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# Capel St. Mary Church of England VC Primary School

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*"A Place to Learn and Achieve"*



**With faith as small as a mustard seed, you can move mountains. – Matthew 13 verses 31- 35**

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Friday 13<sup>th</sup> March, 2026

Dear Families,

## School News!

This short term is flying by! Once again, many thanks to the PFA members for organising the present-wrapping activity this week – it looked really busy! Our Christian value this half term has been 'forgiveness' and the children have heard various Bible stories to support this. They may be able to tell you about Joseph forgiving his brothers, the story of Jesus and the taxman or the story of the lost coin. Please do reinforce the value in your conversations at home, helping the children to think about what forgiveness means in real, everyday situations.

## Parents' Evenings

Just a reminder to book onto Parents' Evenings via Arbor. You will have received separate messages about the dates. For most teachers and classes, the meetings will be held on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> of March. We look forward to seeing you there!

## Comic Relief

It is almost time for Comic Relief! This year, Red Nose Day is on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March. There will be a non-uniform day and we are asking for a small voluntary donation. Also, we would like children to practise some seriously silly dance moves, which they can show off in a short classroom disco on the day!

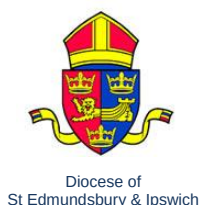
## Picture News

As you know, we use the Picture News resource to support our class assemblies. Each week, a poster about a theme from the news is used to spark discussion and to help the children explore the world around them. They have chance to think and talk and the theme is linked to our Christian Values. This week's theme was NASA's planned trip to the Moon. You may want to follow this up by discussing the 'Take Home' page with your child at home (see below!).

## Headteacher Awards!

The children have been busy with their learning across the whole school. Once again, I've been particularly pleased to see lots of improvements in children's handwriting. I've given out Headteacher Awards to some super children who have shared their achievements with me. Well done to the following children, who have been given a Headteacher's Award since the last newsletter:

Fred – writing (Year 5)  
Thea – writing (Year 2)  
Elsie – writing (Year 2)  
Lillia – writing (Year 2)  
Lorenzo – writing (Year 2)  
Isaiah – writing (Year 2)  
Eadie – science (Year 2)



**Suffolk County Council**

Julia Grainger – Interim Assistant Director for  
Education Skills and Learning

## School Sport

Miss Moore and Mrs Plummer took a team to a Girls' Football Festival last week. The girls were absolutely brilliant – they encouraged one another, worked together and showed great teamwork. We were really impressed with their attitude, commitment and behaviour as representatives of our school. Their football skills were also amazing and they performed really well as a team – here are their incredible scores!

4-0    0-0    2-0    2-0    5-1

The girls even got to meet some members of the Ipswich Town ladies' team. Well done, everyone.



## PE Kit Reminder

We kindly ask that children come to school wearing the correct PE kit on their PE days. Wearing the agreed school PE kit helps ensure that all children feel included and comfortable, as everyone is dressed in the same simple and practical clothing. It also helps keep the focus on enjoying sport, learning new skills and working together as a team, rather than on brands or different styles of clothing – which can make other children and parents feel under pressure to buy more expensive, branded items to keep up.

**Indoors:** black shorts, pale blue polo shirt (with or without the school logo), plimsolls (EYFS/Unit 1) or indoor trainers (Units 2 and 3)

**Outdoors:** in addition to the items above, plain tracksuit or jogging bottoms and a sweatshirt – preferably navy blue.

## Robins Childcare

Please see the information in the video links below about the Easter holiday club at Robins. Looks like great fun!



4162EDF5.mp4



C88488CB.mp4



2A28A811.mp4

## Wellbeing HQ Update

Thank you, once again, to everyone in our school community who has helped raise money to develop a dedicated space in school for supporting children's emotional wellbeing. While it remains a work in progress, you wouldn't believe the transformation from a cluttered storage space to the bright, welcoming room it has already become. We have staff members regularly running group interventions in the room to help develop children's social skills and emotional literacy and Mrs vanGameren, our Senior Mental Health Lead, has dedicated time in the Wellbeing HQ to meet and support children one-to-one. We plan to do much more with the space, including a Young Carers session this week. This project, and timetabling support, has completely changed what we can provide and lots of children are really benefiting. Some of the key things your money has been used for include: new carpet, painting, soft furnishings, new lighting, sofa and arm chair, a noticeboard, shelving, new cupboard doors to hide away resources and further storage for mental health resources and a lockable cupboard. Many thanks – this has made a massive difference!



## Attendance

Just a reminder about the importance of good school attendance. Improving attendance is a national priority for the government. Schools are expected to monitor absence and actively promote good attendance. There is evidence of a very strong link between children's achievement and school attendance.

We have had a lot of requests for holidays during term time this year. Generally, holidays should not be taken during term time except in very exceptional circumstances. Please note that holidays can't be authorised in term time because of cost although we sympathise! If you would like to request a leave of absence, please complete a form from the school office. However, please be aware that in most circumstances we would be guided not to authorise the holiday and it could lead to a penalty fine.

Good attendance:

Helps children achieve their potential!

Improves children's achievement;

Increases children's wellbeing and confidence;

Helps children make and keep friends;

Establishes positive patterns for the future and is good training for adult life and work.

