
Capel St. Mary Church of England VC Primary School

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

Telephone: 01473 310386

Email: admin@capel-st-mary.suffolk.sch.uk

Headteacher: Mr Andrew Frolish

"A Place to Learn and Achieve"



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

Friday 22nd May, 2026

Dear Families,

School News!

The summer term is always so busy with school trips, sports and other events! It's also a time when we have lots of national tests and checks across the school. Well done to the children in Year 6, who completed their SATs last week. They approached everything with a great attitude – they worked hard, did their best and we are really proud of them. Many thanks to all the adults who have worked towards the tests with the children and helped to organise them last week. We had a number of volunteers who came in to assist and their help is much appreciated. Other assessments are ongoing or yet to take place. Later in the term, we have to submit to the Department for Education our assessments for the Reception children and writing assessments for the Year 6 pupils, so they still have a lot of written work to do.

Week beginning 1st June – 2-week window for the Year 4 multiplication check

Week beginning 8th June – Year 1 phonics screen

Next week is half term – I hope all the children have a lovely, relaxing, restful break and I look forward to seeing everyone again for the final half term on Monday 1st June,

Half Term Holiday Clubs

Just a reminder that we have some holiday clubs running at the school during half term.

SCS football – Tuesday 26th May and Wednesday 27th May

Creation Station – Wednesday 27th May

Bookings can be made directly with the clubs – please see the message sent out on Dojo for more information.

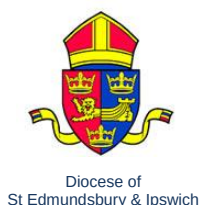
Robins Childcare

I'm pleased to let you know that Robins Childcare worked hard to resolve the issues with their building last week and over the weekend and re-opened on Monday 18th May, so we didn't need to accommodate them in the school building. Well done to the Robins team for all their efforts and it's great for their children to be in their familiar setting.

Sewing in Unit 1

The children in Unit 1 have been working on a challenging Design Technology project this week. The children have been creating felt 'monster' pockets; they look absolutely amazing – I'm so impressed by their neat sewing! They have learned a new skill – the running stitch, which they practised on paper plates for a stiffer surface first. Some of the children are using their pockets as 'worry monsters' and others are using them for the Tooth Fairy!

We have all benefited from the help of a wonderful team of volunteers this week. Parents, grandparents and other friends from the community gave the children lots of support and encouragement. The sessions were really well attended – thanks so much to everyone who came along.



Suffolk County Council

Julia Grainger – Interim Assistant Director for
Education Skills and Learning

Speaking of volunteers, the new outdoor learning sessions with older children (run by the phenomenal Mrs Dix!) have been brilliantly supported by lots of volunteers. Once again, parents, grandparents and members of the community have been a great help – we couldn't do it without you! Thanks on behalf of all the children and staff.



An exciting Adventure at Colchester Castle

The children in Unit 2 have just enjoyed a fascinating trip to Colchester Castle with a focus on learning about the Romans and the story of Boudicca. The children explored the museum, visited the prison and set up a Roman roundhouse, which required good teamwork. They went below the castle and discovered the remains of Claudius's temple – this involved bending down low and following the tunnels into the small rooms. Many thanks to all the grown-ups who helped on the trip.



Set up the inside of a round house / role play



Built a bridge with no instructions



Roman Villa



Roman vault - Emperor Claudius's Temple

School Trip Contributions

It's that time of year when the children are enjoying various trips and experiences through school. Unit 2 visited Colchester Castle last week and there are upcoming trips for Unit 1 to Stonham Barns and the Early Years to Hollow Trees Farm. Unit 3 have got a Shakespeare experience day with workshops run by a visiting theatre group on 11th June.

As you know, schools ask for voluntary contributions to organise trips, which are not run for profit. We calculate the cost per child and ask for this amount only. It's important to say that the amount that you pay is not used to subsidise the trip for any other children – we only ask you for the exact cost for one child. Any shortfall in funding is borne by the school. Most attractions charge an entry fee. However, these days, it is the cost of transport that is the largest factor in the overall cost of the trip – the costs associated with buses have risen significantly over the years due to their overheads and fuel. We appreciate that school trips are sometimes expensive and understand that the charge is only voluntary – it is your choice whether or not to contribute. Unfortunately, our own funds only stretch so far, so if we're unable to recoup sufficient funding, it may be that we are unable to proceed with a trip. Please note: we do allocate money from Pupil Premium to support children with trips if they are eligible for benefits-related Free School Meals.

