

Year 4



Dear Parents/Carers,



We hope everyone had a fun and restful half term. The children have returned refreshed and ready to learn. This week in English, Year 4 have been exploring and analysing the key features of narrative writing. In Maths, we have begun our new unit on fractions. Our History work has introduced the children to our new topic on the Anglo-Saxons, sparking lots of curiosity already. In Science, we launched our study of sound and vibrations and had a great time visiting the Science Fair – we were so impressed with Year 4's entries! In RE, we reflected on what Jesus teaches Christians about forgiveness and on Monday we were fortunate to welcome Father Simon into school for confessions.

Next week we will have Games on Friday (6th March) in the afternoon, please make sure your child comes into school in their correct games kit on this day. There is no Games on Thursday.

Dates

Thursday 5th March – World Book Day (Costume Dress Up)

Thursday 12th March – Open Book Afternoon 3:20 – 4:00pm

Friday 13th March – INSET DAY (School closed)

Monday 23rd March – Parent Evening Meetings (in person)

Wednesday 25th March – Lent Concert (1.45 – 3.00pm)

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

Thursday 26th March – Parents Evening Meetings (online)

Saturday 16th May 2026 - District Farnham Schools Cross Country - Farnham Park Y3 - Y6 pupils. It would be fantastic to have as many children from St Polycarp's participating in the cross country. Further information and how to sign up will follow from Mrs Ramsden

Dear Parents and Carers,

Here in the St Polycarp's family, we follow in the footsteps of Jesus through playing, praying, loving and learning together.

To support us in continuing to live out our mission, your child will have the opportunity to bring home our class *prayer bag*. It includes simple, age-appropriate resources to help you pray together as a family. The prayer bag will be brought home by a different child in the class each week.

You'll also find a prayer diary where you and your child can write any thoughts, prayers or intentions if you wish. The prayer bags will be sent home on a Friday and returned the following Friday.

The prayer bag is a wonderful way of linking the prayer life of our school and home by encouraging the children to practise and lead their own prayer sessions with their families and share their spiritual experience. We hope this shared experience brings moments of peace, connection and joy to your home.

Thank you

Homework

Friday lunchtime Homework club will commence in January for children who don't manage to complete their homework during the week. As a reminder the expectation is that the following is completed each week:

- 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.

Spelling - Your child has been given the following spellings to learn for next Friday. You can also practise these on Spelling Shed.

breath
business
caught
different
exercise
extreme
medicine
possession
although
thought

Times Table Rockstars – Children are expected to work in the 'garage' section for at least 21 minutes per week. Please encourage your child to complete this.

Accelerated Reading – Complete quizzes as and when your child has completed books. This should be roughly once per week. A common issue logging into accelerated reader, is the link, the following link will take you to the St Polycarp's portal which will ensure log in details are correct:

<https://login.renaissance.com/12d2c82e-5d71-4f43-b9a3-32d66f06dfcf?state=1558619e-124e-4167-9a6b-9e1fdd099032>

Maths – Maths homework has been set on maths.co.uk.

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

This link will help explain how we have taught mathematical concepts in school. This week we are teaching fractions.

Many thanks for continuing to support your child's learning. 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.

The Year 4 Team
Mr Jacobs & Miss Vardy

Papaya Parent workshop:

*We're delighted to invite all parents and carers to a special PAPAYA 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 Pope Francis Hall (accessed through blue side gate).***

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*

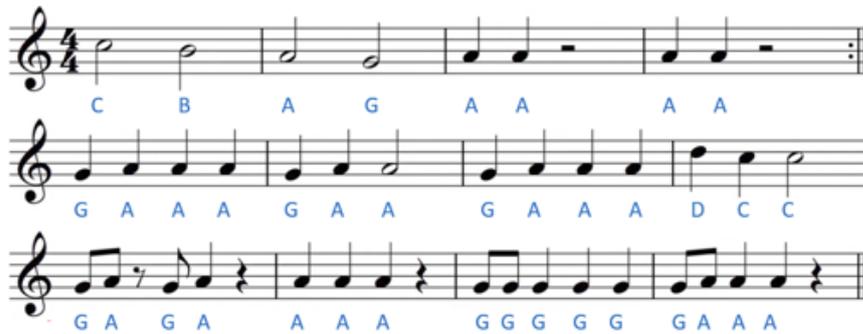
Lent Concert 2026

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)**. Please put the dates in your diaries; further details will come out nearer the time.

