



Attendance Target: 94.6 %

Actual Attendance: 93.6%



St Laurence Catholic Primary School

Spring 2 Newsletter – March 2026

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

God fills us with hope this Easter.

We pray for world leaders: that they may be inspired to make the changes that are needed so that all people may live in peace and safety.

We pray for people who are poor around the world: that they may be filled with hope as they try to change their lives for the better.

We pray for our school, parish, family and friends: that we may share the joy and hope of Easter with our brothers and sisters around the world by reaching out with love to all.

Living God, we know that all things are possible for you. Fill us with hope for a future where all people may live their lives to the full. Inspire us to work together to make this change happen.

Amen.



Committed to the words of Christ and the Gospel values



SUMMER TERM DATES

Summer Term 1: Monday 13th April to Friday 22nd May

Half Term: Monday 25th May to Friday 29th May

Summer Term 2: Monday 1st June to Friday 17th July

Executive Head

Mrs. McGhee Wallace

Head of School

Mrs. Chalklin

SENCo/ Inclusion

Mrs. Harvey

Our Classes

Wrens Mrs. Chalklin

Skylarks Mrs. Gomez

Kingfishers Mrs. Groves

Swallows Miss Ward

Doves Mrs. Stewart

Magpies Mrs. Prokop

Owls Miss Corcoran

Kestrels Mrs. Khan-Blacker

Admin Officer

Mrs. Rokitnicka

Admin Assistants

Miss Tu and Mrs. Agustin

Caretaker

Mr. Tapp

Dear parents and carers,

The lead up to Easter is a very special time of year when we take time to reflect in prayer and give our time and gifts to others. Our Lenten activities yesterday morning is a shining example of how our school community works together to support those in need. The children were wonderful, the stalls and activities organised by the children in Key Stage 2 were excellent and all the children in Reception, Key Stage 1 and 2 were very well behaved. As I walked around the hall and the playground I could see the older children helping the younger ones and everyone was having a lovely time whilst raising money for those in need; all shining examples of how we prepare in Lent for Easter.

I note below, with their permission, a parent's recent comment about our school "...the best school experience we could have hoped for. The way the school upholds both education and faith, acknowledging God in its teachings and values, has been something we deeply appreciate and will always treasure." It is heart-warming to receive such a message and I hope that these are sentiments that you share; if you feel there is something that the school could do better or introduce I would very much welcome you letting us know either via email or in person. In a world where WhatsApp and similar social media platforms are a common form of communication for groups of parents please do remember that we want to know if you feel there are ways we can further develop the children's time at school.

Do remember the clocks go forward this weekend bringing the longer and warmer days; we are all looking forward to the abundance of outdoor learning that is possible during the warmer months ahead.

We look forward to welcoming the children back to school on Monday 13th April.

We wish you all a joyful and peaceful Easter.

God bless

*Mrs Chalklin
Head of School*



Staff Car Park

Please can we remind all parents, **the staff car park must not be used as a drop off or pick up point for children unless you have prior permission to park from the school.** Even when the gate is open please do not park. Often drivers think it is OK because the time in the car park is brief but it is moving cars that cause a safety hazard to children. In the last week several authorised to park cars have been damaged; fortunately there have been no injuries. Please can we also remind parents that parking in front of the school is illegal as it puts both pedestrians and cyclists at risk. Please allow a few extra minutes travel time and park responsibly in a nearby street.



Spring term in Wrens

What a lovely time of year!



Wrens have been learning about how the natural world changes and grows during early spring. We have also reflected on how we all grow and change during Lent, as we grow closer to Jesus through our prayers and actions in the lead up to Easter.



Growing and Changing

We all enjoyed our class trip to the University Botanic Garden.

We learnt about seeds and how they grow and explored the natural habitats of both the UK and tropical countries.



Look at the size of this seed!



We planted seeds and cared for them to symbolise how we grow in love during Lent.



We are growing our Easter Gardens to help us recall the Easter Story and to share with our families this Easter.



Donkeys!



We have re-enacted the story of Palm Sunday including playing the part of the donkey! On Wednesday we had the opportunity to meet real donkeys when the miniature therapy donkeys visited our school.

All the children enjoyed spending time grooming Pippin and his furry friends.



Happy Easter from Wrens



Skylarks



Skylarks



A wonderful term full of creativity, discovery, and memorable experiences.

