



St Laurence Catholic Primary School



Spring 1 Newsletter - February 2026

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

Dear Lord,

As spring brings new life and fresh beginnings, I ask for a renewal of my spirit. Let the beauty of nature remind me of Your endless grace and mercy. Cleanse my heart from any bitterness, and fill me with hope and joy. May the budding flowers and fresh air inspire me to embrace new opportunities and trust in Your plan. Let this season of renewal bring peace to my soul and clarity to my mind. Thank you for the gift of life and the beauty of Your creation. Amen



Dear parents and carers,

Several years ago, to mark the school's 50th anniversary each child planted a daffodil bulb in the autumn and, as spring arrived the following year the front of the school was adorned with a swathe of gold bobbing in the wind. This year is no different, apart from the number of flowers that increase each year. In early spring we see the effort we put into gardens and window boxes during the autumn and winter start to flourish and in some ways the school year follows a similar process.



This is evident in the newsletter entries that each of our classes has provided below with all the children thriving and making progress towards the achievements that we look forward to celebrating in the summer term.

The prayer gives thanks for the gift of creation that we celebrate with the coming of spring; we give thanks for all the children; staff, governors, parents and families who make St Laurence a great place to learn.

Please take the time this half term to go for a walk with your children and enjoy this special time of year. We wish you all a peaceful and enjoyable half term holiday and look forward to welcoming you back to school on Monday 23rd February.

Warmest wishes

Mrs Chalklin



Mikey Dowling, parent governor, has decided to step down from the school's local governing body. We would like to take this opportunity to thank Mikey for the work he has done for the school, particularly around health & safety. We now have a new vacancy for a parent governor, if you are interested please see the information given below.

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 Mrs Stewart

Magpies Mrs Prokop

Owls Miss Corcoran

Kestrels Mrs Khan Blacker

SPRING TERM DATES

Spring term 2:

Monday 23rd February
2026

Easter Holidays:

Monday 30th March to

Friday 10th April

Summer term 1:

Monday 13th April to
Friday 22nd May

Administrative Officer

Mrs Rokitnicka

Administrative Assistants

Miss Tu and Mrs Augustin

Caretaker

Mr. Tapp



Spring term in Wrens

Wrens have had a busy half term!



We have had opportunities to learn through a range of experiences.



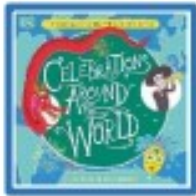
Space

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 paper planets using marbles to create different effects.





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.



Miss B 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 Miss B!



Galilee to Jerusalem

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



We hope you all have a lovely half term.



ST LAURENCE CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

Skylarks newsletter

Issue No. | Spring 1



Our classroom turned into a bakery during our DT lessons as the children learned how to make Kurdish bread.

☀ Little Meteorologists!

In Science, we have been learning about different types of weather. The children observed daily weather changes, discussed the seasons and explored how weather can affect what we wear and do. They particularly enjoyed becoming "weather reporters" and sharing their own weather forecasts with the class!





Inside the Year 1 Classroom

Digital Creators in the Making

This term, the children have been learning how to use Paint to create digital pictures and practise their writing skills. They explored different tools such as the brush, shapes and text box to draw colourful images and add simple sentences. The class showed great confidence using the mouse and demonstrated fantastic creativity in their designs!



Sculptors and Structure Designers

In Art, we explored the structure of buildings and learned about gargoyles. The children discovered how gargoyles were used in the past and then designed and created their own clay sculptures. They carefully shaped and added details to make their gargoyles unique. We were so impressed with their imagination and creativity!



.It has been a joyful and busy Spring Term filled with creativity, curiosity and growth. The children have worked incredibly hard and should be very proud of all they have achieved. Thank you for your continued support this term.



KINGFISHER NEWSLETTER

What We Learned

Art History

We studied portraits and self-portraits. Each student learned about notable artists and paintings. We then created our own Cubist paintings in the style of Picasso.

Patterns in Math

The students enjoyed learning about 2D and 3D shapes. They created their own new 2D shapes by experimenting with geometric shapes.

Electricity in Science

After building their own electrical circuits, each student was able to test their circuit using materials that were conductors and materials that were insulators.

Reading

Thank you for all your hard work in listening to your children reading. They are all showing a delight in choosing books each day to read for pleasure in class.

Forest school

Forest school is always entertaining with lots of running, mud-baking and den-making. Below are some pictures of fun activities in the forest.