Lost Property

Although the 'lost property mountain' was sorted through – and lots of items given away or recycled - just a short time ago, it has once again grown into a rather large pile. Please do check if your child has misplaced any items recently and take a look at the pile to reclaim anything that's gone missing.

Picture News

We continue to use Picture News, which is linked to current affairs, during class assemblies in school to broaden children's horizons and start discussions. This week, the children used Picture News to reflect on last weekend's FA Cup final. Chelsea and Manchester City competed for the famous, old trophy. Children reflected on what it is like to win and lose and what we can learn from these experiences. You may wish to follow this up with the 'Take Home' sheet copied into the newsletter.

Headteacher Awards!

Thanks, as ever, to all the children who have shared their wonderful work with me over the last couple of weeks. It's a real pleasure to share and celebrate their work with them. Congratulations to the following children, who have been given a Headteacher's Award since the last newsletter:

Elijah – writing (Year 2)

George, Isla, Theo – writing (Year 2)

Attendance

As you know, improving school attendance is a national priority for the Department for Education and Ofsted because absence can have a big impact on children's learning and socialising. We are only allowed to authorise holidays during term time in the most 'exceptional circumstances'. We understand that holidays are cheaper during term time but this is not a reason that we can use to authorise a holiday. In particular, it is very unlikely that a holiday during a period of national examinations will be authorised and the dates for these are published in advance. The majority of holidays taken during term time are unauthorised and may lead to you receiving a fine. Currently, fines are £80 per parent, per child, if paid within 21 days, rising to £160 if paid within 28 days. Please note that this is a national framework and that any fines you pay do not come to the school. You may think that we benefit from these fines, but the money is collected by the Local Authority. If you do need to request a leave of absence for your child, please ask the school office staff for a form.

Does Your Child Want to Learn a Musical Instrument?

At Capel St Mary, we have a few slots for piano and guitar lessons on Thursdays during the school day. We offer 20- or 30-minute lessons, with a few limited slots available.

For more information regarding the lessons and fees, drop Mikey an email - info@buicksmusic.co.uk

Reminders

Please remember that dogs are not permitted on any part of the premises, including at the front of the school and the car park area.

It's almost time for our Sports Days! The Unit 2 and Unit 3 Sports Day is on 9th June and the Early Years and Unit 1 Sports Day is on 17th June. Please look out for a separate letter for further details. On each day the festivities will be over by lunch time. It was lovely to see so many parents, grandparents and friends last year and we look forward to seeing you for more sporting fun soon!

TAKEHOME

18th - 24th May

In the news this week

Last weekend, football teams

Manchester City and Chelsea competed in the Men's FA Cup Final at Wembley Stadium. The FA (Football Association)

Cup is one of the oldest football competitions in the world, with teams

from across England and Wales taking part each year. Millions of people watched the match, supporting their

teams and hoping to see them win the famous trophy. For the players, reaching the final is a huge

achievement after months of hard work.

Things to talk about at home ...

- > Can you think of a time when you won something – what did you learn?
- > What about a time you didn't win – what did that teach you?
- > In your opinion, why do some people keep trying even after losing?
- > Talk together about how you believe we should behave when you lose.

Do we learn
more from
winning or
losing?



Please note any interesting thoughts or comments

Share your thoughts and read the opinions of others

www.picture-news.co.uk/discuss



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.

Date	Name of Event
W/B 25th May 2026	Half Term week
26 th May 2026	SCS Football Camp
27 th May 2026	SCS Football Camp / Creation Station Holiday Club
W/B 1st June 2026	2 week window for Year 4 Multiplication Check
2 nd June 2026	Unit 1 Trip to Stonham Barns
W/B 8th June 2026	Year 1 Phonics Screen week
9th June 2026	Key Stage 2 Sports Day
17th June 2026	Early Years / Key Stage 1 Sports Day
24 th June 2026	Outdoor learning session - Hedgehogs
1 st July 2026	Outdoor learning session - Foxes
3rd July 2026	PFA – Summer Fayre
7th July 2026	Summer Celebration event – parents and carers are invited to join us
8 th July 2026	Outdoor Learning session - Polecats
10 th July 2026	Rocksteady Concert
13th July 2026	Annual reports out to parents
15 th July 2026	EYFS Trip to Hollowtrees Farm