Celebrating the Magic of Books

For World Book Day, we took part in a variety of creative activities that helped us understand the importance of reading. We enjoyed a special visit from an author who read some of their books to us. We also explored legends and myths, imagining how we might become dragons!





Inside the Year 1 Classroom

Amazing Discoveries in Science week

During Science Week, we were very lucky to welcome a special visitor who taught us about DNA. They explained this complex topic in such a simple and engaging way, and we were fascinated! We also discussed pollution and shared ideas about how we can help keep our world safe and healthy.



Bringing Art to Life with Van Gogh

In Art, we have been developing our understanding of style by learning about Vincent van Gogh. We explored the importance of using dark and bright colors to create contrast, and practiced different techniques such as expressive brushstrokes and pointillism.



We are so proud of all the enthusiasm and kindness Year 1 have shown this term—we look forward to even more exciting learning ahead!

Kingfishers



KINGFISHER NEWSLETTER

What We Learned

Art and DT

We studied landscapes in art this term and then made our own seascape in the style of Turner with a sinking ship! We then learnt about the Nigerian artist Uzo Egonu and we created a cityscape in his style.

Science

We studied plants in Science this term and we set up a comparative experiment growing cress. Two saucers went in a cupboard, two on the window and two without water. We discovered plants definitely need sunlight and water!

Maths

Kingfisher Class have worked very hard in maths this term, learning how to add and subtract money and how to work out fractions of amounts.

Rhythm of the Rain

We enjoyed reading this picture book (Rhythm of the Rain) that tracks the journey of a raindrop from a child's water jar to the sea. We then created our own water cycle, from craft materials, to demonstrate our learning.

Writing recounts

In writing, we wrote personal recounts of trips to the dentist. They were very entertaining to read – full of wonderful adjectives!

Easter crafts

We enjoyed doing a variety of Easter crafts during Lent. Overleaf are photos of some of those crafts. Enjoy the holidays!



SWALLOWS



Spring 1

26th March 2026

RE

Our RE topic has been desert to garden. We have been learning bible stories such as the loaves and fishes and we have begun to look at different parts of mass.

L.



PASSION PLAY

During this half-term we have been busy practising the songs for the Passion play. This year I have included soloists from Year 3 and they have stepped up fantastically.

ART

Our art topic has been Anglo Saxon art which has been lovely for the children to carry on the history topic from last half-term. I am lucky enough to have some great artists in my class.



SWALLOWS

CURRICULUM NEWS

26TH MARCH 2026

ENGLISH

The children enjoyed watching me make a sandwich based on their instructions. They then wrote a recipe for bread, which we will be making in the first 2 weeks back.



MENTAL HEALTH

For mental health week, we talked about emotions, our safe places and adults. We also chatted about, what we can do when we are sad or angry.

BOOK DAY

During world book day, I set the children a challenge to write their own book. I was really impressed by the number of children who wrote their own story and the illustrations. There were 6 winners. The first 3 were the best all rounders and the next 3 were those who had written an original story, but needed to work on things like spelling, punctuation and presentation. This gave every child a chance to take part and win..



Doves Class Newsletter

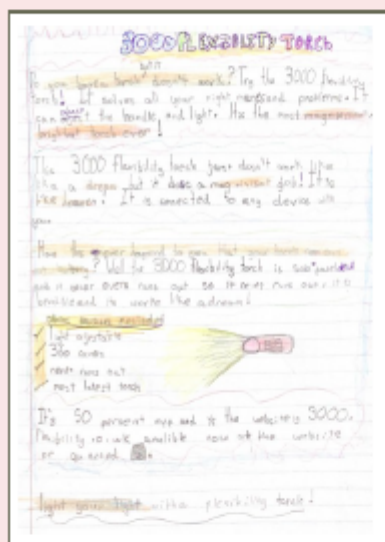
Spring Term 2

This has been a short but wonderfully busy term, filled with fun, learning, and of course—Passion Play practice. The children have shown fantastic flexibility, resilience, and respect as they deepened their RE learning and Lenten journey. Their dedication to taking part in our long-running and reverent portrayal of Christ's great sacrifice has been truly inspiring.

