School Newsletter 435 19th December 2025

Archdeacon Cambridge's

Church of England Primary School
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"Be happy and love learning, confident in our faith. Do everything in love." 1 Corinthians 16:13-14

Dear Parents and Children,

Hurrah – the last day of term! The children (and staff) are exhausted and I think we are all looking forward to the two week break. I absolutely love the run up to Christmas working in a primary school – it really is a privilege to see all the performances and to watch the children sharing their various talents - acting, singing and dancing their hearts out on stage! Joining in with the rousing Christmas carols at the Christmas Service (Love Shone Down is my very favourite) and the awe and wonder that Christmas brings, it really is very special.

Congratulations to the Athletics Team who this week competed in a Primary Schools Indoor Sports Hall Competition at St Mary's University (please see Mr Bell's report). Well done also to our Junior Choir who have been very busy this Christmas singing at various events including the Richmond Music Trust Annual Christmas Concert in St Mary's University Chapel where we were the only Primary School Choir to be invited to perform. Please see the report and photos in the newsletter.

Congratulations to Noah in 3CB – he won the *Arthur's Pizza Competition* – and won a Pizza lunch for his whole class yesterday! Arthur's on The Green delivered 25 Pizzas and much excitement was had.

Huge thanks to all of you for a magnificent total in our Christmas fundraiser for the Home Link charity in Whitton – you raised over £1200 which is amazing.

It has been a very busy and successful term and there is no way we could manage without your support and for that we are truly grateful. My thanks to all the staff (all 60 of them) who work tirelessly to make the children's education the best it can be and to the Governing Body – who give up their time to support the school in so many ways. We are very blessed and lucky to have so much support and care from all our stakeholders.

I hope you all have a wonderful Christmas break – have a lovely time wherever you are and do cherish the time spent with loved ones. As Rev Simon said in Church on Wednesday – it's not the presents under the tree that count but Love, Peace and Kindness that all come for free. Have a relaxing holiday and best wishes for 2026.

We look forward to seeing you all on Tuesday 6th January.



With my very best wishes,
Miss Lambe
Head Teacher

A reminder to all parents that the Spring Term starts on Tuesday 6th January 2025

Spring Term Forthcoming Dates for the Diary

Mon 5th Jan		INSET DAY (School closed to children)
Tues 6th Jan		START OF TERM
Weds 7th Jan	9.10am	Start of Term Service—Holy Trinity
Fri 9th Jan	9am	Praying Parents
	3pm	PTA 2nd Hand Uniform Sale
Mon 12th Jan—Fri 23rd Jan		Year 6 Bikeability
Fri 16th Jan	9am	Mastering Maths Workshop for Reception Parents and Coffee Morning

Reception Admissions 2026/2027

Please note that the deadline for the receipt of Reception 2026/27 applications by the School/LA, including all supplementary forms is **Thursday 15th January 2026.** Parents of children born between 01/09/21 and 31/08/22 **must** apply for a Reception place for their child by this date. If you have any questions please speak to Mrs Hamerton.



Term Dates 2026

Spring Term 2026	
Inset Day	Monday 5th January
Term Dates	**Tues 6th January—Fri 27th March**
Half Term	16th—20th February
Summer Term 2026	
Inset Day	Monday 13th April
Term Dates	**Tues 14th April—Tues 21st July**
Bank Holiday	Monday 4th May
Half Term	25th—29th May
Inset Day	Mon 1st June

Easter Weekend 2026	**3rd—6th April**
Easter Weekend 2027	**26th—29th March**

Year 6 Parent Teacher Consultations

- **Tuesday 3rd February** **4.00pm—7.00pm**
- **Thursday 5th February** **4.00pm—7.00pm**

Please note the above dates for Year 6 Parent Consultations taking place next term. These consultations will take place in school and **Year 6 children should attend these consultations with their parents.** Booking will open on the Scopay System on Friday 23rd January at 6pm.

Nursery—Year 5 Parent Teacher Consultations

- **Tuesday 24th March** **4.30pm—7.30pm**
- **Thursday 26th March** **4.00pm—7.00pm**

Please note the above dates for Nursery—Year 5 Parent Consultations taking place next term. These consultations will take place in school **and children do not attend. Please make childcare arrangements.** Booking will open on the Scopay System on Friday 13th March at 6pm.

Year 6 Cycling Proficiency, 12th—23rd January



Please note that Year 6 will be participating in their cycling proficiency during January; the information letter with permission link has been sent via Parentmail and the link form should be filled in by the start of term. The Christmas break provides a good opportunity to check bicycles and safety equipment.

School Meals

The lunch time menu will remain the same for the Spring Term. Please advise the School Office of any changes to your child's lunch time arrangements as soon as possible.

