

9.1.2026



Our Week in Year 1

Happy New Year! Welcome back to school.

We hope you all had a restful break. All the team have been so pleased to see the children return to school with smiles and tales of their holidays.

Thank you again for all the cards, kind words and gifts we received before Christmas 😊

This week we have ...

Written about our Christmas holidays using our knowledge of simple sentence writing. We also began to learn how to join our sentences using the conjunction 'and'.

Continued to practise our handwriting, focusing on the letters 'a' and 'd'.

Continued to understand numbers up to 20.

Started our new topic 'Galilee to Jerusalem' in RE, which involved the children looking at different artwork representing the gospel of Anna and Simeon when Jesus was presented at the temple.

In Science we continued learning about seasons, focusing on the Winter season.

In Geography we looked at a map of the United Kingdom and located the 4 countries which make up the UK.

Dates for the Diary

Monday 19th January - Clubs start

Notes for parents

Homework

Maths Homework - Log into Maths.co.uk - 'Number and place value (within 20)' test.

Reading - Please read the 2 RWI books and any other books you may have at home.

Handwriting - We have started Stage 2 of our new handwriting scheme. You will notice that most letters are similar in their formation and the children will now be practising forming the letters so that their writing will flow easily into a joined style when they are in Year 2.

Please practise these letters in your child's handwriting book. To help you with this, please watch and follow the videos below. The children will be familiar with these videos as we have used them in our handwriting lessons.

Letter a - <http://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/ILS72B7G/IkrAfUa1>

Letter d - <http://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/mYIE2jTu/8RTdop12>

Spelling - we will be introducing **spelling homework next week** via the website Edshed. Your child's login will be in their reading record. The spellings can be practised on the website and/or on paper. Each week the children will learn spelling words (5 words to begin with - as *we're still practising handwriting at home* - and then building up to 10 words). These will be listed on the weekly newsletter.

These words are from the first 100 high frequency words and the Year 1 statutory words. The following week your child will be tested on these words - a few from the week and others from previous weeks. 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.

Reading Guidance - Handy Hints

- Make reading part of your daily routine.
- Short sessions - **10 mins** a day is ideal.
- Always make reading fun not a chore.
- Talk and discuss the story.
- Read a range of books not just the ones from school.
- You can use the pictures to help read the text.
- Remember to Fred Talk (sound out) any unknown words using phonic sounds.

Please remember to write the date and title of the book in the Reading Record. You can also add a comment if you wish.

Read Write Inc. - Children will be reading each day in their RWI lessons. Children will then bring home reading books every 3 days.

Children's voice - we would love to see what your child thinks about their books. After finishing a book, please encourage them to write a sentence about their book.

PE Kit - Please ensure your child has a **full** PE kit to change into on their PE day. This includes socks and trainers.

Named coats, hats, gloves etc - With the weather getting colder, we are seeing more coats, hats, gloves etc coming into school. Please make sure all items of uniform are clearly named.

Coat - Please practise with your child zipping up their coat independently 😊

Parent and Carer Belonging Working group - see details below.

PARENT AND CARER BELONGING WORKING GROUP

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

sendinfo@stpolycarps.surrey.sch.uk

Have a great weekend!

Year 1 Team