
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 11th September, 2026

Dear Families,

School News!

I would like to wish everyone in our school community a warm welcome back to school. I hope the children have had a fun, restful, relaxing and healthy break during the summer. As always, it has been lovely to see them return to school positively with smiles and stories of summer! The children have settled into their new classes well and I am looking forward to another exciting year ahead!

Parents' Evenings

To help with a smooth transition into new year groups, we are holding our autumn term parents' evenings earlier this year. This is a chance for you to talk to the teacher about how well they have settled in and the learning for the year ahead. Please make a note of the date and look out for further information from the school office about how to book a time to meet your child's teacher.

The dates for this term are:

Tuesday 6th October

Thursday 8th October

Music Tuition

Please see the message below from Mikey, our visiting music tutor.

1-1 Music Lessons Available This September

Is your child interested in learning a musical instrument? As we begin a new school year, a limited number of daytime lesson slots are available on Thursdays for one-to-one tuition in piano, guitar, and ukulele.

Lessons are available in 20-minute or 30-minute sessions and are suitable for both beginners and more experienced students. Spaces are limited, so please get in touch to secure your place!

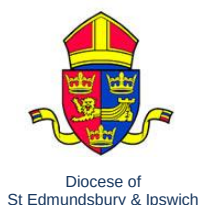
For more information or to ask any questions, please email info@buicksmusic.co.uk. Mikey will be happy to help.

Parking

Just a reminder at the start of the year about safe and courteous parking on the roads near to school. I know that parking near to school at drop-off and pick-up times can be a challenge. However, I have been asked by local residents to remind everyone to park safely and respectfully. In particular, please be careful about restricting access to people's driveways.

School Car Park

Again, just a reminder that the school car park is for school staff and visitors. The school car park can get really busy, particularly in the mornings, and is not intended for parents to use. Please can parents and carers avoid parking in the car park unless you have a permit, available from the school office if you have particular needs or circumstances requiring close access to the school.



Suffolk County Council

Julia Grainger – Interim Assistant Director for
Education Skills and Learning

Parents and Friends Association

Many thanks to everyone involved with the PFA last year! They organised fantastic events, including fun discos and the summer Fayre. Once again, the summer Fayre was a great success! Such events are an important part of our community's social calendar as well as fundraising events. A lot of work goes into organising them, so I would like to say a huge thank you to the members of the PFA, parents, staff members and other volunteers who organised events in advance and helped out on the day. I'm very grateful as these events only work if they are well-supported.

The funds raised by the PFA support a range of things in school. At the start of this year, the PFA has agreed to give a sum of money to each unit to spend on things for the children in their classes. They also plan to top up the playtime equipment each term.

If you can offer any time to help with organisation or supporting on the day – please get in touch with the PFA via the school office or via CapeStMaryPFA@mail.com.

Fundraising by Jessica!

We are all really proud of Jessica from Owls Class. She has braved the scissors and had a total of 14 inches of her hair cut off and donated to The Princess Trust. This is a wonderful charity that makes real-hair wigs for young people who have lost their hair due to cancer or other medical conditions.

Jessica set herself a goal of also raising £500 - £700 as this is how much it costs for the charity to make a wig for a child. In the end, she managed to raise an unbelievable £1050! We would like to say a huge 'well done' to Jessica for her bravery and selflessness!

Arrangements for the End of the School Day

If you need to contact us about changes to pick-up arrangements at the end of the day, please contact the school office rather than sending a Dojo message to your child's class teacher. The teachers will not be checking messages while teaching, so an important message could be missed. If you contact the school office, Mrs Whittle or Mrs Smith will pass on the message to the teacher.

Uniform and Water Bottles

Please can children's uniform and water bottles have clear name labels to help us reduce the amount of unclaimed 'lost property'. Thanks for your help with this!

Earrings – if children wear earrings to school, please note that these should only be small, stud earrings. Children should not be wearing larger or hooped earrings for safety reasons.

School Lunch Money

We would be very grateful if payments for school lunches can be paid as quickly as possible during the year. It really helps us if parents do not build up more than a week's-worth of debt for school lunches.

Attendance

As you will know from the news and previous newsletters, improving school attendance remains a big priority for the government. This is just a reminder that holidays should not be taken during term time except in exceptional circumstances. 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.

We are expected to monitor absence closely as there is evidence of a very strong link between children's achievement and attendance in school. A child who misses two school weeks each academic year, which doesn't seem like much, will have missed approximately a term of learning by the time he or she leaves primary school. We recognise that absences can be unavoidable sometimes! We are keen to work together positively. Please do not hesitate to contact the school if you feel there is anything we can do to support with your child's attendance. Thank you for your understanding and support.



A Message from Mrs Hambling

Mrs Hambling is now teaching Kingfishers Class in Unit 2 – she has had a really exciting first week and is thoroughly enjoying her new role. She would like to share the following message:

Hello Capel!

I don't really need to introduce myself, as I've been part of the Capel School family for over 12 years, but I thought I'd share a little about my journey!

My connection with Capel actually goes back much further, as I attended the school as a child myself (and know quite a few of the current parents too!) After studying Childcare at college and working in private nurseries, I eventually found my way back to Capel.

I started here as a 1:1 Teaching Assistant in 2014 and, over the years, have taken on many different roles, gained my HLTA status and completed my degree in Childhood Studies; all whilst raising my two children, who are now 16 and 13 and both went through Capel school themselves.

Now I'm taking the next exciting step in my journey! I'm enrolled with CTTC and completing my Teaching Apprenticeship. It all feels very real now that I have my own classroom and my own class, which I've named 'Kingfishers' after one of my favourite birds!

I'm definitely nervous, but also incredibly excited. I'm sure there'll be plenty of learning, lots of fun and laughter, and the odd bit of chaos along the way... although I promise I do know what I'm doing! Your children are in safe hands!

I'm really looking forward to this next chapter, working with the wonderful children at Capel and learning alongside such a fantastic team. I feel incredibly honoured, grateful and lucky to be training at a school that I know and love, and I can't wait to see where this journey takes me.

Mrs Hambling

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. Further details about individual events will be shared closer to the time.

<i>Date</i>	<i>Name of Event</i>
6 th & 8 th October 2026	Parent consultations
6 th October 2026	'Parable' dance workshop (details to be confirmed)
19 th October 2026	Harvest service in the hall
22 nd October 2026	PFA – Disco Reception/KS1 4.30pm – 5.30pm KS2 5.45pm – 6.45pm
23 rd October 2026	Professional Development Day for staff (no children in school)
W/B 26 th October 2026	Half Term Week
18 th November 2026	'Open classrooms' – an informal opportunity to visit your child's class after school
1 st December 2026	Early Years / Key Stage 1 visiting panto – Goldilocks
3 rd December 2026	Key Stage 2 visiting panto – Aladdin
4 th December 2026	Christmas Fayre
11th December 2026	Rocksteady Concert
14 th December 2026	Early Years Christmas party
15 th December 2026	Unit 3 Christmas party
15 th & 16 th December 2026	Early Years Nativity performances

