



St Germans Academy

FORTNIGHTLY NEWSLETTER

Friday 23rd January

Merit Certificates

Ladybirds: *Leo & Harry* **Dragonflies:** *Primrose & Bobby*

Fireflies: *Robyn & Scarlett* **Butterflies:** *Eliza* **Caterpillars:** *Arthur*

Dear Families,

This week I have observed Talk 4 Writing in all classes. It was great to see the impact the training in January had on the teaching and learning. On Thursday I taught the lesson in the Dragonflies Class, and I was astounded by how well the children were able to retell their information text. The Deputy Director of Education was visiting, and we shared this with her as well.

Currently, we are having a push on handwriting and spelling. The English Subject Team have been reviewing handwriting and have put together a new set of expectations. They are sharing this with staff at our staff meeting on Monday and then we will share it with the children.

What we have noticed is that many of our children in Key Stage 2 are able to join their writing and present this beautifully, but they do not do this consistently across their writing. For children to meet at least expected at Year 6 they have to show they are able to 'maintain legibility in joined handwriting when writing at speed.'

In Early years children take part in lots of fine motor skills activities to ensure they are ready for writing. As they learn new sounds, they learn to form those letters. In Key Stage 1 the aim is to ensure children form their letters correctly, so they are ready to begin joining in Year 2.

We are planning to invite parents in to find out more about our approach to English so watch out for the date on the diary.

Mrs Arrowsmith

Next Week ...

Monday ~ Alexis Smith Prebooked Parent Appointments
Tuesday ~ Dragonflies Swimming – Coach leaves at 8.45am!
Tuesday ~ Ladybirds – Inside Out Bushcraft Session 🕯

Friends of the School

The next Friends of the School Event is a Valentines Disco on Wednesday 4th February in the school hall. Please book and pay via ParentPay if your child wishes to attend.

The cost is £3.50 per child and includes a snack and unlimited squash. Butterflies and Fireflies ~ 3.15 - 4pm, please bring clothes in a named bag. Dragonflies and Ladybirds ~ 4.15 - 5.15pm.



Butterflies and Caterpillars Kitchen Roll Tube Request

The Butterflies and Caterpillars children have put in a request for kitchen roll tubes. If you have any at home please can they be given to a member of the classroom staff or left at the school office. Thank you



Year 6 SATs Breakfast Booster Sessions at St Germans

Year 6 SATs Breakfast Booster Sessions will be starting straight after half term. They will run every Tuesday and Thursday from 8.15am until 8.40am and will be held every week until SATs.

A letter with all the information was sent home with your child this week with all the information on it.

Mrs. Brown is looking forward to seeing you all on Tuesday 24th February for your first SATs Booster Session!



Village Play Park

It is great to see so many children enjoying the new park and are really grateful for all the effort that has gone into improving this for the children. A member of the parish council has been in touch to say the new play equipment is being covered in mud, and it isn't being done accidentally. Unfortunately, some names from our school have been mentioned. Please ensure your children are helping to look after the equipment so it can be enjoyed by all. Thank you

Bikeability for Year 5/6

The Ladybirds children have been invited to take part in the Bikeability Training again this year - this will be week commencing 18th May 2026. Parental consent forms were given to children yesterday and need to be returned to the office by Friday 30th January. If your year 6 child completed this course last year as a year 5 they do not need to do the course again. However, if your child was in year 4 last year this training develops what they have previously been taught.

If you have any questions, please contact the school office. Thank you



Lateness

We have a few children that arrive late in the mornings, and this can result in them losing their school mark. As you know, school starts at **8.55am** sharp. Children who arrive after this time but **before 9.10am are given a late mark**. Children arriving **after 9.10am are entered as an unauthorised absence** and can be subject to County Attendance check-ups. Please try and ensure that your children arrive in school at the correct time each morning. This not only ensures that they are here for the start of lessons and do not miss anything, but it also reduces disruption to the other children who are already working.

Thank you

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.



Free School Meals

If your circumstances have changed you may be entitled to Free School Meals. Please apply online www.norfolk.gov.uk/neo
If you are unable to apply online, please contact the school office for assistance. All applications are confidential, but please let the school office know you have applied so they can check on the progress of your application.



Thank you

Ladybirds Residential Trip

Thank you to all who have made payments against the Ladybirds Residential Trip so far. Please ensure you return your child's data collection form for the trip and ensure the balance is paid by 25th February 2026.



Thank you



For those Dragonflies and Ladybirds children who are taking part in the Young Voices Trip, a letter with the new date (Thursday 26th February) and trip information was sent home with your child last week. If you have not yet confirmed with the school office that this change of date is suitable and your child can still attend, please can you do so as soon as possible. If your child has not given you the new trip letter, please let the school office know and we can print one for you to collect.

Thank you

Upcoming Events 2025/2026

Autumn Term

Ladybirds Swimming Every Tuesday

Dragonflies – Inside Out Bushcraft Sessions every Tuesday

February

Wed 4th ~ Friends of the School Valentine Disco's

Fri 6th ~ Parent Morning Session

Wed 11th ~ Dragonflies Trip to Stories of Lynn

Fri 13th ~ Break up for Half Term

Mon 23rd ~ Back to School

Thurs 26th ~ Young Voices Trip

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

Thurs 23rd ~ School Nursing Team to see Reception Children and Year 6

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

Mon 18th to Wed 21st ~ Year 5 / 6 Bikeability sessions for children who have booked on

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 24th to Fri 26th ~ Transition Days for those Year 6 Children going to KLA

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