Learning Overview

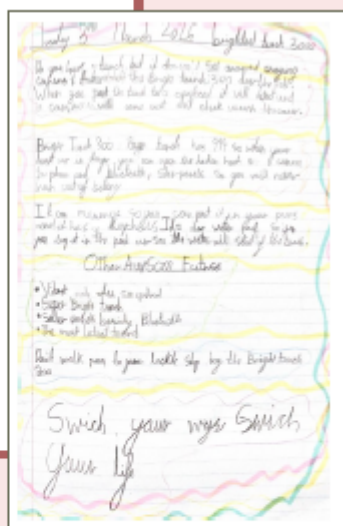
Maths

In Mathematics, we have been focusing on fractions beyond 1—forming, comparing adding and subtracting them. We have continued our preparation for the **Multiplication Tables Check (MTC)**. Your support with practise at home is hugely appreciated.



English

In writing, the children have been learning all about how adverts work. They've enjoyed using superlatives, rhetorical questions, and catchy slogans to persuade their reader to buy their very own corner-turning torch! We also linked our learning to our class text *Young, Gifted and Black*, thinking about how layout and presentation help make our writing engaging and enjoyable to read.



Religious Education

In Religious Education, our learning has followed the *Garden to Desert* branch. We have explored the deeper connection of the Last Supper and Mass as what that means to us. The children have been diving into the different Eucharistic prayers and the symbols attached to them, considering this in their own ways.

Doves Class Highlights

DT—Ratatouille

In Design Technology this week, the children made ratatouille with couscous as part of our cooking unit. They learned that ratatouille is a French vegetable stew, revisited the nutritional value of vegetables, and practised their bridge and claw knife skills. The class enjoyed preparing the ingredients (even with a few onion tears!) and were enthusiastic about tasting their dish. They finished by evaluating what they liked and what they might change next time.



Science Week

This term we celebrated Science Week

and embraced our curiosity! The children enjoyed a visit from a software engineer and had the chance to ask lots of thoughtful questions. We also investigated air resistance by testing different paper aircraft to see which design travelled the furthest. Everyone was fully engaged and loved exploring the science behind their results!



Passion Play

Doves have been working incredibly hard this term, alongside the Swallows class, to prepare for our end-of-term Passion Play. The children have been learning the songs, narrative and actions needed to put on a wonderful performance for everyone invited. They have shown great enthusiasm and dedication, and we hope you enjoy the production as much as they have enjoyed preparing it.



Looking Forward

Next half term brings another set of fun and exciting learning opportunities! We will be celebrating Equalities Week, and in PE we'll be saying goodbye to swimming and hello to netball and cricket as our new focuses. Thank you for your continued support at home. We hope you enjoy your Easter celebrations and look forward to welcoming you back next half term.

Magpies Class newsletter

Spring 2-LENT



This half term, Magpies Class have enjoyed a rich and reflective start to the Season of Lent. We began with a special visit to St Laurence Church, where the children took part in Mass and deepened their understanding of this important time in the liturgical year. Back in school, we explored the Stations of the Cross, giving the children opportunities to reflect on the events of Holy Week through prayer and discussion, with a particular focus on John's Gospel.



As part of our Lenten journey, the children have also been learning about the importance of prayer, fasting and almsgiving. They were given opportunities to put these values into action by reflecting on ways they could make a difference to others. In particular, they showed great initiative by planning and taking part in **Lenten activities** to raise money for a chosen charity, demonstrating generosity, compassion and a strong sense of community.

We also celebrated World Book Day with great enthusiasm, diving into the fascinating world of myths and legends. The children enjoyed exploring different traditional tales, sparking their imagination and inspiring some wonderful discussions and creative work.



During Science Week, Magpies Class had the exciting opportunity to take part in an Illumina visit and "Meet the Scientist" sessions. The children were highly engaged, asking thoughtful questions and learning more about the world of science and real-life scientific careers.



As part of our wider enrichment, pupils also participated in the Cambridge Science Festival. The day was packed with exciting workshops, including Living in the Bronze Age, Exploring Maths, and Mastering the Multiverse. Each session offered a unique hands-on experience, allowing children to explore history, develop their mathematical thinking, and engage with imaginative scientific concepts. The children thoroughly enjoyed the day and represented the school brilliantly with their curiosity and enthusiasm.





