

# St. Laurence News



**SPRING 1  
2025**

**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

Equalities Week  
14th March 2025

## AFTER SCHOOL WITH *SUPERSTAR* SPORTS

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

## REMINDER

KS1 - Doors open  
at 8.55 a.m.

KS2 - Doors open  
at 9 a.m.

**VISIT THE  
CLASS ONLINE  
PAGES**

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

VOICE FROM THE  
VATICAN



'THE HOLY YEAR IS AN OPPORTUNITY TO CHANGE OUR LIFE, REEVALUATE OUR THINKING, AND START ANEW BY LEARNING FROM JESUS AND PLACING OUR HOPE IN GOD. THIS IS THE MEANING OF THE JUBILEE PILGRIMAGE.'  
[#JUBILEEAUDIENCE](#)

*Let us join  
together in  
prayer*

Bless US, O LORD,  
& THESE THY  
gifts, WHICH WE  
ARE about TO  
RECEIVE FROM  
THY BOUNTY,  
THROUGH CHRIST,  
our Lord. *amen.*



**JUBILEE YEAR  
OF HOPE 2025**



Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to our third newsletter, of this year.

The weather has been cold, wet and dark but the children of St. Laurence have been making excellent progress with their learning.

We have marked Healthy You and Children's Mental Health Week, across the school. It is important that our pupils have the opportunity to grow their emotional intelligence as well as the academic.

We had a very important visitor in school, last week. It was Fr. Robin, our new Parish Priest who is really looking forward to becoming part of the school community.

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 here's hoping for a dry half-term break!

Mr McGhee Wallace and the St. Laurence Team



# Digital Leaders Newsletter Spring 1



Every half term, the Digital Leaders will come together to create a digital newsletter to discuss with children at home.

The children this half-term decided to share their top tips for staying safe online and how to spot scams.

## Keeping your personal information safe

It is okay to make a friend online but NEVER tell them any personal information. Your information is like a jigsaw – even with some pieces missing, you can still work out what the picture is. Even a few pieces of personal information could allow someone online to fill in the gaps. So, if you are playing an online video game and someone asks where you live, leave and report them.

Personal information includes: your name; you or your parents' phone number; your age and birthday; your home address; and your school.

So next time someone asks you any of this **report, block, leave.**

## How to get support

There are lots of ways you can get further help if something has gone wrong online.

- Trusted adults e.g. a parent, carer or a teacher
- Helplines—the number for childline is 0800 111
- The report button

If something seems unreliable make sure you check with a trusted adult before you go to a website.

## Can you trust everything you see online?

NO! Because some may be SCAMS. Scams can steal money, hack your personal details and pretend to be you. Scams can appear as a link, message and phone call. Remember never give them any photos of yourself and/or your personal information. Never trust information that has spelling mistakes or has suddenly popped up.

## How to spot a scam

Scams are when someone tricks you into sharing personal information, money or something valuable.

Here is an acronym so you can spot a scam.

If you ever spot or experience scamming, REPORT IMMEDIATELY!

**S**eems too good to be true

**C**an put you under pressure

**A**utomatically pops up

**M**oney or information

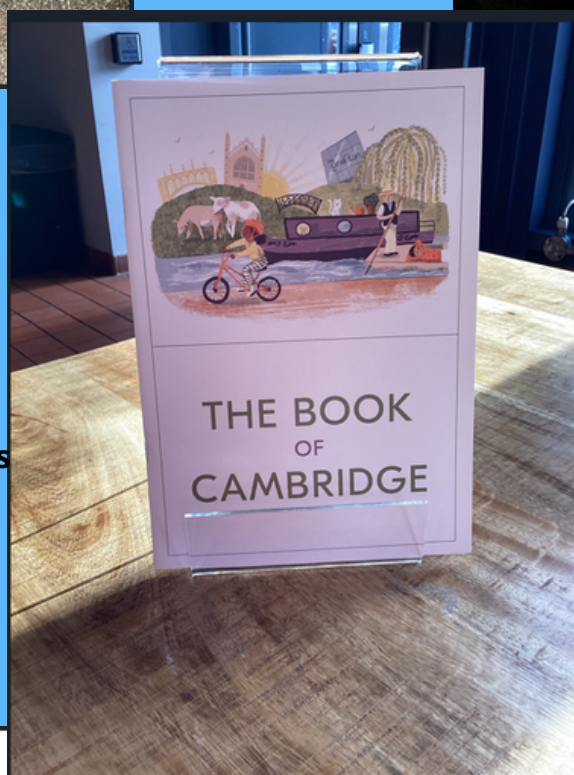


THE CHILDREN OF ST. LAURENCE  
ENJOYED ANOTHER WELL-RUN  
DISCO.  
WE CONTINUE TO BENEFIT FROM  
THE HARD WORK AND  
DEDICATION OF OUR PTA.