Absence can have an impact on a child's learning, friendships and wellbeing.

When children's attendance falls below 90%, this is classed as 'persistent absence'. 90% attendance at school is equal to taking off half a day every week. Over a school year, this is the equivalent of 4 whole weeks (the whole of September!). If a pupil's attendance is 90% over 5 years that is the equivalent to missing half a school year.

## Children with Asthma

If your child is diagnosed with asthma and has an inhaler in school, they should have been given a care plan by the GP. Please could you ensure that a copy of the asthma care plan has been given in at the school office, so that staff are able to provide the best care for your child. It is important for asthma care plans to be on file in school. Thanks for your support with this.

## Dinner Money

Please can parents and carers ensure that any dinner money debts are paid as soon as possible. While each individual amount owed may not seem a lot, the total owed to the school exceeds £1,800. I'm sure you're aware from news reports that school funding is tight and it is important that we recoup this money as we near the end of the financial year. Ideally, it is best if the amount owed is not greater than a week's worth of school dinners at any given time. Many thanks for your help with this.

## Dates for Your Diary:

We have agreed dates for a number of events over the course of the year, which are listed below for your convenience. Any new dates on the list have been **highlighted**. Further details about individual events will be shared closer to the time.

| <i>Date</i>                                    | <i>Name of Event</i>                                                         |
|------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 4 <sup>th</sup> March 2026                     | Outdoor learning session – Bumblebees Class<br>Open Classroom session 3.30pm |
| 5 <sup>th</sup> March 2026                     | World Book Day – Parents welcome to read 3pm                                 |
| 9 <sup>th</sup> March 2026                     | PFA – Mother's Day present wrapping activity                                 |
| 11 <sup>th</sup> March 2026                    | Outdoor learning session – Ladybirds Class                                   |
| 13 <sup>th</sup> March 2026                    | Rocksteady Concert 2.30pm                                                    |
| 18 <sup>th</sup> March                         | Outdoor learning session – Squirrels Class                                   |
| 17 <sup>th</sup> & 19 <sup>th</sup> March 2026 | Parent consultations                                                         |
| 20 <sup>th</sup> March 2026                    | Comic Relief Dress Down Day                                                  |
| W/B 23 <sup>rd</sup> March 2026                | PGL residential trip – Year 6                                                |
| 26 <sup>th</sup> March 2026                    | Easter experience Year 5 parents/relatives welcome 2.30pm                    |
| 27 <sup>th</sup> March 2026                    | Last day of term – break up for Easter                                       |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2026                     | SCS Football Holiday Camp                                                    |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> April 2026                     | SCS Football Holiday Camp / Creation Station Holiday Camp                    |
| 8 <sup>th</sup> April 2026                     | SCS Football Holiday Camp / Creation Station Holiday Camp                    |
| 9 <sup>th</sup> April 2026                     | SCS Football Holiday Camp                                                    |
| 13 <sup>th</sup> April 2026                    | Back to school after Easter                                                  |
| 15 <sup>th</sup> April 2026                    | Outdoor learning session - Hedgehogs                                         |
| 22 <sup>nd</sup> April 2026                    | Outdoor learning session - Foxes                                             |
| 29 <sup>th</sup> April 2026                    | Outdoor learning session - Polecats                                          |
| 6 <sup>th</sup> May 2026                       | Outdoor learning session – Bumblebees Class                                  |
| W/B 11 <sup>th</sup> May 2026                  | Year 6 SATs week                                                             |
| 13 <sup>th</sup> May 2026                      | Outdoor learning session – Ladybirds Class                                   |
| 20 <sup>th</sup> May 2026                      | Outdoor learning session – Squirrels Class                                   |
| W/B 25 <sup>th</sup> May 2026                  | Half Term week                                                               |
| W/B 1 <sup>st</sup> June 2026                  | 2 week window for Year 4 Multiplication Check                                |
| W/B 8 <sup>th</sup> June 2026                  | Year 1 Phonics Screen week                                                   |
| 9 <sup>th</sup> June 2026                      | Key Stage 2 Sports Day                                                       |
| 15 <sup>th</sup> June 2026                     | PFA – Father's Day present wrapping activity                                 |
| 17 <sup>th</sup> June 2026                     | Early Years / Key Stage 1 Sports Day                                         |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> July 2026                      | PFA – Summer Fayre                                                           |
| 7 <sup>th</sup> July 2026                      | Summer Celebration event – parents and carers are invited to join us         |
| 13 <sup>th</sup> July 2026                     | Annual reports out to parents                                                |

# TAKEHOME

23<sup>rd</sup> February  
- 1<sup>st</sup> March

## In the news this week

Scientists at NASA are preparing to send astronauts back to the Moon, as part of a new space programme running over the coming years. The series of missions aims to test new technology, learn more about the Moon, and help humans prepare for future journeys deeper into space. The next mission is Artemis II. The plans have sparked discussions about why people explore space and how they could help life on Earth.

### Things to talk about at home ...

- > What do you already know about space or the Moon? What would you like to find out?
- > Why do you believe people choose to explore space, even though it can be difficult and risky?
- > If you could explore anywhere beyond Earth, where would you go and why?

## Why do people explore space?



Please note any interesting thoughts or comments

Share your thoughts and read the opinions of others

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