



## Year 5



Dear Parents and Carers,

This week we enjoyed raising money for St Joan's Church by running the TCS Mini Marathon at school.

We have also been busy working on our historical diary entries, whilst starting our new History topic – What was life like in Tudor England?

We hope you have a lovely, long bank holiday weekend!

Thank you for your continued support,

Mrs Peneda, Mrs Maliphant and Mrs Prentice

### **Upcoming Events**

**Monday 4<sup>th</sup> May** – Bank Holiday (School is closed)

**Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> May** - District Farnham Schools Cross Country (see below for more information)

**Monday 25<sup>th</sup> May – Friday 29<sup>th</sup> May** – Half Term

**Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> June** – Y5 school trip to Horseshoe Lake – please ensure you have completed the permission form on SCOPAY.

**All children come into school in their PE/Games kit on both Games and PE days going forward.**

### **Homework:**

#### **Year 5 Weekly Challenge**

*(Optional – for those who enjoy an extra challenge!)*

#### **Year 5 Diary Writing Homework Challenge**

##### **Your Mission**

Write a diary entry as if you are the main character in an exciting, unusual or surprising moment. You can choose a real event from your week or invent something completely imaginative.

Your diary entry should be at least one page and include all the features of effective diary writing.

##### **Success Criteria** (What You MUST include)

- First person (I, me, my)
- Past tense (it already happened)
- Time connectives (Later on, Suddenly, After that, In the evening...)
- Feelings and thoughts (How did you feel? What were you thinking?)
- Descriptive detail (adjectives, powerful verbs, adverbs)
- Informal tone (like you're talking to a friend)
- Clear paragraphs for each part of the day or event

##### **Choose ONE of these diary challenges**

###### **1. The Day Everything Went Wrong**

Write about a day where one unlucky thing happened after another. Make it funny, dramatic or chaotic.

## 2. My Secret Discovery

Imagine you found something mysterious — a hidden door, a strange creature, a magical object. Describe what happened and how you felt.

## 3. A Real-Life Adventure

Write about something that actually happened this week — a trip, a club, a game, a family moment — but make it sound exciting and full of emotion.

## 4. If I Were Invisible for a Day

Describe what you did, where you went, and how you used your invisibility.

## 5. The Day I Became a Hero

You suddenly gained a special power. What happened next?

### **Homework expectations**

Homework club has now started.

Please support your child to complete **all** homework tasks set for them each week. Check to see if your child has any outstanding Maths tasks on Maths.co.uk and please allow them to complete these as soon as possible. In doing this, you will be reinforcing classroom learning and it will give you essential information about how your child is progressing in that area of learning.

- x1 Maths.co.uk assignment
- x1 Accelerated Reader quiz per week (at least)
- Times table rock stars 21 minutes per week (at least)
- Weekly spelling practise

Please come and chat to your child's teacher if you have questions about this. Thank you for all you do to support your child's learning in school. It makes a huge difference to their academic progress and their confidence in class.

Maths homework will reflect the learning that is done in class during each unit. It is set every Friday on Maths.co.uk. Logins have been sent home. We suggest that children write down their working out on paper when completing the questions from maths.co.uk before entering the answer electronically. Sadly, paper copies cannot be provided. Children are not required to hand in their answers. If you would like further practice, you can use MathsBot.com Year 5 Arithmetic.

At St Polycarp's we follow the White Rose Maths Scheme and wanted to signpost the helpful videos which are available to parents and pupils free of charge.

Here is the link for the White Rose videos "Maths with Michael."  
It is on the website under the maths section as well.

<https://whiteroseeducation.com/parent-pupil-resources/maths/maths-with-michael>

### **Weekly Spelling Quiz Update**

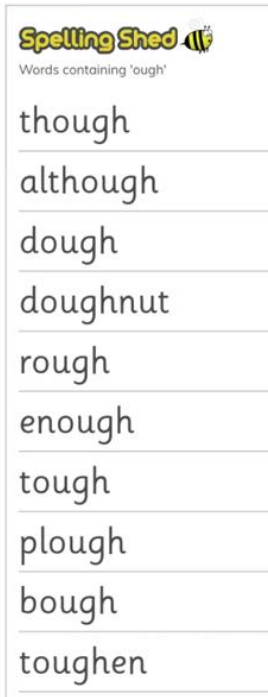
From Spring term, weekly spelling quizzes will include 6 spellings from the current week's list, 2 from the previous week and 2 from an earlier quiz within your child's year group.

