

The Federation of St. Giles and St. John

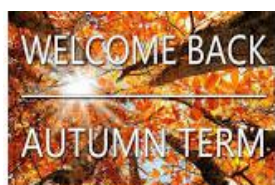


Love to Learn: Learn to Love

Planting seeds of happiness and enjoyment.
Living and growing together.

Autumn Term 2026

Newsletter



Welcome back to the autumn term and a new school year. We all look forward to working with you again this year and we have another year of exciting learning opportunities planned this year.

Our Christian vision and values

Our Christian values for the term are: service, thankfulness, compassion and trust.

Curriculum Development

This year we have started by focusing on our teaching and learning policy. We have had a session led by an external adviser looking at how we can adapt our teaching strategies to meet the needs of our pupils.

We are going to focus on the importance of effective communication and language across the school. This begins in early years and is developed as the pupils progress through the school. We are going to focus on the quality of interactions between the adults and pupils and between the pupils themselves. We will use evidenced based approaches to plan and review our practice which will all help to improve outcomes for all pupils. We will be referring to something called the Shrec approach which stands for:

Sh - share attention

R - Respond

E - Expand

C - Conversation

This is explained in more detail in the leaflet attached to the newsletter.

We shall also be focusing on how we use scaffolds to support learning so that all pupils can access the learning with developing independence.

The early year's teams at both settings will be offering a session for parents and carers on phonics and reading.

Staffing

This term we have welcomed new members of staff to our Farlow and Kinlet teams. Mrs Matilda D'Angelo has joined the team at Farlow to collect school lunches and support lunchtime supervision.

At Kinlet we have welcomed Mrs Sarah Pritchard to the teaching team. She will be teaching Acorn class on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. On Wednesday there will be opportunity for Mrs Pritchard and Mrs Smith to meet and plan the learning provision for Acorn class. We have also welcomed Mrs Pauline Smith who has joined the team to collect and serve the lunches.

Governor News

In the coming term, governors will visit both schools and hold monitoring meetings to support each school's self-evaluation. These visits will complement internal reviews as well as feedback from local authority and diocesan advisers.

Safeguarding Updates

Benedict's Law

Benedict's Law is a set of mandatory national allergy safety requirements for schools in England that takes effect in September 2026. Our policies and training have been updated to ensure that we are all informed and equipped to deal with allergies.

All school staff must complete allergy awareness and emergency response training to recognise anaphylaxis symptoms. Emergency Medication: Schools must stock spare, in-date adrenaline auto-injectors (AAIs) for emergency use on site.

Contact

If you have any worries or concerns do not hesitate to contact the school to make an appointment to speak to the teaching staff. We are normally available at the beginning of the school day or after school to follow up concerns raised so that we can resolve these by working in partnership with parents/carers.

Jewellery

As we have started a new academic year we would like to make everyone aware of the jewellery that can be worn in school.

- Pupils may wear a watch, but not one capable of taking photos on.
- Only one stud earring is permitted in each ear lobe, please note that this will have to be removed for P.E.
- Bracelets and rings are not to be worn.

This forms part of our Health and Safety policy in school to prevent injury and accidents to our pupils.

Free School Meals

Please check to see whether you are entitled to free school meals.

<https://shropshire.gov.uk/free-school-meals/> if you need any help with the application process, please make enquiries at the school office. Children eligible for free school meals triggers additional funding for the school, which would benefit the children in many ways.

Labelling of Clothing

Please may we also remind parents of the importance of naming the children's clothing especially jumpers, fleeces and polo shirts which can get lost very easily.

Leave of Absence in Term Time

The Leave of Absence Policy adopted by the Governing body of Federation of St. Giles and St. John is in line with the national guidelines which state that headteachers are only allowed to authorise any leave of absence when an application has been made in advance and circumstances are exceptional. The annual family holiday is not an exceptional circumstance.

After School Clubs

KS2 Football Club - Wednesdays starting 9th September for 6 weeks - 3.20-4.20 pm

KS2 Craft Club - Thursday starting 5th November for 4 weeks - 3:20-4:20pm.

All clubs need to be booked and paid for on ParentPay before the club starts.

Medical/Dental Appointments

If a pupil needs to attend a hospital, dentist or GP appointment, a letter must be provided to prove absence. If a pupil does attend the GP for any reason and is absent from school then parents can request a 'print screen' of the consultation from the doctor which they do not have to pay for, or an appointment card/signed compliments slip from the reception. This is necessary for safeguarding / attendance monitoring purposes.

Thank you.

Forest School Kit

Please can parents ensure that when the children are visiting the forest they wear the following kit:

Plenty of layers of clothing including long sleeved tops and long trousers (no shorts, jeans or short sleeved tops)

And bring in a labelled bag:

Waterproof coat and trousers;

Warm hat and gloves if weather gets cold

Wellies

Thank you.