We also enjoyed a wonderful Easter Craft Day, where children took part in house activities to create crafts reflecting on the meaning of Easter. It was lovely to see their creativity shine as they produced thoughtful and meaningful work linked to this special celebration.



Magpies class has been awarded the KS2 Attendance Award this term.

Thank you for your continued support in ensuring good attendance.



We would like to take this opportunity to wish all our families a joyful, peaceful and Blessed Easter.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support—it is greatly appreciated. It has been a busy and enriching half term, full of learning, reflection and curiosity. Well done to all of Magpies Class for their continued enthusiasm and effort!

Best wishes,
Mrs.M.Prokop





Owls Class Newsletter



Spring 2 2026

Dear Families,

Spring 2 has been a busy, exciting and memorable half term in Owls Class. The children have shown fantastic enthusiasm, independence and teamwork, and it has been wonderful to see them grow in confidence across so many different experiences.

Science Week

Science Week was full of exciting, hands-on learning. A standout moment was when the children extracted DNA from a strawberry, which they found fascinating!

In class, pupils have been learning about light, and particularly enjoyed making their own periscopes, applying their knowledge in a practical and creative way.

Lent and RE

This half term has been especially meaningful for our class. The children did an incredible job organising their own Lenten activities, showing real independence, teamwork and creativity. They planned their ideas, set up their stalls themselves and worked hard to raise money – we were extremely proud of all their effort and enthusiasm.

We also enjoyed Lenten crafts, where children worked alongside others across the school in their houses. It was lovely to see them collaborating with pupils from different year groups.

Trips

A real highlight of the term was our visit to the Cambridge Festival Day.

The children had a brilliant time exploring a range of activities, asking thoughtful questions and engaging with new ideas. They represented the school wonderfully and showed great curiosity throughout the day.

It has been such a positive half term, and we are incredibly proud of the children's hard work, independence and kindness.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support.
Warmest wishes,
Miss Corcoran





Cambride Festival Day



Science Week



The Wellbeing Donkeys





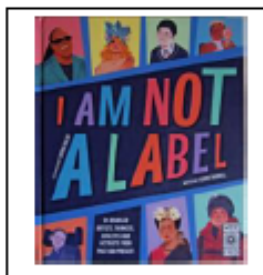
Kestrels Newsletter



Dear Parents and Carers,

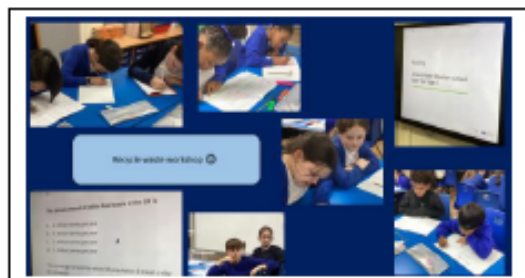
I am delighted to share the exciting learning experiences Kestrels pupils have been engaged in over this term.

Our Year 6 pupils have been exploring the profound novel "Skellig" by David Almond. This powerful narrative follows Michael, a young boy navigating the complex emotional landscape of his seriously ill baby sister. Through the discovery of a mysterious creature in his dilapidated new home - part man, part owl, part angel - Michael and his friend Mina embark on a secret journey of healing and understanding. The novel provides a poignant exploration of resilience, compassion, and the transformative power of friendship during challenging times.



Our Year 5 pupils have been reading an inspiring anthology that challenges perceptions of disability and mental health. By employing the social model of disability, the book offers eye-opening stories from 34 individuals, encouraging pupils to understand diversity and societal barriers through a lens of empathy and understanding.

We have been fortunate to engage in several enriching educational experiences recently. We participated in the Curator for a Day workshop at the Museum of Cambridge, an immersive programme designed to explore local history through the perspective of museum management. This hands-on experience allows pupils to develop critical historical inquiry skills while connecting with our local heritage.



In collaboration with Cambridge City Council's waste management team, our Year 5 and 6 pupils attended a workshop focusing on waste sorting and recycling processes. This session directly links to our geography curriculum, helping pupils understand British geographical issues and environmental sustainability.

A delightful music workshop hosted by Music in Action Jersey brought creativity and emotional expression to our school. Themed around Valentine's Day and the mythological story of Orpheus and Eurydice, pupils explored storytelling through sound and composition, fostering their musical and narrative skills.

