

13.2.26



Our Week in Year 1



It has been a busy last week!

Helen Arkell Visit - Hazel came to visit us with Teddy Arkell on Thursday. We talked about how we could help to raise money for this charity (**see below**).

English - we continued learning about grammar, focusing on verbs.

Maths - We have been learning subtraction using our number bonds and a number line.

In DT, we designed our own pop-up Easter card and then began the process of making one.

In RE we learnt the story of Zacchaeus and then wrote a letter reflecting on what Zacchaeus learnt from meeting Jesus.

In Science we learnt about the different animal food groups - carnivore, herbivore and omnivore.

In PSHE we learnt about Children's Mental Health Week and created a 'Welcome Wall' with all of our ideas on how we can show kindness.

In Computing we learnt about Safer Internet Day, focusing on voice assistant devices (e.g. 'Alexa').

In PE we completed our Gymnastics topic with Mrs Ramsden including using different apparatus.

Notes for parents

Homework:

Reading - Continue to read regularly including your RWI books x 2 and any other books you may have at home.

Handwriting - 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 e - <http://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/NxyjjOL/NWGrQEHL>

Letter s - <http://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/TT59Hvhk/kmAIITAK>

Letter f (NOTE THIS IS NOW DIFFERENT)

<http://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/wTnZcLNy/QW1rnTJF>

Spelling - No new spellings as its half term but please do practise previous words your child has found difficult.

Use the Edshed/Spelling Shed website. Your child's login will be in their reading record. Let us know if you have any problems logging in.

The spellings can be practised on the website and/or on paper. Each week the children will learn the spelling words and a strategy for additional practice e.g. rainbow writing.

Maths.co.uk - No new activities assigned as its half term. Please catch up on any activities that are outstanding. Practise number bonds and doubles [Hit the Button - Quick fire maths practise for 6-11 year olds](#)

Extra learning practice at home - Please do check your child's bag / reading record book for any extra practise work being sent home e.g. practising phonic sounds, handwriting, sentence writing etc. Please complete and return where needed.

Other Notes

RWI Books - A reminder to keep **both books safely in your child's book bag**. We are finding that children do not have their books available to change in school. If books are lost, then there is a cost to you to replace them.

History - Our new topic next half term is 'Toys and Games': -

Tuesday 24th February - Please can your child bring in their favourite toy from home (named). They will be used for our History lesson only and sent home the same day.

As part of this topic, we would like to invite parents to come in and share with the children some of their old toys from the past. We plan on doing this during the week of **9th March**. If you are able to come in, please let Miss Dalton and Mrs Edgell know.

Prayer Bag - Please see letter below explaining all about our new Year 1 Prayer Bags for the children to take home and enjoy! They will be sent home to one child every **Friday**. Please return the bag by **Thursday (latest)** so we can check the inventory and send out to a new child every Friday. Thank you!



Glue Sticks - we are running very low again. If you are willing and able to donate any glue sticks, we would be very grateful.

PE Kit - Please ensure your child has a **full** PE kit to change into on their PE day. This includes socks and trainers. Next half term, PE will be moving outside. Please ensure your child has the correct and weather appropriate kit (all named), together with **outside trainers**. No earrings on PE and Games day please.

PE Changing - We have noticed that some children need quite a lot of time to get changed. Please could you practise changing quickly in/out of clothes as we only have a limited amount of time for PE changing in school.

Please also check that your child's kit still fits them. The children are growing and some are finding that their PE kits are too tight to put on or take off. Thank you.

Book Bags- Please can you check your child's book bag regularly and clear it out at the end of each week. We have noticed some of their book bags are rather full! Please also check your child's name is clearly written on the outside of the bag.

Book Bag Key Rings - A reminder that your child should only **have 1 small** keyring on their bag. We are noticing that some children have quite a few including large teddy type keyrings. This causes difficulty in storing the bags. Please can you check your child's bag during the holidays. Thank you.

Diary Dates

Tuesday 24th February - St. Polycarp's Science fair (**see details below**)

Monday 2nd March - World Book Week! **Dress up day is Thursday 5th March** (**see details below**)

Wednesday 4th March 7.30pm- Papaya parent talk (**see details below**)

Friday 6th March - Year 1 School Trip to Milestones Museum in Basingstoke to explore their new topic of Toys and Games. Further details have been sent separately. Please remember to complete the permission form online.

Wednesday 11th March - Farnham Federation Schools - Ball Skills Event! William Cobbett Primary School is hosting this exciting event just for Year 1 children. The children will meet other Year 1's from other local schools and be put into mixed groups to ensure a festival atmosphere. Please arrive from 3:45pm for a **4pm start**. Parents/carers must attend but the teams will be supported by Sports Leaders from the host school (so parents can simply enjoy cheering on!). We look forward to seeing lots of you there!

Thursday 12th March 3:15-4:00pm - Open Book Afternoon. Parents/carers are invited into classrooms to look at their child's exercise books.

Friday 13th March - INSET DAY. School is closed.

Monday 23rd March - Parents Evening (in person)

Wednesday 25th March - Lent Concert (1.45 - 3pm)

Thursday 26th March - Lent Concert (9.15 - 10.30am)

Thursday 26th March - Parents Evening (online).

Have a wonderful and restful half term break.

The Year 1 Team



St Polycarp's Science Fair - Tuesday 24th February 2026

We will be holding our annual Science Fair on Tuesday 24th February. The children were very excited to hear about our upcoming Science Fair and are welcome to take part by creating a project at home. Please talk with your child about whether they'd like to get involved and support them with any planning if needed.