News from Class 1

Welcome to all our new children this term. They are settling in well already. We have some exciting topics to explore this term.

English

In daily phonics sessions, we have a focus on listening and concentrating. We play a range of games and sing songs to help us with this key skill, which is so important to help us to learn to read. Year 1 and 2 learn a new phoneme each week and they also learn to read and write a range of key words which cannot be sounded out. This helps their reading and writing to become more automatic. All children have a reading book to practise at home, and it really helps when they are supported at home by reading their book for a few minutes each day. Please write a short comment in your child/ren's reading diary when you have listened to them. Our focus initially with children in Reception is learning to focus and to listen attentively. Once we have built up these skills and they are feeling more confident, we will begin teaching the phonics program. There are usually three new phonemes (sounds) per week, and we will send out details of what we have covered in our All About Me books.

We will also be reading traditional stories and acting them out in different ways and performing them to one another. Children in

Years 1 and 2 will also be focusing on writing sentences with a capital letter and a full stop. Year 2 children will also

be making longer sentences by adding a range of conjunctions.



Mathematics

We start the term focusing on the value of numbers. In reception, we look at numbers up to 5 and we learn to recognise amounts without counting. This is called subitising.



In years 1 and 2 we learn the value of digits in two-digit numbers. Year 1 focus on numbers to 20 and Year 2 up to 100. We will be finding out which are bigger, and which are smaller and putting numbers in order. We will also focus on shape later in the term and look at shapes we can see around us. We will find out about the properties of shapes by doing a range of art and sculpture-based activities.

Science

Our first topic is all about light. We will begin by finding out where we get light from and finding



different light sources. We will then find out what happens when light is blocked and how shadows are formed, and we will make our own shadow puppets using different materials to see which one makes the best shadow puppet.

After half-term, we will learn about everyday materials. We will explore the properties of a range of materials such as paper, wool, cotton, and leather. We will describe what they look and feel like and what they are used for. We will carry out investigations to find the best materials to

make Christmas decorations. This links to our Design and Technology focus this term.

Religious Education

We will start the term by thinking about why we are all unique and special. We will explore how we all belong to a family and we all belong in our school family. We will think about times when we feel special e.g. birthdays and think about how we can make other people feel special too.

After half term, we will be exploring Islam and what it is like to be a Muslim. We will explore this topic using stories and we will draw comparisons with our own lives.

History

We are going to learn about toys and how they have changed over time. We will begin by thinking about our favourite toys and why we like them. We will then move onto looking



at toys in the past, going back to very early toys and thinking about how they have changed. I am hoping to arrange a visit to support the learning in this topic as well as using artefacts from

the museum service.

Design and Technology

This term, we will be looking at Christmas decorations and what they are made of. We will be finding different ways of joining materials e.g. by glueing and sewing and then designing and making our own Christmas decorations. As part of this, we will be learning to do basic sewing stitches to use in our decorations. We will then evaluate our designs and use our



finished decorations to decorate our class Christmas tree.

Art

Our focus artist is Lowry. We will look at his paintings showing children and adults and we will think about his use of colour in his paintings. We will learn to mix primary colours to make new colours, and we will use this in our own paintings. We will start by focusing on drawing and painting people doing different things and then we will look at how to draw a landscape. We will put our ideas together to make our final piece of artwork.



P.E.

We have P.E sessions with a teacher from Lacon Childe School on Wednesday afternoons for the first half term. We also have eight swimming sessions at Ludlow Leisure Centre. Children are taught in small groups supported by an adult. The younger children have two staff members and Mrs. Smith goes in the water in the small pool with shallow water. They are supported to develop water confidence. Children who can swim a width confidently and who are tall enough, move into the main pool to develop their stroke technique.

Music

Music is an integral part of every day in our class. We sing every day and we also tap rhythms as part of our daily phonics sessions. In music sessions, we will be listening to Leopold Mozart's Toy Symphony and writing our own music to represent toys.

Geography

This term we are thinking about the world around us. We have already met our little visitor. He is a tiny mouse called Pip, and he is lost in Farlow. We are going to show him the local area and tell him what it is like to live in the village. We will encourage the use of geographical vocabulary such as valley, field, farm, and we will make a 3D map of the village as a class. Years 1 and 2 will then make a map of an imaginary place and children in Year 2 will learn to use a key.



mathematics by using Number Gym, and phonics by using Nessy.

P.S.H.E.

We have begun by thinking about how we can make our classroom a happy place to be and to learn. We have thought about the characters in Winnie the Pooh and linked our class rules to them e.g. We are good friends like Kanga and Roo. We will now move onto thinking about ways in which we are all similar and ways in which we are different, and thinking about how we should celebrate our differences. We will explore this through stories and circle time games.

