



Year 5



Dear Parents and Carers,

We have had such a fantastic first full week back at school. The children have settled in beautifully and are showing such commitment and enthusiasm for their learning already! This week we have spent some time recapping place value in maths, continued reading the London Eye Mystery and began to investigate writing setting descriptions in English. We hope that the children have enjoyed their first week back at school and wish you a restful weekend!

Best wishes,

Mrs Peneda and Miss Maloney

Important dates:

Monday 14th and 28th September – Individual and committee photos. Please send your child in their full school uniform with their PE kit.

Tuesday 15th September- If you are interested in getting involved or learning more about the wonderful PTA at St Polycarp's, please come along to the AGM in The Pope Francis Hall at 7:30pm.

Thursday 17th September - 'Meet the teacher' session 14:45 in Pheasants class.

Friday 25th September – Xavier Creative Inclusion Challenge deadline – see below for more details.

Friday 2nd October – INSET Day

PE and Games:

PE for Doves class will be on Tuesdays

PE for Pheasants class will be on Thursdays

Games for all of year 5 will be on Wednesdays.

Library:

Doves' library day will be on a Wednesday

Pheasants' library day will be on a Thursday

This week's homework update:

This week, children should complete the following:

- Maths.co.uk.
- An AR quiz (if they have finished a book) and continue to read daily.
- Login to TTRS to practice their times tables.
- **Please do also encourage your children to take part in the Creative Inclusion Challenge (as advertised below). We would love to have as many entries as possible to showcase this important message – "We belong!"**

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.
- Check that your child is completing the Accelerated Reader quiz – this will be part of their weekly homework.

Changes to Spelling Teaching in Years 2-6

- Dear Parents and Carers,
- From September, we will be using Read Write Inc. (RWI) Spelling across Years 2-6 and will no longer be using Spelling Shed (EdShed).
- Children will take part in daily spelling lessons, which provide a clear and consistent approach to spelling, building on the phonics and handwriting programmes already used in school. Research shows that frequent practice and consistency help children to remember and apply spelling patterns more effectively in their writing.
- There will be no formal weekly spelling homework or tests. However, we recommend regular practice at home. Your child's weekly spelling words will be shared in the newsletter, and additional activities (in Spelling Extra Practice Zone) can be accessed through the RWI Spelling Portal: <https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/for-pupils/pupil-home>

Username: polysyear5

Password: y5polys

Thank you for your continued support.

Miss Vardy & Mrs Edgell

English Leads

Xavier Creative Inclusion Challenge

XAVIER CATHOLIC EDUCATION TRUST **CREATIVE INCLUSION CHALLENGE**

WE ARE, WE BELONG

The "We are, We Belong" Creative Inclusion Challenge is a Xavier wide competition designed to encourage our young people to explore themes of equality, diversity, inclusion and belonging, through creative expression.

STUDENTS ARE INVITED TO PRODUCE ORIGINAL WORK THAT REFLECTS:

- Respect for others
- Understanding of different identities and experiences
- Inclusion within school and society
- Positive change and student voice

The competition promotes creativity, empathy, critical thinking, and community engagement while supporting personal development.

STUDENTS SHOULD CREATIVELY EXPLORE:

- What makes people feel included or excluded
- Celebrating differences
- Building on our inclusive schools and communities
- Advocacy and kindness
- Representation and identity

EXAMPLE COMPETITION BRIEF FOR STUDENTS

YOUR CHALLENGE
Create a piece of work that answers this question:
"What does belonging mean to you?"

You can use any creative format to:

- Share experiences
- Raise awareness
- Inspire change
- Celebrate identity
- Promote inclusion

Your work should encourage others to think differently and help create a more welcoming school community.

SUBMIT YOUR ENTRY BY FRIDAY 25TH SEPTEMBER

"We Are, We Belong" invites students to use creativity to celebrate diversity, inspire inclusion.