**Our Y5 classes were involved in co-creating a book about Cambridge, from a child's perspective. They worked with 2 other, local primary schools. 5 of our pupils were editors and helped the adults decide on what should be included in the book.**



**Last week, there was a book launch and our editors were able to speak about the book, welcome guests to the launch and give readings and autographs. They were amazing and a fun time was had by all.**



## Jubilee 2025 – Pilgrims of Hope



In this Jubilee Year, Pope Francis has invited us all to be signs of hope in our world. During this year, there will be opportunities for the whole school community to experience the joy of taking action to build a better world.

The Jubilee launched in school on the 24<sup>th</sup> January and we had a special celebration assembly to mark the occasion.

Over the year, we hope to complete the following actions to record our jubilee journey as Pilgrims of Hope:

- On every class door there is a poster reminding the children that “God lies beyond this door” to remind the children that entering someone's space requires an invitation and an open door. In this Jubilee year, the Holy Door in Rome will be opened, inviting everyone to become Pilgrims of Hope. A pilgrimage is a journey filled with the expectation of encountering God, and this year, we want to emphasise that behind every door we open, and every doorway we enter, we should anticipate meeting with Him.
- Each class will have a poster that they can record their Jubilee Journey on and reflect on over the whole year. This is also a reminder of the Jubilee pledge, “*We promise to be agents of change, working together for justice, love and peace, locally and globally. We want to build a fairer world, where every person, and the earth, can flourish*” and we will revisit our pledge on the Jubilee pledge day in June.
- Each child will receive a copy of the Jubilee prayer.
- We are planning to visit Walsingham with Year 3 and Year 6 as pilgrimage is an important part of a Jubilee Year. Holy doors remind us of Jesus' words in the Gospel, ‘I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture.’
- The Mini Vinnies will continue to put their Faith into Action throughout the year. They have already met with MP Daniel Zeichner to raise awareness of poverty within Cambridgeshire and will be fundraising for the SVP and we will be meeting up with the Parish branch of the SVP to celebrate the birthday of St Vincent de Paul.
- We will be planning a ‘Prayer Day’ when we will invite families to join their children to create prayers together.
- We are still planning how we will celebrate the Jubilee Celebration Day on the 21<sup>st</sup> November 2025.

We hope that the whole school community will join together to celebrate this special year! If you would like to find out more information, please go to: <https://www.iubilaeum2025.va/en.html>



## Spring term in Wrens

Wrens have had a busy half term



where we have had opportunities to learn through a range of experiences.



### Space

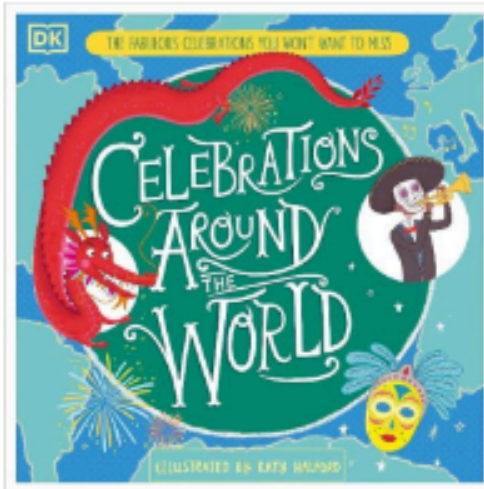
We have learnt many new things about space including the names of the planets in our solar system, what stars are and how and why astronauts float in space. All of the Wrens sent their questions about space to Dr Tazzari's who then kindly visited and answered them all and told us many more amazing facts about our solar system.



We made our own paper plate planets.

# Celebrations around the World

Wrens have read the book "Celebrations Around the World" by Katy Halford



We explored celebrating New Year and sang "Auld Lang Syne" from Scotland



Mrs Cheung taught us all about celebrating the Lunar New Year and helped us make decorations to celebrate on the day!  
Thank you  
Mrs Cheung!

Mrs Noor taught us why Muslim families celebrate the festival Eid al-Fitr and showed us some of the ways Muslim's mark this special time. Thank you

Mrs Noor!



# Mapping and Computing

We shared the book "Martha Maps it Out" by Leigh Hodgkinson.



We made our own maps of a city, marking out a grid.

We then programmed the Bee Bots to move around our maps.



# Galilee to Jerusalem

We have learnt about how Jesus fed many people and how we too can share what we have with others.



