmas meal together. It's a lovely time for our class to come together and enjoy the holiday spirit.



Looking ahead to the **Spring term**, we have even more exciting things lined up! We will start exploring fractions in Maths, read the enchanting tale of 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' in English, and learn more about Living Things and their Habitats in Science. We can't wait to see the fantastic progress the children will continue to make!

Thank you for your ongoing support. May you have a joyful Christmas and a happy New Year!

Best wishes, Miss Corcoran



Magpies Class Newsletter – Autumn 2 Term



MAGPIES

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we reach the end of the Autumn 2 term, we are delighted to share some of the fantastic achievements and learning experiences the children in Magpies Class have enjoyed this term.

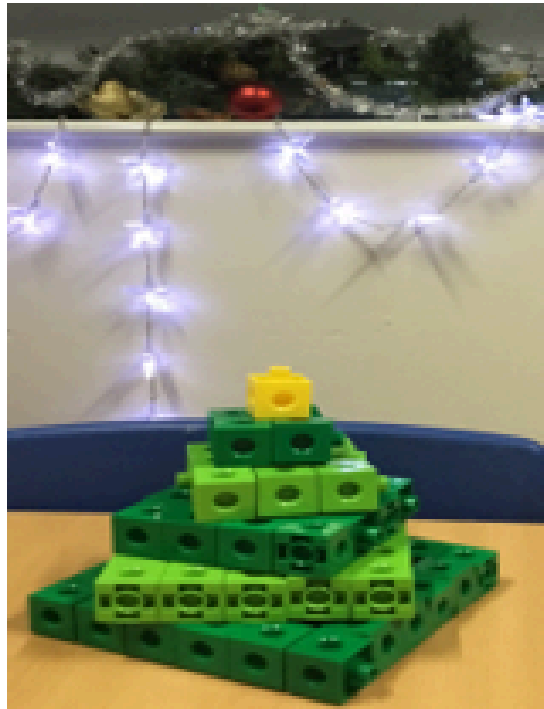
Curriculum Highlights

In **English**, the children have been writing first-person narratives set in Ancient Greece. Their storytelling skills brought the world of Greek myths and heroes to life! To enrich their knowledge and understanding, we visited the Classical Archaeology Museum at Cambridge University, where the children explored fascinating artefacts and gained inspiration for their writing.

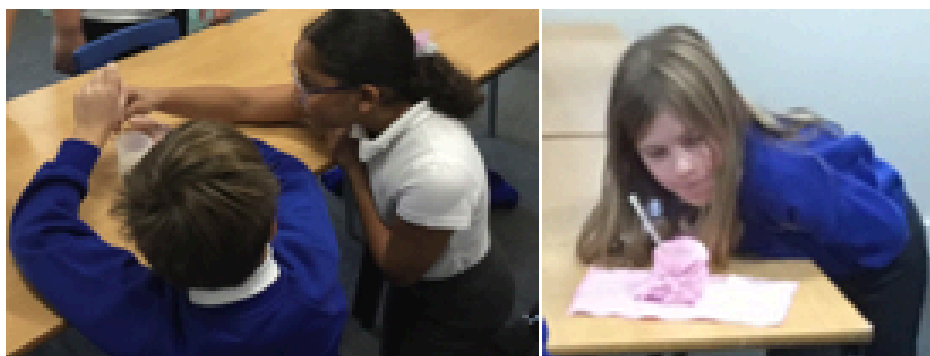


In **Maths**, we focused on multiplication and division, including prime, square, and composite numbers. The children worked hard to deepen their understanding of these concepts and apply their skills to solve challenging problems.





In **Science**, our Chemistry unit sparked the children's curiosity as they investigated thermal insulators, explored solutions, and experimented with separation methods. The hands-on activities made learning exciting, and we were so impressed by their scientific observations and teamwork.



Special Events and RE

This term, the children participated in our **Advent journey**, reflecting on the meaning of the season and preparing for Christmas with great joy and enthusiasm. In **RE**, we explored the branch of **Prophecy and Promise**, focusing on Jesus as the fulfilment of God's promise to David. The children showed thoughtful understanding and shared meaningful reflections during our lessons and collective worship.

Celebrating Achievements

It has been wonderful to celebrate the children's successes during our weekly assemblies. Whether for kindness, hard work, or academic progress, Magpies have truly made us proud this term.



Looking Ahead

As we head into the Spring term, we will begin exploring fractions in Maths, reading 'Midsummer Night's dream' and learning about Living Things and their Habitats building on the fantastic progress the children have made so far.

Finally, we would like to thank you for your continued support this term. Wishing all our families a happy and blessed Christmas and a peaceful New Year. We look forward to welcoming the children back in January, ready for another exciting term of learning!



