

Attendance target: 95.3% Actual Attendance: 94.9%



St Laurence Catholic Primary School



Autumn 1 Newsletter - October 2025

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

God, our loving Father,
In this Jubilee year, you remind us of our call to love creation.
Help us to work together to replant, repair, and renew.

Guide us on our journey as pilgrims of hope.

Jesus, our light, In this Jubilee year, you remind us of our call to love our neighbours and to set free those who suffer.

Help us to treat everyone with dignity; to be fair; forgiving; and kind.

Guide us on our journey as pilgrims of hope.

Holy Spirit, our inspiration, In this Jubilee year, you remind us of our call to grow in faith and love.

Help us to hear you in scripture, to see Jesus in others, and to be united as God's global family.

Guide us on our journey as pilgrims of hope



Committed to the words of Christ and the Gospel Values.



Executive Head

Mrs McGhee Wallace

Head of School

Mrs Chalklin

SENCo/Inclusion

Mrs Harvey

Our Classes

Wrens Mrs Chalklin

Skylarks Miss Gomez

Kingfishers Mrs Groves

Swallows Miss Ward

Doves Miss Tanvir

Magpies Mrs Prokop

Owls Miss Corcoran

Kestrels Mrs Khan Blacker

Dear Parents and Carers,

What a busy half term it has been! There has been so much to celebrate this term and I hope you will enjoy reading all about it in this our first half termly newsletter of the year. After listening to parents' views, we have also introduced a weekly class curriculum letter to give you more information on your child's weekly learning. The curriculum maps for the term can be accessed on the school website or using this link: [Click here to access the Curriculum Maps](#)

If you have visited the school hall this term you may well have noticed that we have a new piece of art on the large wall. In the summer term the children in EYFS and KS1 worked with a visiting artist to create this beautiful triptych collage mural inspired by the stained-glass windows in the sanctuary of the Church of Our Lady of the Annunciation at Poringland, near Norwich. It is a wonderful focal point in the hall.

The first part of the autumn term brings the annual harvest celebrations. I will leave Owls to tell you more but I would like to commend all the Owls for their wonderful Harvest liturgy and the collection of so much food. Thank you also to everyone who made a donation we were blessed to have both our local MP, Daniel Zeichner and Barry, a representative from Jimmy's Night Shelter join us for Celebration assembly. Barry was very grateful to receive all the donations.

This half term we say goodbye to two members of staff. Mrs Andreou, who has been a lunchtime supervisor and supported in class has retired and will be spending much more time with her granddaughter. We wish her a wonderful retirement and thank her for her many years of service to education. Mrs Taylor Crush, teaching assistant, who has been associated with our school for many years has decided to move on to a new challenge. We thank her for all her wonderful work, wish her all the very best and look forward to seeing her soon.

We also have a staff celebration to share, Miss Gomez is getting married! On behalf of all the school community I wish her a wonderful wedding day and many many years of happy marriage. Congratulations!

We hope you all have a wonderful half term and look forward to welcoming everyone back to school on Tuesday 4th November.

God Bless and Best Wishes

Mrs Chalklin

Head of School



AUTUMN TERM DATES

Half Term:

Monday 27 October to Friday 31 October

Autumn Term (part 2)

Tuesday 4th November to Friday 19th December

Christmas Holidays

Monday 22nd December to Friday 2nd January

Administrative Officer

Mrs Rokitnicka

Administrative Assistants

Miss Tu and Mrs Augustin

Caretaker

Mr. Tapp



The children in Wrens class have all settled well and have enjoyed their first half term at school. They have all gained in confidence as they have become familiar with their classroom and accessing the continuous provision during explore and learn time as well as their visits to our Forest School.



This term, the children have been learning that they are special and loved by God. They each carefully drew and painted their portraits which are displayed in the school hall. They made handprints on a special altar cloth ready for their Welcome Liturgy.

Wrens were joined by Father Robin, staff and families. The children were officially welcomed into our school community when we shared a liturgy of readings and songs celebrating and thanking God for all the things that make us unique and special.



This half term Wrens have enjoyed exploring the water walls that the children in Year 5 and 6 have created for them in their DT project.

Wrens' own DT project this half term has been to launch our whole school bread project.

Each half term a year group will focus on a type of bread that originates from a culture that is part of our school community. Mrs. Doss, who is a teaching assistant in school and was born in southern India, kindly agreed to teach the children how to make chapatis. All the children participated and enjoyed eating their bread.



We hope you all have a lovely half term!