World Book Day

We have been reading lots of Myths and Folktales in class, so your children should have lots of dress up ideas!



SWALLOWS



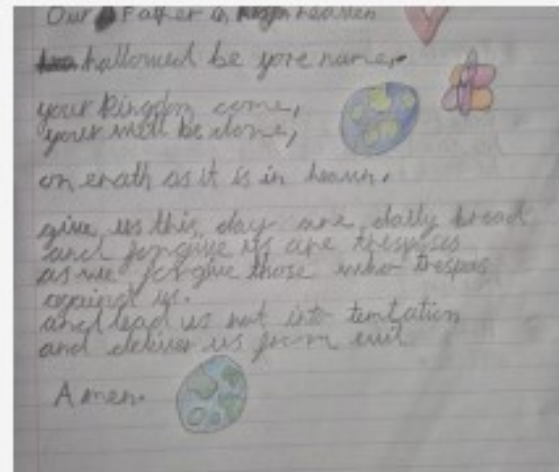
Spring News

13th February 2026

RE

In RE we have been working on our branch of Galilee to Jerusalem. We have looked at miracles and parables and finished with the Lord's Prayer.

L.



TRIP

We have finished our half-term, with a trip to the Design and Technology Museum. We had several activities and we got a tour of the engines.

ART

This half term we have been studying Egyptian art. We have used pastels for Ra and Anubis and created Jewelry. We finished by creating a clay sphinx.



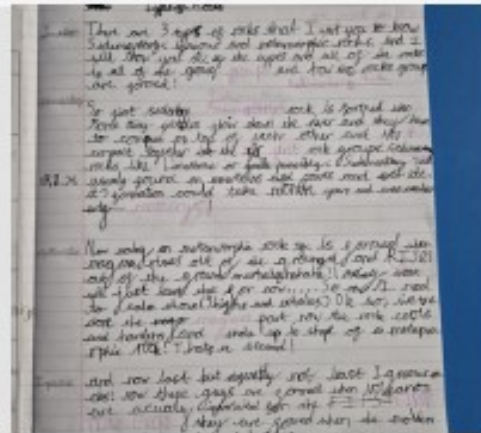
SWALLOWS

CURRICULUM NEWS

15TH MAY 2025

ENGLISH

Our last text, is a non-chronological report and the pupils have enjoyed this, as it has been linked to their favourite PKC topic. Some have written about rivers and some have discussed the Stone Age, Egyptians or rocks..



GEOGRAPHY

In geography we have been learning about rivers and the pupils were able to go pond dipping on our trip and caught many sea creatures, including an unintentional fish!

THANKYOU

I wanted to thank you for all of the support, with homework, art and trips, whether you took children or came on the trip. It makes a huge difference to what can be achieved. The children love seeing the adults they know and spending individual time with them..



Have a lovely break and see you in a week's time.

Doves Class Newsletter

Spring Term 1

Welcome back to a brand new year! We hope you enjoyed a joyful and restful Christmas break. It has been wonderful to see the children return with such positivity and enthusiasm. As we begin this spring term and notice the first signs of brighter days, we look forward to a season full of growth, learning, and new opportunities.

Learning Overview

English

This half term, the children have been enjoying our class text *Varjak Paw* by SF Said. We have explored the characters, atmosphere, and tension within the story. In writing, the children have begun crafting their own cultural stories, focusing on selecting rich vocabulary to express culture and create mood.

Maths

In Mathematics, we have been focusing on **multiplication and division**, applying strategies to solve multi-step problems. We have also been practising speedy recall of all multiplication tables in preparation for the **Multiplication Tables Check (MTC)**. Your support with practise at home is hugely appreciated. Most recently we have dove into **measuring perimeter** of rectilinear shapes.



Religious Education

In Religious Education, our learning has followed the *Galilee to Jerusalem* branch. We have explored several parables and reflected on what Jesus taught about the Kingdom of God. The children have shown deep thinking as they considered the thoughts and feelings of people in these stories and discussed what helps build God's kingdom in our own lives.

Doves Class Highlights

Teddy Bear Workshop

We were delighted to welcome local junior doctors who ran an exciting **Teddy Bear Hospital** workshop. The children explored real medical check up equipment, learned about the make up of the human body, and discussed what to do in a medical emergency. The session was full of curiosity, enthusiasm, and — of course — many teddy bear patients!

