St Mary and St Peter Catholic Primary School

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Our learning adventure will see each and every one of us thrive in God's love as we set sail for success.



The Bible tells us that Hope does not disappoint, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us" (*Rom* 5:1-2.5).



Prayer



Mini Vinnies Updates

The Mini Vinnies would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to all the families who generously donated food to the Gorleston Food Bank. We were truly amazed by the incredible amount of food collected, which will make a huge difference to many families in need.





Gospel Values

Every person is a valued member of our community, invited to follow Christ's call to a life of love, hope and forgiveness. We respect and support each other to live in peace. We embrace challenge and develop the courage to create a better world for us all.



School Vision

We believe that even with God's love we can sometimes experience challenges. Just like our patron saints, Mary and Peter, they experienced difficult times in their life that took strength and perseverance to overcome. At our school, we value this challenge and encourage children to experience it, knowing that together with our support and love, they will experience a successful outcome be it in an academic subject or through social experiences. We are all exploring our own talents and each day we

As part of our donations, the Mini Vinnies also attached messages of hope and love to each package, spreading warmth and kindness alongside the food.



We were fortunate to have a special assembly where we learned about the vital role the Food Bank plays in supporting people during difficult times.

If you or someone you know needs to get in touch with the Food Bank, please remember that our school is here to assist with making contact.

Thank you again for your kindness and support!

Operation Christmas Child – Shoebox Appeal

We are once again delighted to be supporting the Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Appeal, a wonderful initiative run by Samaritan's Purse that brings joy, hope, and the Good News of Jesus Christ to children around the world.

Each year, thousands of generous people like you pack shoebox gifts filled with small toys, hygiene items, school supplies, and other treats to be sent to children who might otherwise receive nothing at Christmas. These simple gifts make a huge difference - not only bringing joy, but also showing love and kindness to children in need.

How you can help: We are asking each child to bring in one suitable gift item and a donation of £1 to help with shipping costs. The school will be packing these items into shoeboxes, and we look forward to finding out where in the world our gifts have travelled.

Each year group will collect items for a specific age group:

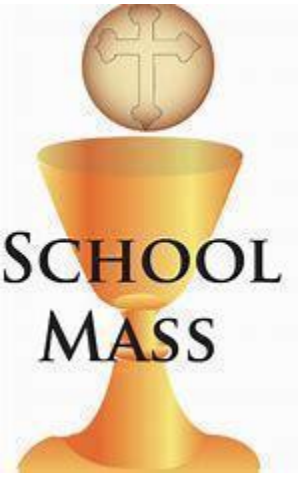
· Nursery and Reception – Gifts for 2–4 year olds

· Years 1 to 4 – Gifts for 5–9 year olds

· Years 5 and 6 – Gifts for 10–14 year olds

Please send all donations into school by Thursday 7th November (the first week back after half-term), so we can pack and send the boxes on time.

‘Set Sail for Success’



Mass is on Friday 12th September in school at 10am.

Some suitable gift ideas:

SHOEBOX GIFT IDEAS (AGE 2-4)

SPECIAL ITEM: Something to immediately capture the child's attention e.g. a cuddly toy, large toy car or truck, a rag doll, a brightly coloured foam ball.

SCHOOL SUPPLIES AND CREATIVE ACTIVITIES: Pencil case; crayons; chunky pens and pencils; child friendly pencil sharpener; ruler; eraser; glue stick (not liquid glue); notebook; picture book; drawing pad; colouring book; solid paint palette and paint brushes set; pre-inked stampers; large stickers.

ACCESSORIES: Baseball cap; sunglasses; woolly hat; gloves; mittens; scarf; hair ties, bows and dress-up headbands; small backpack, handbag or drawstring bag; purse or wallet; reusable non-breakable containers e.g. cup, water bottle, plate, bowl; small items of clothing e.g. socks, flip-flops, T-shirt.

GAMES: Snap cards, simple puzzles with large pieces, stacking games, etc.