Spring Term Before/After School and Lunch Clubs

Please note that most Before, After and Lunch Time School Clubs will begin on **Thursday 8th January.** Please see the Extra Curricular Grid for more information about our Before and After School Clubs for Years 1-6 and note carefully start and finish dates.

Term Dates 2026-27

Autumn Term 2026	
Inset Day	Wednesday 2nd September
Term Dates	**Thurs 3rd Sept —Fri 18th Dec**
Half Term	26th—30th October
Inset Day	Fri 20th November
Spring Term 2027	
Inset Day	Monday 4th January
Term Dates	**Tues 5th Jan —Thurs 25th March**
Half Term	16th—20th February
Summer Term 2027	
Term Dates	**Tues 12th April—Weds 21st July**
Bank Holiday	Mon 3rd May
Half Term	31st May—4th June
Inset Day	Mon 7th June

Autumn Term Attendance

Congratulations to the following classes with the highest attendance in the Autumn Term:



1F & 4B	98.1%
1W	98%
2PS & 3CB	97.9%

After Christmas, children will be awarded Gold, Silver or Bronze attendance stickers in their homework diaries. Stickers are awarded for the following attendance:

Gold	**100%**
Silver	**99% and 98%**
Bronze	**97%**

Year 4 Brass Lessons with Richmond Music Trust

In the Spring Term, Year 4 will be starting their eight week course of brass instrument lessons with the Richmond Music Trust. There is no charge to parents for this initial term's brass lessons and instruments will be provided. **Lessons will start on Monday 12th January.** There will be a concert for parents on the last session of the course (Monday 9th March in the afternoon).



New Management Information System

The school will be moving to a new management information system (MIS) after the Christmas break. We will be moving from Integris to Arbor. The primary reason for the change is that our current MIS is being discontinued from February. Arbor is a well established system which will support data management at the school. Over the longer term we anticipate this move bringing benefits for parents, particularly with regard to home-school communication. The office team have been attending training in the latter weeks of this term. Please bear with us as we familiarise ourselves with the new systems next term.

Christmas Fundraising

Thank you for your very generous donations during the Christmas Nativities, Lessons and Carols and the Year 5 & 6, production of 'Wind in the Willows'. We are delighted that we have been able to raise £1231.80. Our Christmas Fundraising will be donated to Homelink Respite Care for the Elderly in Whitton. **Thank you for your fantastic support.**

Mastering Maths Workshop & Coffee Afternoon for Reception Parents

We will be holding our Mastering Maths Workshop for Reception Parents on Friday 9th January at 9am in the Large Hall. This session will focus on small numbers and completing mathematical activities Refreshments will be available. Further information will be sent to Reception Parents at the start of term.

Amazon & Waterstones Book Wish List

If you are completing any last minute online Christmas Shopping and would like to donate any new books to us, we would be very grateful for any donations of books through our Amazon or Waterstones Wish List. Please see the links below:

Amazon: https://amzn.eu/eB2gdQI

Waterstones: https://www.waterstones.com/booklist/1780700/d11b66c01ff77bf

Donation of First Stage Chapter Books

If you are having a clear out of children books at home, we would happily take any donations of first stage **chapter books (suitable for children in Years 2, 3 & 4)** which we can add to our reading scheme books. Many thanks!

Physical Activity Questionnaire

We would be very grateful if you could fill in the following Physical Activity Questionnaire for your child This will help us provide the best opportunities for all Archdeacon Cambridge's children to be physically active: Parents physical activity form – Fill out form

Indoor Athletics Competition, Mr Bell writes:

On Thursday 18th this week, 9 boys and 9 girls in Years 5 & 6 took part in the Richmond Borough Indoor Athletics event at St Mary's University. Teams competed in various field and relay running events to earn points for their school. There were very strong performances all round; Haris threw the javelin furthest across both days of events with 19m, Oli and Larry won their relay race, as did George, Xander, Harry and Seb in the obstacle course and all of the girls' relay teams finished second in their races. It was an excellent all round team performance culminating in a second place finish overall in the team points event. Mr Bell and Miss Clark are proud of all our athletes!

Message from John, Crossing Patrol



John, Our Crossing Patrol, works tirelessly morning and afternoon in all weather to manage the traffic and help our children cross the road safely. John has sent us the following message for parents **'Thank you for your kind gifts and messages. Merry Christmas, Happy New Year 2026 and Be Safe!**

Photographs of Christmas Performances

Links to view the photographs from the performances (by Mrs Renahan, also a professional photographer) from Years 5 & 6, 3 & 4 and Years 1 & 2 have been sent to parents in those year groups. Photos from Nursery & Reception will be available next term.

