



St. Felix RC Primary School

January 2026 Newsletter



Pope Leo's January prayer intention

-January: For prayer with the word of God

Let us pray that praying with the word of God be nourishment for our lives and a source of hope in our communities, helping us to build a more fraternal and missionary Church.

Dear Parents and Carers,

It is long overdue to thank you for all your kind gifts and thoughtful words to me and to all the staff at the end of last term. I have never known a more generous parent body, and your support is truly appreciated.

We have begun the term with an Epiphany Mass held in school due to the cold and wet weather. Our chaplains led the readings and prayers of intercession with clear, confident voices, which was a joy to witness.

Year 4 have started the WOWW project, which focuses on recognising and appreciating the wonderful things they can do and learning to view challenges in a positive way.

Year 1 are coming to the end of the OTTO research project, which has supported the development of both fine and gross motor skills.

All the children have settled back into school extremely well. As I walk around the school, I am always so proud of the calm and purposeful atmosphere you can almost hear brains whirling. Our children understand and value the fact that education opens up choices for the future, and they know that finding something difficult is often a sign of good learning. The harder something is to learn, the more deeply it embeds into long-term memory.

This term, we are offering a range of lunchtime clubs, including homework club, chess, mindfulness, and a quiet space for children who prefer time away from a busy and often noisy playground. This quiet space will be located in the old Year 2 classroom and will be easily accessible from the playground.

Although this is a relatively short half term, it is an important one as we prepare for the assessments that take place in the Summer 1 term. It is vital that children attend school every day so they do not miss key learning, as gaps can make it much harder to understand new concepts. Learning is most effective when knowledge is built through connected schemas related ideas and information grouped together over time.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support, kindest regards Mrs Price.

Reading - I know you are all aware of the importance of reading, and I also appreciate that in today's world of mobile phones and social media it can be challenging to encourage children to read regularly. However, reading is truly the gateway to all learning, and developing consistent reading habits has a significant impact on children's attainment and progress.

I recognise how difficult it can be to be a positive role model, particularly when we are all so used to having our phones close by. Making a conscious effort to put our phones away, even for short periods, can help establish strong routines and send a powerful message about the value of reading. I am very aware of this myself and am trying hard to be more present when others are talking and to avoid multitasking.

Small changes can make a big difference, and your support in encouraging reading at home is invaluable.

Proven Power of Reading- Reading Agency Research:

- ❑ Reading for pleasure in early childhood is strongly linked to better cognitive performance and mental wellbeing in adolescence.
- ❑ It is a stronger predictor of cognitive development and later life achievement than parents' education level or socio-economic background.
- ❑ Young people who read for pleasure at age 16 are more likely to enter professional or managerial occupations in adulthood.
- ❑ Access to books at home is closely associated with reading enjoyment and confidence.
- ❑ Frequent reading at ages 10 and 16 is linked to higher attainment in maths, vocabulary, and spelling at age 16.
- ❑ Reading fiction supports the development of empathy, creativity, imagination, and problem-solving skills.



Well done to all the Key Stage 2 children who sang beautifully, read clearly and behaved impeccably in church for the Key Stage 2 carol concert. Thank you to all the parents and friends who came along to the carol service in church. It was the best start to Christmas.

Parish Priest: Fr. JOHN WARRINGTON: Tel: 01440 702156 (Parish Office) Tel: 01440 704142
(Presbytery) Email: john.warrington@rcdea.org.uk [Parish Newsletters / St Felix RC Church](#)

Dear Friends and Parents We are the Minnie Vinnies!

Year 4 – Harry, Henry, Imogen and Julia

Year 3 – Ivanna, Mateusz, Mia and Spencer.

We have been thinking of people who are less fortunate than us and we would like to help REACH – Haverhill Foodbank with a collection of food called FEED ME FEBRUARY!



You were so generous last year that St Felix School collected the heaviest donation from Haverhill. Thank you so much!

Urgently needed	Low in stock
Crisps	Cakes
Long life milk	Jam
Longlife juice	Rice
Crackers	Hot chocolate
Sponge Pudding	Coffee
Tinned Potatoes (or mash)	Crisps/snacks
Tinned vegetables	Tinned pudding
Tinned fruit	Tea
Tinned meat	Squash
Noodles	Pasta sauce
Biscuits	Sugar 1kg
	Custard
	Deodorant

Please send in your donations from the end of January to the end of February and the Minnie Vinnies will be happy to collect them. Thank you!

Please remember that tins with ringpulls are helpful to people with out tin openers! Ask your child why this is important.

Statue of Homeless Jesus **Term dates 2025-26**



Spring term

PD days **Monday 5th January 2026**
Pupils In **Tuesday 6th January**
Half term **Monday 16th February to Friday 20th February**
Ends **Friday 27th March**

Summer term

Pupils In **Monday 13th April 2026**
Half term **Monday 25th May to Friday 29th May**
Ends **Friday 17th July**
PD Day **Monday 20th July 2026**

Please look out for the internet safety newsletter this term for some helpful links to keep your child safe online.

NO SMART WATCHES IN SCHOOL

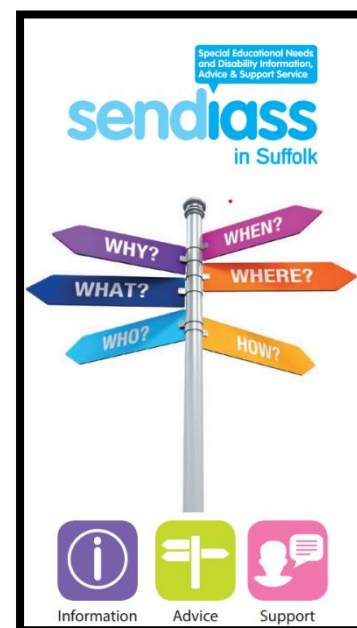
I would like to remind families that smart watches are not appropriate for use in the primary school setting. Many smart watches now have functions such as messaging, calls, cameras, games, and internet access. These features can be distracting during lessons and can take children's focus away from learning.

They can also raise safeguarding and privacy concerns, particularly if they allow recording or communication during the school day.

Primary school is an important time for children to develop independence, concentration, and social skills. Being constantly connected to home can sometimes make this harder, and we want to support children in building confidence and resilience while they are with us at school.

We also aim to promote a calm, inclusive environment. Not all children have access to smart technology, and removing smart watches helps avoid unnecessary comparisons or worries about expensive items being lost or damaged.

For these reasons, we kindly ask that **smart watches are not worn in school.** If a watch is needed for telling the time, a simple analogue or digital watch (without smart functions) can be worn.



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Safeguarding

0808 800 4005