World Book Day provided a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the power of reading and storytelling. Our pupils engaged enthusiastically with this annual event, exploring myths and legends whilst developing a deeper appreciation for literature. The day reinforced our commitment to fostering a love of reading across the key stage. Pupils demonstrated creativity and imagination as they connected with stories and characters, and we were pleased to see the positive responses from families who supported the event at home.



The Cambridge School Festival Day, organised in partnership with Cambridge University, was a particular highlight. This event provided our pupils with an invaluable opportunity to engage with university students and academics, gaining insight into higher education and the breadth of possibilities available to them. The festival day fostered aspiration and broadened pupils' horizons, demonstrating the importance of academic achievement and lifelong learning. Our pupils represented St Laurence with maturity and enthusiasm, and many left the day inspired by the experience.

We recently celebrated two important national awareness days. On 10th February, we marked Safer Internet Day, reinforcing the importance of responsible and safe digital citizenship. We also commemorated Children's Mental Health Week and Random Acts of Kindness Day, emphasising the significance of emotional well-being and compassion.

Throughout these experiences, we have celebrated key values that are fundamental to our school ethos: hard work, teamwork, cooperation, curiosity, innovativeness, and imagination. These qualities are essential in preparing our pupils not just academically, but as holistic, empathetic individuals ready to make a positive difference in the world.

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

Warm regards,
Mrs Khan-Blacker





Dear Parents and Carers,

Spring Term 2 has been a wonderfully busy and exciting time for Bluebirds! We've made the most of the sunny days we were lucky to have, enjoying plenty of outdoor learning and play. The children have loved exploring, discovering, and developing new skills outside. As we move further into spring, we're looking forward to continuing making more improvements to our outdoor area.

WHERE THE WILD THINGS ARE



STORY AND PICTURES BY MAURICE SENDAK



Maths

In **Maths**, the children have been learning about money, including recognising different coins and notes and understanding how to use them. There were lots of opportunities for imaginative play through our class shops, where the children enjoyed taking on the roles of shopkeepers and customers, buying items and paying for them. The children also practised their multiplication skills, revisiting the 2, 5, 10, 3, 4 and 6 times tables and solving problems involving multiplication. Some of the children have been focusing on counting in 2s and 5s, building confidence and fluency in these key skills



Literacy

In Literacy this half term we enjoyed reading "Where the Wild Things Are". The children were captivated by the illustrations and took great pride in creating their own artwork inspired by the story, as well as designing their own imaginative monsters. Through our discussions, the children explored moments when they may have felt sad or lonely and thought about their own imaginary worlds. We also reflected on what it means to be "wild," both for ourselves and in how we relate to others. This led to thoughtful conversations about our actions and what truly matters to us. It was wonderful to see the children confidently retelling the story and beginning to write their own summaries.

Understanding of the World around us

In Science, we have been learning about how to look after our bodies, with a particular focus on keeping our teeth healthy. The children explored the concept of germs and developed their understanding of the importance of regular handwashing and good hygiene habits. We also discussed healthy and unhealthy foods, and different groups of food and nutrients. The children enjoyed creating their own balanced plates inspired by the Eatwell Guide. This helped them to understand how to make healthy choices and what a well-balanced diet looks like.

Outdoor learning and physical activity

We have continued to have lots of fun both indoors and outdoors with our sports coach, developing our physical skills and enjoying active play. This term, the children especially loved spending time in the sunshine, digging, exploring with water and sand, and planting flowers and vegetables. These activities have supported their curiosity and teamwork, as well as their understanding of the natural world.

Our playground now has even more areas for the children to play and learn, and we are very excited to know that more equipment will be added soon to further enhance our outdoor provision.



Other highlights

A small group of children visited the local shops, linking our Maths curriculum with valuable real-life skills. During the trip, they explored road safety, identified healthy and unhealthy food choices, and practised paying for items independently.

Another highlight was Science Week, when Miss Corcoran visited Bluebirds and led a couple of exciting experiments. The children thoroughly enjoyed the experience and were full of enthusiasm.

We also celebrated World Book Day. Some children chose to dress up, while others preferred not to, but everyone joined in and had a fantastic time.

SEMH

We have continued exploring our feelings and how to communicate them effectively. The children have been learning how to play with kindness, showing care and respect towards one another.