Message from Louise Edwards, Chair of the Governing Board

On behalf of the Governing Body I would like to congratulate the children on their wonderful Christmas performances - they were an absolute joy! We would also like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year! We look forward to seeing you in 2026!













Choir News, Ms Dallosso writes:

This has been a busy half term of singing for our Junior Choir children. Over the last few weeks not only have they been rehearsing and singing in their Christmas shows, but there have also been several Junior Choir performances. Back in October they sang beautifully at our Harvest Festival service at Holy Trinity Church, and then we started to prepare our Christmas repertoire.



On Thursday 4th December Year 5 and 6 Junior Choir members sang an assortment of Christmas carols at the Squires Garden Centre Christmas Shopping Evening to a large and enthusiastic audience of parents, friends and shoppers. This was a lovely family community event including mulled wine and prosecco for the adults, and cakes and juice for the children. We had some gorgeous feedback from staff and shoppers as well as from our own families. It was great to see some teenaged and even older Junior Choir alumnae coming to listen, too.



The absolute highlight of the Junior Choir's Christmas activities this year was on the evening of Saturday 13th December, at St Mary's University Chapel, Twickenham. Richmond Music Trust (RMT), our borough music service, invited the choir to take part in their annual Christmas concert, and it was a fantastic experience. The concert consisted of pieces performed by all the different RMT orchestras and other ensembles, as well as the recently formed small RMT choir. It was a long afternoon and evening, starting with rehearsals from 4.30pm right to the end of the concert at 9.30pm. Ours was the only school choir invited to perform and our children really rose to the occasion, showcasing their hard work, dedication and talent in front of a packed audience - the concert sold out in record time. We sang a lovely new version of Away in a Manger jointly with the RMT choir, in two-part harmony, and also had our own set of three songs. At the end of the concert we helped lead a rendition of three community carols, with our children standing all down the side aisles of the chapel singing their hearts out. The RMT staff present, plus, I heard later, members of their governing board, were very impressed with the standard of the choir, as well as their behaviour and organisation. The experience gained from performing in such a professional way, alongside other ensembles, was invaluable and I am incredibly proud of all the children who took part. They also looked absolutely gorgeous in their smart black concert outfits.



We've had two further visits to Holy Trinity, beginning with a hugely popular Carol Service with the adult choir, Trinity Singers, on the morning of Sunday 14th December, Gaudete Sunday. I was delighted with the Junior Choir's attitude and effort and was very pleased with their beautiful singing throughout. It was also a great experience for them to be able to hear an adult choir singing in four-part harmony at the same service. We also had our own end-of-term Christmas service on Wednesday 17th December, where the children sang two carols on their own as well as providing the harmony in probably our school's favourite carol, Love Shone Down.



As ever I would like to thank all the choir families for supporting the Junior Choir children so well, making sure they arrive at rehearsals on time, encouraging them at home, and reading all the complicated emails about rehearsal times and what to wear and bring! I really appreciate your help.

Our Training Choir has also been working hard again this year, developing their technique and learning to listen, to breathe and to improve their pitch and diction. They sang at our Harvest Service this year and then at the end-of-term Christmas service on Wednesday 17th December. Their quality of sound is coming on really well and I'm delighted with their progress.

Junior Choir starts again at 7:45am on the first day of the Spring Term, Tuesday 6th January, and Training Choir restarts at 7:45am on Monday 12th January. Our next big Junior Choir event is Prom Praise for Schools at the Royal Albert Hall on Tuesday 17th March 2026 (all day and evening) and then the RMT Singing Festival on the morning of Wednesday 20th May 2026 at the Rose Theatre, Kingston. I will send out more information to parents next term.

News from the PTA



Merry Christmas Everyone!!

We made it to the end of the first term! It's been an eventful start to the school year with so many exciting things happening.

Firstly, thank you all so much for your endless support and goodwill. To everyone who has bought tickets to events, volunteered at events, attended events, made donations - you are all amazing, and we can't thank you enough. It's so great to have such a fantastic school community!

We've done some great fundraising activities and events this term, including the School Disco and the wonderful Wreath Making evening and Christmas Movie Night. The Year 6 Christmas jumper Lego stall was very popular, and our little fundraisers like the after-school sales, the Second hand Uniform & Bag2School have all helped to raise much-needed funds for the school.

The PTA are also proud to have hosted the PTA social at The Pope and the Christmas Activity Day (Elfridges and The Grotto). Providing even more opportunities for parents and children to enjoy some Christmas fun as the year came to a close. Special thanks to Lorna and her team of volunteers for building a spectacular Grotto! It was truly magical.