Art – Egyptian Clay Sphinx

In Art, we have been learning about **Ancient Egyptian artwork**, focusing on patterns, symbolism, and sculpture. The class loved getting hands on (and delightfully messy!) while creating their own clay sphinx models, inspired by traditional Egyptian art.



PE—Spy Dance

In PE we have been **exploring dance** with Mrs Gillan, focusing on rhythm, and timing while we combine different routines in our Spy themed performances. Don't forget to stretch!



Looking Forward

As we move into the next half term, we look forward to continuing to support the children in a caring, nurturing, and encouraging learning environment. Some important dates to remember coming up are the **Parent's consultations** on the 17th and 19th of March, and our **Passion Play** on the 27th March! Thank you for your continued support at home. We hope you all enjoy a relaxing and refreshing half term break when it arrives.



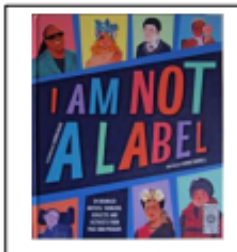
Kestrels Newsletter



Dear Parents and Carers,

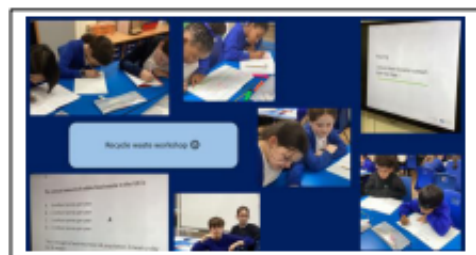
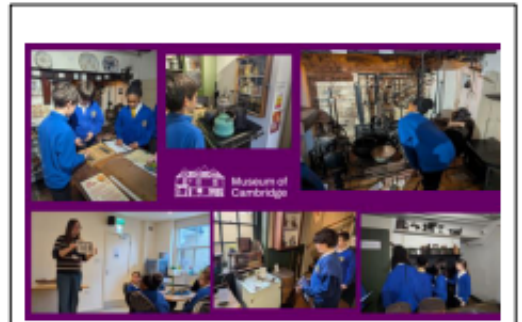
I am delighted to share the exciting learning experiences Kestrels pupils have been engaged in over recent weeks.

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.

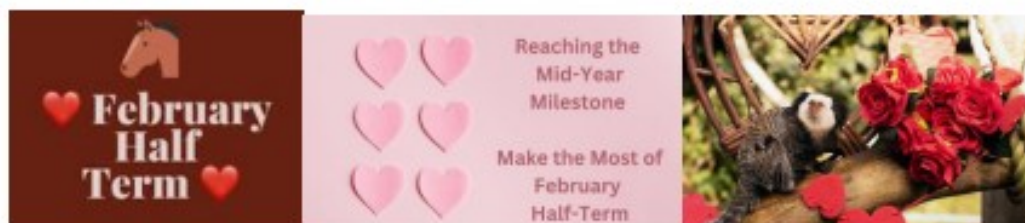
In our science curriculum, pupils have been designing and evaluating electrical devices using circuits. This engaging task encourages design thinking, problem-solving, and practical application of scientific principles. Pupils have the opportunity to design devices independently or follow a more structured approach, depending on available materials and learning objectives.



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.

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



MAGPIES

Magpies Class NEWSLETTER

Spring 1



Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been an exciting and enriching few weeks in Magpies Class, full of curiosity, creativity, and memorable learning experiences.

WHAT WE LEARNED

English Highlights

Our Year 6 pupils have been deeply engaged with the novel *Skellig* by David Almond. The story follows Michael, a young boy navigating the emotional challenge of his baby sister's serious illness.

Through the discovery of a mysterious creature—part man, part owl, part angel—Michael and his friend Mina embark on a journey of healing and understanding.

Pupils explored themes of friendship, resilience, compassion, and hope through discussion and written responses.

Year 5 pupils have also been reading an inspiring anthology focused on disability and mental health.

Using the social model of disability, pupils explored stories from 34 individuals. This encouraged thoughtful discussion around diversity, empathy, and societal barriers, helping pupils develop a deeper understanding of inclusion.





