



## Year 5



Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back! We hope you had a relaxing and enjoyable holiday spent with families and friends.

We started first week of the Spring term by asking God to bless our school family during the Epiphany mass led by Father Simon and our Spiritual leaders. In Maths this week we were multiplying 4-digit numbers by 1, 2 and 3 digits and in English we began our adventure narrative, Journey to the River Sea by Eva Ibbotson. Children and staff are looking forward to studying the Vikings and to our exciting workshop on this in two weeks' time on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> January

Thank you once again for all your lovely Christmas cards and wonderful presents. We really do appreciate your kindness and generosity.

Mrs Peneda, Mrs Maliphant and Mrs Gregson

### Upcoming Events

**DT – Monday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2026** – Pupils do not need to bring anything. School provides ingredients.

**Viking Day – Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> January 2026** – Please come dressed as a Viking. See costume making ideas below

Half term Monday 16<sup>th</sup> February – Friday 20<sup>th</sup> February 2026

### Information

PE: Tuesday -**Doves only** Children should come into school wearing their school uniforms and will change into PE kit at school.

PE: Wednesday - **Pheasants only** Children should come into school wearing their school uniforms and will change into PE kit at school.

Library: Monday (Pheasants and Doves). Children need to bring their library book back EVERY week.

Games: Friday (both classes) **Children wear their Games kit on Fridays all day.**

### Homework:

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. This week's spelling:

reliably
dependably
comfortably
possibly
horribly
terribly
visibly
incredibly
sensibly
legibly

### **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.

### **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).

### **Viking Day – Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> January 2026**

Please find dressing up ideas for making costumes and accessories for our workshop below, which can be as simple or adventurous as the children like. We recommend that you make these costumes at home using items you already have. Any weapons must be made from cardboard or foam.

#### **VIKING WARRIORS**

Dressing as Viking warriors is easy! Use a brightly coloured adult "T" Shirt as an over shirt and a normal size T shirt underneath for an undershirt. Your trousers can be baggy or straight legged. Wear a cloak and a furry hat if you want. Leg bindings are optional. These are very long lengths of material that are bound around your legs from your ankles to your knees. If you do wear leg bindings, make sure they are secure. To make realistic chain mail, use old onion bags. Spray them silver. It looks good and weighs much less than the real thing. You can get old onion bags from supermarkets and greengrocer's shops. Wear a belt around your waist over the top of your chain mail or over your shirt.

#### **VIKING HELMET**

To make a Viking Helmet, you will need to measure your head very carefully. Measure all the way around your head. Remember to write this measurement down. Then measure from the middle of your forehead over the top your head and from ear to ear. Using thin cardboard make a frame or cradle this size. Line your helmet with foil or thin card. The "spectacle" is optional, so is the point on the top. Paint your helmet black or grey.



### VIKING SWORDS

If making your sword from cardboard, see if you can make a hand grip like one of these. Please do not make your sword longer than 52cms. PLEASE NOTE!!! Only soft foam swords and swords made from CARDBOARD will be allowed. If any of the weapons the children make are made from wood, these will be confiscated.



### VIKING SHIELD

You will need a LARGE Circle of thick, strong cardboard. A long strip of strong cardboard. A round yoghurt pot. Some long-split pins and some paint. Sticky tape to cover the split pins. Paint the yoghurt pot silver or grey. Cut a hole, slightly smaller than your yoghurt pot in the back of your shield. Paint your shield in colourful stripes or swirls. Push the yoghurt pot through the back of the shield to act as a shield boss to protect your hand. Paint silver or grey. Attach the long strip of cardboard across the middle of your shield, over the hole with the yoghurt pot in it, with the split pins. Cover the ends of the split pins with tape or plaster.



Front of shield



Back

### VIKING SETTLERS COSTUMES AND ACCESSORIES

You will need a long underdress and calf-length pinafore dress. Your TORTOISE BROOCHES are attached to the front of the pinafore dress. Wear beads between your tortoise brooches. Your Viking comb and girdle hangers can be worn hanging from your brooches on long lengths of cord. Viking women always wore headscarves. They would wear a cloak if it was very cold. Make your TORTOISE BROOCHES from oval pieces cardboard. Decorate with pasta and paint gold or silver. Stick a safety pin on the back, so you can pin your brooches to your pinafore.



**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 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)