We finished this half term by leading celebration assembly where we told the story of St Valentine.

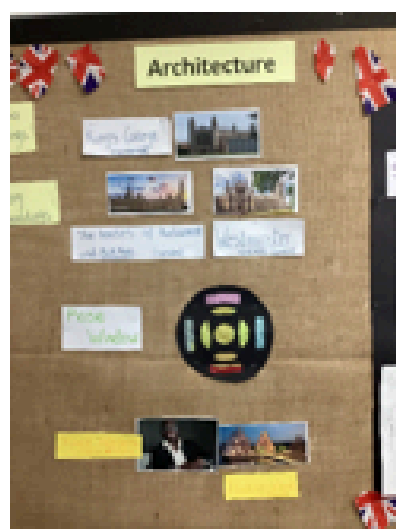
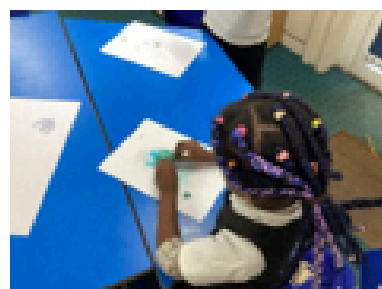
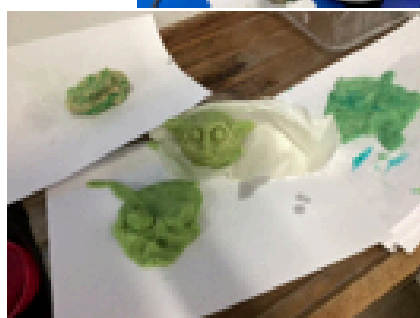
We hope you all have a lovely half term.



This term, Skylarks class have embarked on an incredible journey into the world of architecture! They have explored the purpose and features of buildings, imagining themselves as the brilliant artist behind some of the most iconic structures in history. Inspired by the grandeur St. Paul's Cathedral in London, they travelled - through creativity and imagination - all the way to Cambridge to uncover the secrets of gargoyles! These fascinating creatures sparked curiosity and wonder as we discovered their role in channelling rainwater.

Our young architects got creative, sculpting their own gargoyles using a playdough recipe. It has been a term of full inspiration, hands-on learning, and lots of messy fun!

We are so proud of their fantastic work and can't wait to see where their amazing adventures take them next.



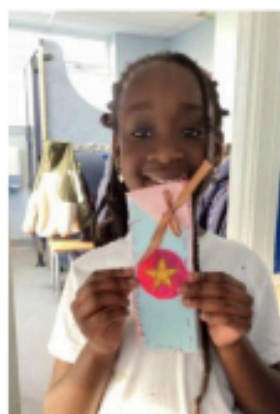
Kingfishers have had a brilliant start to the Spring Term. They have really grown in maturity and resilience and I have been very impressed with their eagerness to learn.

Our core texts this half term have been 'The Quangle Wangle's Hat' and 'Coming to England'. The children enjoyed the contrast between these two texts- one being a nonsense poem and the other a retelling of Floella Benjamin's journey to England as part of the Windrush Generation. Children's kind, empathetic responses to the difficulties she faced were really beautiful. The children have also learnt to write a story from another culture and a non-chronological report. I have learnt an awful lot about habitats from reading their work!

In science, children have really enjoyed learning about electricity. They know how to construct a simple circuit and they investigated which materials were conductors of electricity.



Perhaps the highlight of the half term was sewing our own pencil cases. It was a lot of fun to see the children's designs come to life and they all enjoyed learning something new.





Swallows

## DT

Yesterday, we had our termly DT session. The pupils were brilliant. It was a great pleasure to see them so excited about their project. They were fantastic at sharing with each other and they all made the effort to create a design. Many of the pupils were able to review their design, as they did it. This shows that they are beginning to understand the need to review their work, before they move on. This is an essential skill that the pupils will need for life. The projects will be coming home soon.



## **Swimming**

We have now had 5 weeks of swimming. I have seen that we have some fantastic swimmers in the class. I have watched the beginners, grow in confidence, week by week. There is room for the beginners to move groups if they work hard and impress the instructor enough. My group are fairly confident in the front crawl and are improving their back stroke. We have now begun to look at a basic rescue situation. This could help them or another child in the future. Some of the pupils had fears about swimming, but they all give their best, when they are in the pool.

## **Maths**

We are currently learning about fractions, so we often talk about pizzas and cakes, as that is something the pupils can visualise. If there is an opportunity at home to share this, with your children, please do, as it makes them see real life situations apply to the maths at school.