Science & Design Technology
 In Science, pupils have been designing and evaluating electrical circuits, developing problem-solving skills and applying scientific knowledge in practical ways. This learning was then brought to life in Design Technology, where pupils:
 Designed and made greeting cards with flashing lights
 Combined creativity, technical skill, and scientific understanding with fantastic results



Enriching Learning Experiences

We have been fortunate to take part in several exciting educational opportunities:

Curator for a Day – Museum of Cambridge

Pupils participated in an immersive workshop exploring local history through the role of museum management. This hands-on experience developed historical enquiry skills while helping pupils connect with our local heritage.

Waste and Recycling Workshop

In collaboration with Cambridge City Council's waste management team, pupils learned about waste sorting and recycling processes. This session linked directly to our geography curriculum, deepening understanding of British geographical issues and environmental sustainability.

Music Workshop

Pupils explored rhythm, melody, and storytelling through sound in an interactive music session. This encouraged collaboration, creativity, and self-expression, celebrating the joy of learning through the arts.



Personal Development & Well-being

In line with our commitment to personal development, Magpies pupils celebrated:
 Children's Mental Health Week
 Random Acts of Kindness Day

Pupils reflected on empathy, kindness, and emotional well-being, considering how small positive actions can make a big difference. They were encouraged to show compassion both in and beyond the classroom.



Celebrating Achievements

We are incredibly proud of our Magpies pupils:

- The whole class earned a non-uniform day and golden time as a reward for excellent attendance
- Pupils showed outstanding teamwork and creativity during DT projects
- Many consistently demonstrated kindness, responsibility, and a positive attitude to learning

Upcoming Events

- Illumina Trip – Friday
- Church Visit – After half term, linked to our RE learning



We hope all our pupils enjoy a well-earned half-term break and return refreshed and ready for another exciting term of learning.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

Best wishes,
 Mrs. M.Prokop



Owls Class Newsletter

Spring 1 2026



Dear Families,

Spring 1 has been a busy and exciting half term in Owls Class. The children have approached their learning with enthusiasm, creativity and curiosity, and it has been wonderful to see their confidence grow across the weeks.

This half term, children have reflected on emotional wellbeing and personal growth through PSHCE lessons, encouraging kindness and positive choices. In RE, pupils explored stories from John's Gospel and what they reveal about Jesus' mission.

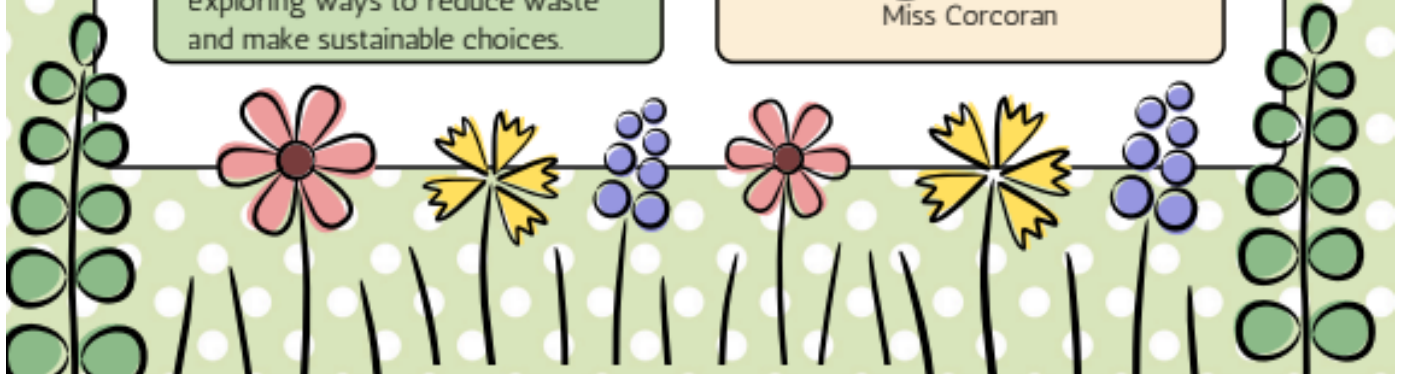
Curriculum Highlights

In Science, children explored electricity, building circuits and investigating how components work together. They then applied this learning in Design Technology, creating their own electrical cards. In Art, pupils focused on Victorian architecture, developing detailed observational drawings inspired by famous buildings. In Geography, pupils learned about environmental issues in the UK and took part in a recycling workshop, exploring ways to reduce waste and make sustainable choices.

