



Year 5



Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been a wonderful first week back.

This week we celebrated St Polycarp Feast Day, with Year 5 proudly leading the whole school Mass on Friday.

In English we wrote odes to our favourite things and in maths we learnt to recognise equivalent fractions and decimals. Our RE topic has reflected the start of Lent and the significance of Ash Wednesday.

We had a special guest speaker from Papaya who taught us about screen usage. They will be delivering a speech to parents on Wednesday 4th March (information below), the talk for the children was enlightening and I would recommend attending the parent talk if you can!

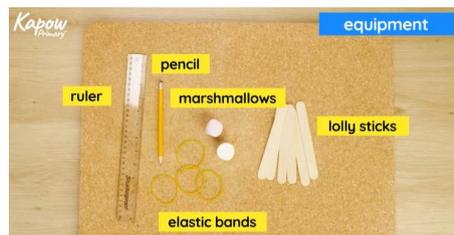
We also attended the Science Fair – well done to all of the children who took part!

Finally, in science we completed a lever investigation. We have added some steps below in case your children would like to repeat the simple investigation at home.

Thank you for your continued support,

Mrs Peneda, Mrs Maliphant and Mrs Prentice

Science Experiment:



1. Secure 4 of the lolly sticks with an elastic band



2. Secure the remaining 2 lolly sticks with an elastic band, only at one end



3. Insert the bundle of 4 lolly sticks between the 2 lolly sticks and mark the starting point



4. Use a ruler to measure 1cm intervals



5. Insert the bundle of lolly sticks at the starting point



6. Use a 4th elastic band to secure them in place



7. You can move the lever to investigate how this affects the catapult



Upcoming Events

Wednesday 4th March – Papaya Internet Safety Talk

Thursday 5th March - World Book Day

Thursday 12th March – Open Books

Friday 13th March - (School closed) - INSET Day

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)

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

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.**

Papaya Internet Safety Talk

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

WORLD BOOK WEEK 2026

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

Homework:

Friday lunchtime Homework club will resume in March 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.

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 are below but will not be tested until second week back due to half term – Friday 6th March

knight
wreckage
writer
knowledge
knuckle
wreath
pterodactyl
mnemonic
wrestler
knife

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.

Handwriting

Handwriting videos are now available to access at home. The children have great fun following these in school. Please follow the following link :

<https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/2xyKsbDJ/rrlDh5Ta>

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.

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 Pheasants and Doves will be singing and playing an amended version of '**Hey Soul Sister**' by Train. The children will be singing from memory so please do support them in practicing using the lyrics and chord structure pasted on the next couple of pages.

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).

Hey Soul Sister – Train

Chord sequence 1: (Verses & Bridge)

C / / /	G / / /	Am / / /	F / / /
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Chord sequence 2: (Chorus)

F / / /	G / C G	F / / /	G / C G
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Song Structure & Song Lyrics:

Verse 1:

C / / /	G / / /	Am / / /	F / / /
Hey	-ay -ay_____	-ay -ay_____	Your
C / / /	G / / /	Am / / /	F / / /
lipstick stains	On the front lobe of	my left side brains	I knew I wouldn't for-
C / / /	G / / /	Am / / /	F / G /
get you, and so I went and	let you blow	mind	Your
C / / /	G / / /	Am / / /	F / / /
Sweet moonbeams	the smell of you in every	single dream I	dream I knew when we col-
C / / /	G / / /	Am / / /	F / G /
lided you're the one I had de-	-cided was one of a	kind	

Chorus:

F / / /	G / C G	F / / /	G / C G
Hey soul sister	Ain't that Mister	Mr on the radio, stereo the	way you move ain't Fair you know
F / / /	G / C G	F / / /	G / / STOP
Hey soul sister	I don't wanna	miss a single thing you do	Tonight

Back to chord sequence 1, 'hey-ay' then into verse 2

Verse 2:

Just in time

I'm so glad you have a focused mind like me

You gave my life direction

A game show love connection we can't deny

I'm so obsessed

My heart is bound to beat right out of my untrimmed chest

I believe in you, like a light you guide me onwards,

And I'm always gonna wanna blow your mind

Chorus

Bridge: (Chord sequence 1)

The way you can cut a rug

Watching you is the only drug I need

So gangsta, I'm so thug

You're the only one I'm dreaming of

You see, I can be myself now finally

In fact, there's nothing I can't be

I want the world to see

You'll be with me

Chorus x 2

Hey-ay x2

...tonight...



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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

5th April 2026

FREE ENTRY

Prizes

Winner: £30

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.



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.**



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 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