



St Germans Academy

FORTNIGHTLY NEWSLETTER

Friday 9th December

Dear Families,

Happy New Year and welcome back! We hope you all had a wonderful Christmas break. Staff made it into school for training despite the snow on Monday. We hosted other schools within the trust for more training linked to our Talk for Writing project. The focus was on teaching non-fiction writing, and all the children are working on information texts this half term.

This term we have a big focus on spelling and handwriting. Children in EYFS and KS1 use read write inc as their phonic programme before moving onto spelling rules. We have made the decision not to send spellings to learn at home moving forward. There is a lot of research to say that learning lists of words does not impact general writing, and this seems to be the case. We also realise this is often an added stress at home. Class teachers may send copies of the words home so that you can practise if you wish, but there will be no weekly test.

We are also focusing on handwriting. Currently, we have asked all children to write in pencil while we finalise the criteria for working in pen. Many children will return to this quickly, but we want to ensure consistent expectations across the classes. We will share more details about spelling and handwriting in the coming weeks.

Mrs Arrowsmith

Next Week ...

Afterschool Clubs Start!

Tuesday ~ Dragonflies Swimming – Coach leaves at 8.45am!

Tuesday ~ Ladybirds – Inside Out Bushcraft Session 

Wednesday ~ Friends of the School Meeting 9am

Wednesday ~ Ladybirds Parents invited to Assembly 2.30pm

Thursday ~ School Census Special Lunch - Prebooked

Thursday ~ School Nursing Team to see Year 6 and Reception Children

Friends of the School

Our next Friends of the School meeting is on Wednesday 14th January 2026 at 9am.

We are always looking for new members to join our Friends of the School with a whole range of ways you can help. If you would like to help or just find out more about what it entails, please come to our meeting. If you are unable to make the meeting, please let the school office know and they will pass your name onto Mrs Shillings and the FOS. Thank you

School Census Special Lunch

Remember it is our School Census Special Lunch on Thursday 15th January. There will be jacket potatoes available should your child not want either of the the special lunch options available, or they can bring a packed lunch from home. Please pay for the Census lunch as you would do a normal lunch via ParentPay. Thank you

Butterflies and Caterpillars Tissue Box Request

The Butterflies and Caterpillars children have put in a request for empty tissue boxes. They need to be the rectangular ones rather than square and can be given to a member of the classroom staff or left at the school office. Thank you



School Appearance

Please can we ask parents and children to support the school in an effort to maintain a high standard of appearance while at school:

- Royal Blue School Sweatshirt / Cardigan / Fleece/ Year 6 Leavers Hoodie
- White Shirt / Blouse / Polo Shirt
- Grey Trousers / Skirt
- Sensible shoes (NO trainers or platform heels)
- Stud Earrings only - No other Jewellery should be worn
- Long hair should be tied back to reduce the risk of headlice spreading
- PE Kit consisting of Royal Blue T-shirt or Plain White T-shirt, Royal Blue/Navy Shorts, Plain Royal Blue/Navy Tracksuit Bottoms, Indoor Plimsolls and Outdoor Trainers.



Children may wear a watch to school but please ensure they are not a type of smartwatch (Apple watch for example), this is for safeguarding and security reasons.

Please remember we do have a selection of free secondhand uniform available in the school office lobby. Please come and help yourself to anything your child needs. Thank you for your help in this matter.

Important Notice

Emergency Contact Information

Please remember to keep the school office up to date if you change any of your contact information ie phone number, email address.

This also includes the list of people on your child's contact list as in case of emergency we will ring the first person on the list but if we are unable to get hold of them we will move onto contact 2 and then 3.

Thank you.

Outstanding Amounts

The office sent home outstanding balance slips to all families who owe money before Christmas.

Please could we ask that everyone check their Parentpay Account and any overdue balances are cleared as soon as possible. ParentPay should now be up to date, and we would appreciate your prompt attention to this matter.

If you have already made payment, please accept our thanks and ignore this message. If you are experiencing any difficulties or believe there has been an error, please contact the school office as soon as possible so we can assist.

Thank you

Reception Class Application Deadline Date

Please note the deadline date to apply for a reception class place is **Thursday 15th January**. Please go to admissions@norfolk.gov.uk if you have not already applied for a place. This is for children who will be 5 years old between 1st September 2026 and 31st August 2027.

Winter Coats

As the weather has turned colder children **must** come to school in a warm winter coat, children without suitable outdoor clothing will not be allowed outside at breaktimes.



Ladybirds Residential Trip

Thank you to all who have made payments against the Ladybirds Residential Trip so far. Please remember the final balance is due 25th February 2026. Further information about this trip will be out next week commencing 12th January.



Pre-School

It is never too early to place your child's details on the list indicating you wish them to attend St Germans Pre-School. Please contact the school office to have your child added to the list, we can then arrange to have an admission pack sent home in good time for them to start. Thank you

Dragonflies Swimming

Dragonflies children will be swimming on Tuesdays after Christmas starting on Tuesday 13th January 2026. They will need to bring their kit each week; costume/trunks hat and towel. The coach leaves at 8.45am so please ensure your child is in school a little earlier than normal. Thank you



Upcoming Events 2025/2026

Autumn Term

Ladybirds Swimming Every Tuesday

Dragonflies – Inside Out Bushcraft Sessions every Tuesday

January 2026

Wed 14th ~ Friends of the School Meeting at 9am

Wed 14th ~ Ladybirds Parents Assembly at 2.30pm

Thurs 15th ~ School Census Lunch - Prebooked

Thurs 15th ~ School Nursing Team to See Reception Children and Year 6

February

Fri 6th ~ Parent Morning Session

Fri 13th ~ Break up for Half Term

Mon 23rd ~ Back to School

Fri 27th ~ Bikeability Training for Children in Dragonflies who booked on

March

Mon 16th ~ Year 3 / 4 Netball Bee Festival for Selected Children

Fri 20th ~ Parent Morning Session

Wed 25th to Fri 27th ~ Ladybirds Residential Trip

Fri 27th Break up for Easter Holidays

April

Tues 14th ~ Back to School

Thurs 16th ~ Pret-A-Portrait Class Photographs & Year 6 Leavers Photographs

Tues 28th ~ WNSSP Year 1 / 2 Trigolf Event for Selected Children

Thurs 30th ~ Year 6 Crucial Crew Trip

May

Mon 4th ~ May Day – School Closed

Fri 15th ~ Parent Morning Session

Fri 22nd ~ Break up for Half Term

June

Mon 1st ~ Back to school

Wed 3rd ~ Year 6 Leavers London Trip

Tues 16th ~ WNSSP Dance Festival for Fireflies Class

Tues 30th ~ WNSSP Area Sports for years 3, 4, 5 and 6

July

Fri 10th ~ Parent Morning Session

Fri 10th ~ Pm Year 6 Leavers Assembly

Fri 17th ~ Break up for the Summer Holidays