Skylarks newsletter

Issue No. | Autumn 1



What a Fantastic Start to Year 1!

Making progress every day

The children have worked incredibly hard during this first half term, especially as they adjusted to the new routines and expectations of Year 1.

This half term, our main focus has been on Maths and Reading. The children have made fantastic progress, especially in their reading practice and phonics knowledge. They are becoming confident, curious readers who are well on track to meet their learning goals — we're so proud of their effort!





Inside the Year 1 Classroom

Hummus and veggie dips!

We also enjoyed a very special Design and Technology (DT) Day. The children learned that design isn't just about ideas — it's about planning, creating, and making things with our own hands! This time, we put on our chef hats and made hummus and vegetable dips. It was a joy to see everyone getting involved, having fun, and (of course) eating their delicious creations!



Mapping Our World

In Geography, we explored the importance of understanding maps — how to read them, what they tell us, and even how to make our own. The children loved becoming little cartographers, discovering the world one map at a time!

What a wonderful first half term it has been — full of learning, laughter, and curiosity. I can't wait to see what exciting adventures await us in Autumn 2!

KINGFISHER CLASS

Newsletter Autumn 1

Kingfishers



What We Learned

A highlight this term has been reading the Ancient Greek fables of Aesop. We studied The Goose who Laid a Golden Egg and then went onto read the rest of his fables for pleasure. Not only are they good stories, but they contain good lessons about greed, impatience and learning to be content with what we have. The whole of Kingfisher Class loves stories and they are fantastic listeners, so we have been able to read a range of literature this term from the Bible to King Arthur to Jack and the Beanstalk!

Colour and Shape in Art

We learnt to mix secondary colours, tints and shades and then to paint in the style of Paul Klee and Wassily Kandinsky.

Pizza making

In DT we learned that Pizzas originally came from Naples, where they were sold as a cheap street food. We then made our own base from yoghurt and flour and covered it with a choice of toppings. Each student mixed, kneaded, rolled and chopped for their own pizza (photos on next page).

Maths fluency

Kingfisher class have been working hard on their calculations within 20 this term and addition and subtractions facts and patterns are starting to make more sense!

Forest School

Forest school has been a delight each week – one hour, full of den-building, mudcake-making and lots of laughing.



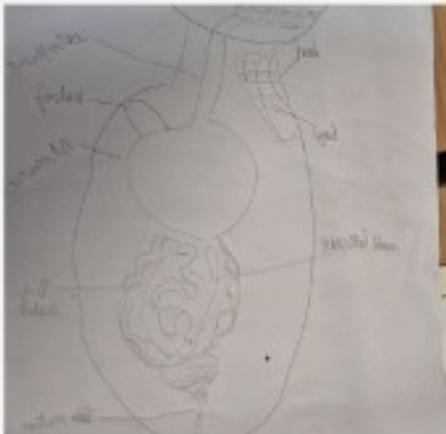
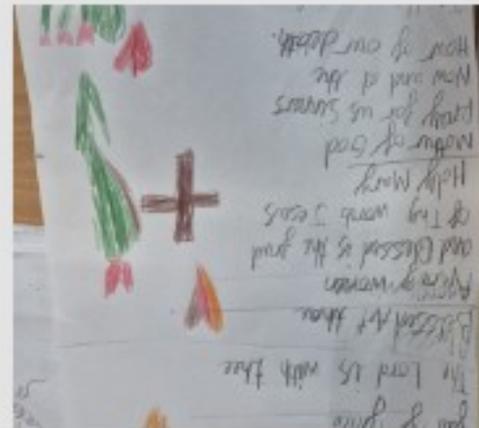
SWALLOWS

OUR LEARNING

AUTUMN, OCTOBER 2025

RE

This Half term, we have been learning about the creation story in Genesis. We have had some really thoughtful discussions on dignity and human rights, as well as Imago Dei.

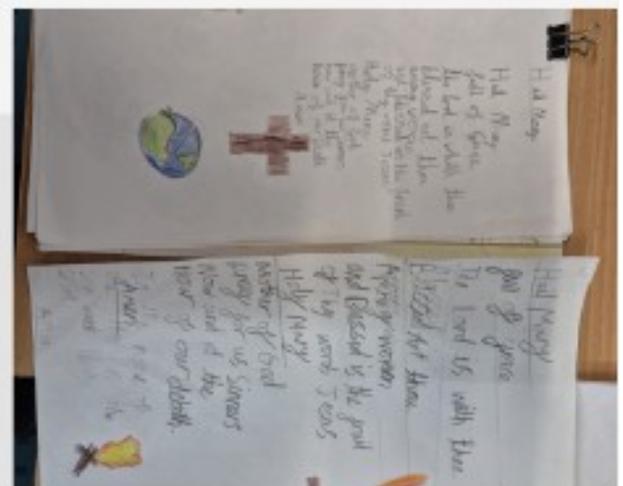


SCIENCE

This half-term we have been looking at the human body. The pupils have learnt some tricky vocabulary. The end assessment showed that they could describe different processes, within the body.

