St Mary and St Peter Catholic Primary School

East Anglian Way, Gorleston, Norfolk, NR31 6QY Tel: 01493445117
office@smspprimary.norfolk.sch.uk www.smspprimary.co.uk
https://www.facebook.com/SMSPGorleston

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).

Welcome Back.

As we begin the Advent Term, I would like to extend a warm welcome to all our children, families and staff. It has been wonderful to see the children return to school with such enthusiasm, positivity and a readiness to learn. The start of a new academic year brings fresh opportunities, new challenges and exciting experiences, and we look forward to working together to ensure that every child flourishes both academically and personally.

As a Catholic school, the Advent Term is a special time of preparation, hope and reflection. Throughout the term, we will encourage our children to live out our school values, deepen their faith, and show kindness and respect to others. We have many exciting learning opportunities, celebrations and events planned, and we look forward to sharing these with you through our newsletters. Thank you for your continued support and partnership. Together, we can make this a happy, successful and rewarding term for every child. Blessings for the term ahead.



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

Our New Spiritual Garden



The Mini Vinnies are delighted to have proudly opened our new Spiritual Garden!

They have worked incredibly hard throughout the year to bring their ideas to life. They designed the garden, raised money through the Tesco Community Project, planted beautiful flowers and created colourful bunting and wind chimes to make the space feel peaceful and welcoming.

The Mini Vinnies wanted to create a special space for the whole school community to enjoy. They included a bird bath to support our local bird community and will be creating bird boxes later in the year to encourage even more wildlife to visit.

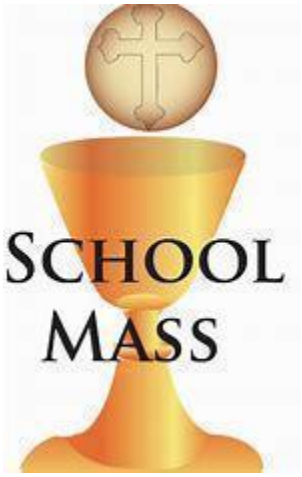
They also made sure there was enough seating for a whole class, so the garden can be enjoyed for spiritual reflection, prayer and mindfulness, as well as outdoor learning.

We are incredibly proud of the Mini Vinnies for their hard work, creativity and care in creating such a wonderful space for everyone to enjoy. Well done, Mini Vinnies!

Nursery

The nursery children have all settled in beautifully and have been busy exploring their new environment.

'Set Sail for Success'



Mass is on Friday 18th September at 10am in the School Hall





Reception

In Reception, the children have been learning about God's Wonderful World. They listened to the creation story from the Bible and learned that God created the sun, moon, stars, day and night, land, sea, plants, animals, and people. They reflected on the verse, "God saw all that He had made, and it was very good" – Genesis 1:31.

The children created their own Earth using paint, representing the land and sea. They then drew pictures of some of the things that God created.



Year 1

Year 1 have settled into Key Stage 1 beautifully. We have had such fun this week exploring our Maths area and all of the different manipulatives to represent numbers, visiting the new Spiritual Garden to search for God's creations, and making our very own 'super special finger spacers' to use in our English lessons this half term. Well done Year 1 - you've all been superstars!





Year 2

We have had a fantastic start in year 2 and have been working as a team to overcome challenges that we first thought were impossible. In this example, we had to flip a mat over without any of our team stepping off of the mat. It was amazing when we worked together and found a solution.



Year 3

Over the summer break our spiritual garden has been renovated. Year 3 have been using the new wonderful space this week to act out the creation story in their RE lessons. We all agreed that it was a fun way to learn and that the garden was a peaceful place for prayer and reflection.





Year 4

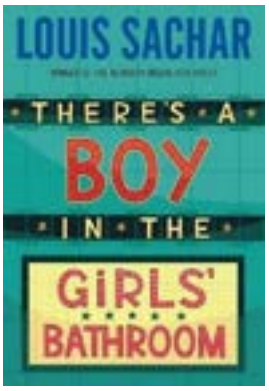
Year 4 have had a brilliant start to the year and are showing off their amazing handwriting in early morning work.





Year 5

Year 5 has made a fantastic start to the new term. They've come back to school settled, focused, and ready to learn, showing a mature attitude from day one. In English, they've produced brilliant character descriptions and are fully engaged in our class text, There's a Boy in the Girls' Bathroom. Their discussions, ideas, and enthusiasm have been a real highlight. It's been a wonderful start, and we're excited for everything they'll achieve this year.

Year 6

Year 6 have had a brilliant start to the year. Alongside their baseline assessments, they have excelled in PE and RE. They particularly enjoyed creating freeze frames of the Second Creation story, making excellent props and thinking carefully how Original Sin and The Fall impact our lives today.




Operation Shoebox

Thank you to everyone who has already sent in empty shoeboxes to support our **Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Appeal**. We have been delighted by the generosity of our school community and have already received a wonderful number of boxes. Over the coming weeks, we will be asking for donations of suggested items to help us fill the shoeboxes and make a real difference to children around the world. We are grateful for your continued support and look forward to working together to spread hope, joy and kindness to those in need.

Naming Uniform

Please can we ask that all uniforms, including coats, be named. This helps us to track down the child it belongs to and return it quickly.

Celebration of Reading!

Well done to all children that completed the Summer Reading Challenge this year. We are really proud of your achievements. We are strongly committed to developing enthusiastic readers for life and that journey starts at SMSP. Please support reading at home and don't forget to sign the children's home diaries so that their class can win the weekly trophy! We thank you for your continued support with this. We are planning to hold some exciting parent reading events this year.





No use of play equipment at the start and end of the day

For safety and insurance purposes, we would like to remind families that children should not be using the play equipment before and after school. Thank you for your support with this.

Smart Watches

A reminder that smart watches are not allowed in school. These connect to the internet and function with a similar capacity to mobile phones. If a Year 5



or 6 child has one to call home because they walk to and from school, this will need to be handed in with the mobile phones at the start of the day.

Free School Meals

Recently, the government has changed the criteria for Free School Meals and created two separate bandings. Mrs Coe in the office will send out paper copies of these to all families. If you are eligible, please complete these and return them to the office if you haven't already done so.

Harvest

We will be collecting our harvest donations in the week beginning the 5th October. More information to follow.





Free Meal for all

On Thursday 1st October, we will be taking part in the annual School Census Day. To help maximise funding for our school, **all** children are being offered a free hot school meal on this day, including those who would normally bring a packed lunch.

The menu choices are: **Ham Roll** or **Cheese Roll**

Jacket Potato Bar Choose from: Cheese, Cheese & Beans or Tuna

Hot Pasta with Tomato Sauce

Chicken or Vegetable Nuggets. Served with: Chips or Baked Beans

f you pay for your child's meal and your child would like a **FREE** meal, please place your order through the school office by Friday 25th September.

If you have already ordered and paid online, **Aspens will automatically arrange a refund**. From today onwards, please do not place any further orders online; all bookings must be made through the school office.

If your child is entitled to **Free School Meals**, please continue to place your order as usual via the Select website.

All orders must be submitted in advance to enable our catering team to confirm numbers and prepare meals accordingly.

We encourage as many children as possible to take part and enjoy a hot meal with their friends while supporting this important day for our school.

Thank you for your support.

Secondary School Applications

Applications open tomorrow to apply for your secondary school place.



Dates for this half term

Wednesday 7th - Friday 9th October Year 6 residential at Horstead