Kestrels Newsletter



Dear Kestrels' Parents and Carers,



As we approach the joyful season of Christmas, we reflect on the blessings of the past year and the warmth of our school community. This festive edition of our newsletter is filled with highlights of our Year 6 pupils' achievements, upcoming events, and ways we can come together to celebrate the spirit of giving and love that embodies the Gospel values we cherish. We encourage you to take a moment to enjoy the stories and updates that showcase the hard work and dedication of Kestrels' pupils and staff. May this Christmas bring you peace, joy, and a renewed sense of hope as we look forward to the New Year together.



We've also enjoyed our Buddies Days, fostering connections between older and younger pupils. These interactions have been heart-warming to witness, as our Year 6 pupils demonstrated leadership and kindness towards their younger peers.



Our pupils had the privilege of visiting AstraZeneca, which proved to be an enlightening and inspiring trip. This experience provided valuable insights into the world of science and innovation, broadening our pupils' horizons and potentially sparking future career interests.



The Christmas Crafts Day was a festive highlight, allowing our pupils to express their creativity and get into the holiday spirit. It was delightful to see their enthusiasm and the beautiful crafts they produced.



I would like to take a moment to celebrate the exceptional hard work and learning attitude demonstrated by our Year 6 pupils this term. Their dedication and perseverance have been

truly commendable. We've seen significant progress across all areas of learning, and I'm immensely proud of each pupil's achievements.

As we look ahead to the Christmas holidays, I encourage all our pupils to enjoy a well-deserved rest. This break provides an excellent opportunity to recharge and spend quality time with family and friends.

However, I must also inform you that the upcoming term will be more challenging. We will be intensifying our focus on SATs preparation, metaphorically 'putting our foot on the pedal'. While this may sound daunting, I assure you that we will approach this preparation with the same enthusiasm and dedication that our pupils have shown throughout this term.

I have full confidence in our Year 6 pupils' abilities to rise to this challenge. Their progress thus far has been remarkable, and I'm certain they will continue to excel with the support of both school and home.

Thank you for your continued support and engagement in your child's education. Your involvement plays a crucial role in their success, and we greatly appreciate it.

I wish you all a lovely Christmas holiday filled with joy, relaxation, and precious moments with your loved ones. We look forward to welcoming our pupils back in the new year, refreshed and ready for the exciting challenges ahead.

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



Warm regards,
Mrs Khan-Blacker

SEND NEWS from Mrs. Harvey

Thriving at Christmas – SEND Resources

Christmas, for the most part is a celebration to bring families together to rejoice in the birth of Jesus. However, the reality can be, at times, very different. Along with the excitement, extra people in the house, different food and presents can also come increased dysregulation, loss of routine and upset.

The following resource is from Beacon House, who offer therapeutic services, including this reminder to try the PACE (Playfulness, Acceptance, Curiosity, Empathy) approach over the Christmas holiday when things may be becoming less than festive.



Playfulness isn't the same as playing but is enjoying time with someone else or yourself in an unconditional way.

This can look like a 5 minute sofa snuggle with someone, walking hand in hand, swapping cringy cracker joke or even taking yourself off for a cry on your own if that's where you're at and trying to leave behind any guilt about it.

It's about showing a real interest in someone, or yourself, and finding something you really enjoy about them - or you. Even if that's 2 minutes alone with yourself outside the front door!



Acceptance means sitting with strong emotions or perspective of another and knowing that you might not be able to take these away. There may be no words of advice to give, strategies to implement or thoughts to share, only comfort by offering your safe presence.

It is allowing uncomfortable sensations and emotions to be in your own body without judgement. Accepting their existence.

For an example of this and Empathy, watch the YouTube clip called 'Brené Brown on Empathy' or find inspiration from the song 'Hold Space' by Ward Thomas.



Curiosity isn't about asking "why?" even when this is exactly what we want to know! It's about wondering what is going on inside for someone or oneself.

It's about taking the risk of being wrong "Can I share my ideas with you... I wonder if... I might be wrong, so tell me if I am, but here are my thoughts..."

A way of letting someone know that your mind is on their mind and genuinely interested in anything at all that's going on in there without judgement.

It is practising this same non-judgemental curiosity within ourselves.



Empathy can take a lot of energy at Christmas. Sitting with the disappointment of a child who hasn't got the gift they hoped for "I can see the sadness in your eyes that it's not what you wanted!" or accepting our own disappointment that the time hasn't felt very festive "I am where I am and things are how they are and I'm going to do my best to feel okay with that".

A top tip is try to move away from reassurance or denial of feelings - others or your own. Naming what is happening for ourselves or another helps us in our offering of empathy.

To PACE oneself: "To do something at a speed that is steady and that allows one to continue without becoming too tired."

Beacon House also offer other resources specially designed by their therapists to support regulation, connection and rest during December, for adults and children. They can be downloaded for free here:

Winter Resources

Beacon House 2019 /