MARY

As apart of our Month of Mary and in preparation of the annunciation, the children said the 10 decades of Hail Mary's and wrote out the Hail Mary prayer for their RE books and altar book.



Don't forget school starts on the 4th November a Tuesday.

SWALLOWS

OUR LEARNING

AUTUMN, OCTOBER 2025

DT

The children are in the midst of their DT project and have designed a decoration to hang on the tree. They have all enjoyed spending time with the adults and improving their sewing skills.



The children have enjoyed being in a bigger playground and having a large climbing frame to climb.

THANK YOU

I want to say a huge Thank you for all of the odd socks. The children now have a whiteboard rubber and somewhere to safely store their colouring pencils. Finally, THANKYOU to all of the parents and carers, who have supported the DT day. The children have absolutely loved it



Don't forget school starts on the 4th November a Tuesday.

Autumn Term 2025

Doves Class



Doves have had a fantastic start to Year 4! It has been a very busy time filled with learning and fun.

📖 Reading

In Reading, we have enjoyed exploring **The Queen's Nose** by Dick King-Smith. The children loved following Harmony's magical adventures and had lots of fun discussing what wishes they might make if they had a special coin of their own!

We also explored **The Raven** by Edgar Allan Poe. The children were captivated by the mysterious atmosphere of the poem and enjoyed discussing the rhythm, repetition, and rich vocabulary. It was a great opportunity to explore classic poetry and think deeply about how words can create mood and emotion.

✍️ Writing

Our Writing lessons have focused on **persuasive adverts**. The children have learned how to use language to persuade and have written some very imaginative adverts for internet safety. We've been so impressed by their creativity and use of powerful, persuasive vocabulary.

➕ Maths

In Maths, we've been working with **four-digit numbers**, learning to **round numbers to the nearest 10, 100 and 1,000**, and practising the **column method for addition**. The children have been working really hard to set out their work neatly and check for accuracy — well done, Year 4!

🧪 Science

Our Science topic this term has been **nutrition and healthy eating**. We've been learning all about the different food groups and how to keep our bodies healthy. The children particularly enjoyed **designing their own "Eat Well" plates**, showing great understanding of how to make balanced meals.

✝️ RE

In RE, we have explored **The Creation Story** and reflected on what it means to care for God's world. We've discussed **stewardship** and **human dignity** as key principles of Catholic Social Teaching. The children have written some truly beautiful **prayers and thoughtful letters**, showing deep reflection and empathy.

📅 Special Events and Trips

🍕 Pizza-Making Adventure

One of the highlights of the term was our **pizza-making trip**, where the children rolled up their sleeves, created their own delicious pizzas, and learnt about making healthy food choices. There were lots of smiles (and a few floury faces!) as they proudly tucked into their tasty creations.



🏰 Visit to Norwich Cathedral

We also enjoyed a wonderful trip to **Norwich Cathedral**, where the children took part in mass and observed the beautiful architecture and history of this special place. They were so respectful and curious, asking thoughtful questions and showing great interest in what they learnt.

🧵 DT Sewing Day

Our **Design and Technology sewing day** was a huge success! The children spent the day designing and creating their own keyrings and decorations. It was lovely to see them concentrating carefully, helping each other thread needles and feeling proud of their finished creations. A fun-filled day of creativity and teamwork!

It's been a wonderful term full of learning, laughter, and new experiences. We are so proud of everything Year 4 has achieved and look forward to more exciting adventures!





MAGPIES

MAGPIES CLASS

NEWSLETTER

What We Learned

Magpies Class – Autumn 1 Newsletter

What a long and busy half term it has been! The children in Magpies have settled brilliantly into their new class routines and have embraced a wide range of exciting learning and enrichment opportunities.

In RE, we explored the topics of Creation and Covenant, reflecting on how we are all called to care for God's world. The children also took part enthusiastically in our Rosary Challenge during October, showing wonderful reverence and thoughtfulness in their prayers.

Our Science lessons focused on the circulatory system. The children learned about how the heart, lungs, and blood work together to keep us healthy and carried out investigations into how exercise affects heart rate – with some very interesting results!