Trips and Workshops

This half term has included some fantastic experiences. On our trip to the Museum of Cambridge, the children stepped into the role of a museum curator, cataloguing artefacts. They showed great curiosity and asked thoughtful questions throughout the day. We also enjoyed a brilliant music workshop, where Greek myths were retold through song and instruments. This week, our Year 6 pupils will also be visiting Illumina for a STEM day.

It has been such a positive half term, and I am incredibly proud of the children's hard work, creativity and enthusiasm. Thank you, as always, for your continued support.
Warmest wishes,
Miss Corcoran





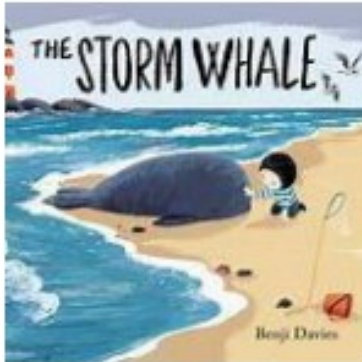
The Museum of Cambridge





Dear Parents and Carers,

It was a pleasure welcoming our children back after Christmas. As we approach Spring, we are looking forward to being able to explore new learning opportunities and make the most of the changing season.



Literacy

In **Literacy**, we thoroughly enjoyed reading "The Storm Whale". We explored the setting, characters, and themes of the story. The children engaged in thoughtful discussions about feelings of loneliness, what can make us feel lonely, and the importance of having caring people around us. We reflected on how family and friends play a vital role in our lives. Throughout the term, the children continued to develop their reading and writing skills through a range of engaging activities.

Maths

In **Maths**, the children have been busy learning how to tell the time. They explored the months of the year, the days of the week, and the different moments of the day. It has been lovely to see them confidently using time vocabulary to describe their own daily routines and make meaningful connections between their learning and everyday life.



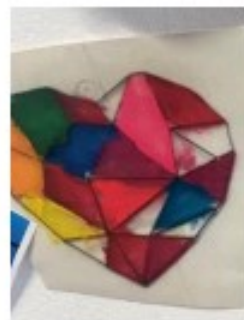
Understanding of the World around us

In **Science**, we learnt about the water cycle. The children were incredibly proud of their 3D water cycle projects, which showcased their understanding of evaporation, condensation, and precipitation. They were especially excited to carry out an experiment observing how water evaporates when warmed by the sun. Their curiosity and enthusiasm have been wonderful to see.



Outdoor learning and physical activity

Although outdoor sessions with the sports coach continue to be a firm favourite, the children have also thoroughly enjoyed their time in the hall. They have been developing their gymnastics skills and exploring the climbing frame with great enthusiasm. These sessions are always lots of fun, while also providing valuable opportunities to practise important skills such as listening carefully, taking turns, and staying safe.



Thursdays Cooking Sessions

During our Thursday cooking sessions this term, the children had a wonderful time preparing a variety of delicious treats, including pizza, scones, biscuits and waffles. They especially enjoyed decorating their waffles, getting creative with different toppings. It was a favourite activity for many!

SEMH

We continued exploring our feelings, how we communicate them, we talked about friendships, and positive relationships through discussions, games, and hands-on activities. We also looked at keeping ourselves safe online.

Other highlights

We received the visit of community police officers. The children were amazing at welcoming them, making questions about how to keep safe out in the community and online. They also asked many questions about how to become a police officer.



This term we celebrated Pancake's Day and Valentine's Day.

Thank you for your continued support throughout this term — it truly makes a difference to the children's learning and development.

We hope you all enjoy a well-deserved break, and we look forward to welcoming the children back refreshed and ready for another exciting term.

Are you interested in supporting our school?

We currently have two vacancies on our Local Governing Body: one Foundation Governor and one Parent Governor. We would love to hear from you if you would like to take up this fantastic opportunity to support our school and the children in our community.

THE LOCAL GOVERNING BODY REPORTS TO THE TRUST BOARD AND HAS THREE MAIN FUNCTIONS:

- Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction;
- Holding the senior leadership team to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils;
- Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent.

CAN YOU COMMIT TO:

- Attending two Local Governing Body meetings per term,
- Attending between 1 and 3 monitoring visits per year, where all Governors visit the school during its working day to see it in action and carry out planned monitoring activities,
- Undergoing induction and further training as needed
- Supporting the school to maintain its Catholic ethos, academic standards and financial viability.

Further information is available on our Governor pages on the [school's website](#)

Alternatively, please contact the school office to arrange a time to meet with our Co-Chairs to discuss the role.