## **RE**

During RE, we use the Bible and the scripture. All of the pupils are keen to read, which can be humbling to watch, especially given that some of the words are very difficult. At the assembly, before Christmas the children did me proud, with their pronunciation of the difficult words. This has shown in the fact that all of the reading levels have increased, since September. After the break, we are preparing for the Passion Play.

I hope you all have a much needed break and look forward to seeing you all later in the month.

Miss Ward

## Doves Class Spring 1

A highlight in Doves Class this past term was DT day. Students designed and created their own miniature playgrounds using gears as moving parts. They also used cardboard and mixed recyclables to fill in their swings, slides and sand-pits. Staff were particularly impressed with how calm the children were as their creations did not always come out as planned. However, they persevered and every child went home with a unique playground.

Another highlight has been reading *Sam Wu is not Afraid of the Dark*, by Kevin and Katie Tsang. This has been our Class Reading book for Year 3s and has been both entertaining and enlightening, giving us insight into the culture of Hong Kong. It's also been highly relatable – aren't we all afraid of the dark!





Dear Parents and Carers,

As we near the end of this half term, I wanted to share some of the exciting things the children of Owl class children have been up to.

Our **English** lessons have been particularly creative this term. The children have written captivating stories set in Mali. This exercise not only helped them engage with different perspectives but also encouraged them to weave rich narratives inspired by cultural experiences. In addition, we have taken a closer look at Shakespeare, delving into "A Midsummer Night's Dream." The children worked hard on creating synopses of the play, showcasing their understanding of complex themes. Furthermore, we are currently enjoying reading 'We Are Not a Label,' which opens the door to conversations about identity, belonging, and acceptance.

In **Science**, we have been exploring the fascinating world of life cycles, focusing on both animals and plants. The children enjoyed dissecting flowers, which not only reinforced their understanding of plant biology but also sparked their curiosity about science.



In **Maths**, our focus has been on fractions and multiplication. The children have been learning to use a formal written method to solve multiplication problems, which has greatly improved their confidence in handling larger numbers.

In **Geography**, the class has been discovering the wonders of mountains, volcanoes, and earthquakes. We've discussed the physical features of the Earth and set out to understand the different careers associated with geography, such as geologists and volcanologists.

In **Computing**, we explored the realm of physical computing using Crumbles. The children learned how to write code to make LED lights flash and create sound using buzzers! It has been great to see their problem-solving skills and resilience as they debugged their codes.

During our **PE** lessons, we focused on gymnastics, specifically asymmetric and symmetrical balances, as well as various rolls. The students have been putting in tremendous effort into mastering these skills and are now looking forward to choreographing their own routines.

In **RE**, we have been learning about the Beatitudes and discussing how we can demonstrate love to our neighbours. Through various activities and reflections, the children have begun to understand the importance of kindness and compassion in their daily lives, fostering a sense of community within our class.

Finally, in the children have been particularly creative in their **Art and DT** lessons. They have been learning about Art from West Africa—Chiwara headdresses and Benin Plaques. We also had a fantastic DT Day where the children made some delicious honey muffins.



In **other news**, we had an exciting opportunity to attend the book launch of 'The Book of Cambridge,' a collaborative project we helped write. It was a fantastic way for the students to see their hard work published and celebrated!



Thank you for your continued support and encouragement. I look forward to sharing more about our adventures and learning in the next newsletter!

Best wishes, Miss Corcoran



**MAGPIES**

# MAGPIES

## Newsletter

### Spring Term's News

Dear Parents/Carers,

It's been a short but busy half-term in Magpies, filled with lots of learning and exciting moments! As the days begin to stretch a little longer and signs of spring slowly appear, we've been making the most of our time in the classroom.

From tackling new challenges in our lessons to enjoying time with friends, there's been plenty to celebrate. Read on to find out what we've been up to!



### Curriculum Highlights

#### English

This term was all about Shakespeare! First, the children studied *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, immersing themselves in its magical world. As a follow-up in English writing, we have been working on synopses based on AMND.

#### Maths

In Maths, we focused on multiplication and division, mastering our understanding of multiplicative relationships and learning long multiplication procedures. Thank you for your ongoing support in revising times tables at home!

#### Science

We have been comparing life cycles of different organisms and enjoyed learning about pollinators. We even dissected flowers and used honey in our DT day baking project!

## Highlights of the Spring Term



### NEWS

Home | InDepth | Local News | What's in the News | Climate | UK | World | Business | Politics | Culture  
England | Local News | Cambridgeshire

### Pupils show off their city in special guidebook



The pupils signed books for those who want to its launch.