HYGIENE ITEMS: Toothbrush, hairbrush, comb, bar of soap, flannel, sponge, washmitt, bath scrunchy, rubber duck or bath toy.

TOYS: Skipping rope; small foam ball or tennis ball; large play bricks/building blocks; play people; large animal figures; dinosaurs; foldable play mat e.g. farm, zoo, city or racetrack; transport toys e.g. car, train, plane, truck or boat; plastic doll; hand or finger puppets; play dough (ideally with cookie cutters and play tools); toy tools; slinky; interactive toys that include push buttons, lights and noise (include extra batteries).

MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS: Tambourine, shaker, bells, sports whistle, recorder, harmonica, slide whistle, tin whistle, finger drums, maracas, triangle, mini xylophone, kazoo, castanets.

A NOTE FROM YOU: Christmas card, note of greeting, photo of yourself/your family.

DO NOT INCLUDE: Items with very small parts; toothpaste, sweets, lotions and liquids; used or damaged items; war-related items; seeds, gum, chocolate or food items; religious or political literature; medicines, aerosol cans, sharp or fragile items.

Samaritan's Purse

SHOEBOX GIFT IDEAS (AGE 5-9)

SPECIAL ITEM: Something to immediately capture the child's attention e.g. a cuddly toy, large toy car or truck, a rag doll, a deflated football and pump, a solar-powered torch.

SCHOOL SUPPLIES AND CREATIVE ACTIVITIES: Pencil case; crayons; writing pens and pencils; colouring pens and pencils; highlighters; child friendly pencil sharpener; ruler; eraser; glue stick (not liquid glue); safety scissors; small adhesive tape; notebook; drawing pad; colouring book; solid paint palette and paint brushes set; pre-inked stampers; pavement chalk; whiteboard and dry wipe pens; stencils; mini Spirograph kit; solar calculator; stickers.

ACCESSORIES: Baseball cap; sunglasses; woolly hat; gloves; mittens; scarf; hair ties, bows and dress-up headbands; small backpack, handbag or drawstring bag; purse or wallet; children's jewellery; watch; reusable non-breakable containers e.g cup, water bottle, plate, bowl; small items of clothing e.g. socks, flip-flops, T-shirt.

GAMES: Card games, small puzzles, puzzle cubes, jacks, mini board games, etc.

TOYS: Skipping rope; tennis ball; building bricks/Lego type kit; click together model; glider kit (non-military); bead kit; play people; animal figures; dinosaurs; foldable play mat e.g. farm, zoo, city or racetrack; transport toys e.g. car, train, plane, truck or boat; plastic doll; hand or finger puppets; play dough (ideally with cookie cutters and play tools); toy tools; slinky; yo-yo; dominoes; spinning top; kaleidoscope; toy binoculars; finger skateboard; wind-up or pull-back toy; bouncy ball; inflatable beach ball; small frisbee; small kite; interactive toys that include push buttons, lights and noise (include extra batteries).

MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS: Tambourine, shaker, bells, sports whistle, recorder, harmonica, slide whistle, tin whistle, finger drums, maracas, triangle, mini xylophone, kazoo, castanets.

HYGIENE ITEMS: Toothbrush, hairbrush, comb, bar of soap, flannel, sponge, washmitt, chapstick, compact mirror (ensure protected).

A NOTE FROM YOU: Christmas card, note of greeting, photo of yourself/your family.

DO NOT INCLUDE: Toothpaste, sweets, lotions and liquids, used or damaged items, war-related items; seeds, gum, chocolate or food items, religious or political literature, medicines, aerosol cans, sharp or fragile items.

Samaritan's Purse



SHOEBOX GIFT IDEAS (AGE 10-14)

SPECIAL ITEM: Something to immediately capture their attention e.g. a cuddly toy, a deflated football and pump, a solar-powered torch.