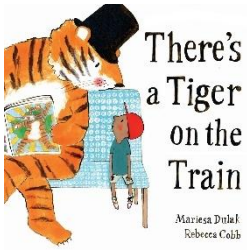
Computing

Our main focus is on learning how to take good quality photographs and how to print them on the iPads. As part of our learning, we will also learn about safety and the importance of asking people before taking any photographs of them. We will also be using the iPads to back up our learning in

News from Class 2

English

In English we are starting the term by reading and studying the story called the 'Tiger on the train' by Mariesa Dulak. The



children will be identifying the features of the text including word groups such as verbs, adjectives and time adverbials and then developing their own

version of the story to create a book to share and read to Class one. After this the children will be further developing their narrative writing skills through referring to models including inspiration from adventure stories based on trains. The children will be describing the setting and characters and learning how to use dialogue to move the story on. During English on Tuesdays, the children will be learning about the poem 'From a Railway Carriage' by R L Stevenson. They will begin by working in pairs to recite the poem and clap the rhythm. They will create a storyboard of the journey and analyse the poem for figurative language features before having a go at writing their own poem based on a journey in a similar style. Later in the term, the children will learn about autobiographies. They will identify features of autobiographies and will analyse examples for these features before having a go at writing their own.

Spellings and Grammar

Mrs Daniels will give out the spellings and go through the spelling pattern for the week on a Monday and the children will peer assess these the following Monday. The best way to learn spellings is little and often throughout the week as this helps the

children to remember them easier and hopefully use them in future writing. We are particularly looking at adding suffixes or other endings to words. We identify patterns and rules in how we add these suffixes or endings and how we might know which spelling is appropriate for that particular root word. In our grammar sessions this term we will have a focus on word classification and the different clause types for all year groups. Years 3 and 4 will also be looking at the appropriate use of a or an, before a noun. All year groups will be completing activities to help them apply these skills within their writing.

Mathematics

In mathematics the children will be exploring geometry with Mrs Daniels every Monday and Tuesday. Year 3, 4 and 5 will begin by looking at $\frac{1}{4}$, $\frac{1}{2}$, $\frac{3}{4}$ and whole turns and relating these to right angles. They will focus on identifying some types of angles and various lines found in shapes before looking at the properties of both 2D and 3D shapes later in the term. Year 6 will be looking at angles in more depth including identifying all the different types of angles. They will explore how to measure (using a protractor) and draw given angles. Year 6 will also have problem-based activities focused on calculating missing angles and investigating angles in various shapes. They will be exploring 3D shapes later in the term including making 3D shapes from their nets.

Later in the week the children will be focussing on number-based topics starting with place value. The children will be revising the place value of numbers using

concrete models, pictorial images and digit cards. The children will be learning to partition numbers in different ways and then comparing and ordering numbers according to their size. After, topics on addition and subtraction, multiplication and division, and fractions will also be explored.

Science

In science the children will be learning about light and after half term a topic exploring the properties of materials. We shall start the term learning about light and exploring primary and secondary sources. The children will then explore which materials light will pass through and classify them into transparent, translucent and opaque groups. This knowledge will then be applied to a modelled investigation to find out which material will make the best blackout curtains. The children in year five and six will explore how the distance from the light source or the brightness of the lamp affects the shadow cast. The children will also be exploring how light is reflected through studying mirrors and finally learning about how we see things by learning about the eye.

History

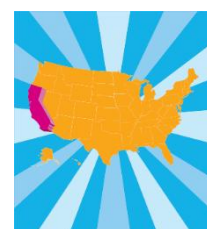
In history, the children will be learning about railways and how they developed in the UK. They will find out about the first engines and how engineers such as George Stephenson developed trains by building on earlier inventions. The children will also learn about the local railway system and how railways played a key role in the development of the area. We are hoping to take pupils to the Severn Valley Railway



and the engine house and to Blists Hill Museum, where they will be able to see a replica of the first locomotive invented by the engineer Richard Trevithick. Later in the term the children will then explore how the development of railways played a key role in California's trade and development of settlements.

Geography

In geography, the children will be learning about the location of California on a world map. They will find out about California's climate, physical features and land use. The children will develop their mapping skills as they explore where the rail routes are located across the state.



Computing

In computing, all year groups will be exploring computer networks. They will begin by developing their understanding of digital devices by comparing digital and non-digital devices as well as learning about inputs, processes and outputs. They will then be introduced to computer network devices such as routers and switches.

We will also be looking at the importance of passwords to protect our devices and what makes an effective password. Later in the term, the children will be building on their learning in programming. They will use Logo, a text-based programming language, to create simple programs which create shapes and patterns. They will do this by planning, modifying and testing commands. The children will explore how to use count-controlled loops within their programming and how being able to program in this way can be applied to real life contexts.