During our DT day, the class worked collaboratively to design and build water walls for our Wrens class, using upcycled materials. Their creativity and teamwork really shone through, and they were so proud to see their designs in action.

In Art, we studied the Renaissance period, learning about famous artists and techniques from this inspiring era. The children even had a go at painting on plaster, just like Renaissance artists, and enjoyed an exciting visit to the Fitzwilliam Museum to see some of the real masterpieces up close.

In Maths, our focus has been on consolidating place value understanding and developing strategies for efficient calculation using all four operations. The children have shown great perseverance and are growing in confidence when tackling challenging problems.

It has been a wonderful start to the year – full of learning, creativity, and curiosity. We are so proud of all the Magpies for their enthusiasm and hard work this half term!



PIC•COLLAGE





OWLS



AUTUMN TERM NEWSLETTER

OWLS CLASS

Dear Families,

What a wonderful start to the new school year it's been! The children in Owl Class have settled in brilliantly and brought such enthusiasm, creativity and kindness to everything they've done. It's been a busy half term full of learning, teamwork and fun.

Creative Learning

This half term we've been exploring Renaissance art, supported by our fantastic trip to the Fitzwilliam Museum. The children have learned about artists like Leonardo da Vinci and Michelangelo, and they've been experimenting with different drawing and painting techniques. They are now busy creating their own plaster sun discs, taking inspiration from the fresco style of Renaissance art – they look amazing! In DT, the children worked together to design and build fantastic water walls for the Reception children to use. They planned and made their designs using recycled materials, and it was lovely to see how excited the younger pupils were to try them out!



Science and Investigations

In Science, we've been learning about the human body—particularly the heart and circulatory system. The children carried out investigations to explore how exercise affects heart rate, practising how to take their pulse and record their results accurately. They've really enjoyed being scientists and have shown great curiosity when discussing how the body works.

Community and Kindness

Owl Class showed wonderful kindness and community spirit when helping with our Harvest Festival. The children designed eye-catching posters to encourage donations, helping to collect food and produce for Jimmy's Shelter. I was so proud of how thoughtful they were about supporting others and understanding the importance of giving.

Year 5 and 6 Highlights

Year 6 have made a brilliant start as House Captains and Buddies, showing great leadership and kindness around school. Year 5 had a wonderful virtual author visit with Emma Carroll, who is the author of our upcoming class book *Secrets of the Sun King*. They've also done brilliantly in their swimming lessons, growing in confidence each week.

It's been such a positive and enjoyable start to the year, and I couldn't be prouder of the children's hard work and attitude. Thank you for all your support at home—I hope you have a lovely, relaxing half-term break!

Warmest wishes,

Miss Carrigan 🍁





Our Trip to Fitzwilliam



Buddy Time

Kestrels Newsletter



Dear Parents and Guardians,

As we approach the half-term break, I am writing to provide an update on how well Kestrels has been doing this half term and achieving remarkable achievements and transformative experiences.

The academic year has commenced with our Year 5 and Year 6 pupils demonstrating exceptional adaptability and collaborative skills. Their engagement has created a vibrant, supportive learning environment that truly embodies our school's core Catholic values of respect, compassion, and academic excellence.

The Bikeability week was an outstanding success, providing crucial road safety education that extends far beyond traditional classroom learning. Pupils participated in intensive practical sessions, developing critical life skills that promote independence, confidence, and personal responsibility. Each pupil, who took part, engaged with real-world scenarios, learning to navigate complex traffic situations safely.

Our pupil council (Year 5 & 6 pupils) and house captain elections (only Year 6 pupil) were conducted with remarkable maturity and thoughtfulness. Through these democratic processes, pupils learned invaluable lessons about representation, civic engagement, and the importance of active citizenship. The election process itself became a powerful learning experience about leadership and community participation.

The Year 6 buddy system continues to be a cornerstone of our supportive school community. Year 6 pupils have embraced their mentorship roles with enthusiasm, guiding younger pupils and demonstrating exceptional empathy, leadership, and interpersonal skills.

Curriculum experiences have been rich and diverse. The Kestrels class assembly and the educational visit to the Fitzwilliam Museum provided immersive learning opportunities that connected classroom knowledge with real-world contexts, encouraging critical thinking and cultural appreciation.

A particularly innovative Design and Technology project saw Year 6 pupils designing water walls for Reception pupils, beautifully illustrating our commitment to collaborative, cross-phase learning and innovative educational approaches.