SCHOOL SUPPLIES AND CREATIVE ACTIVITIES: Pencil case, crayons, writing pens and pencils, colouring pens and pencils, highlighters, pencil sharpener, ruler, eraser, glue stick (not liquid glue), scissors, small adhesive tape, notebook, colour by number or patterns colouring book, solid paint palette and paint brushes set, whiteboard and dry wipe pens, stencils, mini Spirograph kit, solar calculator, geometry set, compass (ensure sharp tip covered or in a box), mini scraper foil kit, chalk or oil pastel art sets, sketch book.

ACCESSORIES: Baseball cap, sunglasses, woolly hat, gloves, scarf, jewellery, hair ties and grips, fashion scarf, small backpack, handbag or drawstring bag, purse or wallet, football gloves, watch, keyring, magnets, small fishing kit, gardening kit with gloves and trowel (no seeds), brightly coloured rope or twine, small tool kit with work gloves (no knives), small sealed sewing kit, small bike repair kit, reusable non-breakable containers e.g. cup, water bottle, plate, bowl, small items of clothing e.g. socks, flip-flops, T-shirt.

MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS: Tambourine, shaker, bells, sports whistle, recorder, harmonica, slide whistle, tin whistle, finger drums, maracas, triangle, mini xylophone, kazoo, castanets.

GAMES: Card games like Uno and Snap (including standard 4-suit playing cards from 2021), small puzzles, puzzle cube, mini board games, marbles, jacks, maze game with balls, ball on a string catching game, Etch-a-sketch.

TOYS: Skipping rope, tennis ball, building bricks/Lego type kit, click together model, glider kit (non-military), bead kit, transport toys e.g. car, train, plane, truck, boat, plastic doll, slinky, yo-yo, dominoes, spinning top, fidget spinner, mini bowling set, kaleidoscope, toy binoculars, finger skateboard, bouncy ball, inflatable beach ball, large punch balloons and pump, small frisbee, small kite, table tennis bats, ball and net, interactive toys that include push buttons, lights and noise (include extra batteries).

HYGIENE ITEMS: Toothbrush, hairbrush, comb, bar of soap, flannel, sponge, washmitt, chapstick, compact mirror (ensure protected), emery board, nail clippers, push up deodorant stick (not liquid or aerosol), wash bag.

DO NOT INCLUDE: Toothpaste, sweets, lotions and liquids, used or damaged items, war-related items, seeds, gum, chocolate or food items, religious or political literature, medicines, aerosol cans, sharp or fragile items.

A NOTE FROM YOU: Christmas card, note of greeting, photo of yourself/your family.

Samaritan's Purse

Thank you so much for your continued support and generosity. Your kindness will bring smiles, laughter, and love to children across the world this Christmas.
With heartfelt thanks,
Mini Vinnies

Congratulations!

Congratulations to Armani-Lily, you passed your IDTA preparatory ballet exam with distinction receiving a score of 87. Well done, we are all very proud of your achievement.





Medal Success for Willow and Isabella



The girls had amazing success when they travelled to Norwich for a Karate competition on Sunday. Willow achieved a gold medal for Points, a gold for Kutte, a gold in Pad Master and a bronze for Kion.

Isabella got gold for Kata, gold for Kion, bronze for Pad Master and bronze for Music Kata.

What an amazing achievement girls. Well done!

Horstead Residential Year 6



Last week, Year 6 went on an action-packed residential to Horstead. During their visit, children had the opportunity to rock climb, zip line, crate stack and complete activities on the river. Many children managed to "fall" into the river on a giant SUP while some chose to jump in after raft-building. It was great to see children working as part of a team and encouraging each other to undertake the activities. A big thank you to Mr Petersen, Mrs Prawdzik and Mr Lambert who gave up time with their families so that children could enjoy this experience.

Year 5 West Runton Geography Field Trip

Year 5 had an amazing time at West Runton for their geography field trip. They learnt about coastal erosion, longshore drift and how to build sea defences to protect the coastline. In the afternoon they explored the rock pools to see which marine life made our stretch of coastline their home.