This approach uses retrieval practice, which helps children strengthen their memory and move spellings into long-term retention, rather than just learning them for a single test.

Please don't be concerned if scores dip slightly at first while children adjust to this format - this is a normal part of the learning process and will support stronger spelling knowledge over time.

### **Spelling homework:**

Spellings are set every Friday with a spelling test the following Friday giving children one week to learn them.



The image shows a screenshot of a Spelling Shed worksheet. At the top left, the logo 'Spelling Shed' is displayed with a bee icon. Below the logo, it says 'Words containing 'ough''. The words listed are: though, although, dough, doughnut, rough, enough, tough, plough, bough, and toughen. Each word is on a separate line with a horizontal line underneath it.

### **Reading**

Please see below for the Key Stage 2 reading guidance. When the children finish reading a book, they need to complete an online quiz at home before changing the book.

**Children should aim to complete as many quizzes as they can but are expected to complete at least 3 quizzes per half-term.**

**We have noticed that there are still some children who have not completed many quizzes since start of term. Check that your child is completing the reading quiz – this is part of their weekly homework. Children can complete the quizzes at school during lunchtime homework club on Fridays if they are not able to do them at home. Please ask them to speak to their class teacher about this.**

[Find the link to AR here.](#)

### **Reading in Key Stage 2**

#### **Handy Hints**

- Make reading part of your daily routine.
- Short sessions – **15 minutes per day**.
- Continue to read out loud to an adult as well as independently.
- Try to read a range of books including fiction and non-fiction.



- Complete the Accelerated Reader quiz at home, ideally within 24-48 hours of finishing the book.

### **How can parents help?**

#### **Reading improves with practice.**

Encourage your child to read at home, share your own books, discuss books, ask questions about the book they have read and visit the local library.

#### **Handwriting**

Handwriting videos are now available to access at home. The children have great fun following these in school. Please follow the following link :

<https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/2xyKsbDJ/rrlDh5Ta>

#### **Times Table Rockstars (TTRS)**

As a guideline, **children should aim to practise their times tables as much as possible, preferably daily.** Please encourage the children to practise those times tables which they are less secure with.

If you have any questions or messages for your child's class teacher, please come and speak to us at the end of the day or email [info@stpolycarps.surrey.sch.uk](mailto:info@stpolycarps.surrey.sch.uk).

## KS2 DISTRICT CROSS COUNTRY RACE

KS2 children are all invited to represent the school at the District Schools' Cross-Country meet in Farnham Park on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> May 2026

To sign your child up please use the following link: <https://forms.office.com/e/xfF18b005t>

They will be racing for approximately **2000 metres**. The race will be in a **clockwise direction** unless conditions cause a change to the direction. Note the course is hilly and can be muddy.

There will be a KS2 boys race at 10:00am followed by a KS2 girls' race at 10:20am.

If your child requires medication such as an inhaler, it is the parent or responsible adults' duty to carry it, not the schools'. Please note that First Aiders will be there to provide first aid if there should be an emergency and will be situated near the event 'operations' table. **Every child must come with a responsible adult who stays at the event until the child is finished.**

We do not time the children but give them a position number as they pass the finish line. The idea at each race is to do as well as they can and try to beat their personal best position. Parents are welcome to watch the races. Once your child has raced, **please do not collect your child directly from inside the running funnel.**

There will be medals awarded for 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> places in each race. There are also cups for the best boy's school team performance and the best girls' school team performance. In addition, the Bell cup is awarded for the school scoring the most overall points. The point system is based on our top six finishing positions in each race.

### Registration and Gathering Area:

**The schools will register the children at the bottom of the park just up from the Bear Lane/Park Row entrance to the park. (Bear Lane/Park Row entrance GU9 7LF) Go into the park, from the bottom entrance, over the stile and meet St. Polycarp's staff on the left hand side where they will register your children. (Just left of the path and adventure playground)**

### PARKING

Parents must park in the town car parks and walk to the registration point. Please find a map attached. **Please do not park on the roads adjacent to the park such as Park Row and Bear Lane as we must be considerate of residents to retain our licence.**

**PLEASE NOTE PARENTS HAVE BEEN ASKED BY WAVERLEY COUNCIL NOT TO PARK IN THE : park/golf car park, cricket ground or smaller rangers' car parks on Folly Hill. Parents and carers are asked not to block residents' roads or drives.** Please note this is a **condition of our licence from Waverley Council** to run the event. Marshalls will be present to ensure parents don't flout this requirement.