*Families are warmly invited to come and view the exhibitions in the Pope Francis Hall from **3:15-3:45pm** on the day.*

Categories:

- EYFS & KS1
- Lower KS2 (Y3-4)
- Upper KS2 (Y5-6)
- Group entries

Lent Concert 2026

This year's Lent Concert (in aid of Mary's Meals and the Catholic Children's Society) will be on **Wednesday 25th March (1.45-3.00pm) & Thursday 26th March (9.15-10.30am)**. This concert is a fantastic fundraising opportunity where each year group joins together to perform a song. Please put the dates in your diaries; further details will come out nearer the time.

This year our Swans and Skylarks will be singing 'Together As A Family' from BBC Assembly Songs. Please have a look at the following link where you will find the lyrics, a demonstration, and a backing track. They have also some actions, please do support your child's practise where possible. Thank you! [All together as a family - BBC Teach](#)

WORLD BOOK WEEK 2026

Dear parents and carers,

St Polycarp's World Book Week will start from **Monday 2nd March to Friday 6th March, with World Book Dressing Up Day on Thursday 5th March.** Every year during our World Book Week we are overwhelmed by the enthusiasm of our school community. We will have lots of fun activities taking place throughout the week including:

Special guest readers: We are inviting you as parents, careers or family members to come and read to your child's class, either in English or another language of your choice. This can be at the end of the day or a time that is convenient for you, we know your children will love it! Please let your class teacher know if this is something you can do.

Use your £1 World Book Day book token to get a FREE book! Getting a free £1 book for your child is easy - simply take your £1 book token to your nearest bookseller and swap it for a World Book Day £1 book OR get £1 off any book or audiobook costing £2.99 or more. You can find your nearest bookseller at worldbookday.com/participating-retailers.

Thursday 5th March we will be dressing up. We want the children to use their costumes to share their favourite books, and we encourage you to use things you already have at home. We will be carrying out a World Book Day parade at school to celebrate our love of reading!

We hope you'll join us as we come together to celebrate all things reading!

Best wishes

The English Team

Mrs Edgell and Miss Vardy

Helen Arkell Sponsored Read

Dear Parents,

For our charity event this year, Year 1 have decided to complete a 'Sponsored Read' to raise money for The Helen Arkell Centre.

The Helen Arkell Centre is a local dyslexia charity and Hazel and their mascot 'Teddy Arkell' came to visit school this week. During the visit we learnt a little about dyslexia, how our money will help and Teddy's favourite book.

As parents, we ask you to sponsor your child to read at home as much as possible over the following 3 weeks, (16/2, 23/2, 2/3). You could sponsor an amount per book or page. We are aiming to not only raise money for this worthwhile charity but also raise the profile of reading. The books can be your school banded book or ANY OTHER BOOK your child wishes to read.

We will send home a sponsor form. Money will need to be returned **to school** by Monday 9th March.

Thanks in advance for your support with this event.

Mrs Edgell, Mrs Walker and Miss Dalton

PAPAYA Parent Talk

*We're delighted to invite all parents and carers to a special PAPAAYA Parent Talk, led by Donna Dove, an experienced speaker who works with families on building healthier relationships with technology. This will take place on **Wednesday 4th March 2026 at 7:30PM in the Main school Hall.***

The session will explore how, as parents, you can support children to thrive in a world filled with digital devices, while helping them develop healthy habits, resilience and balance. Donna brings practical insights grounded in psychology and children's wellbeing.

The session will cover:

- *How screen time affects children's development and what healthy use looks like.*
- *Strategies for managing technology at home, including routines, boundaries and positive modelling.*
- *Supporting children's mental health in the digital age—what helps and what doesn't.*
- *How to navigate tricky moments, such as online pressure, device arguments, or "just one more minute..."*
- *Simple changes families can make immediately to reduce stress and create calmer, more connected home life.*

Donna's sessions are known for being warm, practical, and judgement-free, with plenty of real-life examples that parents can relate to.

This is a valuable opportunity to:

- *Get expert guidance tailored to today's challenges*
- *Learn easy, realistic strategies you can apply straight away*
- *Feel more confident about supporting your child's wellbeing*
- *Connect with other parents who are facing similar issues*

PAPAYA

Let's talk about our kids and their tech

PARENT TALK WITH DONNA:

St Polycarp's Catholic Primary School

DATE & TIME:

Wednesday 4th March 2026 7:30 PM in the Main school hall.



Donna Dove

Donna is a primary school teacher with 27 years' experience and serves as the Well-being and Emotional Health Lead at her school. She also runs a children and family life coaching business, supporting families with mindset, communication, and overcoming limiting beliefs.

Having worked closely with children and as a mum to three daughters, Donna has seen firsthand the emotional challenges and hidden risks posed by smartphones in today's digital world. This has fuelled her passion for educating children, parents, and adults about digital overwhelm. Donna empowers families to develop healthy tech habits and encourages a return to joyful, creative childhoods rooted in real-world connection.

PAPAYA

Helping families to thrive in a digital age

Parenting in the **digital age** has never been more complex, with issues surrounding screen time, social media use, and gaming.

Many parents are concerned about their children's mental health, especially the impact of screens on it.

In this interactive talk, Donna unpacks some of the **complex issues** surrounding smartphone use and, in a **non-judgmental** manner, aims to help you find solutions that work for your family.

Topics

- The link between mental health and wellbeing and spending too much time online
- Strategies for delaying the smartphone
- Strategies for families to achieve a healthy balance with technology
- Question and discussion time

"The talk is so relevant, full of insight and eye-opening. You will walk away inspired to connect, reflect, and find out more. I highly recommend it."

— *Claire Curtis, parent and SFC volunteer.*