The educational visit to the Fitzwilliam Museum offered the Kestrels a unique chance to connect their classroom studies with real-world contexts, bringing history and culture to life. Pupils engaged with a variety of exhibits that deepened their understanding of past societies, artistic expression, and historical narratives. This immersive experience encouraged critical thinking as pupils examined artefacts and considered their significance within broader historical and cultural frameworks. The visit also fostered cultural appreciation and curiosity, inspiring pupils to ask questions and explore new perspectives.



The upcoming **Year 6 Golden Ties Assembly on Friday, 7th November at 14:50** will be a momentous celebration of our eldest pupils' achievements, marking a significant milestone in their educational journey.

I encourage all our pupils to have a restful half term. This break provides an excellent opportunity for them to recharge and reflect on their achievements so far. While rest is important, I also suggest maintaining a balance by engaging in some light reading or educational activities to keep their minds active.

Warm regards
Mrs Khan-Blacker

Immediate Release:

St Laurence's Catholic Primary School Leads Special Live Rosary Broadcast on Radio Maria England

Radio Maria England was delighted to host a special live Rosary broadcast on Monday, 6th October, featuring Year 6 students from St Laurence's Catholic Primary School in Cambridge. The students joined Radio Maria listeners across the country at 2pm to pray the Rosary live from their school chapel.

The broadcast formed part of Mark 10 Mission's Rosary Challenge for October and reflects Radio Maria's ongoing mission to inspire a deeper devotion to the Rosary among young people and families across the nation. The Rosary Challenge is to pray a decade of the Holy Rosary each weekday in October. With the help of Archbishop John Wilson, Archdiocese of Southward, Mark 10 Mission has created videos to guide young people through all twenty Mysteries of the Holy Rosary.

Mrs. Veronica Harvey, Inclusion Manager and SENCo at St Laurence's Catholic Primary School, shared: "In the midst of busy school life, taking the time to say the Rosary with the community of Radio Maria was an opportunity to put faith into practice together. It helped the children grow closer to God through prayer, reflection, and meditation on the life of Jesus and Mary. It increased our sense of unity and community with everyone coming together in one voice for peace, hope, and gratitude. Praying the Rosary connects the school to the wider Catholic tradition, reminding children that they are part of a global faith family that has prayed these same words for centuries."

Fr. Alex Vadasseril CRM, assistant priest at St Laurence Catholic Church, helped lead the rosary and offered a blessing on the students and on the rosaries they were given by the school.

Helena Judd, Promotions, Fundraising, and Events Manager for Radio Maria England, said: "We find there's a special excitement for children when they realise how meaningful it is for our listeners — especially those who may not have a community to pray with. Many listeners have told us that hearing students pray brings them great hope, particularly grandparents whose own grandchildren may not be growing up in the faith."

Fr Toby Lees OP, Priest Director of Radio Maria England, added: "This was so beautiful to listen to."

Radio Maria England continues to invite schools, parishes, and community groups to take part in its live Rosary broadcasts throughout the year.

For more information or to get involved, please contact:

 Helena.Judd@RadioMariaEngland.uk

About Radio Maria

Radio Maria England is a 24-hour station and part of a global network of nearly 100 stations across all continents.

Our Mission and Programming

Our programming rests on prayer, catechesis and human formation. We broadcast daily Mass, spiritual content, social programmes and worldwide news. Our volunteers play a crucial role in promotion, broadcasting, presentation and prayer, embodying our mission to accompany every person on their faith journey.

RadioMariaEngland.uk

2 Signet Court, Swanns Road Cambridge CB5 8LA

Radio Maria England is registered as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation with the Charity Commission for England and Wales, Registered Charity Number 1183783.

How to Listen

Radio Maria England can be accessed through various platforms:

- DAB+ Digital Radio: London, Cambridge, Bristol, Birmingham, Norwich, King's Lynn, Peterborough, Stockport, Greater Manchester, Liverpool and Tameside areas.
- Smart-Speakers: ask for 'Radio Maria England'.
- Radio Maria Play App: available for smartphones and tablets.
- Website: RadioMariaEngland.uk
- Podcasts: Anchor, Spotify, Apple Podcasts, Google Podcasts and others.

For more information, please email info@RadioMariaEngland.uk and follow us on Facebook, [Radio Maria England](https://www.facebook.com/RadioMariaEngland), Instagram, X and LinkedIn.

NOT FOR PUB: Notes for Editors

For further information, please contact the Fundraising, Promotion & Events Manager, Helena Judd:

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RadioMariaEngland.uk

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