Whether through art, film, poetry, music, or campaigning, every student has a voice that can help build a more welcoming and respectful school community.

COMPETITION CATEGORIES

STUDENTS MAY ENTER INDIVIDUALLY OR IN TEAMS.

ART & DESIGN	FILM & MEDIA	WRITING & SPOKEN WORD	PERFORMANCE	INNOVATION & CAMPAIGNING
• Posters • Paintings • Digital artwork • Photography	• Short films • Social media campaigns • Podcasts • Animation • Video essays	• Poetry • Short stories • Speeches • Articles • Rap/spoken word	• Dance • Drama • Music • Monologues	• All School Years WELCOME TO ENTER

PRIMARY Years 1-6 **JUNIOR Years 7-9** **SENIOR Years 10-13**

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 10th October 2026

To sign your child up please use the following

link: <https://forms.cloud.microsoft/e/ObSBgayFRJ>

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 you child has raced, **please do not collect your child directly from inside the running funnel**. There will be medals awarded for 1st, 2nd and 3rd 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 10th October 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/carers 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



Elite Swimming Squad Trials

Monday 19th October 2026

Dear Parents/Carers,

I am running swimming trials for this years' 'Elite' swimming squad. Our qualified swimming coach will assess the children along with myself. All children who are interested in joining the team **must** attend the trials on the 19th October 2026 at 7:30am till 8:00am at Farnham Leisure Centre. All previous members of the swim squad **must** trial out for a space on the new team squad too.

LINK - <https://forms.cloud.microsoft/e/66sAgQiRHR>

Trials

Y3 & Y4 children must be really water confident and be able to swim a recognised stroke for 25 metres on both their front and back. (1 length of Farnham Swimming Pool) The children need to put their face in the water and be happy to jump into the swimming pool. They must be able to tread water.

Y5/6 children must be water confident and able swim a recognised stroke for 50 metres on both their front and back. (2 lengths of Farnham Swimming Pool) The children need to put their face in the water and be happy to jump into the swimming pool. They must be able to tread water.

Those wishing to trial out must complete the online form. Please use the following link. Parents must stay for the duration of the trials and are responsible for transporting their child back to school. This is due to the number of children potentially attending.

If your child is successful in gaining a space in the swimming squad, they need to make a commitment to attend all the Monday sessions unless ill. Times for swim squad are as follows:

Timings: **7.15am** – change. **7.30am** – **8am** swim coaching. **8am** – change. **8.15am** your child should be ready to transport back to school

If your child is successful in obtaining a space in Swim Squad The children will receive a letter to inform them if they are successful or not. If successful, a further letter will be given about payment and their start date. Parents need to be committed to getting your

child to the pool for 7.15am each Monday. Your child will then need to be transported to school after weekly sessions.

Some of the children from the squad will then be selected for the District Schools' Gala in February.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Ramsden

INFORMATION SHEET

TIME OF ARRIVAL AT POOL: 7.15am

MEETING POINT: Farnham Leisure Centre Foyer (Dogflud Way, Farnham, Surrey GU9 7UD)

ADULT SUPERVISION: Mrs. Ramsden, Qualified Swimming Coach, Qualified Lifeguard (Supplied by Leisure Centre). Parents will be asked not to be pool side.

REQUIREMENTS FOR SWIM TRIAL:

Swimming Costume

Goggles

Swim Hat

Towel

Medication Required

School Uniform for the school day

OTHER INFO: Parents must stay for the duration of the trial and then transport your children back to school. Parents may organise their own lift shares.

There will be a fee involved for being part of the swim squad and you will be advised of this, along with swim dates and times, if your child is successful in the trials and obtains a space in the swim squad.

PLEASE READ

****** In previous years children from swim squad have been walked to school with a staff member and parent helpers in readiness for the school day. However, due to staffing changes this option is not be possible going forward. Therefore, please make sure your child can return to school after Swim Squad sessions in the morning******