
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

Friday 9th January, 2026

Dear Families,

School News!

Last term ended with a brilliant pantomime, performed by a visiting theatre company for the Early Years and Unit 1, and a lovely carol service at the church on the final day. After all the exciting Christmas activities in school, I hope you all had a restful, peaceful and joyful Christmas holiday. I wish all the very best for the New Year to everyone in our school community and beyond. I can't believe it's 2026! It's been lovely to see the children returning to school, settling in quickly and sharing Christmas stories with their friends. Although it didn't last for long, we even had a rare snowfall for the children to experience!

Monty Awards

At the end of the autumn term, we gave out 'Monty Awards' to celebrate children who have been showing our school's Christian values. The following children received an award:

Reception – Sonny

Year 1 – Lillia

Year 2 – Charlie

Year 3 – Henry

Year 4 – Amelia

Year 5 – Chloe

Year 6 – Arielle

Monty the Mustard Seed, our school mascot, reinforces our Christian vision, which is based on the parable of the mustard seed and the idea that great things can come from small beginnings. Monty helps the children to remember our Christian values. This half term we are focusing on the value of 'courage' in collective worship. It would be great if you could support this at home by talking about what courage is and how we might show courage when trying new things or in the classroom.

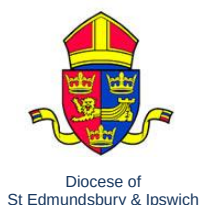
Online Safety

The Children's Commissioner, Dame Rachel de Souza, has published a new guide about helping children manage their digital lives. The guide was written with the help of children in England, reflecting on their experiences of the digital world and online safety. Parents and carers may find the guide helpful and interesting. We've been asked to share it with you – you can access it via the link below:

[What I wish my parents or carers knew: A guide for parents on managing children's digital lives.](#)

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. The latest theme is the



Suffolk County Council

Julia Grainger – Interim Assistant Director for
Education Skills and Learning

'National Year of Reading 2026'. You may want to follow this up by discussing the 'Take Home' page with your child at home (see below!).

Headteacher Awards!

As ever, it is lovely when children come to share their good work with me and it's great to see their pride in their achievements. Well done to the following children, who have been given a Headteacher's Award since the last newsletter:

Eliza – writing (Year 3)
Elsie – writing (Year 2)
Enid – writing (Year 2)
Dylan – reading (Year 3)
Harriet – writing (Reception)

Robins Childcare

As you know, we share our site with Robins Childcare. Some of the young children who join Capel St Mary in Reception start their learning journey at Robins first. A number of our older children also attend breakfast and after-school clubs at Robins, which provides wrap-around care. Children who use the breakfast club are brought directly into school by Robins' staff at the start of the school day. At the end of the day, children going to Robins meet at a designated safe space inside the school, where they are collected by Robins' staff. Robins send us a list of the children who are booked in, so that we know who to send at the end of each day. If you would like to know more about the childcare or wrap-around care that Robins provide, please see the advert below. There is also a poster below about an upcoming open day at Robins on Saturday 28th February.

Open Classrooms

There will be another informal chance for you to come in after school on Tuesday 3rd March to see your child's teacher, visit their classroom and take a look at their books. As with all the events we organise for parents and carers, it is just an opportunity to share in the children's learning if you are available; it's lovely to see so many parents but you are not obliged to come in and there is no pressure from us to do so! It's a chance to find out about what your children have been learning before this term's parents' evenings, which will be held on 17th and 19th March.

Pupil Survey Results

At the end of the autumn term, our Unit 2 and 3 children (Years 3 – 6) completed a survey for us. Parents might be interested in some of the key findings below. Overall, the survey responses are highly positive across most areas of school life, including safety, behaviour expectations, online safety understanding, and knowing who to talk to if children need help.

Wellbeing & Safety

- **90%** – I am generally happy at school
- **94%** – I feel safe in school
- **91%** – I understand some of the risks in my local area
- **95%** – I know who I can talk to if I have a problem

Online Safety & Technology

- **97%** – I understand the risks of using the internet/social media
- **42%** – I have a mobile phone of my own
- **51%** – I use social media or chat apps
- **82%** – I use video-sharing sites/apps

Learning Behaviour & Engagement

- **99%** – I understand learning behaviour expectations
- **89%** – My learning behaviour is good
- **86%** – I am proud of my work
- **84%** – I enjoy my learning in school

Children's answers around the use of technology are really interesting and show the need for school to continue working hard on digital literacy and digital citizenship alongside parents.



In the news this week

The National Year of Reading 2026 is a special year, created to help children and adults in the UK enjoy reading more. Everyone is encouraged to explore all kinds of stories, books, comics, magazines, websites, and even audiobooks, with the theme 'Go All In'. Throughout the year, schools, libraries, and communities will run fun events and challenges to help everyone find a type of reading they love.

Things to talk about at home ...

- > Talk to someone at home about the types of books or other materials you enjoy reading.
- > Ask an adult to describe their reading journey, e.g., what they liked reading as a child, what they read now.
- > Why do you think fewer people read in today's world? What do you think of the initiative – is it a good idea in your view?

Please note any interesting thoughts or comments

Share your thoughts and read the opinions of others

www.picture-news.co.uk/discuss





Robinschildcare.co.uk



Robin's Childcare

Day Nursery, Pre School & Out of School Club

Open Day!

Saturday 28th February 2026

10:30 - 12:30

The Street, Capel St Mary, Ipswich, IP9 2EG

Come discover how young minds grow through curiosity-driven learning at Robin's Childcare and Forest School.

All families welcome - no bookings required



01473 310767

info@robinschildcare.co.uk

www.robinschildcare.co.uk



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>
5 th January 2026	Professional Development Day for staff (no children in school)
6 th January 2026	Children return to school
11 th January 2026	Choir Club singing at St. Mary's Church performance 4pm arrive at 3.30pm
14 th January 2026	Outdoor learning session – Bumblebees Class
21 st January 2026	Outdoor learning session – Ladybirds Class
28 th January 2026	Outdoor learning session – Squirrels Class
4 th February 2026	Outdoor learning session – Hedgehogs Class
11 th February 2026	Outdoor learning session – Foxes Class
13 th February 2026	PFA – Disco
W/B 16 th February 2026	Half Term week
25 th February 2026	Outdoor learning session – Polecats Class
4 th March 2026	Outdoor learning session – Bumblebees Class
13 th March 2026	Rocksteady Concert 2.30pm
9 th March 2026	PFA – Mother's Day present wrapping activity
11 th March 2026	Outdoor learning session – Ladybirds Class
18 th March	Outdoor learning session – Squirrels Class
17 th & 19 th March 2026	Parent consultations
W/B 23 rd March 2026	PGL residential trip – Year 6
27 th March 2026	Last day of term – break up for Easter
13 th April 2026	Back to school after Easter
6 th May 2026	Outdoor learning session – Bumblebees Class
W/B 11 th May 2026	Year 6 SATs week
13 th May 2026	Outdoor learning session – Ladybirds Class
20 th May 2026	Outdoor learning session – Squirrels Class
W/B 25 th May 2026	Half Term week
W/B 1 st June 2026	2 week window for Year 4 Multiplication Check
W/B 8 th June 2026	Year 1 Phonics Screen week
9 th June 2026	Key Stage 2 Sports Day
15 th June 2026	PFA – Father's Day present wrapping activity
17 th June 2026	Early Years / Key Stage 1 Sports Day
3 rd July 2026	PFA – Summer Fayre
7 th July 2026	Summer Celebration event – parents and carers are invited to join us
13 th July 2026	Annual reports out to parents