### Book of Cambridge launch in Junction Cambridge

Year 5 made the front cover!

**Celebration of Young Creators –**  
The event at Cambridge Junction showcased the hard work and creativity of the young editors and creators behind the Book of Cambridge, offering them a platform to share their achievements.



**Thank you for your ongoing support with your children's learning. We wish all the children and their families a relaxing and enjoyable half-term!**

# Kestrels Newsletter



Dear Kestrels' Parents and Carers,

I hope this newsletter finds you well. I am pleased to share updates on the recent activities and achievements of our Year 6 Kestrels class.

Our pupils have been engrossed in reading "All Aboard the Windrush," a highly informative text about the Windrush generation. This book has provided valuable insights and sparked engaging discussions in our classroom.



In writing, the class has been working diligently on crafting adventure stories based on a natural disaster i.e. wild fires, hurricane, tornado, volcanic eruption, flooding. I am impressed by their dedication and creativity, which has resulted in some excellent narratives.



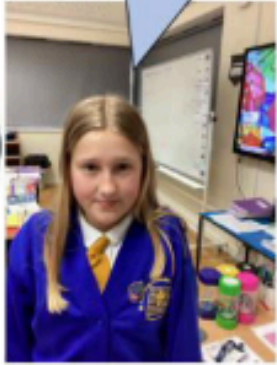
Right now in maths, we are doing algebra. I like algebra a lot more than ratio as it is easy.



I really like the subject of algebra because it challenges me. It also lets me have the skills for SATS.



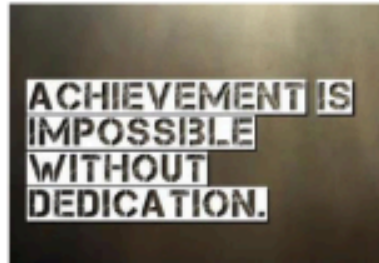
Algebra is a delicate subject since you have to find the number that co-ordinate with the letter.



In computing, we have been exploring coding, enhancing our pupils' digital literacy and problem-solving skills. Our science curriculum has centred on electricity, allowing pupils to conduct experiments and gain practical knowledge.



We have also been preparing for the upcoming SATs through mock exams. I am pleased to report that our pupils are showing real progress in these practice sessions, which is a testament to their hard work and dedication.



As we approach the half-term break, I would like to celebrate several recent events and achievements. The school disco was a huge success, providing entertainment and a chance for our pupils to socialise in a fun environment. It has been wonderful to observe our Year 6 pupils growing in maturity as they navigate their final year of primary education.

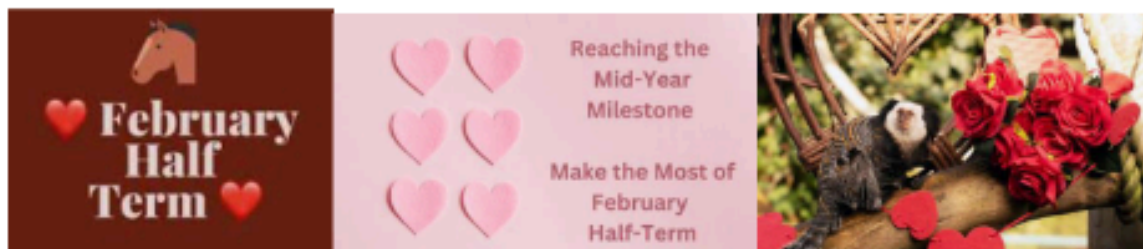
We recently marked Safer Internet Day, reinforcing the importance of online safety. Additionally, we participated in the NSPCC Number Day, combining mathematical learning with raising awareness for an important cause.



I am also pleased to announce the introduction of a young carers initiative in our school. This programme aims to support and recognise the invaluable contribution of young people who care for family members.



As we head into the half-term break, I encourage our pupils to take this opportunity to relax and recharge. Your support at home is crucial in reinforcing the learning that takes place in school, and we greatly appreciate your continued partnership.



Thank you for your ongoing support of our school community. I look forward to welcoming our pupils back after the break, ready for another exciting term of learning and growth.

Warm regards,  
Mrs Khan-Blacker



**SEND NEWS**  
from  
Mrs. Harvey

# Parent Carer Emotional Regulation Workshop

**Tuesday 25th February 2PM**

**St Laurence Catholic Primary**

Does your child find it difficult to regulate  
themselves emotionally?

Do you wonder how best to support them?

Come and join us in a judgement-free session on  
emotional regulation with other parents/carers.

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



[www.pinpoint-cambs.org.uk](http://www.pinpoint-cambs.org.uk)