Last but not least, our biggest fundraiser of the year - the Rugby Parking. A HUGE thank you to Jen Taylor for coordinating the rugby this term - it took a LOT of effort and perseverance to pull it off! Thankfully it was well worth it as the Rugby alone raised a whopping £5k for the school!

Your contributions to the PTAs fundraising efforts are greatly appreciated by the school and will be spent on things like equipment, refurbishments and repairs.

Special thanks goes out to Hettie, our PTA Chair, and Rebecca and Jacinta who head up the PTA Events Team. The work that goes on behind the scenes takes an unbelievable amount of time and effort - your hard work doesn't go unnoticed and is very much appreciated by us all!

Our most recent and final event of the year was our Christmas Movie Night which took place on Tuesday. Thanks to Hilary, Nicola and the team of volunteers who excelled themselves this year (and to the parents that were lumbered with unravelling the Christmas lights... hats off to you!). So much fun was had by all and everything looked so pretty! Lots of popcorn was eaten (and stamped across the floor....), lots of crafty goodies were made and plenty of candy canes, mulled wine and mince pies were consumed... what a way to end the term!

Coming up....



Paediatric First Aid Course

Join our Child First Aid Course with the award-winning Daisy First Aid on **Tuesday 27th January, 7:30pm to 9pm in the Small Hall.**
This course is perfect for anyone that has a child under 18 and wants to learn some basic first aid skills without being overwhelmed with technical information.
Tickets are £25 per person (with half of the proceeds going towards PTA fundraising for the school).
Babies under 12 months welcome.
BOOK VIA CLASSLIST. PLACES ARE LIMITED SO SECURE YOUR SPOT TODAY!



Archdeacon Lotto

We still have numbers available for the School Lotto. Please, please sign up! It's £36 for the year, and the numbers are available to purchase on Classlist https://app.classlist.com/events/#/events/view/1354830885.
Feel free to share this link with members of your family or friends outside of the school as it's open to everyone. It's a fabulous chance to win some money while supporting the school!

News from the PTA cont

Help the school with your Christmas shopping

If you're still doing some last-minute Christmas shopping, please do consider helping the school via **Easyfundraising**. Easyfundraising means each time you purchase something, we get a free donation towards the school PTA, at no extra cost to you. It's an easy and simple source of revenue for the school!

Download the Easyfundraising app and sign up. Then when you buy anything online, go via the app rather than directly through the shop website. You can shop with over 8,000 online retailers, including M&S, Amazon, Clarks, Sainsburys, ASDA.

Dates for the diary:

- 27th Jan, 7:30pm-9pm - Paediatric First Aid Course (tickets on Classlist)
- 9th Jan - Second Hand Uniform Sale
- 6th Feb - School Disco
- 3rd Mar - Bag2School
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Wishing you all a very merry (& relaxing!) Christmas and a Happy New Year! We look forward to seeing you in 2026!

Your PTA x

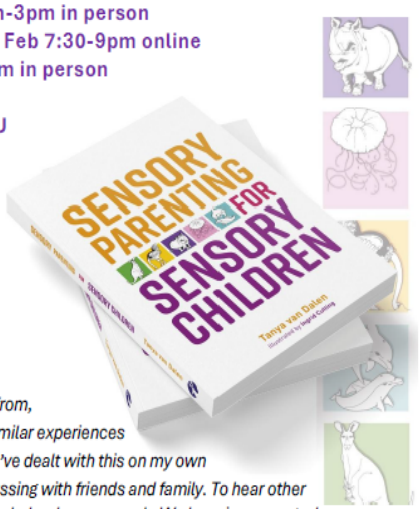


SENSORY PARENTING FOR SENSORY CHILDREN

Are you a parent of a sensory child? Join our in-person event to learn all about sensory parenting! Discover effective strategies and techniques that will help you understand and support your sensory child's unique needs. Emtia Bartlett, Occupational Therapist, will share her knowledge and encourage discussion with reference to the book 'Sensory Parenting for Sensory Children' by the author Tanya van Dalen. Don't miss this opportunity to connect with other parents facing similar challenges, and gain valuable insights into sensory processing issues and parenting styles and how they impact and are influenced by sensory children.

Saturday 24th Jan 10am-3pm in person
Wednesday 4th and 11th Feb 7:30-9pm online
Saturday28th 10am-3pm in person

110 Selkirk Rd TW2 6PU
Sign up here



'It was great to be able to hear from, and talk to, people who have similar experiences to my own with their children. I've dealt with this on my own (with my partner) without discussing with friends and family. To hear other peoples' methods and struggles helped me so much. We have incorporated several of the tactics discussed and become more accepting of some behaviours too after understanding more about sensory challenges'