This year our Jays and Owls will be singing and playing instruments along to 'We Will Rock You'. They will be playing and singing from memory, please do support their practice where possible. Lyrics and music are as below:

We Will Rock You

Drum stick count in: 1 Z 2 Z 1,2,3,4 



Buddy, you're a boy, make a big noise
 Playing in the street, gonna be a big man someday
 You got mud on your face, you big disgrace
 Kicking your can all over the place, singin'

We will, we will rock you
We will, we will rock you

Buddy, you're a young man, hard man
 Shouting in the street, gonna take on the world someday
 You got blood on your face, you big disgrace
 Waving your banner all over the place

We will, we will rock you
We will, we will rock you

Buddy, you're an old man, poor man
 Pleading with your eyes, gonna make you some peace someday
 You got mud on your face, big disgrace
 Somebody better put you back into your place

We will, we will rock you, sing it
We will, we will rock you, everybody

We will, we will rock you
We will, we will rock you

If your child is in the Polyphonic's choir, they can rehearse using our new online platform, Muse Class Primary; <https://www.eemusicclass.co.uk/shared/DZgYjHvIGzS8mxC4> Find the songs ('Play On' and 'Fireflies'), click on 'view song' then scroll down to 'Available Learning Resources' and access the 'interactive content' by clicking on 'lyrics'. Feel free to explore other options also (e.g.: 'Audio' - 'Accompaniment - backing track only' once lyrics have been learnt).



KNIGHTS OF ST COLUMBA
Building on the Foundations for our Future



NATIONAL PRAYER COMPOSITION

COMPETITION IS OPEN TO CHILDREN AGED 7-11 YEARS OLD

THEME GUIDE:

- **“A PRAYER FOR EVERYONE WHO WORKS WITH AND CARES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE IN OUR FAITH COMMUNITY.”**
- THE PRAYER SHOULD BE NO MORE THAN 50 WORDS.
- IT MUST HAVE SPIRITUAL CONTENT AND COMPOSITION

AN ENTRY WILL ONLY COUNT IF **ALL** OF THE FOLLOWING ARE PRESENTED CLEARLY ON THE BACK: **CHILD'S NAME. AGE. DATE OF BIRTH. SCHOOL YEAR GROUP. NAME AND FULL ADDRESS OF SCHOOL.**

INFORMATION:

Submission Deadline
5th April 2026

FREE ENTRY



Prizes

Winner: £30
2nd place: £20
3rd place: £15



Children should bring their prayers to school by the deadline and we will organise a collection with **Brother Brian McDermid.**





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EASTER PAINTING COMPETITION

COMPETITION IS OPEN TO CHILDREN AGED 7-11 YEARS OLD

THEME GUIDE:

- **A SCENE RECALLED FROM PALM SUNDAY AND THROUGH THE EASTER SEASON.**
- **WRITE BIBLE CHAPTER AND VERSE THAT BEST RELATES TO YOUR PAINTING.**
- THE COMPETITOR'S ENTRIES WILL BE OF THEIR OWN FREE HAND DRAWING AND COLOURING PRODUCTION.
- THE USE OF PRE-PREPARED TRACINGS SHOULD BE DISCOURAGED.
- THE ENTRIES ARE TO BE SUBMITTED SIZED EITHER A4 OR A3 ON PAPER OR CARD OF A QUALITY AND COLOUR OF CHOICE.
- THE BIBLE CHAPTER AND VERSE CAN BE WRITTEN ON THE PAINTING, ON THE REVERSE OR ON ATTACHMENT.

AN ENTRY WILL ONLY COUNT IF **ALL** OF THE FOLLOWING ARE PRESENTED CLEARLY: **CHILD'S NAME. AGE. DATE OF BIRTH. SCHOOL YEAR GROUP. NAME AND FULL ADDRESS OF SCHOOL. REMEMBER TO ALSO INCLUDE THE BIBLE VERSE!**

INFORMATION:	
Submission Deadline	Prizes
5th April 2026	Winner: £30
FREE ENTRY	2nd place: £20
	3rd place: £15

Children should bring their Easter scene to school by the deadline and we will organise a collection with Brother Brian McDermid.



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 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

➤ MTC PREP SCHEDULE ✕

SEPTEMBER

GARAGE
(mins per week)
21

21 minutes a week is the magic number for achieving top MTC scores.

OCTOBER

GARAGE
(mins per week)
21

AUTUMN OUMTC*



NOVEMBER & DECEMBER

GARAGE
(mins per week)
21

JANUARY & FEBRUARY

SOUNDCHECK
(games per week)
3

GARAGE
(mins per week)
18

SPRING OUMTC*



MARCH

SOUNDCHECK
(games per week)
5

GARAGE
(mins per week)
16

APRIL

SOUNDCHECK
(games per week)
3

STUDIO
(games per week)
3

GARAGE
(mins per week)
15

MAY

SOUNDCHECK
(games per week)
6

STUDIO
(games per week)
15

SUMMER OUMTC*



JUNE

SOUNDCHECK
(games per week)
21

*The OUMTC is our own mini MTC and it is in semi test conditions. It will give you a good idea of how your students will perform on the real thing. Take part in three OUMTCs throughout the year to give you a baseline, benchmark and time to respond to the results



Please see below for guidance on reading in Key Stage Two

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 reading quiz – this is part of their weekly homework.