We have also been developing strategies to help us respond positively when we fall out with a friend, and thinking about ways to solve problems when we feel frustrated, upset, or angry.



Thank you for your continued support this term—it is greatly appreciated.

We hope you all have a restful and enjoyable Easter break, and we look forward to welcoming the children back, re-energised and ready for a fun and engaging new term.

ST LAURENCE CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL BOARD OF GOVERNORS JOIN OUR TEAM!

St Laurence Catholic Primary School is seeking three new governors to join our Local Governing Body. We would be delighted to hear from you if you would like to join us. Being a school governor is a commitment and a responsibility but offers you the chance to see first-hand the impact you can make in improving education for children in your community.

What is a school governor?

School governors have a varied and important role, in helping our school run effectively. They have 3 core functions:

- Planning the strategic direction of the school
 - Overseeing financial performance of the school and ensuring money is well spent
 - Supporting the Catholic life of the school
 - Holding the headteacher and school leadership to account
- A foundation governor is a practising catholic, a parent governor may not be.

The governor role is strategic rather than operational. Governors don't get involved with the day to day running of a school, instead supporting, and challenging the school's leadership team to drive school improvement. They champion the work the school does.

Our governing board

Our board consists of 12 people, and we meet all together 6 times per year – in person and sometimes via Teams. 3 of our meetings focus on teaching and learning standards (pupil progress and achievement) and the 3 remaining meetings focus on school resources (finance and premises). They get to know the school, including visiting the school occasionally during school hours and in agreement with the headteacher, and through termly monitoring activities gaining a good understanding of the school's strengths and weaknesses.

Do I need to have certain qualifications?

No special qualifications are needed. Induction and ongoing training are available. Access to a computer/laptop is recommended to view and read documents for the FGB meetings and communication. The most important thing is to have a keen interest in the school and play an active part in the governing body's work.

How do I apply?

Please contact St Laurence school office. Our clerk to governors will arrange an informal meeting with our co-chairs of governors to talk you through what the role of governor involves. If governance is something you might be interested in, we hope you'll apply. We're keen to have more local community voices within our school.

Thank you,

Dr Vicki Worsnop and Ms Ursula Lowe (co-chairs of governors)

AFTER
SCHOOL



SUMMER TERM CLUBS

St Laurence's Primary School

Courses Run Half-Termly (Must book separately)

SUM 1: Starts w/c 13th April, Finishes w/c 18th May

SUM 2: Starts w/c 1st June, Finishes w/c 6th July



COME ALONG AND COOK!

CAMBRIDGE
SUSTAINABLE FOOD

Tuesday 7th April 2026

@Arbury Road Baptist Church (20 Arbury Road, CB4 2JE)

11am - Cook together

All ages can get involved!

*

12pm - Eat together

Vegetarian hot meal

*

11am-1pm - Be together

Toys, games and chat

*

Please come with your family -
children should be in the care of a
responsible adult at all times.

pasta
tomato sauce
cheese
salad

*

Easter biscuits

For more information:

office@arburyroadbaptist.org

<https://www.facebook.com/arburyroadbaptist>

Parenting Puzzle

★ Join our 10-Week Course! ★

Parenting isn't always easy—but you don't have to do it alone!

Join us for Parenting Puzzle, a relaxed and supportive 10-week course designed to help parents share experiences, learn new strategies, and build confidence.

Wednesdays • 9:30am–11:30am
Community Room, The Grove School,
Campkin Road
Cambridge
CB4 2NB

22 April – 1 July

Why join? ✓ Gain practical parenting tips ✓
Connect with other families ✓ Build confidence & positivity ✓ Get support from experienced facilitators

🔔 Limited places available! Sign up today and give yourself and your child the gift of a more confident, connected, and positive parenting journey.

Register your interest or sign up by contacting 'Parenting Puzzle' Course Leaders – Ros and Sarah by email; northcambridgeparentingpuzzle@gmail.com

Cost: If you're aged 19+ and live or work in Cambridgeshire as of 31 August 2025, you may be eligible for full funding (no fee) if you meet one of the following:

- Ordinarily resident in the UK on the first day of learning
- Unemployed or earning less than £30,491/year (Cambridgeshire & Peterborough)
- Earning less than £25,750/year (non-devolved UK areas)

Otherwise, fees may apply (up to £64)



The Four Constructs of the Nurturing Programme

