

Year 4



Dear Parents/Carers,



We've had a great last week before half term in Year 4! In Geography, the children have been investigating where our school dinners come from as part of our wider learning on food miles, and in DT they tried a selection of tropical fruits before designing a label to share food-mile information. In RE, we explored the question *"What would Jesus do?"* We also marked Safer Internet Week with fun, engaging activities and took part in Mental Health and Wellbeing Week with a focus on belonging. Thank you for your continued support, and we wish all our children and families a very happy half term.

Fundraising

This year, our year group charity is the Sean Devereux Children's Fund. The children have learnt about Sean and all the incredible things he did in his life as part of their RE lessons. If you and your child would like to fundraise for this cause, please let your class teacher know.

Dates

Monday 16th February – Friday 20th February 2026 Half term

Tuesday 24th February – St Polycarp's Science Fair (see information below)

Thursday 6th March – World Book Day (Costumes) **Please see information below.**

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)

*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 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

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

Spelling – There is no spelling homework set for half term.

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 – There is no maths homework set for half term.

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

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

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



WORLD BOOK WEEK 2026

Dear parents and carers,

St Polycarp's World Book 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



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)**. 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/DZqYjHvIGzS8mxC4> 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).



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@stpolycarps.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.