Football round up



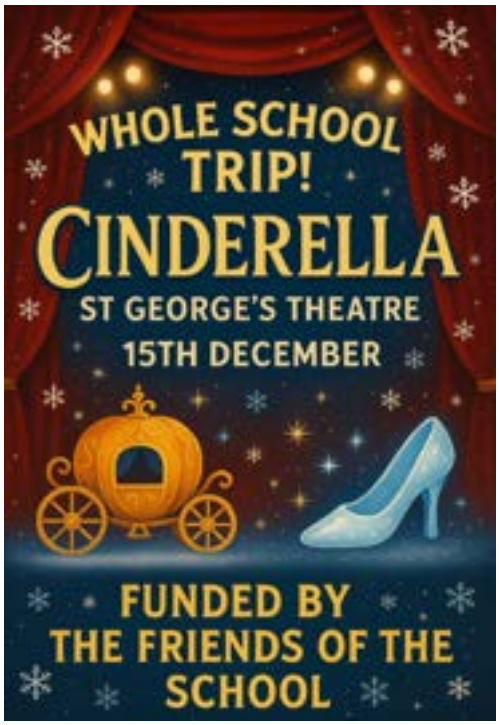
On Tuesday 14th October - our Y5/6 boys football team had their first fixture of the season against Edward Worlledge. The team showed some excellent passages of play and worked brilliantly as a team, supporting each other. They finished as 4-0 winners with goals from Reggie, Sayrell (2) and Harry as well as a clean sheet for Jaxon.

FRIENDS News

A big thank you to the FRIENDS who have offered to pay for all the children to go to the pantomime at St George's Theatre in Gorleston on the 15th December. They have not only paid for a ticket for every child but also the coaches. Further information will be sent out soon. Please see the attached poster.

The FRIENDS have also organised two discos for the children in November. The Year 1, 2 and 3 disco is on the 17th November and the Year 4, 5 and 6 disco is on the 24th November. Please see the attached poster and again, further info will be sent out next week.





Last day of this half term

A reminder to all that the last day of this half term is Thursday 23rd October at 3pm. Clubs will run as usual on this day. School is closed on Friday 24th October and children return on Monday 3rd November.

Christmas Dates

Friday 5th December Advent Mass
Monday 8th December 1:45pm Christmas Performance
Thursday 11th December 10am Christmas Performance
Thursday 11th December Christmas Fair 3pm
Monday 15th December Whole school to the pantomime at St George's Theatre am
Wednesday 17th December Christmas Dinner and Jumper Day
Thursday 18th December Y3 andY4 to sing at the Christmas Tree Festival at St Peter's Church 10:45 - 11:45am

Secondary School Applications

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Secondary school applications 2026

Secondary school applications for September 2026 will open on 11 September 2025 and close on 31 October 2025.

For further information, to apply online or to request an application form, please follow this:
https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/highschooladmissions

Source: Norfolk County Council



Early Years Funding

From September 2025, eligible working parents in England can access up to 30 hours of free childcare per week for children from nine months old up to school age. You need to check your eligibility online via GOV.UK and apply for a unique childcare code, which can be done from the term before your child turns nine months old. The funded hours are available for 38 weeks of the year during term time, and you can potentially use fewer hours across more weeks with "stretched funding" provided by your chosen childcare provider.

How to Apply

1. Check Eligibility: Visit the GOV.UK website to see if you meet the criteria for working parents in England.
2. Apply Online: Apply for your funding code on the GOV.UK website. You may find out if you're eligible immediately.
3. Get Your Code: You will receive a unique 11-digit code.
4. Contact a Provider: Get in touch with your chosen childcare provider to arrange your funded hours.

Who is Eligible?

- The scheme is available to eligible working parents in England.
- Your child is eligible from the term after their ninth birthday until they start school.
- You must have a National Insurance number and meet certain immigration status requirements to be eligible.

When to Apply

- You can apply for the code from the term before your child turns nine months old.
- Your funding will start from the beginning of the term after you receive your code.