Religious Education

In religious education, the children will be exploring the question: What does it mean if Christians believe God is holy and loving? The children will begin by thinking about their own ideas and feelings about what a god is before analysing some texts from the Bible to explore what Christians believe about God. We will look at the difference between being holy and loving and make connections with Christian beliefs about God. The children will also explore how Christians show these beliefs through worship and other ways they live their lives. Later in the term we will explore what it means to be a Muslim in Britain today. The children will review the five pillars of Islam and will look at how they impact upon a Muslim's life including any challenges they may find. They will be introduced to the idea that there are different Muslim groups. We will also find out about the festival of Eid-ul-Adha and consider the significance of the Holy Qur'an for Muslims.

Art

In art, the children will be exploring colours in landscapes. They will begin by revising primary and secondary colours before studying the work of Impressionist artists, looking closely at how colours have been mixed and applied in landscape paintings. They will then go outside to sketch local landscapes using a viewfinder to help them select and frame their composition. Finally, the children will paint their own landscapes, applying colour mixing techniques to achieve their desired effect.



Design and technology

In design and technology the children will be doing a unit on mechanical control focusing on pneumatic systems. The children will start by exploring how pneumatic systems are used in everyday life. They will then carry out focused practical tasks to make simple systems to explore how they work and how they are constructed. The children will then design their own moving monster to a given design brief. Year three and four will make systems with a single system and year five and six will be expected to incorporate more than one piston system.

French

We will begin by revising how to respond to basic questions in French and then move onto a unit called Je peux, which means I can. There is a focus on learning 5 common French verbs and using them to talk about things we can do. French is taught using Language Angels combined with active songs and games to reinforce vocabulary. After half-term, we will move onto learning about our homes and talking about where we live.

Music

We will begin by focusing on rhythm and keeping in time. We will use untuned percussion to beat in time with different pieces of music. We will learn note values and make rhythm grids to share our rhythms with the class. We will also be focusing on songs linked to trains, which links with our geography focus this term, and we will work in small groups to compose music to represent a train journey. We will use a range of genres of music to support our learning, including the music from the Hogwarts Express



in Harry Potter by John Williams. As part of our music lessons, we will also be learning to play descant recorders and glockenspiels. Year 3 and 4 will focus on the first 5 notes, whilst children in years 5 and 6 will learn the first 8 notes on a descant recorder, and they will also begin to learn to play treble and tenor recorders.

P.E

In PE the children will be doing a unit on invasion games. These sessions will be led by Miss Eldridge from Lacon Childe. The children will be focusing on their skills in controlling the ball and developing their attacking and defending strategies. They will then apply them to small sided games. The children will also be attending swimming sessions at the leisure centre in Ludlow.

PSHE

In PSHE the children will be covering two topics one called - 'Being in my world' and the other 'celebrating difference'. The children will explore and identify positive things about themselves and others as well as setting personal goals for the term ahead. They will explore strategies that could be used to face new challenges and to seek help when needed. They will also explore why rules are needed and how they relate to rights and responsibilities.

How can you support at home?

Listen to and share books with your child on a regular basis and record it in their dairy.

Practise the times table facts regularly so that they can be recalled automatically at speed.

Bring in any information or photos to support our learning about the railways.



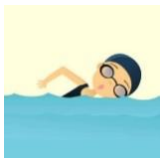
Dates at a glance

Autumn 2026



September

- 1st - PD Day - School closed for children
- 2nd - School re-opens
- 9th - Football club commences
- 14th - Flu immunisations in school
- 22nd - Whole school swimming commences at Ludlow 1.30-2.30pm
- 23rd - PTA meeting in school



November

- 5th - Peter and the Wolf at Shrewsbury Abbey
- 5th - KS2 Craft club commences
- 17th - Last swimming session
- 27th - Macmillan Craft Fayre and Coffee morning



October

- 12th - KS1 and KS2 parents' evening
- 22nd - Harvest Festival at St Giles' Church, Farlow 2.30pm
- 23rd - PD Day - School closed for children



December

- 11th - Whole school Pantomime at the Regal, Tenbury Wells
- 12th - Christmas Tree Festival at St Giles Church, Farlow
- 16th - Christmas dinner
- 17th - Christmas party day
- 18th - Whole school Christmas Performance at St Giles Church, Farlow at 2.00pm

Thursday 22nd October - School closes for half term.

Monday 2nd November - School re-opens

Friday 18th December - School closes for Christmas

Monday 4th January - PD Day - School closed for children

Tuesday 5th January - School re-opens after Christmas break

Please note - these dates are subject to change, please check weekly flyer for any update.