Surrey Police have been informed and will be contacted if people cause a problem with parking.

Please don't let St. Polycarp's down by ignoring this request.

### CROSS COUNTRY EVENT INFORMATION

**DATE:** Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> May 2026

**PLACE:** Farnham Park, Bear Lane/Park Row entrance at the bottom left-hand corner of Farnham Park. Please see map attached.

**MEETING POINT:** Bear Lane/Park Row entrance, just over the stile to the left-hand side of the path below the adventure playground. (See attached map)

**TIME OF EVENT: 9.15am** Registration at meeting point – Mrs Ramsden aided by other St. Polycarp's staff. After registration the boys and girl's teams will be warmed up by St Polycarp's staff. At the end of the race St. Polycarp's staff will keep the children in the finishing pen for the parent/carer to collect at the end of each race.

**9.15am** register **9.30am** warm up **10.00am** Boys race **10.20am** Girl's race **10.45ish!** presentation

REQUIREMENTS		
School P.E. kit	Trainers or Astros – No Spikes	Water bottle



## St. Polycarp's Primary School Outdoor Athletics Club (Years 3-6)

**Fun filled outdoor athletics sessions. If your child enjoys running, jumping or throwing and wants to develop their agility, balance and coordination or simply wants to improve their fitness for other sports come and join us...**

**Dates:** Tuesday 14th April to 14th July 2026 (excluding half term)

**Time:** 3.15 - 4.15pm

**Where:** St. Polycarp's playing field (outdoor)

**What to bring:** Running kit (including warm and waterproof clothing or sun hat and sun cream), trainers and a drink

**Cost:** £117 for the whole summer term

**How to book:** Contact Brian Stopher at Destination RUN for more information at [brian.destrun@gmail.com](mailto:brian.destrun@gmail.com)

Clubs organised and run by Brian Stopher (GB athlete, England Athletics qualified running coach, qualified & experienced PE teacher, ex-head of secondary school PE, & former National Champion)



# EAT THEM TO DEFEAT THEM!

This year, St Polycarp's will be taking part in Veg Power's "Eat them to Defeat Them" campaign.

In 2018, Veg Power created the annual campaign to encourage children to eat more vegetables.

Please see <https://vegpower.org.uk/eat-them-to-defeat-them/> for more information.

This week, all children will be taking home a sticker chart, to celebrate trying and eating a range of vegetables.

If you are happy for a picture of your child taking part, to go on the school instagram, please email this to the front office., for the attention of Mrs Murphy.





## PARENT AND CARER BELONGING WORKING GROUP

Would you like to join a working group looking at what it means to be part of the school community?

**This is the Xavier Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Belonging Pledge.**

### BELONGING PLEDGE

1. The school embraces all children into school life, all staff champion inclusion

2. Trust core Catholic values are integrated to ensure our school cultures are inclusive

3. We work together to ensure children can be the best version of themselves

4. Relationships and trust are central to championing diversity and inclusion.

5. Intelligent and dignified support is provided to those who need it

6. A shared language and definition for inclusion and diversity exists within the Trust to ensure a consistent approach

7. Through their school experiences, pupils are passionate about their role as global citizens.

8. We actively listen to the voice of our community and act to empower individuals to be seen and heard. Everyone is seen as an individual

9. Leaders and governors demonstrate commitment in championing equality, diversity and inclusion

10. Staff and governors show empathy and humility; They are consciously aware of their own bias.

### PARENT AND CARER BELONGING WORKING GROUP

Mrs Woolley is looking for a small group of parents to attend a working group, meeting termly.

The intent of the group is to discuss your experiences of the school and to ensure the school community is as open as it could be and that everybody feels valued.

If you'd like to be help us deliver our belonging pledge, and would like to be a part of this, please let us know by emailing:

[sendinfo@stpolicarps.surrey.sch.uk](mailto:sendinfo@stpolicarps.surrey.sch.uk)